November 1999

And They Were There-Reports of Meetings- ALCTS eBooks Preconference and SALALM

Sever Bordeianu

University of New Mexico, sbordeia@unm.edu

Julia Gelfand

University of California, Irvine, jgelfand@orion.oac.uci.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bordeianu, Sever and Gelfand, Julia (1999) "And They Were There-Reports of Meetings-ALCTS eBooks Preconference and SALALM," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 11: Iss. 5, Article 25.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3699>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

And They Were There —

Reports of Meetings — ALCTS and SALALM

Column Editors: **Sever Bordeianu** (U. of New Mexico) <sbordeia@unm.edu>
and **Julia Gelfand** (UC, Irvine) <jgelfand@orion.oac.uci.edu>

NB: We are running the reports of SALALM 1999 and SALALM 1998 in this issue. We neglected to run SALALM 1998 last year (oops!) but it still is full of very useful information! — KS

Bringing eMonographs into the Digital Library—ALCTS Preconference of ALA Annual Conference, June 25, 1999 New Orleans

Report by **Donna Heady** (Head, Monographic Acquisitions, Western Michigan University Libraries, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5080; ph.: 616-387-5216 fax: 616-387-5193) <donna.heady@wmich.edu>

Keynote speaker **Jerry Campbell**, Chief Information Officer and Dean, University Libraries at the University of Southern California, sees the integration of eMonographs into the digital library as a continuation of a revolution in librarianship. The revolution began with the effect on cataloging of the development of MARC and has continued through the growth of OCLC, the development of integrated library systems, and the explosive growth rate of electronic journals. Pointing out that he was dodging the philosophical question of whether or not books will disappear, Dr. Campbell stated that the use of print in the academic world is declining and is entering a transitional phase toward existence as a legacy system, surpassed but not gone. This could lead to a situation in which the library is seen as a hospice, "helping people live in both worlds." Electronic books today are still in their infancy, existing primarily as clones of traditional books and exhibiting an array of competing concepts and proprietary solutions. Traditional book publishing is still a growing industry, although the growth rate is slow; eBook publishing, less than a decade old, can be expected to experience the same kind of rapid growth that has been seen recently with ejournals.

The current eBook inventory, however, is still tiny by traditional research standards. The eBook revolution will require major adjustments by libraries. Some library roles will be diminished since eBooks will not need to be managed as physical objects;

bibliography/metadata concepts will shift toward accommodating search engines. Other roles can be expected to expand as the need to license materials continues to grow, training and information literacy issues will continue to be important, and preservation concerns both for electronic materials and our present collections will not go away.

Kate Wittenberg, Editor in Chief, **Columbia University Press**, continued the keynote session with an overview of eBook issues from the publisher's perspective, based on what the Press has learned from its participation in recent experiments with digital monographs. The Gutenberg e-project is an attempt to move dissertations into the online environment, incorporating non-print capabilities in the creation of a new form of monograph. **Columbia University Press** has also cooperated with the **Columbia University Libraries in the Online Books Evaluation Project**. There is a new emphasis on content over form as traditional publishing categories such as books, journals, and gray literature have started to merge. Collaborative efforts between authors, libraries, and technology providers are fostered in the online environment. Added to the traditional values of scholarly publishing—high quality content, skilled editing, professional marketing/sales staff—is an emphasis on taking advantage of the capabilities of new technologies, including global accessibility, rapid dissemination and updating of information, the ability to customize, and the ability to provide links to related content. The publishing community needs to develop an innovative vision for fostering scholarly communication in all formats while retaining those traditional skills that remain desirable.

Mary Summerfield, Coordinator of the **Online Books Evaluation Project** at **Columbia University Libraries**, described the development of the project, which

involved creating an online collection of books, assessing scholars' reactions to the online collection, and analyzing the online book market and the costs of online books compared to print books. Scholars' reactions to the project have been positive. They have found that the online environment allows them to access a greater percentage of the material on a subject, with less time spent in searching, due to online linking capabilities. Other features of the online environment are the ability to conduct research from any location and the availability of immediate access in cases in which a print book might have been off the shelf. Summerfield pointed out that issues in the acquisition of electronic monographs are similar to those for electronic journals, such as ownership vs. leasing, one-time vs. continuing costs for use, and security concerns. Pricing models for acquisition of eMonographs, which may include features such as a package price with purchase of print, deals for consortial purchasing, and limits on number of simultaneous users, are also similar to those for ejournals. Preservation of electronic books is another area in which concerns are shared with those for ejournals. eMonographs must be refreshed and migrated as technology changes and decisions must be made concerning who should be responsible for preservation—the publisher, the library, or an intermediary. There are numerous potential advantages for

eMonographs for scholars: increased access to high-demand library books; access to more books at institutions with smaller print collections; more efficient searching; and, the ability to

review books online to decide whether to purchase or borrow. Electronic books also allow authors to reach a wider audience, help provide a wider dissemination of knowledge, and may help publishers expand sales while decreasing losses on low-demand titles.

