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And They Were There -- Reports of Meetings -- University of Oklahoma Libraries Conference and ALHHS 2002 Conference

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And They Were There — Reports of Meetings

University of Oklahoma Libraries Conference and ALHHS 2002 Conference

Column Editor: **Sever Bordeianu** (University of New Mexico General Library) <sbordeia@unm.edu>

University of Oklahoma Libraries Conference "Electronic Resources and Collection Development" Oklahoma City, March 7-8, 2002

Report by **Linda K. Lewis**

The *University of Oklahoma Libraries* held its annual conference on collection development at Oklahoma City on March 7-8, 2002. The theme was "Electronic Resources and Collection Development" and the presenters discussed a wide range of related topics.

Jay Jordan, the President of OCLC, reviewed current trends and initiatives related to electronic collection development. Selection criteria were, and still are: quality, cost, relevance to the library's needs, and aesthetics. In addition, criteria for electronic resources include: vendor reliability, licensing, a good search engine, and a good interface. There is a shift from collection-centered libraries that define themselves by the size of their collections to user-centered libraries that define themselves by the services they provide to users. Libraries must pay attention to the ways in which their users hunt for information — online, always available, and well organized; if they don't, libraries run the risk of being circumvented. Libraries must make sure their names appear on the electronic products made available through the library; the users must know that these products are not free on the Internet but are paid for by the library.

Jordan talked about OCLC and its development and recent acquisitions. OCLC acquired **netLibrary** in January. It has about 6,600 libraries purchasing electronic books from over 300 publishers, with about 40,000 titles, and OCLC looks forward to expanding. In **netLibrary**, libraries can now order items directly, and can profile online so that

netLibrary will notify them when new titles are available. OCLC has about 4,000 jour-

nals in **ECO**, along with numerous indexes and abstracting tools. OCLC is also working with the **Library of Congress** on a project to supply 24/7 reference. They are forming a digital co-op that will focus on digital preservation; the metadata could be in **WorldCat**;

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less Internet capabilities with all the assets of a fully integrated online library system. Recently, in fact, it was reported that **Endeavor** demonstrated a prototype wireless **Voyager OPAC** designed by two students at **Western Michigan University**. At the time this article was written, the wireless **OPAC** was still owned by the Western Michigan students, although **Endeavor** was expected to make a statement soon regarding possible plans to make this prototype work either on **SupportWeb** or through **Endeavor**. Certainly the times are a-changing.

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looking at software that allows searching of digital images and text from microforms. With about 12.9% of the acquisitions budgets of ARL libraries devoted to electronic resources, OCLC sees this area as continuing to grow. The main question is whether they can pull all the resources together, making access as seamless as possible for users.

Jennifer Younger, Director of University Libraries of Notre Dame, looked at how electronic resources are changing collection development and libraries. Younger said that while ARL libraries still spend the majority of their budgets on print resources, electronic resources are growing rapidly and are far more dominant than the figure of 13% of the acquisitions budgets would indicate. Many journals are going online; eBooks are popular for reserve; museums are digitizing unique materials (such as the **American Memory** project); and projects to produce books digitally (such as the project for history books from Pennsylvania) are growing. Electronic resources make collection development much more complicated. Collection development librarians are faced with rising expectations (new users, new programs, and new institutes) and with rising costs (inflation and new resources). So are there solutions? Maybe several possibilities, depending upon the individual institutions. Among the suggestions: (1) Migrate to electronic-only if feasible and when archiving is stable; (2) Look at the factors by which the institution is judged; (3) Look at the institutional values. If service is a high value, then it may be possible to invest more funds in paying for individual articles when demanded, rather than paying for subscriptions.

Barbara McFadden Allen is the Director of the **Committee on Institutional Cooperation**, the consortia of the **Big 10** and **University of Chicago** libraries. Allen's title was "What Administrators Talk about When They Talk About Libraries." As Director of the **CIC**, she talks with the upper university administrators and with political leaders about programs, plans and needs of the consortia and of libraries. When talking to university administrators, she finds that most of them know a great deal about libraries, and are generally quite supportive. Most are well aware that print and electronic formats must co-exist for the indefinite future, that electronic resources are expensive, and that the issues surrounding scholarly communication are complex. Most are also aware that libraries have been expanding access and are using complex technology. When talking to political leaders, she found that some — not all — feel that libraries are wasting money on all those electronic resources that surely must be available for free on the Web. Why the differences? Because the library leaders in their consortia have been successful in building their image and their influence; their libraries are recognized as part of the universities' research efforts, and the libraries are trusted in their stewardship of resources. Librarians must keep telling their stories — successes and needs — to their administrations.

