February 2003

If Rumors Were Horses

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Against the Grain

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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

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Creativity: It's All Around Us

by **Lisa German** (Head of Acquisitions, University of Illinois Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801; Phone: 217-244-2071; Fax: 217-244-9004) <lgerman@uiuc.edu>

Librarianship is a creative profession. We see it around us, every day, in our dealings with each other, authors, publishers and vendors. As I was putting together this annual issue of *Against the Grain*, the thread running through each article was the creativity we're employing in our daily lives in order to give better service to our users.

Dan Halloran, a real entrepreneur (and great storyteller) sets the stage by asking if 2002 was "the year of the economy, e-content, vanishing eBooks, or of shelf-ready processing finally gaining the acceptance that it deserves?" Read this article to see his answer.

Joyce Ogburn and **John McDonald** document

the creative ways in which digital scholarship is beginning to flourish. **Joyce** provides a definition and framework for looking at digital scholarship initiatives and gives examples of programs at the **University of Virginia** and the **Electronic Cultural Atlas** initiative based at **UC-Berkeley**. With support from the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and others, digital scholarship is thriving on several campuses. **John** explains that the principles of collection development that apply to the print and archival world should be followed and built upon in the digital world.

William Hannay attempts to define "market power" who has it, what affects it, and are efforts like **SPARC** changing it.

In case all this information begins to overwhelm you, read "Uptight in Library Land" by **Ed Merwin**. Probably the same things that are stressing out the librarians in South Carolina are causing stress for the rest of us. I loved this article because it says we're not alone, but there are things we can do about it.

Finally, **Richard Abel** challenges us to think about scholarship and the scholarly monograph and its importance in the transfer of knowledge.

The creative ability of all these authors shines in the articles they've written.

They're examples of where we have been, where we are, and where we're going.

If Rumors Were Horses

Just back from **ALA Midwinter** in Philly. Saw lots of great people. Not the least of which was the splendid **Evelyn Fazio** <emfazio@earthlink.net> who is looking for a job. She is interested in re-entering publishing, perhaps starting her own list for either high school reference sets or perhaps as a publisher in an academic setting. **Evelyn** says that her time at **Baker & Taylor** (two years) developing "Ed" was great but that she wants to return to her real love, publishing. You go, girl!

Also the equally smashing **Elizabeth Connor** <confdez@bellsouth.net> <econnor@rossmed.edu.dm> (Director of Libraries at **Ross University School of Medicine**, Dominica, West Indies) wishes to return to Charleston to be with her husband, **Carlos**, and is

looking for a library or field representative job in publishing, vending, or libraries. If you know of

any jobs that might help these two women, please let them know! Thanks!

We were so sad to learn of the passing of **Alfred Jaeger**, **Don Jaeger's** <donaldjaeger@worldnet.att.net> wonderful father, who founded **Alfred Jaeger, Inc.** I had the pleasure of meeting this charismatic man several times and am sure that he will be sorely missed by his family, employees, and all of us who were touched by his presence.

Here's the scoop on **divine/Faxon/Rowecom** as we go to press. This was definitely one of the "hot topics" of **ALA Midwinter**. **divine, inc.** (Nasdaq: DVIN) has announced that **RoweCom, Inc.**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **divine**, has signed a letter of intent with **EBSCO Industries, Inc.** for the sale of **RoweCom's** business to **EBSCO**. This agreement supersedes the original letter of intent announced on December 20, 2002, and includes **RoweCom's** worldwide operations. **RoweCom**, which was acquired by **divine** in November 2001. The proposed transaction, which is contingent upon regulatory approval in France and customary closing condi-

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tions, has been endorsed by the **steering committee** of the ad hoc committee of publishers and **RoweCom** customers. In connection with this agreement, certain publishers represented on the ad hoc committee have agreed to fulfill subscription orders to **RoweCom** customers who prepaid for subscription orders. "We believe that the sale of **RoweCom** to **EBSCO** is the optimal solution for its customers and the various publishers that provide content to customers," said **divine Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Andrew "Flip" Filipowski**. To facilitate the sale of **RoweCom**'s assets and operations to **EBSCO**, and to ensure that **RoweCom**'s operations continue without interruption until the transaction is finalized, **RoweCom** expects to file a voluntary petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the **U.S. Bankruptcy Code**. <http://www.divine.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=d3%2FPage%2Fd3SubSectionWrapper&c=DevArticle&cid=1043257849092&p=1018281461145>. Also, the **Outsell eBrief** regarding **Rowecom** et al, is worth a look at <http://www.outsellinc.com>.

Saw the oh-so-tall and urbane **Michele Casalini** <michele@casalini.it> in Philadelphia. He was loaded up with pictures of his son, **Pier Niccolo** (who's walking already!) and his lovely wife **Susanna**.

And speaking of **Casalini**, have you ever noticed the huge level of information available online through the **i libri Database Plus** and **le riviste Database Plus**? In addition, the **Mercurio Fulltext System** specializes in online publishing services. Be sure and visit digital.casalini.it to get an extensive look. And don't forget **RREA Reference Reviews Europe Annual** which **Casalini** publishes and which is quite a unique reference resource for European publications. www.casalini.it.

Times sure have changed. **The New York Times** has purchased the Paris-based **International Herald Tribune** for "less than \$75 million." The NYT purchased the **Washington Post's** 50% stake, ending a 35-year partnership. The deal was said to have been "acrimonious." Managing editor of the **International Herald Tribune** was **Robert McCartney**. See "New York Times closes buyout of Paris-based International Herald Tribune," by **Jamey Keaten** in **Detroit Free Press/Business**, January 1, 2003. http://www.freep.com/money/business/pmx12447_20021231.htm.

More changes. French media conglomerate **Vivendi Universal** has completed its sale of US educational publisher **Houghton Mifflin** for \$US1.66 billion (1.7 billion euros) to an investment consortium headed by **Thomas H. Lee** and **Bain Capital**. **Vivendi** received \$US1.28 billion in cash while another \$US380 million worth of **Houghton Mifflin** debt was taken on by the consortium. **Vivendi** acquired **Houghton Mifflin**, which was established in 1832 and is among the oldest US publishing houses in 2001 for \$US2.2

billion. <http://abc.net.au/news/newsitems/s756701.htm>.

Word is that the **British Library** hopes to acquire the letters of **Princess Diana** to **James Hewitt** written from 1989-1991. These would join similar collections of letters, including those **Elizabeth I** wrote to the **Earl of Essex**. But there's a problem of selling price. **Dr. Christopher Wright** of the **British Library** told the **BBC Online** that £10m is "way too high" to pay for the letters, though the library would be prepared to pay a smaller amount for the 64 handwritten missives. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2643655.stm>.