In a discussion of issues related to digital libraries, **Brian Stern** from **netLibrary.com** listed several benefits of

continued on page 74

And They Were There from page 72

eBooks for libraries. Benefits include: anytime/anywhere access; enhanced search capabilities; availability of usage data for efficient collection development; the ability to offer distance learners access equal to that of local patrons; and, depending on how consortial and/or licensing agreements are developed, the possibility of streamlining interlibrary loan processes. Acquisitions decisions to be made when incorporating eBooks into the library include whether to allocate special funds, whether to purchase broad collections or specific titles, and whether to continue to use vendors and approval plans for collecting eBooks. In the area of copyright, publishers and libraries share concerns about fair use and print capabilities but publishers tend to focus on issues concerning unauthorized distribution while librarians are more concerned with obtaining simultaneous use. Ensuring effective distribution is also a major concern for the digital library; access models include simultaneous use, unlimited access, disaggregation (chapter, page, paragraph), and pay by the view.

Chris Pooley is President and CEO of **Books24x7.com** (formerly **Modern Age Books**), a company that has published over 1,000 electronic books and specializes in technical material. His discussion of the technology required to support the eBook focused on publishers' concerns. Costs of converting text from legacy technologies such as **Quark**, **Pagemaker**, and **MS Word** are high, title selection is crucial since there must be a real added-value component if the title is to sell, "channel" issues are important (should the title be sold as a book, as software, as software in the back of a book). The user threshold for on-screen reading must be considered. Traditional publishers need to accept that eBooks are here to stay and will represent a growing segment of the market. They will need to recognize that content is more important than format and provide access to content in any format in order to meet users' needs. The integrity of the printed book needs to be preserved; copyright protection is vital. To build a successful future for eBooks, publishers need to work toward developing standards that will ensure interoperability rather than dependence on a particular reading device or PC and will lead toward easier conversion to help increase the range of available titles.

Continuing the discussion of technologies for supporting eBooks, **Terry**

Noreault, Vice-President, Office of Research, OCLC, focused on those technologies in the context of the digital library, pointing out that technology is forcing libraries to re-evaluate their primary functions and how they deliver services. Electronic material may be available locally, from a commercial supplier, or be freely accessible, and acquisition may be of a collection or by selecting individual titles. Distribution of electronic material involves use of both PC's and proprietary hardware (eBook readers), along with a variety of software applications including HTML, PDF, Word, and proprietary software being developed by individual eBook producers. In this distributed environment, the focus must be on content rather than form, making the development of standards essential in promoting the digital library. The ability to provide for authentication of the user is

of paramount importance in this environment. There must be a focus on the integration of library collections through

means such as the use of MARC records in OPAC's and the availability of cross-database searching, whether manual or automatic. The interoperability of metadata, through use of descriptive systems that are being developed such as the **Dublin Core** and **RDF (Resource Description Framework)**, is essential as libraries continue to develop in the digital environment.

Afternoon break-out sessions encouraged participants to build on information gleaned from the morning presentations while working on developing strategies for integrating eMonographs into the digital library. Each of the four sessions concentrated on a different area of concern: Access, Staffing, Standards/Technology, and Acquisitions/Collection Development. The group met once again as a whole to share ideas from the break-out sessions. Several issues were mentioned by more than one of the break-out groups. There seemed to be a general agreement that the developing situation for eBooks is similar to eJournal developments over the last several years and that we need to pay attention to the lessons that we have learned in that market. Multiple groups also mentioned the effects that eBook collections could have on statistics such as volume counts and circulation figures, some of which influence accreditation studies. The Access group expressed concerns about preservation issues, the need to provide training for cataloging staff so that they could continue to

provide access points in the online environment, and the need to provide 24x7 access and desktop availability to satisfy user expectations. The Standards/Technology group reiterated the concerns about the need for a single standard that were brought up by several of the speakers in the morning sessions and pointed out that there is a need for more librarian involvement as those standards develop if we want to ensure that libraries' needs are met. The Acquisitions/Collection Development group worried about loss of control over library collections if eBooks are purchased in collections rather than by individual title and if they are licensed rather than purchased; this group also pointed out the advantage of licensing material for short terms for use in reserves. The need to acquire the additional knowledge base required for computer operations and for dealing with legal issues such as licensing was among the items discussed by the Staffing group.