Dennis Dillon, the Head of Collections and Information Resources for the **University of Texas** at Austin, presented a talk titled "Fishing the Electronic River: Disruptive Technologies, the Unlibrary, and the Ecology of Information." Dillon used the image of fishing, with four doctors, a librarian, the captain of the boat, and **Groucho Marx's** dog to discuss searching for information, the boundaries of libraries, transformative technology and related issues. Will the Web be the transformative technology for scholarly publication? Will eBooks be an aggressive, invasive weed or the salvation of research monographs? Are the publishers of print books outmoded, bloated dinosaurs? Will print-on-demand be the answer for smaller print runs? Will libraries continue to support the traditional publication models? Publishers and formats come and go; all must adapt to survive. Is the boundary of the library the walls of the building, or the extended electronic

the digital archive could be in a number of places. They are

library accessible on the Web? Boundaries change as institutions redefine themselves; what do librarians consider as the boundaries of their libraries? (The papers from the conference are usually published in the *Journal of Library Administration*; look for this one since I know I'm not doing it justice.)

Anne Marie Casey is the Director of Off-Campus Library Services for **Central Michigan University**. She discussed the issues related to building library collections for distance learning programs and students. Distance learning is not new; correspondence courses started in the U. S. after the Civil War. Library services have usually included document delivery, reference and instruction; the methods of contact have usually been telephone, mail, online or in person. When distance education was beginning to grow, libraries frequently bought multiple copies of books to loan to students, created core collections that could be deposited near the students or arranged for students to use libraries that were close to them. As electronic resources expanded, libraries used subscription databases to do mediated searches for the students. In the early stages of remote access, there were problems with access that included long distance phone charges, authentication, and access to adequate technology. The Internet has revolutionized distance education with library Web pages, full-text journals and books, and proxy authentication that allows separate electronic collections to be tailored to students.

Distance education librarians tend to think in terms of ease of use for the end users; to think more about purchasing resources just-in-time rather than just-in-case; to be frustrated by the slowness of the process in acquiring resources; to be motivated by time-sensitive demands, responding to demands from patrons for immediate results; to have less input from on-campus groups that can slow down the process. Casey cited one example of an effort to subscribe to **E*Subscribe**, the online **ERIC** documents, in which the institution subscribed for its distance education students but not for its main campus because the education department couldn't agree on whether or not it would be worthwhile for them.

William J. Crowe is the Spencer Librarian at the **Kenneth Spencer Research Library**, the special collections library of the **University of Kansas**. His talk was titled "An Uncertain Trumpet: Developing Archival and Special Collections in the Electronic Era." He said that archivists and special collections librarians see themselves as separate communities, unconnected to the rest of the library and (frequently) society. In the past, many special collections librarians saw themselves as saving and sharing treasures with the community; that is less true now. Attention of many librarians has been diverted from special collections by the overwhelming combination of the serials pricing crisis, the crisis in scholarly publishing, the explosive growth of the Internet, changes in technology, and the growth in international publishing. Special collections have begun seeing renewed interest as a result of the growth of public history programs and the development of digitization projects. There is also a growth in cooperation at all levels. But are special collections people working with faculty to show them what is available to support instruction and research? Special collections people have a history of describing realia in ways that the information can be retrieved; their skills in describing unusual things can help other librarians develop innovative ways to catalog and describe resources. Digitization projects can help libraries reach out to distance education projects and to elementary schools to show the history of the area and the strengths of the libraries.