This is off the **Voyager listserv**. After eight years, the go-getter visionary **Jane Burke** has decided to relinquish her role as **President and CEO of Endeavor**, and not to renew her contract with **Elsevier** and **Endeavor**. **Jane** feels that it is time for new leadership at **Endeavor**, especially given the growing importance of digital content to libraries. "This was a really hard decision for me," **Jane** stated. "The marketplace that we used to know as library automation is changing so quickly that I feel that **Endeavor** needs a fresh view of how to utilize all of **Endeavor's** and **Elsevier's** combined strengths to our customers' best advantage. I have loved working with every single one of the **Endeavor** customers," she continued. "They are the reason for **Endeavor's** success. So many librarians have helped me and have shared their vision for libraries with me. Knowing all of them has been a real joy." Effective January 2, **Roland Dietz** will succeed **Jane** as **President and CEO**. **Roland Dietz** has been with **Elsevier** for over ten years. Most recently, he has been the **Managing Director of Global Sales and Marketing** for **Elsevier's** science and technology division. **Roland** has a Masters degree in Software Engineering/Artificial Intelligence from **Delft University of Technology**, the Netherlands, and worked in various high tech environments before joining **Elsevier Science**. He will be moving with his family to Chicago from the New York area and will be directing the company from its headquarters in Des Plaines, Illinois. He is looking forward to meeting **Endeavor** customers and learning the intricacies of **Voyager** and **ENCompass**. **Endeavor** remains a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Elsevier**. For further information, contact **Cindy Negard** <cindy.negard@endinfosys.com>. And watch for **Judy Luther's** upcoming interview with **Roland Dietz** for **ATG**!

The next two **Rumors** are from **Edupage** (January 8, 2003) — **Columbia University** has announced that because of continued unprofitability, the **Fathom online-learning** venture will be shut down. **Fathom** was created about two years ago as a for-profit company to develop Web-based courses and sell them to the public. **Fathom** attracted a number of high-profile partners for development of content, including the **American Film Institute**, the **Cambridge University Press**, the **London School of Economics and Political Science**, the **New York Public Library**,

RAND, the **University of Chicago**, and the **University of Michigan** system. Though officials at **Columbia** would not release investment totals for **Fathom**, the university in 2001 reportedly funded **Fathom** with \$14.9 million and recouped only \$700,000, in fees and sales revenue. **Robert Kasdin**, senior executive vice president at **Columbia**, said the decision to dissolve **Fathom** reflects an understanding that "the university is going to be better served if we focus [resources] on campus-based initiatives." — **Chronicle of Higher Education**, 8 January 2003 <http://chronicle.com/free/2003/01/2003010701t.htm>.

In a blow to the **U.S. film industry**, Norwegian teen **Jon Lech Johansen** was found innocent on all counts in a complaint filed against him for violating computer break-in laws by the **U.S. Motion Picture Association** and the **DVD Copy Control Association** in January 2000. Now 19, "DVD-Jon" was 15 when he wrote and posted on the Internet the **DeCSS** software, which decodes the **Content Scrambling System (CSS)** used by the film industry to prevent illegal copying of DVD films. CSS also prevents consumers from playing DVDs on certain devices, however, and from making legal copies of DVDs. **Head Judge Irene Sogn** ruled that there was no proof that **Johansen** or others had used the program for illegal purposes and that consumers have rights to DVDs obtained legally "even if the films are played in a different way than the makers had foreseen." No decision has been made about an appeal in the case. **Washington Post**, 7 January 2003 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20997-2003Jan7.html>.

This is from **Rob Nagy** <rnagy@accessible.com> (**Accessible Archives**, 697 Sugartown Road, Malvern, Pa 19355, phone (610)296-7441, fax (610)725-1745; www.accessible.com) — Effective January 1, 2003, all ordering and correspondence regarding **Accessible Archives** should be directed to **Accessible Archives**. **Scholarly Resources** will no longer be representing **Accessible Archives** in any capacity.

Well, the **copyright extension 1998 law** was upheld by the **Supreme Court** in a 7-2 decision that keeps **Mickey Mouse** et al from going into the public domain a while longer. (**Eldred v. Ashcroft**). It was a victory for **Disney** and a defeat to those who had hoped to use images et al and not have to pay high royalties. **Gina Holland**, writing for the **Associated Press** and posted on **Yahoo** writes a good overview "Supreme Court Keeps Copyright Protections". See also "High Court Upholds Law Extending Copyrights by 20 Years," by **Linda Greenhouse**. See **New York Times**, January 15, 2003 or <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/15/business/15CND-COPY.html>. We hope to have a **Cases of Note** on this in the next issue (April).

A little humor. Picked up from **Arts & Letters Daily**, now a service of the **Chronicle of Higher Education**, at: <http://www.alldaily.com>. **Mickey Mouse** slipped out of **Disneyland** the

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other day and gave an interview re the *Eldred* case (above). Check it out! <http://www.reason.com/links/links011703.shtml>.

Have you heard that Infotrieve has purchased Ariel from RLG? Here is a link for information on the deal <http://www.infotrieve.com/news.asp#473>. Kristin Tague (Manager, Accounts and Alliances, RLG Inc.) <kristin.tague@notes.rlg.org> says that "In 2002 to help realize the full potential of Ariel and bring it to new kinds of users, [RLG] looked for a buyer with the right kind of mission, resources, and desire."

The wonderfully splendiferous Anne Jennings <jenningsa@citadel.edu> calls our attention to the **Digital Information Bibliography of Licensing Sources** <http://www.library.yale.edu/~llicense/index.shtml> recently posted on liblicense. She points out proudly that there are six references to articles in *Against the Grain*! And, numerous references to papers given at the **Charleston Conference**, I might add!

The incredible Tom Peters <Tpeters@cic.uiuc.edu> and his wife have decided to relocate back to the Kansas City metropolitan area for several family-related reasons. Consequently, Tom will resign as **Director of the CIC Center for Library Initiatives (CLI)** sometime before June 30, 2003. Tom has been director for 3 1/2 years. Barbara Allen, the Director of the CIC, and the CIC Library

Directors are beginning the search for a new **Director**. A position description and search timeline are being distributed and advertised. The goal is to achieve a seamless transition so that the various projects and programs which are in place are not delayed. All best wishes to you, Tom, as you embark on new phases in your career! <http://www.cic.uiuc.edu>.

This issue is **guest edited** by the bawzowie Lisa German (Head of Acquisitions, U. of Illinois Library) <lgerman@uiuc.edu> who has done a great job and remember her **Group Therapy** session during the **2002 Charleston Conference**? Sounds like a reprise (or is it an encore?) is in order! Plus, Lisa says she just gave away the last of her Charleston chutney that she bought in the Market! "Lord, Charleston is a great place," she exclaims! You read it here ...

