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Group Therapy-CDs with Periodicals

Rosann Bazirjian

Penn State University, rvb9@psulias.psu.edu

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Group Therapy — CDs with Periodicals

Column Editor: **Rosann Bazirjian** (Assistant Dean for Technical & Access Services, University Libraries, The Pennsylvania State University, 507 Paterno Library, University Park, PA 16802-1812; Phone: 814-865-0404; Fax: 814-865-3665)
<rvb9@psulias.psu.edu>

GRIPE: (Submitted by **Marilyn Gane**, Head, Periodicals Department, **Andrews University**, Berrien Springs, MI)

We are currently in the process of reviewing our policy and procedures for dealing with the myriad of CDs that now seem to accompany many of the periodicals we subscribe to and I want to know what others of you do. Do you catalog them all, or selected CDs such as conference proceedings, indexes/abstracts/full text of the periodical itself? Do you discard them? Do you keep them with the journals? etc.

RESPONSE: (Submitted by **Eleanor Cook**, Serials Coordinator, **Appalachian State University**, Boone, NC)

Back in 1998, **Appalachian State University** librarians decided to develop some practical policies for handling CD-ROMs and physical software (floppies, etc.) that come with print materials. We devised procedures that would allow for as much access for patrons as possible, without promising a lot of technical support to go with it. In my opinion, publishers are producing these add-ons to prove that they can, and perhaps with the exception of music CDs they are rarely used.

For our circulating collection, all accompanying electronic pieces are cataloged with the main item. They are shelved next to the main item, carrying the same call number and a material designation (such as "CD-ROM"). These items may be checked out with the print item, or not, depending on the circulation rules for the main item.

At the time of ordering, *if* it is evident that software comes with the printed material (it often is not evident) we strive to determine if there is a choice of platform. Our university supports PC-based software far better than it does Macintosh-based software and if there is a choice we choose the PC option. Bibliographers are supposed to consult with our systems staff if they have any question about accompanying software; we are not supposed to purchase materials that do not support the curriculum or are not compatible with support on campus. Selection guidelines also note that we generally only buy software that has supplementary content that complements a text, not programs that support activities such as spreadsheet creation or word processing. (Such activities are supported through networked licenses to which everyone on campus has access.)

As for periodicals, they are alphabetically arranged in a separate shelving area from the

rest of the collection and are not classified. CDs and other accompanying software are simply noted during check-in. They do not need to be sent to Cataloging. Instead, they are routed to the Serials Coordinator who lets them pile up in her office for about six months and then when the pile is about to tip over, she sits down and reviews the materials and sends them on the Processing. Processing staff then has to pull out their procedures to review how to handle them because it's been six months since they've seen any. This is the ugly truth of the matter and frankly, I do not need to have these materials sitting in my office; they need to routinely go to Processing. In the future, I think I will encourage this to happen!

Processing puts the software in an appropriate plastic jewel case, slightly larger than the one it comes in, tattle-tapes the product and the case as appropriate, labels the case, assigns a barcode and creates an item record in the online system.

Once processed, software/CD-ROMs accompanying periodicals are housed behind the Periodicals Desk, where they can be accessed if asked for, although they never are,

from what I've been told. There is

also a label on the front cover of the periodical issue IF the software accompanies a specific issue that says "Includes CD-ROM; ask at Periodicals Desk." In many cases CD-ROMs cover an entire year of a journal so the CD-ROM is not tied to a specific issue, but rather is a duplicate of a volume or a year. All software get their own item record in the catalog, regardless of their relation to the main title, since they are discrete pieces that need circulation control. Print journals at **Appalachian** do not generally circulate, although faculty have limited checkout privileges and if they wanted to checkout a CD-ROM that came with a journal that would be allowed as well.

Basically, the philosophy has been to try to mirror the circulation of the parent material. Concerns about damage to the software, viruses, etc. have not been realized. Systems staff, worried about the drain on their time, would not promise huge amounts of individual attention to sup-

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Another important issue is that of information literacy, which as you can imagine is of crucial importance in raising the educational standard and economic performance of South Africa. The feeling that I gained was that there were many information literacy projects underway, but that senior management support in both the universities and in the corporate sector was poor. A feature of the university sector in South Africa is the extent of distance learning, given the geographic size of the country, and the highly dispersed centres of population. The challenges in providing access to both Web and online resources against a background of high telecommunications charges and expensive and inflexible subscription policies from information vendors are considerable. There is a Centre for Information Literacy at the **University of Cape Town**, under the direction of **Peter Underwood** (<http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/sol/default.htm>).