Wrapping up the preconference, **Camila Alire, Dean of Libraries, Colorado State University**, pointed out that, in spite of sometimes conflicting opinions about whether electronic books are a positive development, libraries must prepare themselves to integrate eMonographs into their collections/services. Although currently only a minute percentage of published material, the eBook is here to stay and we can expect a fairly rapid expansion of its role in our environment.

SALALM Focuses on Popular Culture

Report by **Claire-Lise Benaud**
and **Sharon A. Moynahan**
(U. of New Mexico)

The **Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM)** met from May 30 through June 3, 1999 at Nashville, Tennessee. This year's annual conference, hosted by **Vanderbilt University**, consisted of business meetings, numerous panels, a book exhibit, receptions by the **Vanderbilt University Library** and the bookdealers, and tours of the **Hermitage** or the **Belle Meade Plantation**. Salalmistas enjoyed a full conference schedule and the opportunity to exchange ideas at events such as the ever-popular **Bookdealers' Reception**.

The conference theme, "Documenting Movements, Identity and Popular Culture in Latin America," led to a great variety of panels. Papers were delivered by librarians and by professors, many from Vanderbilt University. Library panels included sessions on Latin American newspapers, microfilming collections, improving research skills, a

continued on page 76

And They Were There from page 74

workshop on electronic resources, issues in the organization of information, and remote storage. In keeping with the theme of the conference, music, art, folklore, film, oral histories, women writers, and ethnicity were well represented through several panels.

In "Art, Music and Identity," **Simon Collier**, brought us to the Buenos Aires of the 1920s and attendees enjoyed listening to Tango music. Tango, first a dance and later a popular song, "rose from the feet to the lip." We heard about the vicissitudes of love, betrayal, and nostalgia and how the Tango reflects the urban identity of Buenos Aires. **Leonard Folgarait** brought us to Mexico and reconstructed the body in the art of famed muralist **Jose Clemente Orozco**. Speakers in the panel "Famous Folk and Folk of the Fringe" documented popular culture through folklore. **Peter Stern** sketched the life of **Frances Toor**, a bohemian American who moved to Mexico in 1922. Toor became enamored with Mexican art, archaeology, muralist movement, festival, and folklore and decided to publish a magazine, *Mexican Folkways* (1925-1935). **John Wright** became so interested by the works of **Antonio Paredes-Candia**, a Bolivian folklorist, that he went to pay him a visit in Bolivia in 1999. He related how folklorists collect and publish stories. **Victor Torres** gave an overview of Puerto Rican films and spoke of current preservation efforts. He distributed a list of disappeared Puerto Rican films from the 1950s, the 1960s, and even the 1970s. Copies of these films can no longer be found.

In "On and Off the Margins," **Beverly Karno** gave a brief history of the comic book in Latin America and **Sam Slick** spoke about political posters. Over a quarter century, he collected some 10,000 posters—he had a few on display—from every country in Latin America. He explained how he collected them and what problems he encountered. He described them as a propaganda tool, as an art form, and as a physical object. Most are made of paper but some are also made of vinyl, metal, or cloth especially in tropical countries with high humidity.

"Documenting change and shifting borders" touched on history as well as on ways of recording and preserving the record. **Myra Appel** described **COPAR**, an anthropological record as a way of preserving the cultural record and making it accessible. **Adecelia X. Lopez Roblero** discussed

FROSUR as a similar tool. **Alfonso Vijil** and **Emily Story** recounted the story of the filibuster by **William Walker**, a native of Nashville, and his attempts to conquer Nicaragua and other parts of Mexico and Central America. Description of the documentation and locations were included.

Annabeth Headrick and **Edward F. Fischer** focused on indigenous identities and politics. Headrick offered a new explanation of the use of stone masks in the ancient site of Teotihuacan, north of Mexico City. A large number of stone masks were found and little is known of their function. She argued that they were used in funeral ceremonies. Fischer spoke about Pan-Mayanism, a current Mayan resurgence movement in Guatemala. This movement, mostly led by academics, tries to raise Mayan consciousness through radio programs and publishes Mayan languages and grammars. Fischer described the main radio program "Mayab' Winaq," a weekly broadcast bringing together the roots of Maya culture. He presented the most relevant newspapers, commission reports, and databases dealing with Mayan affairs.