Effective January 6, Bruce R. James has appointed George A. Taylor as **Deputy Public Printer**, the second highest position within the **U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)**. As Deputy Public Printer, Taylor will serve as Chief Operating Officer of the GPO, responsible for overseeing the GPO's day-to-day printing, printing procurement, and information dissemination operations serving Congress, Federal agencies, and the public. Taylor comes to the GPO following a 23+ year career in information publishing. His most recent position was Senior Vice President for Operations for the **Thomson Corporation**, an \$8 billion information organization with 43,000 employees globally, where he was responsible for coordinating corpo-

rate technology, HR, real estate, purchasing, and cost reduction initiatives. Immediately prior to that position, he was an internal consultant for **Thomson's Legal and Regulatory Group**, working on projects in the U.S., South America, and Europe for online/Web expansion, printing operations, and re-engineering initiatives. Taylor began his association with Thomson in 1988 as **Director of International Marketing** for **Jane's Information Group**, a defense publisher located in London. He went on to hold various senior management positions at **Lawyers Cooperative Publishing**, concluding as CEO in 1995. Taylor became Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of **Thomson's Legal Group** in 1996, where he was responsible for the operations of the four Thomson legal companies. He was named Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the **West Publishing Group** in 1997 and became President and CEO of **Thomson Tax and Accounting** in 1999, with responsibility for global operations of five Thomson Tax and Accounting companies. Before joining Thomson, Taylor held a variety of management positions from 1978 to 1987 at the **Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.**, an information publisher in Washington, DC. During his long career, he has also worked in local and state government, academic institutions, and non-profit sectors as well as serving as an officer in the **U.S. Air Force** in a variety of active duty and reserve functions. A Virginia native, Taylor holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from **Ohio State University** and **The University of Virginia**. He is on the Boards of Trustees of the **American Inns of Court**; **St. Margaret's School** in Tappahannock, VA; and the **Foundation for Good Business** in Raleigh, NC. He and his wife, Monecia, reside in Fredericksburg, VA. They have five children and one grandchild.

And speaking of grandchildren, I was talking to Joel and Pam Rose. They have two of them — **Hannah Sophia Rose** who will be 3 years old in March, and **Peri Rebecca Rose**, born Aug. 3, 2002.

And speaking of kids, Bob Nardini <rnardini@ybp.com> tells me that his oldest son is 15 1/2 and at this point in his life, his son has a policy of not speaking to girls unless absolutely necessary, for schoolwork, etc. I remember when my son was a teenager. My favorite quote for parents with teenagers — "If Abraham's son had been a teenager, it wouldn't have been a sacrifice."

ProQuest Company's (NYSE: PQE) Information and Learning unit, in conjunction with **The Berkeley Electronic Press**, has developed a Web-based application for the submission, review, and approval of electronic theses and dissertations. The application, which will be made available to graduate schools, is expected to improve and speed the dissertation publishing process for graduate students, faculty, and graduate schools. Through its **UMI® Dissertation Publishing** program, ProQuest publishes more than 55,000 dissertations and master's theses each

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year and offers fulltext copies of more than one million dissertations dating from the 19th century forward. Some 3,000 (or 5%) of dissertations submitted for publication in 2002 were in electronic format, and that number is expected to increase significantly in the next few years. The new system allows a graduate student to upload his or her approved dissertation into the publishing system, where it is automatically reformatted into **Adobe PDF** and sent directly to the graduate school. There, the document is reviewed for compliance with graduate school policy and format. Using an administrative tool, the graduate school reviewer can accept the document or request formatting revisions. The author is automatically notified by email of the actions taken. Once the thesis is accepted, the document and all relevant data are delivered to **UMI Dissertation Publishing** and to the university library for expedited processing, cataloging, and posting. The new automated system is expected to substantially improve the publication process. The backend technology to support the new process was developed by **The Berkeley Electronic Press** (www.bepress.com). The service is available now and is being rolled out to graduate schools throughout the next year. Graduate schools interested in signing up may contact **ProQuest** at <electronic_submissions@il.proquest.com>. **UMI** continues to accept dissertations for publication in print format. www.il.proquest.com.

Speaking of which, did y'all read our interview with **Greg Tananbaum** of the **Berkeley Electronic Press** in *ATG*, v.13#6, p. 51. **Greg** has submitted a proposal for the **2003 Charleston Conference** (November 4—preconferences and vendor showcase—November 6-8—main conference). Have you sent in your proposal? Time's a wastin'! See this issue, p. 39.

Heard from the wonderfully stupendous **Ineke Middeldorp-Crispijn** (Area Manager, **Coutts Nijhoff International**) <imiddeldorp@couttsinfo.com> or <icrispijn@couttsinfo.com>. **Andreas (Andy) Alferovs** has just been appointed **VP Sales & Marketing** at **Coutts Library Services' North American** operation. **Andy** is from **Coutts'** sister company in the UK where he was the European Sales & Marketing Director. Among other professional positions held in the library and publishing world, **Andy** worked as an acquisitions manager at the **British Library** before joining **Coutts** nine years ago. We are all looking forward to working with **Andy**. Welcome! www.couttsnijhoff.com or www.couttsinfo.com.

Oxford University Press (OUP) has appointed **Ingenta** to build a scholarly books Website to provide online subscription-based access to its books collection. The Website will offer scholarship in the humanities and social sciences and will be online and cross-searchable in the fall of 2003 <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com>. The site will fea-

Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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By the time you are reading this the Seasonal Festivities will be long behind us and Spring on its way but Happy New Year, all the same! It hardly seems like yesterday that we all met up in Atlanta for the June **ALA** meeting and, here we are, preparing for the mid-winter session in Philadelphia. We are hoping to see many of you there.

There is a lot happening on this side of the Atlantic. The 2nd International Conference on Information and IT Literacy is being held in Glasgow, Scotland on 11-13 June 2003. The meeting is called **eLit2003**. For more information go to <http://elit2003.com/>. Libraries throughout the world, as we know, are facing an uncertain future and a £3m appeal is to be launched to preserve one of Britain's most remarkable libraries: **The John Rylands Library** in Manchester. According to the *Guardian* newspaper the library is "in dire need of refurbishment, and the plans will make it more accessible and popular."

There is some good news. **The People's Network** in the UK have been reporting on a major success story in the Government's drive to get people online.

