September 2008

If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain, kstrauch@comcast.net

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

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

Recommended Citation

Strauch, Katina (2008) "If Rumors Were Horses," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 20: Iss. 4, Article 1.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5137>

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.

ISSN: 1043-2094

Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

Remembering 1968

by **Bruce Heterick** (Director, Library Relations, JSTOR) <bruce.heterick@jstor.org>

With the pending national election in the U.S., it's popular to wax nostalgic about one of the most volatile and influential years in the brief (by most measures) history of the United States. 1968. Forty years ago. In a year characterized by tumultuous change, 1968 was also the year that **Garrett Hardin** published his famous essay in *Science*, "The Tragedy of the Commons,"¹ as well as the year that **Elvis Presley** starred in the musical comedy, *Live a Little, Love a Little*.

It should not be lost on us that today — some 40 years later — through the work of libraries as well as the longevity of paper and film, scholars still have ready access to **Hardin's** article and **Elvis's** faithful can still catch a glimpse of "The King" on film. It should also not be lost on us that neither **Hardin's** article nor **Elvis's** movie were "born-digital," and as we continue the shift from paper and film to

ones and zeros, access to the born-digital content is not guaranteed.

In September 2005, a number of academic librarians, university administrators, and other interested individuals met at the offices of **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** to discuss the conundrum that the academic community was facing with regard to the long-term preservation of electronic journals. Coming out of that meeting was a statement, edited by **Don Waters** of the **Mellon Foundation**, entitled, "Urgent Action Needed to Preserve Scholarly Electronic Journals."² The "Urgent Action Statement" — as it was to become known throughout the library community — became a seminal reference point for the scholarly community in its effort to raise awareness of this important problem with a variety of stakeholders; including librarians, university administrators, scholarly publishers, faculty, and funding agencies.

The statement was formally endorsed by **ARL**, **ACRL**, **ALCTS**, and **ICOLC**, as well as being adopted informally by a myriad of other organizations. It spurred tremendous interest about the topic over the next year (2006) with college/university libraries. Nearly every library/scholarly communications conference entertained presentations and panels on the topic of e-journal preservation. Preservation initiatives such as **Portico**, **LOCKSS**, and **CLOCKSS** received a great deal of attention, and the publishing community began to give earnest attention to the issue.

It has now been three years since the "Urgent Action Statement." There are many

continued on page 16

If Rumors Were Horses

So much is going on that it's hard to keep track of it all! Gosh! Where to start. And, you know, we are posting **Rumors on the ATG News Channel** — <http://www.against-the-grain.com> — frequently, nearly every day. It's impossible to put all of those **Rumors** in print so you need to go to the Website to keep up!

First up, **Deb Vaughn**, our book review editor, has a **baby girl!!!** Congrats to **Deb** and her husband, **Bo Crader**, on the birth of their daughter, **Helen Katherine Crader** born August 12th, 2008, at 9:50

PM weighing in at 7 lbs. 2 oz. **Deb** is on maternity leave at the moment but she is still working on **ATG**. See this issue, p. 63.

Speaking of new babies, **Cullen Ferguson** just turned **one year old!** How time flies!

Remember last year when he was just born? And exposure to chicken pox kept them away from **Charleston** in 2007!

And speaking of **Cris**, her report on the **8th Annual Mid-South E-Resource Symposium** will be loaded on the **ATG News Channel** shortly, before it appears in print. www.against-the-grain.com/

And some non-baby news for a change of pace. **Congratulations! Andrew Hutchings** has been appointed **Blackwell Group Chief Executive Officer**. In his new role **Andrew** will have full responsibility for both **Blackwell Book Services** and **Blackwell UK Ltd.** **Andrew** takes up his new role with immediate effect and the **BUK Board** now report directly to him. **Andrew** joined **Blackwell's** Oxford office in 1987 when he led both the Information Technology and Marketing departments in Oxford while also completing the **Blackwell's** Management Training program. After a three-year assignment in **Blackwell USA** Oregon offices leading the integration of the global

continued on page 6

What To Look For In This Issue:

Libraries as Publishers;	
Publishers as Libraries	46
Linking Collections and Readers	56
The Wiki of Acq 2	68
Buying eBooks: Does Workflow Work? – Part I	85
Interviews	
Helen Parr	14
Ursula Schwarz	82
Profiles Encouraged	
Bruce Heterick	16
Maggie Jones	20
Nancy Maron	24
Marilyn Geller	32
Martha Anderson	40
Toni Tracy	42
Carol Richman	44

1043-2094(200809)20:4;1-A

From Your (meeting-d out) Editor:

The beginning of the school year is always hectic — meetings, meetings, and more meetings! And this year has its own set of new challenges.

But we still persevered and turned out another outstanding issue of *Against the Grain* thanks to our many columnists and guest editors! This issue is guest-edited by the incomparable **Bruce Heterick** of **JSTOR** and encompasses many important issues and questions that we all must consider for the good of the order of librarianship and our place in society. Topics covered include ejournal archiving, library director attitudes toward

digital preservation, digital preservation for the smaller academic library, eBooks, and more. We have several special reports from **Tony Horava** (libraries as publishers; publishers as libraries), **Jeanette Smith** and **Elizabeth Titus** (the MLS), and **Camille McCutcheon** (psychology collection development). Our interviews this issue is with **Helen Parr**, Executive editor of **Medical On-line** and **Ursula Schwarz** in **Philip Hallman's Media Minder**.

Back Talk is about butterflies and POD technology, **Greg Tananbaum's Train** column gets us to thinking about the theme of the **2008 Charleston Conference** — The

Best of Times, The Worst of Times, **Todd Carpenter** talks about standards and culture shock, **Cris Ferguson** clicks her way to information literacy, **Rick Lugg** and **Ruth Fischer** take on a new identity with their column — from **I, User** to **Future Tense** — and discuss weeding, **Xan Arch** tell us about **Wikis** in acquisitions which we can all take to heart. There is so much more in this issue and even more to come in November so do not quit reading.

Now I have to stop and go to, you guessed it, a meeting ... who was it that said "meetings are held to discuss many problems which would never arise if we held fewer meetings?"

Love, Yr. Ed. 🌻

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: **Against the Grain**, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the **ATG Homepage** at <http://www.against-the-grain.com>.

Dear Editor:

Greetings — I just had an opportunity to read **Mark Herrings'** June 2008 "Little Red Herrings" column for **ATG** (v.20#3, p.75). I wanted to thank **Mark** for providing a fair and balanced look at the **Blended Librarian** approach that **John Shank** and I have been sharing the last few years. We've never been evangelistic about the ideas or the community. We simply put it out there as something that our colleagues may find of interest to them. If it doesn't appeal to you (a "naysayer" I guess), feel free to find whatever works for you. **John** and I respect that there are other librarians out there offering their own solutions that might have more appeal for some librarians than what we have to offer. We do find that our ability to offer ongoing free Webcasts on topics related to

improving ourselves and our libraries continues to be popular among our colleagues.

Aside from **Mark's** mentions of **BL**, I really enjoyed what he said in the column this time. We are certainly of a like mind with respect to our concerns for this profession and those we serve.

Thanks again. I hope that as a result of **Mark's** column some new colleagues will take a closer look at **Blended Librarianship**. We continue to evolve the ideas and goals we've set for the community, and now are exploring new territory over at **Designing Better Libraries** (<http://dbl.lishost.org>).

Regards, **Steven J. Bell**

(Associate University Librarian for Research and Instructional Services, Temple University Libraries) <bells@temple.edu> <http://library.temple.edu> 🌻

Rumors from page 1

businesses, **Andrew** took on global responsibility for the Acquisitions and Distribution functions. In March 2005, he took on the role of **BBS UK Managing Director** and led the recovery in performance within that business unit. **Andrew** helped to guide the business through another system change when **Blackwell Book Services** moved from its mainframe technology to a new Windows-based system. In March 2007, **Andrew** was appointed **Blackwell Book Services** CEO. **Congratulations, Andrew** and good luck as you expand into the Retail side of the business!