The room fairly rocked and "jammed" as panelists from the University of the West Indies, Trinidad, addressed the popular music and cultural traditions of the English-speaking Caribbean. **Kathleen Helenese-Paul** introduced the audience to Pan, Parang, and Chutney, and its documentation while **Elmelinda Lara** took the group on a tour of the numerous fetes and festivals that punctuate the islands' year.

These panels are but a sampling of the many cultural and bibliographical themes of the conference. The more practical side of Latin Americanist librarianship was handled by the many panels which provided nuts and bolts discussions of problems and solutions. Among the issues discussed were newspaper microfilm collections, improving research skills, oral history as a way of documenting popular culture, **Lexis-Nexis**, as well as the interpretation of sources for contemporary history and politics. Outsourcing and other cataloging issues, weeding, storage, and overcrowding rounded out this aspect of the conference. Every year, new challenges and as yet unresolved problems receive the attention of conference attendees who represent a wide variety of cultures and experiences. Librarians from throughout the western hemisphere and Europe tackled the issues while enjoying a stimulating and exciting conference agenda.

This year's event was assembled by **SALALM** president **Richard Phillips** of the **University of Florida** and local host **Paula Covington** of **Vanderbilt University**. Nashville proved to be a wonderful venue and members look forward to next year when the conference will take place in Long Beach, California.

**Caribbean Studies: the XLIII
SALALM Conference**
Report by **Claire-Lise Benaud** and
Sharon Moynahan (U. of New Mexico)

The Caribbean islands invoke images of beaches, cruise ships and aimless days winding down from life's toils. What's missing from this picture are centuries of culture and development that include colonial conquest and struggles for dominance, country building, slavery and emancipation, piracy, revolution, rivalries, and literary masterpieces. Bound by common geography and environment, the history of this region is often considered in terms of the colonial powers who dominated the area. However, as participants learned during the Forty-third **Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM)** held in San Juan Puerto Rico, May 23-27, 1998, the Caribbean islands share commonalities as well as differences. This rich history has been documented by island governments, colonial rulers, private business, literary authors, and personal journals. These resources are scattered throughout the region as well as in various libraries, government offices and private collections in the United States and Europe. **President Gayle Williams** of the **University of Georgia** and host **Victor Torres** of the **University of Puerto Rico** put together a venue and program of general sessions, committee meetings, panels and informal discussions, as well as book/resource exhibits, that provided a forum for examining not only the acquiring of materials from Latin America and the Caribbean, but also the bibliography, accessing, and processing of these resources. Topics ranged from Caribbean studies at the **University of Puerto Rico** to Latin American book trade, cooperation among libraries, and Caribbean literature and resources.

Caribbean Studies at the University of Puerto Rico

The work of various organizations within the **University of Puerto Rico** to gather archival materials dispersed in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, the United States, and Spain—to name key countries—were depicted in the panel "La investigacion y los estudios del Caribe en la Universidad de Puerto Rico." **Maria Dolores Luque**, from the **Centro de Investigaciones Historicas**, created in 1946, noted the problems associated with the transfer of official documents

continued on page 78

And They Were There from page 76

back to Puerto Rico, the fire that destroyed part of the archives, and the organization and the microfilming of the materials that had been saved. The creation of the **Instituto de Estudios del Caribe** in the 1970s coincided with a renewed interest in the study of Puerto Rico. **Aaron Ramos** noted issues such as the impact of the Cuban revolution, migration movements between Puerto Rico, other Caribbean islands, and the United States, and the impact of tourism on Puerto Rico. **Emilio Pantojas** reported on the **Caribbean Resource Center**, the newest center of the three, which focused on Puerto Rico as a part of the Caribbean region rather than the broader Central America. For example, the Center developed a proposal for the creation of a Minor in Creole and an Interdisciplinary Master's Degree in Caribbean Studies. The major thrust of the Center is the creation of a **Caribbean Home Page** on the Internet.

Book Trade

The Latin American book trade was the theme for three panels presented by the bookdealer members of **SALALM**, the **Libreros**. A panel moderated by bookseller **Howard Karno** examined Costa Rican literature, publishing in Cuba, and developments in Caribbean acquisitions. A second panel moderated by **Vera Araujo** of **Susan Bach, Ltda.** (Brazil) featured three North American bookdealers who discussed publishing in Mexico and trends in Latin American art publications. The final panel looked at publishing in Argentina and Uruguay. Moderated by **Gloria Sanchez** of **Mexico Norte/Literature de Vientos Tropicales**, the discussion featured Uruguayan and Argentine bookdealers who covered many aspects of publishing including art, NGO's and books and serials on the Internet.