The People's Network is an ambitious project to connect all public libraries in the UK to the Internet, provide new ICT (information and communications technology) learning centres, and train library staff to offer support, training and advice. By the end of 2002 over 30,000 terminals have been installed in 4,000 public libraries, offering over 60 million hours of free Internet access a year, giving people of all ages, interests and backgrounds the opportunity to participate in the "wired" society.

Not only is the **Public Record Office** in London holding an exhibition of **Samuel Pepys** materials from February but so is the **Guildhall Library** — from Feb. 10th to June 7th. The exhibition of books, prints

and documents illustrates how **Pepys** enjoyed life in 17th century London to the extent that he once remarked that he was "as happy a man as any in the world." More information can be found at the **City of London Website** <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/index.htm>.

Internet Librarian International 2003 <http://www.internet-librarian.com/> is being held at the **National Exhibition Centre**, Birmingham from 25th-27th March. A very interesting conference schedule is planned, covering everything from Survival Skills for Internet Librarians; to Web Design & Development to Digital Libraries and Electronic Resources. The long list of speakers includes **David Sloan** from the **University of Dundee**, **Sheila Webber**, **University of Sheffield**, **Marianne Christensen** & **Susanne Kierkegaard** from **Copenhagen Central Library** to the tireless **Louise Edwards** Collections Manager at **JISC**. It's also good to see many friends from the US on the agenda: no Internet conference would be complete without **Darlene Fichter**, Data Librarian, **University of Saskatchewan** and **Gary Price**, Library Research and Internet Consulting.

Gary Price has just emailed me to say that his speaking engagements over the next few months take him from Philadelphia to Toronto to Orlando to San Francisco. Wow — that's some travelling schedule. Hope he makes good use of the air miles!

I've just come back from **The University of Aberystwyth** in Wales where the **Huw Evans** of **People's Network Group** in Wales gathered together representatives from all 24 Welsh Authorities and six content suppliers to exchange views on electronic collections. It was a useful meeting — even though none of the suppliers managed to conduct their presentation in Welsh!!

That's all from me in Paddington for now, until the next time, **Daryl**.

ture: 750 current and selected backlist titles available in fulltext at launch, equivalent to 250,000 printed pages as well as comprehensive coverage of four key disciplines: Economics and Finance; Political Science; Philosophy; Religion and Theology. Access to all of the abstracts and keywords in **Oxford Scholarship Online** will be freely available alongside journal abstracts through a wide variety of services, including **ingenta.com**,

offering research opportunities for scholars and students in the humanities and social sciences. www.ingenta.com or www.oup.co.uk.

Liblicense-l lists.yale.edu has been seriously abused with many important issues. One issue which has gotten much discussion is the practice of deleting published articles from electronic archives. You'll remember that **T. Scott Plutchak** gave a paper on this at the

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2002 Charleston Conference. As well, **Andrea L. Foster** (who was also at the **2002 Charleston Conference**) wrote about the practice in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* January 10, 2003, "Elsevier's Vanishing Act. To the dismay of scholars, the publishing giant quietly purges articles from its database." There will be more discussion of this at the **2003 Charleston Conference** as well. And, if you have a topic to suggest, please do so! The awesome **Rosann Bazirjian** is the main 2003 Charleston Conference Director <rvb9@psulias.psu.edu> or you can always send suggestions to yours truly <strauchk@earthlink.net>.

The National Capital Region Library Consortium recently selected **Fretwell Downing, Inc.'s ZPORTAL** software to power its **Sm@rtLibrary** project. This is a unique consortium of partners consisting of government, hospital, college, university, public and business libraries, including the **Library and Archives of Canada**; the **Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI)**, and the **Library of Parliament**. "With the goal of serving the citizens of the region better," said **Carrol Lunau**, Coordinator for the **Sm@rtLibrary** Project, "th[is] ... project is expanding our range of services by allowing the seamless integration of multiple information resources. The ... long-term goal is to provide access in both English and French to the rich resources and services of the libraries, museums and archives within the region, through a community-based citizens' library." "FD's commitment to standards particularly **Z39.50** and the **Bath Profile** were key factors in our decision to choose their services," said Lunau. The initial partners in the project are the **University of Ottawa**, **Carleton University**, **Ottawa Public Library**, **CISTI** and the **Library and Archives of Canada**. The venture is a sub-project of the **SmartCapital/Capitale géniale**, coordinated by the **Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation (OCRI)**. www.fduisa.com.

Word is that **Milton Wolf** has accepted the position of Head of Collection Management at the **University of Central Florida**. As well, **Nyree Johnson** is the new Senior LTA in Cataloging. **Ms. Johnson** received her B.S. in Business Administration at the **University of Rhode Island**. She has worked as an information technology staff assistant at the **Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit** and also as a clerk for the US Postal Service and the public library.

Minuteman Library Network, based in Natick, Massachusetts, has selected **Innovative Interfaces' Millennium** library automation system. **Millennium** will replace the Network's existing **Sirsi** system. **Minuteman Library Network** is **Innovative's** fourth network in Massachusetts, which also include **Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing (C/W MARS)**,

North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE), and **Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing (CLAMS)**. It comprises 41 public and academic libraries in the outlying communities of the greater metro west Boston area. Among its members are the public libraries of Brookline, Natick, and Cambridge, as well as **Framingham State College**, **Newbury College**, and **Dean College**. The **Minuteman Library Network** was started twenty years ago by a small group of public librarians who were eager to establish a common computer system for improved efficiency and resource sharing. The **Network** has been supported by a central site staff of sixteen that manages the central computer and telecommunications, provides centralized MARC cataloging, and supports an active program of training and support for member libraries. The shared database now includes 640,274 patrons and 5,983,637 items. <http://www.iii.com/>.

Well, the astute **Fred Lynden** <Frederick_Lynden@Brown.edu> and his even more astute wife, **Irina**, have been interviewing **Vladimir Zaitsev**, Director, **Russian National Library**, St. Petersburg, Russia and have completed the interview. Now, it's just the translating. Hopefully, we will have the interview soon!

Paratext's 19th Century Masterfile (NCM) now contains over 2 million additional links to **ABC-CLIO's** historical abstracting and indexing databases, **Historical Abstracts** and **America: History and Life**. With this new agreement, library subscribers to **NCM** who also subscribe to either **America: History and Life** or **Historical Abstracts**, will be able to maximize the use and value of both resources. As you no doubt know, **Historical Abstracts** and **America: History and Life** were established in 1955 and 1964 respectively, and contain abstracts of journal articles and book reviews pertaining to the history of the world, with more than 16,000 new abstracts added to each database every year. Both databases were brought to the Web in 1998. www.paratext.com.