Basch Subscriptions has moved into a larger facility! The new facility is spacious (to accommodate continuous growth), bright and still in downtown Concord, NH. Here are the new details: **Basch Subscriptions, Inc.**, 10 Ferry Street, Concord, NH 03301. Phone: 603-229-0662 (no change). Fax: 603-226-9443 (no change). His two pre-conferences at the **2008 Charleston Conference** are among the most popular as well. I tell you, it is impossible to keep up with the **Energizer Buzzy**!

ebrary has been selected by **Ambassador Books and Media** to provide **Ambassador's** new eBook offering. Under the terms of the agreement, **Ambassador** will resell **ebrary's** eBooks under a perpetual access model to its customer base in more than 30 countries. A growing selection of more than 67,300 eBooks and other titles in a variety of academic and professional subject areas will be available for purchase under a single or multi-user access model, and **Ambassador** will fulfill eBook orders using the **ebrary Ordering Platform (eBOP)**. **Ambassador Books and Media** is now celebrating its 35th anniversary as a provider of print and non-print materials to college, university, school, corporate, public, government, and medical libraries. **OneSource** is **Ambassador's** proprietary, password-protected software that offers access to a database of over 3 million book titles and over 1.5 million media titles. Founded in 1999, **ebrary** is privately held, is headquartered in Palo Alto, CA, and currently offers a growing

continued on page 8

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 20 & 21 — 2008-2009

2008 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
Charleston Conference	November 2008	09/03/08	09/17/08
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 08/Jan. 09	10/29/08	11/19/08
2009 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
Annual Report, ACRL	February 2009	12/10/08	01/07/09
MLA, SLA, Book Expo	April 2009	02/11/09	03/04/09
ALA Annual	June 2009	04/08/09	04/29/09
Reference Publishing	September 2009	07/8/09	07/29/09
Charleston Conference	November 2009	09/02/09	09/23/09
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 09/Jan. 2010	10/21/09	11/11/09

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Toni Nix <justwrite@lowcountry.com>; Phone: 843-835-8604; Fax: 843-835-5892 or **Edna Laughrey** <elaughrey@aol.com>; Phone: 734-429-1029; Fax: 734-429-1711
Address: 291 Tower Drive, Saline, MI 48176. 🌻

Adventures in Librarianship — Heroes

by **Ned Kraft** (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State) <kraftno@state.gov>

Several readers have asked about the composition and purpose of the “**Library Justice and Universal Protection Task Force**.” From their Website we’ve learned that they prefer the shortened moniker “The Protectors,” and their mission statement is “the guarantee of universal library services, the return of lost or stolen books, and the general defense of the planet against invaders of any sort.” Though not otherwise well known, one publisher, **Marvel**, has covered “The Protectors” extensively and the following biographical sketches were gleaned from **Marvel** publications.

Dr. Hans Schneider received his MLS degree from **Universitat Stuttgart** in 1981, and his PhD in Hazardous Chemical Management from the **Max Planck Institute** in 1996. After a brief illness in 2002, **Dr. Schneider** began disintegrating distant objects using a beam of dark light projecting from his right index finger. Making the most of that ability, **Dr. Schneider** managed to prevent the allusive, and vaguely-Soviet, **Ivan Slaughter** from subjugating all humanity from his island compound in the South Atlantic. **Dr. Schneider** also retrieved several long-overdue books from the compound. Though his talents are many, an aversion to creamed corn turns the otherwise

good-natured doctor taciturn and seemingly unable to lift his finger.

Miss Molly May was raised an only child on a Minnesota farm, just a stone’s throw from the **Massahopac Nuclear Power Plant**. While working on her MLS at the **University of Illinois**, **Miss May** discovered she could see through walls and other sorts of visual obstacles. She famously used that ability, working in consort with the aforementioned **Dr. Schneider**, to disable several alien spacecraft during a short-lived invasion attempt in the summer of 2004. Since then, **Miss May** has been serving as **ALA’s** Vice-Chair for Book Fines and reading to children at the **Evansburg County Library**. Her unique visual abilities are rendered useless by the presence of her mother, **Anna Belle May**, who is outspoken in her belief that **Molly** should be married and raising children.

