September 2003

Talk of the Trade

Barry Fast

Deltabooks, barry0112@aol.com

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

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

Recommended Citation

Fast, Barry (2003) "Talk of the Trade," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 15: Iss. 4, Article 28.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4495>

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

And They Were There from page 99

arly communication, plagiarism, the invisible Web, searching specific databases, etc.

Overall, the conference programs and workshops were very informative. It was marvelous to be surrounded by all that creativity and ingenuity with the only drawback being the lack of time an individual had to attend all the sessions that were of interest.

Preservation Options In A Digital World: To Film or To Scan Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) Workshop, May 20-23, 2003, University of New Mexico

Report by **Sharon A. Moynahan** (University of New Mexico General Library)

Decision-making in today's rapidly changing library world is fraught with uncertainty. Technologies and laws change so rapidly that today's brilliant decision is tomorrow's embarrassing mistake. From May 20 through May 23, a group of fifty librarians, library specialists, technical support people, archivists, and museum curators gathered for a workshop at the **University of New Mexico**. Sponsored by the **Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)**, the program, "*Preservation Options in a Digital World: To Film or To Scan*," featured experts in microfilming, digitization, program planning and the legal issues involved. While the majority of participants were from New Mexico and surrounding states, both coasts, the Midwest, and even New Zealand were represented.

The first day featured a summary of traditional microfilming and photographic reproduction used for preservation. **Steve Dalton**, Director, Field Service, for **NEDCC**, welcomed the participants and launched into a comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of microfilming. Components of cost along with factors to be considered in selecting items to be filmed rounded out the discussion. During the late morning and early afternoon, **Wes Boomgaarden**, Preservation Officer of the **Ohio State University Libraries** examined the options for both microfilming and digitization

along with the decision-making process in selecting the best method for different types of collections. Costs, standards for quality, delivery options, copyright law, and finding aids were discussed as components of good decisions for successful projects. The day ended with a presentation by **Nancy Dennis**, Director of Collections and Technology Services for the **University of New Mexico**, describing New Mexico's successful statewide digitization initiative. Although packed with information, Day One would prove to be just a warm-up for Day Two, which featured a comprehensive look at digitizing, including selecting the items for preservation and the nuts and bolts of the technology involved. **Paul Conway**, Director of Information Technology Services at **Duke University**, presented what he felt participants "really needed to know" about the digital landscape and later discussed the infrastructure needed to support digital projects. In between his two presentations, **Steve Puglia**, a Consultant for **Image Constructors, LLC**, stretched most of the participants' comprehension of pixels, resolution, bit depth, color, and other specifications farther than they would have believed possible. By the end of the day, it was apparent that good decisions were in the future.

However, it wasn't really the end of the day. During the early evening, **Mary Minow**, Library Law Consultant, gave an overview of the legal

issues of microfilming and digitization. The fact that digitizing constitutes "republishing" would likely interfere with some plans in the works at participants' home institutions. International copyright agreements, changes in U.S. law, the **Bono** copyright extension act all impinge on the public domain, and add new challenges for librarians trying to stay within "fair use" guidelines. By the end of her presentation it was abundantly clear that the group had dozens of questions and not enough time. No one minded postponing dinner to the evening hours.

Day three was the **Paul Conway** show. He delved deeply into the relationship of producer, archive, and consumer. His discussion of the real costs of digitization projects (most of which are not connected to the actual imaging process) opened many eyes and probably caused some rethinking of projects in the works. Discussions of the move from "projects" (one-time initiatives, often grant funded) to a regular institutional program of preservation, as well as the costs of maintaining viable access in the face of constantly changing technology were comprehensive. Putting realistic budgets into grant proposals, with believable, well researched back-up data, was described as crucial to getting the outside funding that sustains most preservation projects.

Day four was a lagniappe aimed at the New Mexico institutions' projects for preserving the state's history. **Paul Conway**, **Mary Minow**, and **Steve Puglia** discussed the essentials of collaboration, again tackling technology choices, project management and legal issues.

Throughout the four days, innumerable sources for additional information were given to participants. It was soon apparent that, however extensive, this workshop was to be just the beginning of the learning process. Rather than suggesting a particular course to follow, the panelists prepared the fifty participants to examine the many options and factors involved in making good digital or microfilming preservation decisions. 🍷

Talk of the Trade

by **Barry Fast** (Deltabooks, 186 Cross Street, City Island, NY 10464; Phone: 718-885-9563) <barry0112@aol.com>

Oprah's Perfect Solution

Oprah Winfrey's wildly successful "Book Club" segment on her TV show made obscure authors famous, and propelled their novels to the top of the best seller lists. But **Pulitzer Prize** author **Jonathan Franzen** doomed the gravy train when he dissed **Oprah**, saying he'd refuse to have his book, *The Confessions*, included in her club because her selections were not up to his literary standards. To the consternation of publishers and book lovers, **Oprah** took this withering criticism to heart, announcing she would no longer feature books on her show. Now she's had a change of heart, but instead of risking more critical pronouncements from ungrateful authors, **Oprah** has come up with the perfect solution: Only dead authors will be featured on her show.

Academie Française Insists Gourmandise Must Wait Its Turn; Desperate French Petition Pope on Seven Deadly Sins

Even though the **Catholic Church** has downgraded the seven deadly sins to the venal sin category, a French pressure group sees no reason to feel the slightest tinge of guilt when indulging in their favorite pastime, eating. The problem is that the French dictionary, compiled by the

Academie Française, translates "gluttony" as "gourmandise." In fact, there is no precise English language equivalent of "gourmandise," which irritates French foodies—meaning practically everyone in France. They insist that this word exemplifies what is best about their food culture, a combination of "Athenian elegance, Roman luxury, and French delicacy" according to the eighteenth century food philosopher, **Brillat-Savarin**. The six other deadly sins (pride, avarice, lust, anger, envy and sloth) translate accurately into French, but a coalition of food societies and food writers complains that "gluttony" should be translated as "gloutonnerie," a more reproachful word. Led by historian **Jean-Francois Fayard**, they have demanded that the linguists who constantly revise and update the **Academie Française**-sponsored French dictionary, the official arbiter of the French language, immediately correct the flawed "gluttony"/"gourmandise" translation, substituting "gloutonnerie."