Speaking of **ABC-CLIO**, at **ALA MW** ran into the fabulous **Ron Boehm**, CEO of **ABC-CLIO**. He tells me that **ABC-CLIO's** databases, **America: History and Life** and **Historical Abstracts**, have served over five million combined online user sessions since both databases were brought up on the Web. "Our 5 millionth session is a further indication of **ABC-CLIO's** position as the primary provider of history reference services and products. As we continue to add valued features such as fulltext links and search support tools, it is gratifying to see the significant increase in usage from scholars and students of history." A dramatic increase in user sessions recorded this fall was due to new enhancements. **CLIO Links** provides links to over 90,000 fulltext articles from publishing partners such as **JSTOR**, the **History Cooperative**, and **Project Muse**, **H-Net** book reviews, and other providers. Helpful other new features such as **CLIO Alert**, **CLIO Notes**, and multiple search screens have also

added tremendous value for database users. "At **UNC Charlotte** we have seen use of **ABC-CLIO** databases double since fulltext linking was implemented, compared to the same months the previous year before linking was in place," affirmed the doesn't-miss-a-trick **Chuck Hamaker** (Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technical Services at the **University of North Carolina**, Charlotte) <cahamake@email.uncc.edu>.

Another copyright lawsuit. Remember, we told you about the **Custom Copies** lawsuit in the Dec/Jan issue (v.14#6, p.16). Four major publishers of scientific, technical and medical publications have filed suit against Los Angeles-based **Westwood Copies** and co-owners **Sam** and **Elias Negash** for copyright infringement. The suit, filed by **Elsevier Science, Inc.**, **The MIT Press**, **Sage Publications, Inc.**, and **Wiley Periodicals, Inc.**, charges the defendants routinely photocopied materials from the plaintiffs' publications without their authorization. The publishers' complaint, filed in **U.S. District Court in Los Angeles**, alleges **Westwood Copies** produces unauthorized coursepacks for courses taught at the **University of California at Los Angeles**. "Coursepack producers cannot lawfully photocopy others' intellectual property and then sell those copies without first obtaining rights and paying royalties to do so," said **Mark Seeley**, vice president and general counsel of **Elsevier Science**. "This is a clear example of copyright infringement. This type of practice inflicts harm on rightsholders and puts law-abiding copy services at a competitive disadvantage in their markets." The case is the latest being coordinated by **Copyright Clearance Center**, the world's largest licensor of text reproduction rights and a licensing agent for all four publishers. **Tracey Armstrong**, **Copyright Clearance Center** vice president, transactional services, said that technology has made it effortless to obtain rightsholders' permissions and abide by the law without incurring lengthy delays. Copyright compliance is an area of heightened focus by the publishing industry, ranging from more traditional technology such as photocopying to the use of the Internet, email and electronic document formats. Across the industry, efforts to educate content users on how these technologies are affected by copyright law are increasingly visible, as are rightsholders' efforts to enforce their copyrights regarding their use. "The proliferation of digital media, which present new ways to access and distribute protected content, shows why copyright compliance is a critical initiative for the publishing industry. But while we pursue digital infringement, we can't let our guard down on more traditional infringement. We have stepped up our enforcement efforts on behalf of ourselves as rightsholders and on behalf of compliant content users," said **Roy S. Kaufman**, **Wiley's** associate general counsel. Coordinating the suit against **Westwood Copies** demonstrates **Copyright Clearance Center's** role in support of publishers and other rightsholders; other recent

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enforcement activities coordinated by CCC include a lawsuit against **Custom Copies, Inc.** in Gainesville, Fla., which produces coursepacks for students at the **University of Florida in Gainesville**, as well as a similar suit filed against the document delivery firm **Greg Kessler**, in Sacramento, Calif.

The fantastic **Kim Dority (G. K. Dority & Associates)** sends word that her last day at **Jones e-global library** was Friday, Jan. 17th. **Glenn Jones** has decided that e-global will not generate sufficient profit within his desired timeframe, and thus he has decided to scale it back as a licensable, publicly-marketed product. At a minimum, it will be continued as the library for **Jones International University**, under the very capable direction of **Jean Heilig**, with the assistance of **Deb Pruitt**. Existing contracts will be honored, and the company will be exploring several possible future directions. **Kim** says that she will be taking some time off to do some "serious goofing off" (sounds like a great plan to me!) and then will be ramping up to do independent project work as **G. K. Dority & Associates** as well as exploring a couple of other professional options.

The **H.W. Wilson Company** has announced the debut of **Index to Legal Periodicals & Books Full Text**, a new **WilsonWeb** database based on the classic reference **Index to Legal Periodicals & Books**. **Index to Legal Periodicals & Books Full Text** delivers articles cover-to-cover from some 180 select sources — in fulltext and PDF page images — in addition to detailed indexing of some 840 periodicals and some 1,400 monographs per year. The database features more than 15,000 fulltext records to start (articles as far back as 1994), with new entries being added in daily updates. **Index to Legal Periodicals & Books Full Text** also offers options for access to articles that aren't reflected in fulltext. A library holdings' indicator, linking to the library's **OPAC**, lets users know if they'll find cited articles on the library's shelves. **WilsonLink SFX-powered technology** (the only SFX database-linking software that doesn't require the library purchase an SFX server) allows users to click from citations on **WilsonWeb** databases to the fulltext of articles on any open-URL compliant database in the library's collection, at no added cost. www.hwwilson.com.

As promised by the capable **Peter Shepherd** at the **2002 Charleston Conference**, the first release of the **COUNTER Code of Practice** is now available and can be downloaded from the Website at <http://www.projectCounter.org>. The **Code of Practice** specifies in detail the requirements that vendors must meet to have their online usage reports designated **COUNTER-compliant**. As we all know, the use of online information resources is growing exponentially and it is widely agreed by both producers and buyers of information that the use of these resources

should be measured in a more consistent way. Librarians want to understand better how the information they buy from a variety of sources is being used, and publishers want to know how the information products they disseminate are being used. The **COUNTER Code of Practice** meets these needs by setting international guidelines governing the recording and exchange of online usage data. **Richard Gedyde** of **Oxford University Press** is Chair of **COUNTER**. There will be only one valid version of the **Code of Practice** at any given time, but different levels of compliance will be possible. **Release 1 focuses on journals and databases**, as these products are not only the most significant budget items for libraries, but they have also been available online for some time and have a core of well-accepted definitions and content structures. There are also plans to extend the **Code of Practice** to cover other categories of publications, such as eBooks. **Tony Kidd**, Head of Serials at the **University of Glasgow**, said, "This is a very significant advance in helping us to better understand online usage and compare the effectiveness of different products. We would encourage all publishers worldwide to adopt the **Code of Practice** and become **COUNTER-compliant** within the coming year." **COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources)** is a multi-agency project whose objective is to develop a single, internationally accepted, extendible **Code of Practice** that will allow the usage of online information products and services to be measured more consistently. **COUNTER** is actively supported by the international community of librarians and publishers, and by their professional organisations, including: **AAP (Association of American Publishers)**, **ALPSP (The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers)**, **ARL (Association of Research Libraries)**, **ASA (Association of Subscription Agents and Intermediaries)**, **BIC/EDItEUR**, **JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee)**, **NCLIS (National Commission on Libraries and Information Science)**, **NISO (National Information Standards Organization)**, **PA (The Publishers Association)**, **STM (International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers)**, **UKSG (United Kingdom Serials Group)**. For more information, contact: **Peter Shepherd** (Project Director—**COUNTER**) <pshepherd@projectCounter.org>.