Vance Clarkson, after a short stint with the Defense Intelligence Agency, became Head of Technical Services for the **Buddy Hackett Memorial Library, Constant College**, in 1997. **Mr. Clarkson** later used his uncanny mind-reading ability to assist counter-intelligence efforts in Afghanistan, and to press for greater library funding in his home state of Ohio. For

his efforts, **Clarkson** was given **ALA’s** prestigious **Hugo Boss Award** in 2003. It should be noted that his mind-reading ability fails him when his subject is watching television. **Vance Clarkson** currently serves as Secretary for the **Library Justice and Universal Protection Task Force**, a rotating chair.

Henrietta Means learned at an early age, and through many hours searching through her public library, how to focus her pubescent anger and frustration toward impressive acts of physical strength. While working toward her Master of Information Studies degree at **State University**, **Ms Means** did her internship in Costa Rica battling a gigantic half-man half-serpent creature that had risen from the sea. After a few years at the **Library of Congress**, she was hired by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** where she reviews grant requests. Though she still enjoys saving the world from supernatural creatures, **Ms Means** spends much of her time reading and making small decoupage lapel pins as gifts for her friends. And every urge toward focusing her incredible strength is sapped when faced with a really good **Jimmy Stewart** movie.

Rumors from page 6

selection of more than 170,000 eBooks and other titles from more than 300 publishers and aggregators. www.absbook.com
www.ebrary.com

WT Cox Subscriptions has entered into an agreement to purchase **Journal Finder** from **The University of North Carolina Greensboro**. **Journal Finder**, the first **OpenURL Link Resolver** to go into production in the United States was created, designed, and has been maintained by the **Electronic Resources and Information Technology staff of UNCG**. The product gives library patrons easy access to the electronic resources the library subscribes to. **Journal Finder** has continually been enhanced from the early days with additional usage reports, expanded linking, ERM, the inclusion of over 11,000 free and Open Access titles, along with many additional features. **Journal Finder** is now being used by over 40 libraries and has a solid reputation because of the dedication and expertise of the **Electronic Resources and Information Department** at UNCG. Leading the **Journal Finder** team for **WT Cox Subscriptions** will be the awesome **Michael Markwith**, who is currently responsible for Academic Sales for **WT Cox Subscriptions**. Before working with **WT Cox**, **Mike** was President of **TDnet**;

Vice-President of Academic Sales at **Swets Blackwell**; and CEO, **Swets & Zeitlinger** (USA & Canada).

www.wtcox.com

Kent Watson (Executive Director, Publishers Association of the West) sends word that the incomparable legend **Richard E. Abel** has been selected as the recipient of the **2008 Jack D. Rittenhouse award**. This award honors those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the book community in the West. **Richard Abel** was selected from a slate of nominees for having established vibrant and profitable publishing businesses that serve as a model to his colleagues. The award will be presented to **Richard** at the **Publishers Association of the West’s National Publishing Conference and Book Industry Trade Show** which will be held on Saturday November 15, 2008. There will be a special luncheon to present the award to **Richard E. Abel**, known as the “father of the modern day library approval plan” and founder of numerous publishing presses including **Timber Press**. As we know through **Richard’s** serialized and continuing “Tale” in **ATG**, **Richard** worked in a bookstore, became a bookstore owner, started a private press for limited edition books, founded a company that grew into an international library distributor, founded a book marketing and distribution company, started a

trade publishing company that has grown into a well respected mid-sized publisher, and is the author of numerous articles and a forthcoming book. The **Rittenhouse Award** is given annually in memory of **Jack D. Rittenhouse**, the West’s consummate bookman. During his long career, **Rittenhouse** was a writer, bookseller, publisher, lecturer and mentor. He left a lasting mark on the book community, both in his work and with the people who followed him and this award was established as a way to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the book community in the West. Prior winners of the **Rittenhouse Award** are **Jene and Jetta Lyon** (1991), **Fred Pruett** (1992), **David Flaccus** (1993), **Dwight and Carol Myers** (1994), **Gordon Saull** (posthumously in 1995), **Tom Auer** (1996), **Joyce Meskis** (1997), **Tony Hillerman** (1998), **Katharine J. McCanna** (1999), **Lisa Knudsen** (2000), **Robert C. Baron** (2001), **Mary Powell** (2002), **Fredrick A. Praeger** (posthumously in 2003), **Dick and Judy Noyes** (2004), **Elizabeth A. Geiser** (2005), **Linda Ligon** (2006) and **Gibbs Smith** (2007). www.pubwest.org.

