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Retention of Print

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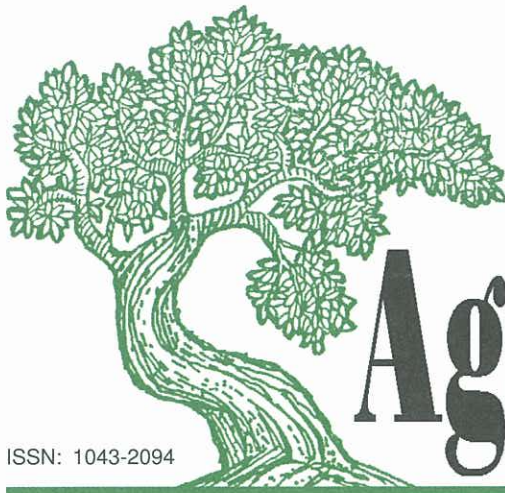
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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

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Retention of Print

by **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>

I am pleased to be serving as Guest Editor of this issue of *Against The Grain*. **Katina** first asked me, nearly a year ago, if I would consider editing an issue on whether or not we should discard print titles in favor of electronic. I agreed, knowing that there would be no shortage of excellent papers on this particular topic. And I was right! This issue of *ATG* will showcase five thoughtful and creative papers on this topic.

Thomas Peters addresses this issue from the consortia perspective. He describes three collaborative print retention pilot projects (Committee on Institutional Cooperation, Center for Research Libraries, **University of California System**). **Tom** claims that the challenge with print retention is to manage a large body of printed information that appears to be losing value to the user population.

John McDonald focuses his paper on the considerations that libraries should take into account when debating print retention issues. When considering the benefits of not retaining print issues of journals that are available electronically, libraries must examine "money," "time," and "space." In addition to these issues, a library must explore their archival responsibility, personnel needs, reparability and restorability. **John** claims that the most important issue for a library to consider is to weigh its future ability to restore collections that have been cancelled, if there is ever a future need for them.

Mark Rowse focuses on the evolving environment and its effect on the factors affecting the ratio of print to electronic holdings. New purchasing and publishing models, user preferences, networked environments and the larger issues of cost and bud-

geting, have created what he refers to as the "hybrid environment." Duplication issues, storage, binding and space costs are also addressed in this paper.

Don Jaeger approaches this topic from the perspective of a vendor who believes that paper copy will prevail for at least the next fifty years. He feels this way because copyright issues surrounding electronic access still remain unresolved; there are unsettled technologies surrounding electronic; accreditation models at universities that still favor paper; publishers still derive a high percentage of income from print; and, archiving issues surrounding electronic access are still unresolved.

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If Rumors Were Horses

Look y'all. **BACK TALK** is back! See this issue, p. 94. In the meantime, **Tony Ferguson**, the magnificent, is currently president of the **Hong Kong Library Association**, head of the **Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance**, chair of the collaborative collection development group, not to mention lots of other things I don't know about as well as head of the **Hong Kong University Library** and **Back Talker** extraordinaire. Whew!

I am so sorry that I neglected to tell y'all that the wonderful **Alfred Jaeger** had two sons! **Glenn Jaeger**, President of **Absolute Backorder Service, Inc.** <jaeger@absolute-inc.com> in Wrentham, MA was his second beloved son.

Well, y'all, if you notice something that I have left out of **Rumors** that you wish I had put in, PLEASE tell me <strauchk@earthlink.net>. Like, I totally forgot to tell y'all about the acquisition of **Norman Ross Publishing** by **ProQuest** back in November, 2002! Oops! **NRP** (originally operating as "**Clearwater Publishing**"), with approximately 22 employees, has been producing microfilms in more than 30 countries for the better

part of 30 years. As part of the integration, both **Robert Lee** and **Norman Ross** have joined the **ProQuest** staff. **Norman**, operating out of New York, will serve as **Executive Director of UMI**. **Robert**, relocating to Ann Arbor, formerly **Vice President of NRP**, is **Director of UMI Publishing**, with responsibilities for a wide range of microform and print products from both **UMI** and **Norman Ross Publishing**. The full content of **NRP's** microform products will be integrated into appropriate subject disciplines within the **UMI** family of products. **Norm** writes, "After completing the sale of my company, I noted that the first trip of my business career, in 1965, was to visit the first microfilm operation of **Bell & Howell**, which today is known as **ProQuest**." Sounds prophetic. <http://www.nross.com/old/letter.htm>



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Robert Alan and Nan Butkovich explore this issue from both the library technical and public services perspectives. They describe a transition period for libraries as we allocate an extensive amount of resources to manage both print and electronic resources at the same time. They argue that electronic access is good for our users, but is complicated, costly and time consuming in terms of management. They refer the reader to specific options that the **Pennsylvania State University Libraries** is taking while learning how to better manage their growing electronic collection.