And speaking of usage statistics and Project **COUNTER**, **Oxford University Press (OUP)** has announced the availability of same across their **Online Journals collection**. Available both to consortia and individual organizations using one or more titles from the **Oxford Journals Online Collection**, the reports can be accessed online in HTML format or downloaded as .csv files providing easier manipulation by library administrators. The usage reports include data on downloads over time, title and page type. Administrators can choose to look at accumulated accesses over time, or view detailed

information on articles and abstracts viewed during a particular month. "The new statistics package offers a tremendous benefit for consortia subscribing to the **Oxford Journals Online Collection**," says **Kathy Perry**, director of the **Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)** consortium. "It enables us to monitor usage on total articles downloaded across our entire consortium at both the full consortial level and at the individual institution level. These statistics will assist us in a number of ways, including monitoring implementation at the local level and letting our State legislators and funding agencies know how valuable these journals are to our students and scholars." Further information, along with a demonstration of the usage statistics package is available at <http://www.oupjournals.org/statistics>.

The fabulous **Allison Mays** <maysap@millsaps.edu> sends word of a Serials/Interlibrary Loan Librarian position at **Delta State University**. For further information, contact **Allison** or <http://library.deltastate.edu>.

Watch for our interview with the fantastic **David Dekker** coming soon, in the April issue of **ATG**. Have you renewed your subscription?

Have you visited the **Online Book Buyer's Resource Center**? It's loaded with all kinds of information. <http://www.onlinebookselling.net/buyers.htm>. And we are hoping for a review of **Buying Books Online: Finding Bargains and Saving Money with Booksense Stores, Amazon Marketplace, and Other Online Sites** by **Stephen Windwalker** coming soon.

Pretty cool. As a part of **WorldCat**, 1.4 million holdings from the catalog will be available to library users around the world. And 93 libraries in **Singapore** are now a part of the **OCLC global cooperative**. <http://www.oclc.org/oclc/press/20030106.shtm>.

Let's see. More from **ALA**. Met the incredibly charming, **Victor Navasky**, publisher and editorial director of **The Nation** magazine. We were talking about how our grandfathers came over to the U.S. as immigrants (mine from Greece, his from Lithuania/Russia) and how peoples' attitudes towards immigrants were definitely different then from what they are now. (People now are much more accepting than they were back in the olden times of the 1940s and 50s.) Anyway, **Dr. Navasky** is working on a history of **The Nation**. In the meantime, the paperback edition of his **National Book Award** winner, **Naming Names**, about the House Committee on Un-American Activities, is out. The incisive **Betty Oktay** (Vassar) <oktay@vassar.edu> has promised an interview with this wonderful man.

In the mail the other day, I got a small autographed booklet entitled **Seaward Edge: Short Stories and Poems of New England** from the marvelous **John Long** <john-long@worldnet.att.net>, the consultant who has done so many of our fantastic **Publisher Profiles**. **Lisa German** introduces this issue (p.1) by talking about all the creativity in our world,

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REMEMBER WHEN?

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and reading **John's** book makes me have to agree. Congratulations on its publication, **John**, and Good Luck!

Did y'all happen to see the full-page write-up that was in **LJ's** News column (December 2002, p. 18) about the **2002 Charleston Conference**? Titled "More Bytes Than Books in Charleston," the report gives you a good glimpse inside of the Conference. It was written by the astute **Brian Kenney** who attended the Conference this past year! And, of course, I hope you all read the joint report by **Joanne Eustis** and **Arlene Moore Sievers** in **ATG**, Dec. 2002/Jan. 2003, p.76-77. The next Conference is already "heating up."

And, speaking of the conference, got a great hand-written note (very rare indeed, wonder if it'll be worth something someday) from the exuberant **John Perry Smith** (President, **Total Information**) <JPS@TotalInformation.com> who told me that the **2002 Conference** was the most optimistic Conference that he's attended in a long while and suggesting a **Vendor Panel** like we had for 2002 for 2003. Sounds good to me!

Got a great note from **Michael D. Cooper**, President of **BUSCA, Inc.**, the other day. He was talking about snow in the Finger Lakes where the company is headquartered, as well as the fact that **BUSCA** is now an **OCLC PromptCat Service** provider and that **BUSCA** has received their first electronic data interchange order from a **Cornell University Library** via the **Endeavor/Voyager** system. Great to catch a glimpse of **Michael** in Charleston this past year and hope to see him back **November 6-8, 2003**.

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A Year in Review

by **Daniel P. Halloran** (President, Blackwell Book Services, Inc., 6024 SW Jean Rd., Bldg. G, Lake Oswego, OR 97035; Phone: 503-684-1140 x.1201) <Dan.Halloran@Blackwell.com>

Was this the year of the economy, e-content, vanishing eBooks, or of shelf-ready processing finally gaining the acceptance it deserves? It was probably all the above. The biggest story was the faltering U.S. economy and its effect on the stock market, state budgets, returns on endowments, and ultimately, funds available for purchasing books. But there were other stories as well:

E-content, other than eBooks, took a big bite out of library budgets and librarians' time as they grappled with how to manage it. Copyright concerns and licensing models continue to give librarians sleepless nights.

eBooks had difficulty finding a sustainable business model and a format acceptable to the average reader. The ebook market is still looking for its product.

Increasingly, librarians are discovering that shelf-ready processing of books is an easy way to control costs and get books into the hands of readers quickly. Librarians are gaining the notice of university administrators as they demonstrate ways to improve service and save money.

In the end, it was a year like many in the recent past: lots of change, strained resources, and the prospect for more of the same.

The U.S. economy stumbled causing serious losses in the stock markets. The fall was not limited to dotcoms but affected the total market. During the historically long U.S. bull market, taxes on capital gains had become a significant source of tax revenue. Now, with fewer capital gains, tax receipts fell, undermining many state budgets and the budgets of universities and libraries as well. The lack of capital gains also affected those universities and libraries dependent on returns from their endowments. The tragedy of 9/11 only made the situation worse.