However, the **Academie Française** linguists are now working on words starting with the letter M, and they refuse to disrupt their alphabetically ordered revisions. It could be years before they arrive at words starting with G. **Mr. Fayard** and his cohorts, refusing to take no for an answer,

continued on page 101

Back Talk from page 102

10. "Achieving institutional advantage." This means, as the author points out, many things to different people. For some libraries they have long understood the need to build on existing collection strengths. This may be an area where we as librarians need to do some additional thinking.

11. "Transforming bureaucracy, culture, and assumptions." This is, as is known in library circles, the "vision" thing. We are actively grappling with this. With one foot in the printed past and the other in the digital future, we are actively trying to figure out how to chew gum, hum, and dance at the same time. The author talks about the need for non profit colleges and universities to compete with for profit institutions. For libraries, as the ultimate non profit but black hole consumers of funds, our challenge is to compete with the free Web.

My intent in this review of the eleven strategic challenges facing higher education has been to show how well libraries are doing. Yet, we

still have some work to do: We need to

- get even closer to the communities in which we live. Especially for libraries associated with private institutions, we need to discard the "us and them" mentality that stops non-students from having some meaningful access to our holdings;
- make our libraries as easy to use for disciplinary specialist as non specialists;
- give our staff the freedom to try out new forms of technology without making them battle their way through the committee structures that dominate many modern libraries;
- not lose sight of our need to bring users and information together as we satisfy our need to collaborate with each other in hundreds of organizations;
- work with other libraries to develop areas of true strength so that all of our users benefit; and of course
- be willing to detach our finger holds on the ways we have done things in the past.

We have much to do, but I remain proud to be a librarian and pleased with how well we are doing as participants in the larger educational enterprise.

Talk of the Trade from page 100

They have pointed out that the **Vatican** maintains a vast wine cellar, and on a visit to Poland the **Pope** remarked that he loved the cream puffs he ate in Warsaw as a boy. Although no French priests have given active support to the petition, they have expressed sympathy, and the **Papal Nuncio** of Paris has told **Mr. Fayard** that the **Pope** himself is "not unsympathetic." So, it's OK to hold onto these French dictionaries for awhile, but probably not a good time to purchase new ones.

Don't Even Think About What He'll Do With a Goat Next Year

It's difficult to get kids to read books these days, what with all the diversions of competing entertainment formats. But that did not deter **Donald Watson**, principal of a Cambridge, Mass. elementary school. He promised to publicly kiss a pig if his 410 pupils read 2003 books during the year just past. The highly motivated school kids reached the magic number, and at a recent special assembly, the good **Mr. Watson** planted a big wet one on a rather uncomfortable pot bellied pig.

Literati Join Glitterati on New York's Most Loathsome List

The lively, conservative leaning weekly tabloid, **New York Press**, recently published its first annual list of New York's fifty most loathsome inhabitants. A surprising twenty percent are published authors. Barely making the list at number forty nine is **Jonathan Franzen** (*The Corrections*) who "loudly offers himself as the leading candidate to write another *Catch 22*." **Yoko Ono** earns spot number forty six for being a "shameless, atonal publicity hag." Clocking in at number thirty is **Martha Stewart** because "share dumping is her kind of crime, it doesn't leave a mess on the living room carpet." **Rick Moody** (*The Ice Storm*) won number twenty-six for saying that his writing "is intended to adhere to Aristotelian unity, where place and time exist without deviating from dramatic unity so the reader has no missed the top ten at number eleven because *and the City* author **Candace Bushnell**, mutation of the women's lib movement" and tions." **Jonathan Safran Foer** (*Every-five* for exemplifying "a disturbing lit-first novel." Conservative pundit, head **Ann Coulter** is number four be-genocidal threats at foreigners and lib-promises jack boots and pepper spray." (*Stupid White Men*) whose public state-pions, while the "hardworking, intelligent association with him." And the winner, **Blanchard** (*The Deed*) for his "border-lieving that the men's magazine he edits, substance and not a sheep-herding, post-entry-level corporate cogs." And who says

have now adopted a different approach. They have petitioned the Pope to remove "gourmandise" from the list of seven deadly sins.

where to escape." **Henry Kissinger** just "he's a scheming, paranoid old thug." Sex number seven, is "a cocktail party-based "an ammo belt of valley girl exclama-tion is *Illuminated*) garners number ery trend with his over-hyped, cutesy **Hillary** bashing, right wing talking cause she "spends her days hurling erals, whose best come hither look Number three is **Michael Moore** ments damage the causes he cham-and reasoned Left is degraded by at number one, is **Keith** line illiterate epic," and for be- *Maxim*, "is a populist organ of frat social crutch for drooling New York is a tough town?

BiblioLine

Results you can't find
anywhere else!

LEFT INDEX

The Left Index is a complete guide to the diverse literature of the left, with an emphasis on political, economic, social and culturally engaged scholarship inside and outside academia.

Sexual Diversity Studies: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Abstracts

The premier index to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender literature. No other source is as thorough and exhaustive in its coverage of concerns of the GLBT community.

All
Databases include
Full-Text linking,
OpenURL, SFX
compatibility.

NISC

Internet or CD-ROM
www.nisc.com
sales@nisc.com
+1 410 243 0797