Mary E. Jackson, Senior Program Officer for Access Services of the **Association of Research Libraries**, discussed the development of their **Scholars Portal Initiative** (see **Rumors** this issue, pg.16) This project is seen as the development of a suite of Web-based services linking quality information resources that advance research. The Portal would include search tools, delivery tools, text processing

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and citation management tools, publication tools and access to virtual reference services and scholarly communities. The discussions began in 1999 as a response to the fear that libraries were in danger of losing their users to commercial information services. Most library web pages are not an adequate means of entry to the wide variety of resources available on the Web. The **Scholar's Portal** would be a source that linked to high quality academic materials, be based on open standards rather than commercial or proprietary programming, would search across a wide range of databases, would offer a range of supporting tools such as dictionaries. It would be "The Place" to start for academically sound materials on the Web. A working group was established to advance this idea of a collective research library presence on the Web that would provide access to numerous electronic resources and services from a wide range of institutions, without re-inventing everything. It narrowed the focus to trying to develop the ability to search, aggregate, integrate and deliver content from multiple institutions in a variety of subjects. They are working with a vendor to create a pilot. It would provide tools for the academic community — undergraduates as a start, not just advanced researchers — to have a single point of access to the Web to find high quality information and deliver it to the user. Phase 1 is to develop cross-domain searching and integration of search results; phase 2 will involve linking to online learning resources and digital reference sources. Users could control what they do, what and where they search, what they retrieve, when they search — in a customized service. They see this as a 3 year pilot.

Sarah E. Thomas is the University Librarian at **Cornell University Library**. Her talk was titled "Think Globally, Act Locally: The Digital Library and the Renewed Drive for Shared Collection Development." Libraries face numerous problems: the abundance of information; inadequate local resources; policies and tools that don't fit today's needs; rising user expectations; faculty expect everything to be available in the library; libraries can't access, much less control, all information; scholars are seeking and finding information outside the library and so undervaluing their library resources. Libraries need to provide more effective access to a wider range of resources. Collaboration can help identify and deliver materials through subject portals. Students and researchers are becoming less dependent on libraries; they want convenience; full-text, current information.

Library-created subject-based portals should be based upon university centers of excellence; identify sites that have a well-defined scope and coverage; can be customized; must be current; should be collaborative, global, permanent. She mentioned sites such as Renardus (<http://www.renardus.org>), a gateway to improve access to European Internet sites for academic users; Humbul (<http://www.humbul.ac.uk>), a British portal for higher education access to online humanities resources; **Cornell's** National Science, Math Engineering and Technology Digital Library grant; and **Stanford University Libraries'** pages on medieval studies as examples to consider. There are many ways to approach these portals; libraries should stress cooperation, connectivity, and collaboration. Good Web pages should be well designed and well organized; have a description of their content and scope; accept user feedback; be updated regularly; and include some means of assessment.

Kevin Guthrie is the President of **JSTOR**. He discussed the usage of and reactions to **JSTOR**. Older articles are just as likely, or even more likely, to be used as recent articles, although there is a wide variation among disciplines. Citations of articles don't predict **JSTOR** use well; highly cited articles are not the articles most likely to be highly used. A commercial firm was hired to survey faculty attitudes, and found that over 60% consider electronic resources valuable, especially OPACs and full text resources; that archiving is crucial; that the faculty expect the role of the library to diminish; that print is expected to co-exist with electronic resources. Librarians need to ask what they can do better than others in the information industry.

They must look at their strengths, their centers of excellence, and at their ability to organize resources.

This year's conference continued the practice of bringing librarians, vendors and publishers together to discuss issues related to electronic resources and collection management, and the attendees. These issues are complex, and it is always useful to learn how other libraries are approaching similar concerns. **Sul Lee**, the conference chair, invited everyone to return next year for further explorations of these challenging issues.

Recommended reading: *Weaving the Web* by **Tim Berners-Lee**; *Building Sustainable Collections of Free Third-Party Web Resources* by **Louis Pitschmann** (Council on Library & Information Resources, 2001).

*Archivists and Librarians in the History of the
Health Sciences 2002 Conference
"History in Kansas City"*

April 24, 2002, University of Kansas, Kansas City

Report by **Lucretia McClure**

Can you imagine seeing the works of **Vesalius**, **Harvey**, and **Pare** plus Chinese acupuncture figures and an 18th-century obstetrical chair in the morning; exquisite copies of the works of **Galileo**, **Gesner**, and **Darwin** at noon; and a medical museum or a research library that documents the history of a region in the afternoon? Those forty some individuals fortunate enough to attend the 2002 annual meeting of the *Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences Conference* were treated to this great array of treasures.

The **ALHHS** is an organization that meets annually in conjunction with the **American Association of the History of Medicine**. It meets the day before the **AAHM** to focus on issues relevant to history libraries, thus allowing members to join the physicians, historians, graduate students, and booksellers who participate in the larger meeting.