Amazon has acquired twelve-year-old Canadian company **AbeBooks** (formerly the **Advanced Book Exchange**), the companies just announced. As we all know, **AbeBooks** is an online marketplace for books focusing on used, rare and out of print titles for sale by independent booksellers — it currently has 110 million books for sale from 13,500 sellers. The company has been around since

continued on page 10

Take a closer look at....

The CHARLESTON REPORT

Business Insights into the Library Market

You Need The Charleston Report...

if you are a publisher, vendor, product developer, merchandiser, consultant or wholesaler who is interested in improving and/or expanding your position in the U.S. library market.

Subscribe today at our discounted rate of only \$75.⁰⁰

The Charleston Company

6180 East Warren Avenue, Denver, CO 80222

Phone: 303-282-9706 • Fax: 303-282-9743

Rumors

from page 8

1996 and fills a niche for **Amazon** in hard-to-find or out-of-print books. Rather than hold its own inventory, **AbeBooks** acts as a digital marketplace for established booksellers. On a related note, **AbeBooks** also owns 40 percent of **LibraryThing** (a social app for keeping track of your books and finding other like-minded book lovers). Whereas **Amazon** is an investor in **Shelfari**, now **Amazon** will own a piece of both of those competing startups. **AbeBooks** CEO **Dr. Hannes Blum** sent an email out to booksellers today talking about the acquisition, saying the company would continue to operate as a stand-alone business, **AbeBooks'** headquarters will remain in Victoria, BC, Canada, and European offices will remain in Dusseldorf, Germany, and he will continue to lead **AbeBooks**.

www.mediacontacts.org.uk/useruploads/press-release/Bodlogo.jpg

www.techcrunch.com/2008/08/01/amazon-to-acquire-abebooks/

www.shelfari.com/ www.amazon.com
www.librarything.com/

And, speaking of **Librarything** — the fantastic **Glenda Alvin** has single-handedly arranged for **Tim Spalding** of **Librarything** to speak to us in **Charleston** on November 7. Come on down!

And speaking of the **Charleston Conference**, I was poking around the Web the other day and came across **Sue Polanka's** fantastic moderated discussion list — **No Shelf Re-**

quired. **Sue** says, "Anyone interested in eBooks should take a look at the **Charleston Conference** Program November 5-8!" Have you done that? Have you registered? And **Sue** herself will be presenting in **Charleston** in November. Check this out!

www.libraries.wright.edu/noshelfrequired/

www.against-the-grain.com

www.katina.info/conference

The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) has appointed **Alison Denby** as a new Publisher. **Alison** will be responsible for the **bepress journals** publishing program, which includes 42 owned and scholarly society journals. She will report to the CEO of **bepress**, **Gordon Tibbitts**, and will be based at **bepress** headquarters in California. Commenting on the appointment, **Gordon Tibbitts** said, "**Alison** is one of the industry's leading journal publishers... **Alison's** skills and experience are a perfect fit with **bepress's** strategy to continue to drive the growth and development of our journals program and **bepress's** broader suite of services." **Alison** brings close to 20 years of journals editorial and sales experience in the publishing industry to **bepress**. She has held senior positions at **John Wiley & Sons** and **Blackwell Publishing**, where she worked closely with academic societies and journal editorial teams.

www.bepress.com/journals

Charlie Rapple has been appointed Head of Marketing Development, a newly-created position, at **TBI Communications, Ltd.** **Charlie** will lead the expansion and development of **TBI's** marketing services for academic and professional publishers and so-

cieties. **TBI** offers both strategic consultancy and outsourced marketing implementation to publishers and societies, around the world. As you will remember, **Charlie** joins **TBI** from **Publishing Technology** (previously **Ingenta**), where she held the post of Head of Group Marketing. And did you know/remember that **Charlie** was part of the original team at **Catchword** before they were acquired by **Ingenta**? **Melinda Kenneway** is Director of **TBI**. For more information, contact **Joanna** <cross@tbicommunications.com>.

