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International Dateline-From the UK-A Global Perspective

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brary community as a whole will need to concern itself with the issue of archiving before materials are lost. There needs to be consortial solutions to this problem. Unfortunately, there is a tendency to believe that the problem will resolve itself. There is a need for leadership in this area. Perhaps ARL, OCLC, the Center for Research Libraries or a similarly large organization can take the leadership.

Fourth, as funds shrink due to demands of electronic publications and continued inflation, libraries will need to move to centers of excellence. Perhaps there will be a national storage center or regional libraries of last resort.

Fifth, another trend is definitely a growing number of consortia. These consortia will often be statewide such as the OhioLink. Publishers and vendors will not sell their products directly as they have in the past, but rather sell to consortia.

Sixth, some believe that people won’t go to libraries to use them, and others see libraries as cultural centers where students will gather to access information. Public libraries will continue to see a rise in use as they provide electronic services to the public.

Seventh, librarians will provide a number of alternatives to expensive journals such as SPARC or certain disciplines will have electronic databases which will provide full service. In some cases, non-profit publishers will provide this service and, in other cases, academic institutions will provide it. Publishers will still offer the value-added editorial and distribution services, and will continue to dominate in distribution of information. It is not clear whether a national electronic article database will work, especially since scholarly information is not produced just in the United States. In any case, the face of publishing will change.

Eighth, higher educational institutions will have changed demographics: more minorities, more international students; more females, and more older students.

Ninth, a major role of universities will be to develop critical thinking skills, especially information literacy, i.e., the skills to cope with the expanding electronic information universe.

Tenth, users will want 24-hour access to information and they will not be interested in how this information is provided.

The above conclusions were reached and many other interesting developments were discussed in this three-day Retreat in Fiesole. There will be a need for libraries and librarians to adapt to change more rapidly. It is certainly clear that the pace of change continues to accelerate.
McColgan, Katherine is also responsible for the Web site, which you can find at www.uottawa.ca/library/carl/.

The overall theme of the meeting was "Design and build: developing the Canadian Digital Library." As well as presentations from Canada's four regional academic library groups there was also the formal AGM agenda to complete. One outcome of this was the election of Frances Groen, Director of Libraries at McGill University, Montreal, as President for 1999-2001, taking over from Marnie Swanson. A new logo for the Association was also approved, which will appear on the www site in due course.

I am not going to try to give a detailed report on the presentations, but to pick out some highlights. Among them was a presentation by Pam Bjornson, Executive Director of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproduction, about the way in which this project is moving from microfilm access to Web access. Have a look at the project Web site on www.canadiana.org. The presentations from the regional groups all indicated a great deal of activity, and a growing realization that digital library projects can no longer be progressed adequately with library staff multi-tasking these projects and their day job! As a result, there is a move towards appointing project officers who can act as a focus for digital initiatives.

Underlying all the discussions was the proposal that had been submitted by CARL to the Canada Foundation for Innovation for a total of C$50 million to fund a national electronic site license scheme in Canada. Of this amount, C$20 million was requested from CFI and the balance of C$30 million was to be put up by the participating institutions. CFI is a corporation established by the federal government to strengthen Canadian capability for research. Its mandate is to increase the capability of Canadian universities, colleges, hospitals, and other not-for-profit institutions to carry out important world-class scientific research and technology development. The national proposal was received in November 1998, with a deadline of 19 April 1999, which put very considerable pressure on CARL to prepare the complex proposal, and gain the support of sixty-four University Presidents across Canada.

The announcement about the success of the bid came a couple of weeks after the AGM. The Canada Foundation for Innovation will provide $20 million over three years to fund the Canadian National Site Licensing Project (CNSLP). The project is spearheaded by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) and will be administered by the University of Ottawa. The project funding from the Canada Foun-

dation for Innovation (CFI) comes from the Institutional Innovation Fund. The $20 million grant will cover about 40 percent of the cost of the CNSLP with the remaining $30 million coming from regional or provincial partners and the 64 participating institutions.

The goal of the CNSLP is to dramatically increase the quantity, breadth and depth of the most current research literature available to 34,000 university researchers and 76,000 graduate students in Canadian universities. A national consortium of 64 Canadian universities will negotiate with journal publishers and vendors to obtain pan-Canadian site licenses for electronic versions of scholarly journals mostly in scientific disciplines.

Another of the invited speakers at the meeting was Dr. Marianne Scott, the National Librarian of Canada, who gave a very comprehensive overview of the wide range of projects that are being managed by the National Library. In early July, it was announced that the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps, had appointed Ian Wilson to the position of National Archivist of Canada and Rock Carrier as National Librarian of Canada in succession to Marianne. Ian will assume his new position in the fall. Ian Wilson has been the Archivist of Ontario since 1986. He has served as Adjunct Associate Professor, Faculties of Information Studies and Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto and is currently a member of the Ontario Government's Information and Information Technology Management Committee.

Sheila Copps also announced that she had asked Laurier Lapierre to advise her on the establishment of a common Advisory Board to guide the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada into the next millennium.

Before I leave Canada, I must mention the tour of the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Library at the University of Newfoundland that was given by Dick Ellis, the Librarian. The design of the library gives a reading area for over 1,400 students under a sloping north-light roof by terraceing the rows of stands rather like a sports stadium. The book stacks are also rather interesting, being over 14 feet high! The skill with which Dick has used the striking, but rather "odd" design of the building to meet the needs of students and researchers is very evident. It also gives me a chance to note that Dick was responsible for the local arrangements for the CARL meeting and did a magnificent job.

Another guest at the CARL AGM was Steve O'Connor, the CEO of CAVAL Ltd. (Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries). Steve gave an overview of the situation in Australia as far as library cooperation, digital libraries and electronic journal licensing were concerned. The impression he gave was of a considerable amount of activity, and I will not try to summarize all the details in this column, but would direct you to the CAVAL Web site at www.caival.edu.au.

In his presentation, Steve mentioned a paper entitled "Investment in Information and Knowledge Infrastructure" by Neil McLean, the Librarian of Macquarie University, Sydney. This is among the best papers that I have read about value of information to a national economy, and the role played by academic and other libraries. You can find it at www.lib.mq.edu.au/McLean/investment/ and I do recommend that you stop reading this now, and download the paper.

Back in the UK, there has been some news on the corporate front. First came the announcement in mid-June of the merger of the subscription interests of Blackwell and Swets to create a joint company with revenues of around $1 billion. Discussions between the two companies have been taking place for a number of months. At the time of writing this, there had been no news of redundancies, but it seems inevitable that there will be. The headquarters of the new company, in which Blackwell will have a substantial share, will be in the Netherlands. About a week later, came the news that Whitakers had been bought by BPI, the US magazine publishing business of VNU, the Dutch publishing company. A number of companies had been having discussions with Whitakers over the last couple of years, and it seems that the losing bidder were Reed Elsevier. The company was founded in 1838. As with the Blackwell/Swets deal, it is a little to early to assess the implications of the acquisition, but it is sure to benefit BookTrack and TeleOrdering being able to expand internationally.

Meanwhile NESLI continues to make progress, but still rather slowly. The merger between Swets (the Managing Agent for the scheme) and Blackwell (one of the unsuccessful bidders for the role last year) will not have an impact on the administration of the scheme. I will provide a more detailed account of the NESLI situation in the next issue, as it is clear that many publishers decided that rather than rush the negotiations to get into the 1998/1999 academic year, it made more sense to take time, and be ready for the next round of subscription negotiations with the universities, which are now taking place ready for 2000. In the meantime, there is a very good review of the scheme in the current issue of Ariadne, which is at http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue20/jisc-content.