A longer term trend of purchasing more electronic resources also affected the year. Two recent studies, one the findings of a **Library Journal 2001** study and the other by the **Primary Research Group (PRG)**,¹ confirm the trend. An article in the September 5, 2002 *Library Journal Academic News Wire* states "... the study shows academic libraries are buying fewer books" and concluded there is "a major shift in library resources toward electronic resources and away from traditional print resources."²

This may be the reason that librarians surveyed for this article seemed concerned with issues around electronic resources while booksellers were concerned with budgets. Librarians talked about the need for tools that would help them systematically track negotiations, terms, adherence to contract terms, and access. The issues of functionality, linking, interlinking, and cross-searching are also of concern.

One bright spot, highlighted by **Ann Okerson**, of the **Yale University Libraries**, "... is the increasing numbers of publishers giving materials for free or very cheaply to all the residents of poor nations." For more information check out the "Developing Nations Initiatives" link at www.library.yale.edu/~llicense/.

Electronic books stumbled last year as the early leaders found their business models and offerings searching for profitability. **netLibrary** ran out of cash before they could reach profitability. Early dotcom-type spending in an attempt to establish its brand, publisher reluctance to give them front list material and multi-user access kept libraries from purchasing. In markets outside the U.S., libraries complained that there was not enough local content and the existing content didn't match local curriculum needs closely enough. **OCLC** stepped in to protect the investments libraries had already made and to try to insure this deserving technology would survive. Latest reports are that **netLibrary** is getting much better publisher cooperation, publishers are being paid promptly and a general positive feeling among many publishers about working with **netLibrary**.

Other companies tried as well, with **Questia** bursting into and out of the market. **ebrary** finally made an appearance and offered a business model interestingly different from **netLibrary**. **ebrary** supported a variety of payment options such as subscription, pay-per-view, pay-per article, copy/print, etc.

And publishers started making their titles available. **Taylor & Francis**, **Kluwer**, and **Oxford University Press** are all making titles available in a PDF format often through a variety of channels.

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Uptight In Library Land: from page 34

- If an employee feels the boss has come up with a good idea, or is generally doing a good job, tell him/her. Yes, supervisors are human too; they also benefit from positive feedback.
- Whether management or staff, schedule time away from the job each year. If you cannot afford a week, or more, during the summer, then schedule a cluster of three or four-day weekends.

These are a few possibilities gleaned from research and observation, coupled with over a quarter century of on-the-job experience. 🐼

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Have you seen **Gold Rush Linker**, the **OpenURL** reference linking service made possible through the **Gold Rush** electronic journal management system. **OpenURL** resolvers are becoming available from many different sources such as integrated library system vendors (e.g., **ExLibris**, **Innovative Interfaces**, **Endeavor**) and through other services such as **Fretwell-Downing**. We have to learn more about all these new services. Who said our life was easy? See www.coalliance.org.

epixtech is now Dynix. Check out www.epixtech.com/.

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Making Good Libraries Better

by **Richard Abel** (Consultant; Phone: 503-292-0830; Fax: 503-292-0873)

Librarians of the last generation inherited good libraries, thanks to the generous postwar decades' budgets and the emergence of the re-printers who made good most of the holes in collections attributable to the **Great Depression** and **WW II**.

Further, libraries in mid-century enjoyed the financial muscle to move beyond the traditional role of supplying knowledge in books. Libraries were able to move behind the synthesized bodies of knowledge concepts and ethical precepts articulated in books. They could go back to providing some small portion of the raw information — the unprocessed data used by scholars to synthesize knowledge concepts and ethical precepts — that is contained in journals. Seldom have libraries stood so high historically as cultural institutions and icons as in the 25-year period from about 1950 to 1975.

But much changed beginning in the late 1960s and early 1970s. We need not dwell on most of the unhappy consequences of that aberrant period. Rather our focus must rest on the multifarious changes in academe which became visible by the mid-1970s.

For our purposes the most significant outcome of these manifold forces is the progressive decay of book collections and the consequent erosion of library utility to knowledge-seekers manifest in the form of increasing reliance upon the interlibrary loan system. These changes and their historic progression have been analyzed endlessly in all manner of forums for years. So, only a rapid recount of that history need be made here.

1. The 1970s saw the transition of academic governance from deserving academics close to the end of their service who prized libraries to professional management types.

2. The latter are necessarily highly respon-

sive to both marginal income opportunities and marginal cost factors.

3. By the mid-1950s, geometrical increases in support of academic scientific/technological research by government and business were well established.

4. Research faculty and academic management heartily responded to these marginal income opportunities.

5. As a consequence, academic managers came to see research facilities and professional staff as positive financial resources. By comparison, the long-nurtured professional objectives of librarians and their substantial facility came to be viewed as "financial black-holes," to use a favored metaphor.

6. Associated with these macro-changes in marginal and prestige assessments, professional academic prestige migrated from the synthesis and transfer of knowledge concepts and ethical precepts — education and knowledge — to the production.

7. Consequent on these changes in marginal professional financial and prestige quotients, geometrical increases in research results began to pour out of the academy and into the journal literature.

8. Related to these marginal professional increases in the value of producing research results, the system of academic advancement and perks became increasingly dependent upon contributing to this flow of information and data.

9. The obvious consequence of these monstrous year-to-year increases in information generation led to not only the ballooning of existing journals but to the ultimately out-of-control proliferation of new journals. (Incidentally, the open secret that the vast preponderance of this journal literature was of no or, at best, marginal

concern — estimates ranging as high as 75% has not slowed the avalanche of journal pages.)

10. This hothouse growth of journal literature led, in turn, to vast and progressive increases in library subscription costs.

11. These massive increases in journal costs occurred in tandem with progressive reductions in library budgets as academic managers diverted resources to marginally higher, immediate returns.

12. While all this was going on, another even more visible revolution was shakily advancing — the computer revolution.

13. Certainly one of the earliest glory points of the computer revolution was realized in libraries with the conversion of the enormous databases of library catalogs and circulation systems to electronic forms together with the parallel conversion of the books-in-print.

14. The early and marked success of these large databases at marginally small conversion and continuing operation costs led to a euphoric confidence that computers could be successfully employed in dealing with what gave the appearance of another large database, namely, the contents of the world's libraries.

15. This enthusiasm and confidence was shared not only by the electronic pied pipers in computing centers and many librarians but, most importantly, by a large fraction of academic managers.