And an update on the industrious and no-grass-grows-under-my-feet **Bob Schatz** <ever-bob@yahoo.com> <bob@impact2info.com>. **Bob** has left **Coutts** (amicably). He says he just celebrated 30 years in the business and realized that there are other things he wants to explore, hopefully allowing him to stay a part of the library/vending community, but allowing him to travel less. (He was a bit burnt out on 120+ nights a year on the road.) Anyway, **Bob** has begun his own business — **Bob Schatz, Business & Professional Writing Services**, adding impact to information — and is a writing consultant to libraries, publishers, and vendors. **Bob** is offering research, editing, and writing services for anything from single brochures to major communications campaigns. So far, he has produced a library market report for a publisher in California, assisted vendors in evaluating RFP responses, and put together an effective writing workshop. **Bob** will be attending the **Charleston Conference** and says he is looking forward to seeing old friends, and to talking with anyone who would like to utilize his skills. And do you remember his fantastic **Sotto Voce** columns in **ATG**? I sure do.

www.impact2info.com

This from the **Chronicle of Higher Education** (9/16/08) — "Feminist Magazine with Academic Following Faces Financial Crisis," by **Robin Wilson**. **Bitch** magazine (which our library takes as well as nearly 200 other libraries) is a quarterly publication that needs "\$40,000 by October 15 or it will stop publishing." This is on the **Chronicle higher education news blog** and there is continuing discussion there.

chronicle.com/news/article/5156/

Susan Campbell and **Pam Censer** are gearing up to mentor at the **2008 Charleston Conference** and what a great job! But in the meantime, **Susan** was on **NPR**. Yes, you heard/read it right! — On Thursday, June 26, at 11:50 AM, our very own **Susan** appeared on "**Voters Group Reflects Hurdles Facing Candidates**." Like WOW! Here's the URL to hear it all for yourself.

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91906446

And more celebrity appearances! This time by **Mark Herring** <herringm@winthrop.edu> on the **Learning Times network**. **Mark's** column in the June 2008 issue of **ATG** (v.20#3, pp.75-76) was on blended librarianship ("How do you Like Your Librarianship: Straight-up or Blended?") and is praised by **Steven Bell** <bells@temple.edu>. If you

continued on page 16

HP: We offer flexible licensing models. The concurrent user model is very popular, though many institutions do prefer the unlimited site license. Individual titles may also be licensed at both the individual and institutional levels, however, with fewer special features and functionalities.

ATG: *What might be some features to look forward to in future enhancements? What are some industry trends you hope to follow or consider? Or perhaps you want to set some new industry standards?*

HP: The value and importance of providing educational and high-quality online multimedia resources has been thoroughly impressed upon us as we have launched the specialty Websites. Online users want to not only read what the best minds in the field think on a topic, but they also want to be able to view a Grand Rounds from a renowned lecturer at a different institution, watch a surgical video while listening to a detailed explanation of the operational approach, or view an animation demonstrating how to conduct a key physical examination. Technical enhancements to these resources will be made to make our multimedia even more practical and usable and engaging. Going forward we intend to increase the media on **AccessMedicine** and apply these lessons learned. 🌸

Editor's Note: Thank you, **Helen**, for your answers. Good Luck with the latest redesign and have fun planning future enhancements. — **RKK**

Rumors from page 10

haven't read this article yet, check it out. **Bell** and **John Shank** have come up with a "re-designed" librarianship. Is blended librarianship a model for proactive librarians? home.learntimes.net/library?go=1845668