Cooperation

In the age of scarce resources, cooperation has become a central theme of many conferences. During a panel moderated by **Walter Brem** of the **University of California, Berkeley**, several cooperative efforts, both formal and informal were described. These included

the **Boston Library Consortium's Latin American Women's Studies Project**, efforts along the U.S. Mexican border, as well as several other initiatives that received attention in other panels and committee meetings. **SALALM** has a long history of cooperative efforts. Currently, the largest is the **ARL/AAU Latin Americanist Research Resources Project**. Spearheaded by **SALALM** members, and originally funded by a **Mellon Grant**, this project seeks to increase the coverage of Latin American serial and monographic publications. Libraries have assumed responsibilities for collecting certain serial titles and also monographic publications for certain subjects or geographic regions. Bound together by the Internet through the **University of Texas Lanic project** (<http://lanic.utexas.edu>), the libraries, acting as a consortium, are able to have access to far deeper research collections than any one institution could possibly manage on its own.

Three regional consortia, **Calafia** (which is comprised of collections in California), **Lane** (collections in the Northeast) and **Laser** (collections in the Southeast and Puerto Rico) are another example of library cooperation to insure that scholars have access to research materials. Specific activities focus on serial cancellations made possible by sharing collecting responsibilities, coordinating microform collections, shared guides and finding aids. In all cases, the goal is increased access to collections, better communications, and timely delivery of needed materials.

In the area of cataloging, **SALALM** spearheaded a cooperative initiative for the timely cataloging of Latin American resources. Each participating institution has chosen a country, or a region, usually matching the institution's collecting strength, and committed to doing original cataloging at the time of receipt for this particular region. This initiative had mixed successes for a variety of reasons: collecting strength changes over time, backlogs are organized in different ways, cataloging statistics are not always kept in ways that are suitable for this type of cooperative project, and libraries are using different bibliographic utilities for their cataloging. **SALALM** catalogers decided to develop a home page to keep track of the participating institutions' original cataloging contributions. In the same vein, **Ana Cristan**, responsible for the **Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC)** based at the **Library of Congress**, described the problems associated with the participation in PCC of non-English speaking countries, specifically Mexico and Brazil. **Ana Cristan** described the various components of PCC: **CONSER**, the serials record component created in 1973; **NACO** the name authority component created in 1977; and the two newer programs, **SACO**, the subject authority component created in

1992, and **BIBCO**, the bibliographic record component created in 1995. Participation by Latin American countries in these various programs is plagued with difficulties. The fact that many countries do not use **USMARC** or **AACR2** is a major hurdle. Participation in **NACO** and **BIBCO** is also a challenge since name headings have to be expressed in English (for example, the English heading for Brazil is "Brazil" and not "Brasil," the Portuguese equivalent). Despite these obstacles, the **University of Sao Paulo** will join the **BIBCO** program. **SALALM** catalogers vowed to expand cooperating ventures in all matters relating to cataloging.

Caribbean Literature and Resources

Another theme was, not surprisingly, the literature of the Caribbean region. A panel moderated by **Marian Goslinga** of **Florida International University** explored the diversity of this literature from the forgotten Dutch to the multi-lingual richness of the English, French and Hispanic literatures. Discussion looked at the difficulties of finding these works in translation or of even getting them published outside the region. Diversity of race and gender were also discussed. [Numerous other panels covered the wide variety of lit-

erature and resources available to researchers in the Caribbean, ranging from special subject collections at the **University of the West Indies Libraries**, to theses on Caribbean literature and Cuban research collections. The literary presence of lesser-known women in Panama, El Salvador, Costa Rica and the English-speaking Caribbean was the subject of a panel moderated by **Nelly Gonzalez** of the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**.]

A conference in tropical paradise should include some play, and participants were treated to two outdoor events. The annual reception sponsored by the bookdealers and exhibitors was held on the patio of the **Museo de Arte e Historia** in Old San Juan. A buffet featured local cuisine and a live band provided danceable entertainment. The Host Reception, held at the residence of the **Chancellor** of the **University of Puerto Rico**, included a sumptuous buffet and the annual Enlace raffle. Each year, participants donate items that are then raffled off to raise money to assist one or two librarians from Latin America to attend **SALALM** for the first time.

Please Note!

New Email Address
for Katina Struach
strauchk@earthlink.net