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Webworthy-Unique and Interesting Websites-Crocodiles and Space Travel

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ing them to reach these new communities while also recognizing some problems posed by ownership issues, privacy issues, and the like.

The consortia session looked at consortia widely defined, including a presentation regarding the relationship between library and university press, where the Temple University Press now reports to the library; case studies of the UK and Germany; an analysis of how libraries within consortia need to cooperate amongst themselves to build distinct collections; and a controversial presentation from Michael Mabe of Elsevier arguing that the so-called “crisis” in scholarly publishing stems from a long-term decline in library acquisitions funding as a percentage of overall university budgets. This lively session provided jumping-off points for just about every aspect of collection building one could imagine.

The consensus in the digital teaching/learning portion of the program really seemed to coalesce around the idea that while there is much potential, distance learning via the Net does not offer quite the gold rush potential that many seemed to be predicting a few years ago. Various initiatives in the UK and US were reviewed and the need for libraries and publishers to work together to create an electronic infrastructure that allows researchers and students to work efficiently noted. This need for simple and seamless systems across publishers, platforms, and fields was reinforced by Michael Keller in his closing remarks.

But it wasn’t all work! Between the many sessions and during a couple of delightful dinners and a wonderful cocktail reception hosted by and at Casalini Libri there were numerous chances to discuss these issues informally, to exchange war stories, to network, and most especially to enjoy the beautiful scenery and lovely spring weather offered up by Fiesole. Everyone who attended felt very lucky on both intellectual and aesthetic grounds to have the opportunity to be present and all look forward to the July 2002 collection development conference in the Netherlands.

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