This year's **ALHHS** meeting, held April 24 in Kansas City, featured tours of a variety of libraries and museums. The day started at the **Clendening History of Medicine Library** at the **University of Kansas**. **Dr. Logan Clendening's** gifts formed the basis of the collection and his monetary contributions ensure that new rare books and museum artifacts continue to be added. The library is digitizing some of its treasures, including a collection of **Florence Nightingale** letters, Japanese medical prints, and rare text images.

Visiting the **Linda Hall Library** of Science, Engineering, and Technology makes one wish to sit and read in its glorious reading areas. We saw beautiful rare books, including **Gesner's** *Historia Animalium*. **Linda Hall** is much more than rare books and a tour of the stacks showed the extensive collection of journals, some 40,000 titles, and engineering standards. An interesting sidelight: the **Hallmark Card Company** (not related to the Hall's who endowed this library) uses images from the **Linda Hall** collection on napkins, calendars, etc., and returns a royalty on each item to the Library.

The **Piper Museum** is located in **St. Joseph Health Center** and documents the history of the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet** who opened the first private hospital in Kansas City in 1874. Among the many interesting exhibits was a reproduction of an early 20th-century doctor's office. The **Kenneth Spencer Research Library** at the **University of Kansas, Lawrence**, contains the manuscripts, maps, photographs that tell the history of Kansas and the people who lived there. It is also renowned for its collection of some 300 herbals dating from the 15th century. All in all, the day was a book lover's delight.

The next two and a half days were devoted to lectures on a range of topics in the history of medicine at the **AAHM** conference, including medieval and early modern bodies, medicine and race in America,

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rural health in America, living with epidemics, and much, much more. **David J. Rothman** of the **Center for Study of Society and Medicine**, College of Physicians and Surgeons, **Columbia University**, presented the **Fielding H. Garrison Lecture** on the historian as an expert witness. He outlined instances in which he testified at trials as an expert on informed consent.

The **75th AAHM** conference opened with a stirring address by **President Judith W. Leavitt**, Department of Medical History and Bioethics, **University of Wisconsin Medical School**, entitled "What Do Men Have To Do With It?" She described the changes in the role of the father in labor and delivery rooms. Lest anyone think it was all serious, the attendees were treated to a reception at the **American Jazz Museum & Negro Leagues Baseball Museum** with great music and Kansas City barbeque.

Of special interest to the librarians and archivists was a report on the project to develop an electronic version of the *Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office*, the monumental catalog begun by **John Shaw Billings** after the Civil War. This great work contains nearly four million records in its five series and is the repository of medical knowledge from all times and countries. The word is that it will be available sometime during the next year to the great joy of all medical librarians and historians.

Books Are Us

by **Anne Robichaux** (Professor Emerita, Medical University of South Carolina; Consultant, Majors Scientific Books) <akr772@mac.com>

AKA your editor, this column is supposed to cover fiction about people like us — librarians, publishers, vendors, booksellers, etc. All contributions are welcome. — AR

Searching the Web for "librarians in fiction" resulted in several interesting Websites and also pointed to a bibliography of the same name: ***Librarians in Fiction, a Critical Bibliography***, by **Grant Burns** (McFarland & Company, Inc., 1998, \$29.95, ISBN 078640499X).

The bibliography is fully annotated with descriptions that read more like short reviews of 374 novels, short stories, plays, secondary sources (indexes, theses, etc.) and "bibliographer's choice: works not to miss." Each description contains a "delightfully opinionated synopsis of the story and details how the librarian is portrayed." (American Libraries). An assortment of reviews (mcfarland.com; amazon.com) recommend the title for librarians and library-lovers alike, commenting on the richness of the "unapologetically opinionated, and nicely indexed" bibliography. Descriptors such as witty, entertaining, functional, "a good read from cover to cover" are but a few of the well deserved praises from reviewers.

In the book's introduction the author notes "and this won't surprise any of us" that Librarians "have been somewhat preoccupied with their image nearly since the inception of the profession. One of the major vehicles for the development and propagation of images of any group is fiction. Librarians are plentiful in fiction." **Mr. Burns** writes that he had two purposes in mind in writing this book: first, to explore the images of librarians in fiction (originally written in English, or trans-

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