I saw a common theme throughout these papers and that was the concern over the financial implications of print versus electronic. Many of the papers focused on money. As our libraries and institutions struggle with budget reductions, I think this factor will take on an even greater significance in how we view our collections and what we decide we can afford to retain in terms of redundancy among print and electronic collections. 

Rumors from page 16

Chepesiuk <dmonitor1@yahoo.com> (I wonder if he ever stops!). He was writing from **Bangladesh** where he is a **Fulbright scholar** in journalism. He is getting a close up look at the War. **The Daily Star**, the **New York Times** of

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Collaborative Print Retention Pilot Projects

by **Thomas A. Peters** (Committee on Institutional Cooperation)

Introduction

Although people have been retaining print since incunabula were pups (or pulp), suddenly print retention is a hot topic. **Reilly** (2002) describes it as a "crisis in collection storage." **DesRosiers** (2002) notes, "Librarians are joining up with colleagues at neighboring institutions to develop joint collections, to undertake local deduplication projects, to assign 'last copy' responsibilities among themselves and to develop joint storage or shelving facilities."

Why has print retention become one of the burning issues of our time? It reveals our current cultural schizophrenia. On the one hand, electronic publishing has caused some educated people to denounce digital content and reaffirm their love of print. On the other hand, certain types of printed publications, such as reference books and scholarly journals, have become problems for academic libraries. **Kaufman** (2002) notes, "...the artifacts of paper-based communication are piling up in our libraries and are becoming an ever more expensive problem." Many users seem to prefer—or at least accept—electronic versions of some publications, so libraries, in a general bind for resources and space, see some value in an orderly retreat from printed journals. If not already the case, soon we may face situations where many libraries find themselves investing in print journal collections at levels out of kilter with the value and use their users place on printed information. Retaining print may become a dubious activity open to challenge from users, parent organizations, funding agencies, and fellow librarians.

Although everyone knows a printed document when they see one, the meaning of committing to retain a collection of printed documents is open to interpretation. The notions of light and dark archives come into play, as well as centralized and decentralized archives. The terms of commitment need to be articulated. The need for a coordinated print retention strategy is palpable. A report from the Center for Research Libraries Collection Assessment Task Force, chaired by **Ross Atkinson** from **Cornell**, notes, "The primary reasons for retaining paper copies will probably be (a) for occasional access to older materials that have never been digitized, (b) as paper back-ups (safety copies) of items that have been digitized, (c) for the opportu-

nity to re-digitize materials, as needed, from the originals, and (d) for artifactual purposes."

This article describes three projects involving collaborative attempts to address the print retention problem. All three focus on the orderly retention of printed versions of journals for which e-versions exist.

Committee on Institutional Cooperation

In June 2000, discussions began in the **Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC)** about developing policies for the retention of printed copies of journals available electronically. The Collection Development Officers and Electronic Resources Officers created a Format Duplication Task Force with the following goal: "Create a fair and reliable mechanism that will allow **CIC** libraries to cancel print copies of titles available in electronic format and insure one print copy of each title is retained in the consortium for research and archival purposes." **Bonnie MacEwan** (**Penn State University**) and **Lou Pitschmann** (then at the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**) initially led the group. **Ed Shreeves** (**University of Iowa**) and **Carole Armstrong** (**Michigan State University**) later took the lead.

In late 2000, **Jan Palmer**, a **U. of Michigan** post-doc, analyzed current practices, discussions, and policies regarding print retention at **CIC** member universities. When asked whether or not a **CIC** collaborative print retention project would make local decisions to cancel print subscriptions more feasible, eleven of the respondents indicated that a consorsial initiative would be at least somewhat beneficial. One collection development officer, however, cautioned that faculty opposition to the remote storage or cancellation of printed journals could become inflamed by the added concept of sharing archiving responsibilities with other **CIC** member universities.

In December 2001, a project proposal was submitted to the **CIC** Library Directors, with copies to the Technical Services Directors, Public Services Directors, the Preservation Officers, and the Interlibrary Loan Directors. The proposal noted that the archiving of and long-term access to e-versions of scholarly journals were not sufficiently mature and robust. "The archiving of elec-

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