16. Voila! Here was the silver bullet which would solve the intractable "Library Problem." Libraries could return to the idyllic precincts of

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Book Reviews
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doomed statements of former president **Ronald Reagan** (who clearly harbored dispensational premillennial beliefs himself) to illustrate the political influence of such ideas.

New also gives a brief history of nuclear weapons, current nuclear politics (especially those of Israel), and the attempts by militants and terrorists to attain nuclear weaponry to further their apocalyptic designs. **New** paints a grim picture of a militant-driven End of Days in a world awash with atomic arms (mostly from the crumbling, lightly-guarded labs of the former Soviet states) and the readily available knowledge to construct them.

Although **New's** style is easily readable, and while his work on Christian fundamentalist apocalyptic beliefs appears well-researched and convincing, his use of **Ronald Reagan**, **Jerry Falwell**, and **Pat Robertson** for examples makes his work seem out-of-date. As I read through his early chapters, I kept looking back at the publication date to make sure of the time period to which he was referring. **New** states that "**Robertson** is a political" and that "he [**Robertson**] is on the verge of seizing the Republican party." Such statements gave me flashbacks to the 1980s when the Moral Majority was on the rise and good old **Pat** was running for President.

To be sure, **New** later considers the political power that **Robertson** has wielded silently since his failed presidential bid in 1988. It does indeed sound impressive and scary. Yet, **Ronald Reagan**, though exemplifying the influence of such dispensational premillennial beliefs in high political office, has not been a personal force in politics in over a decade. Furthermore, **Jerry Falwell**, notably incarcerated for soliciting a prostitute, also has only a shell of his former obvious political influence.

New is subject to a bit of hyperbole and gullibility when he notes in the preface that "Russian intelligence has confirmed that **Osama bin Laden** has nuclear weapons" obtained through a heroin deal with the **Chechnyan Mafia**. Later, in a small paragraph near the end of the book, we get the details. It seems that a former head of Russian Intelligence claims that 84 nuclear "suitcase bombs" have gone missing. The head of a United States House of Representatives task force on terrorism is "virtually certain" that he "knows" that **Bin Laden** has possession of said bombs. Although we should be concerned about 84 missing nuclear weapons, **New** offers no evidence other than a bureaucrat's opinion that they have fallen into terrorist hands. Such confusion of spurious, uncorroborated allegations for well-researched fact undermines **New's** "suitcase bomb" scenario.

Overall I liked *Holy War* for what it did contain. This book clearly lays out the apocalyptic beliefs of Christian fundamentalists (the fastest growing Christian sect) and how these beliefs have become mainstream ideas within the last three decades. It also does a pretty good job of showing how these beliefs tend to enflame the more aggressive brands of Christian fundamentalism, which in turn enflames both Jewish and Islamic revolutionaries. Indeed, to enflame everyone in a holy war is the aim of all of these militant groups.

But don't be fooled by the title. *Holy War*, in fact, is only about the rise of menacing, ill-fated beliefs of Christian fundamentalism

and the violent fanaticism that results. Jewish and Islamic militant fundamentalism get practically no space here.

Nisan, Mordechai. *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression*.

2nd ed. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2002. 0786413751. 338 pages. \$45.00.

Reviewed by **Debbie Vaughn** (Reference Librarian,
College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

In the follow-up edition to his 1991 *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression*, **Mordechai Nisan** "carries the minority narrative into the new century, with new information and analysis." When **Nisan's** monograph debuted, only a handful of titles—six, to be exact (only three of which were written in English)—explored the history of minority groups in the Middle East. Since its publication, another handful of titles have been added to the list; yet *Minorities in the Middle East* remains one of the only volumes to consider a variety of groups, their relationships with each other, and their collective role in the region and beyond.

Nisan, a professor of Middle East Studies at **Hebrew University** of Jerusalem, has written almost two-dozen books on Arab-Israeli relations and political and social issues. Since the late-1970s, hundreds of libraries have added **Nisan's** works to their collections. His writings offer a pro-Zionist sentiment, while also offering a quest for balance and understanding in the wake of ongoing conflict. Throughout his body of work, **Nisan** makes no apologies for his Jewish background; likewise, it seems genuinely important to him to fairly study and communicate information regarding varying Middle Eastern cultures, peoples, and issues.

Divided into four parts, **Nisan** categorizes minorities according to their major religion—Muslim, Heterodox Muslim, Christian, and Jew. **Nisan** then examines the minority groups within each religious category. For instance, **Nisan** looks at the long-standing struggle of the Kurdish population under Muslim rule, their quest for sovereignty (Kurds are the world's largest ethnic group without a country to call their own), and sundry social, religious, and economic issues facing them in the 21st century. Other minorities—Berbers, Baluch, Druzes, 'Alawites, Armenians, Sudanese Christians, and secular Zionists, to name a few—receive similar attention. The pages are dotted with first-hand oral histories documenting the real-life experiences of minorities in often-hostile regimes and social orders.

Of particular interest is the second edition's consideration of the impact of 9/11 on these minority groups. As **Nisan** states in the preface, the post-9/11 political and social watershed has affected more than just the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Changes in American foreign policy have trickled down from Kabul and Baghdad to the myriad minority cultures dwelling in these societies.

If your library's collection does not include the first edition—or even if it does—**Nisan's** second edition will prove an invaluable and timely resource for both public and academic institutions. 🐼

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I hear (courtesy of **Dennis Brunning** <brunning@asu.edu> that **Johnny Mustang**, lead guitar, **MEGADEATH**, uses **XREFER** to answer questions as a participant on **MTV's Rock Jeopardy**. He communicates with **XREFER** via email. **Dennis** promises to get more "details." Hold your breath!

Got a really wonderful Christmas note

(complete with illustrations) from long-time librarian friend, **Clara-Mae Chittum**, her husband **Ruud**, and pet parrot, **Paco**. You'll remember that way back when **Clara-Mae** was at **MIT** in acquisitions. Well, **Clara-Mae** is now working part-time at the **Supply Chain Knowledge Center** at **Cranfield School of Management**, United Kingdom, living in Bedfordshire. **Ruud** continues to work for Ice Cream and Frozen Foods at **Unilever** (there could be lots worse jobs, I say!). She has sold her house in Malden, Mass. Mean-

while, **Paco** is starting to talk a lot in three different languages, mind you! Here are her snail mail and email addresses — 20 Great Portway, Biddenham, Bedfordshire, MK40 4GB, United Kingdom. Phone: +44 1234 211430. <ruudandcm@hotmail.com>.

And, okay, **Sandy Paul** and **John Money** have not quite yet gotten married. But give them time ...

Gotta go. The printer tells me that I'm out of room. See you in April! **Yr. Ed.** 🐼