There are of course a number of library consortia in South Africa, the largest of which is the **Gauteng and Environs Library Consortium (GAELIC)** (www.gaelic.ac.za) which represents the interests of the **University of Pretoria**, **University of Witwatersrand**, **Rand Afrikaans University**, **University of South Africa**, **Medical University of Southern Africa**, **Technikon Pretoria**, **Technikon Southern Africa**, **Technikon Witwatersrand**, **Vista University**, **Technikon Northern Gauteng**, **Vaal Triangle Technikon**, and **Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education**, amongst others. There is also the **Western Cape Library Cooperative**

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porting these products. But frankly, it has not been a problem since many patrons ignore the material or don't know it exists, have little need for help, or else try to use the products and can't but give up and do not ask for help. It's hard to know exactly how much use is going on, but periodicals service staff report that the accompanying materials are not requested by patrons.

In my opinion, such accompanying materials are often not so useful, but serve as "bridge" products to Web-based materials. More and more publishers are finding that Web-based materials are easier to control and update, and are not so platform-dependent. I would encourage publishers to focus on Web-ready supplements and forget the CD-ROMs. I think this discussion will be moot sooner rather than later.

(**Calico**), the **Free State Library and Information Consortium (Frelico)** and consortia in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Information science education and research is a feature of most of the ten major universities in South Africa, though there are concerns about just where graduates from these courses will find jobs. There are some initiatives underway to amalgamate and streamline tertiary academic institutions to create "centres of excellence" and these may result in fewer schools of information science in the future.

In conclusion, if you do have the opportunity to visit South Africa then do take it. You will be assured of a very warm welcome by professionals who are doing their very best to provide the highest quality of service in difficult economic and social conditions.

Reed acquisition of Harcourt

In the June 2001 issue of *ATG*, p. 10, there was a reference to the fact that the potential acquisition of the STM business of **Harcourt** had been referred to the **Competition Commission** in the UK. The report of the **Commission** was published on 5 July and concluded that the merger was not against the public interests.

However, it was only by a majority decision of 2-1 by the three-person panel of **Commission** members, and the dissenting member of the panel insisted that his views were included in the report. This 152 page report is well worth purchasing if you have any interest in STM publishing. It contains a wealth of information on the background to the STM business, and sets out very clearly the issues about pricing, substitution and market position, with some very useful tables that the staff of the **Competition Commission** developed from many different sources. Some commercially sensitive information about the business activities of the companies has been deleted from the published report.

Included in an appendix is the evidence from a range of university libraries and

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other organisations and individuals. Almost without exception these organisations were against the acquisition going ahead. I did find some of the comments given in evidence by **Reed** and **Harcourt** a little disingenuous, and it will be very interesting to look back on the report in a year or two. In the UK the report costs just over \$25, and is excellent value for money. The details that you will need is that it is **Command Paper Cm5186** and the title is *Reed Elsevier plc and Harcourt General Inc. – A report on the proposed merger*. The report is published by **The Stationery Office** (the UK equivalent of the GPO) and the Website is www.clicktso.com.

A View from Africa

by **Digby Sales** (Collection Development Manager, Chancellor Oppenheimer Library, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa) <digby@uctlib.uct.ac.za>

At the end of last year I returned full of enthusiasm from my second **Charleston Conference** (the first one being in 1993). It remains an important forum for discussion on acquisition issues despite the increase in its size. However, I am very worried about how we in Africa (and many other parts of the Third World) are going to keep up with the trends in scholarly publishing. Hav-

ing also attended **ALA** in San Francisco this June, my concern has only increased.

The push, especially on the STM front, is for journal publishing to appear in only the electronic format, as this will reduce the publishing costs. The change may be welcomed by First World countries, but lack of access to the Internet will side-line many African academics.

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