My bosom swelled with pride (à la **Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore**) when the alert **Joyce Ogburn** sent me the URL to this write up about the **AAUP (American Association of University Presses)** recent meeting in Montreal. ("Digital Daze" by **Scott McLemee**). Reportedly the **Charleston Conference** and **ATG** were mentioned repeatedly in **AAUP** meetings, panels, and less formal discussions. **ATG** was hailed as a "must-read for anyone in academic publishing who wants a glimpse of how their colleagues across campus are discussing the new information tools." But then, you knew that already, didn't you? www.insidehighered.com/views/2008/07/02/mclmeme

And more praise for the **Charleston Conference** courtesy of the alert **Dr. Elaine Yontz** <eyontz@valdosta.edu>. It's a paper on an **MLIS** student's attendance at the **Charleston**

continued on page 24

against the grain people profile

Bruce Heterick

Director, Library Relations, JSTOR, ARTstor, Portico, Aluka
149 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010

Phone: (212) 358-6416 • Fax: (212) 358-6499

<bruce.heterick@jstor.org> www.jstor.org

www.artstor.org www.portico.org www.aluka.org

BORN AND LIVED: Born in Blacksburg, VA; currently live in Barrington, RI.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER: Did my undergraduate and graduate work at **Virginia Tech**; started my career as a developer at **Virginia Tech**, then worked for **VTLS**, **Faxon**, **Blackwells**, **SCT/SunGuard**, and **JSTOR** for the past nine years.

FAMILY: Married to **Jill** for past 20 years; 4 children (**Wesley-16**, **Miller-13**, **Sloane-9**, **Cary-6**).

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: People who take themselves too seriously; bad pizza; Rhode Island government.

PHILOSOPHY: Be happy where you are, but not content.

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Working at **JSTOR**.

SPARE TIME: Golf and Virginia Tech sports.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *For One More Day*.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Run an organization that is doing something important and meaningful.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: See my "Shift Happens" presentation from 2007 **Charleston Conference**. 🌸

Remembering 1968 ... from page 1

accomplishments that we — as a community — can point to and say "good job." Most of the major publishers (commercial, university presses, and societies) have adopted a long-term preservation strategy for their e-journal content and a few are getting out ahead of the issue with eBooks. "At-risk" content is getting some focus, as are open-access journals. Third-party preservation initiatives have moved from infancy to early adolescence, and important lessons have been learned and shared with the community. Preservation choices have emerged for libraries and publishers: commercial vs. not-for-profit; 3rd-party vs. national vs. local solutions; migration strategies vs. emulation strategies, etc., etc. And, for the first time, academic libraries in particular are beginning to see that there is a sustainable migration path from print to electronic.

But the work is not yet done. Preservation and archiving is a community-wide problem that requires contributions from across the community, lest we endure a tragedy of the commons. There are still too many free riders relying on the work and contributions of the few; too many libraries allowing a small number of their colleagues to carry the "preservation freight" on behalf of the entire library community; too many institutions talking about the importance of the long-term preservation of born-digital content, but still too few willing to ante up and support the still-nascent initiatives that are attempting to address — collectively — this

preservation challenge. It is a classic manifestation of the "commons dilemma" that **Hardin** described in his influential 1968 article.

There is no doubt that this remains fairly new and complex territory. While there has been good progress, we are not yet near the point of having the robust, comprehensive, and multi-layered solution we need to have in place to confidently make the complete transition to electronic access, with all of its benefits. And, the long-term preservation of electronic journals is not, and cannot be regarded as, just a "large research library problem." It is a community problem that requires broad support across the spectrum of libraries — higher education in particular. Every survey that I have seen on the topic — including the **Ithaka/Portico** survey outlined in this issue — leave no doubt that librarians philosophically believe that the long-term preservation of these assets is incredibly important. However, as they say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. So, as **Elvis** sings in his 1968 classic, "a little less conversation, a little more action please."

Whoduva thunk that **Garrett Hardin** and **Elvis Presley** had so much in common? 🌸

Endnotes

1. **Garrett Hardin**, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science, New Series*, Vol. 162, No. 3859 (Dec. 13, 1968), pp. 1243-1248. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1724745>
2. Association of Research Libraries Website: http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/ejournalpreservation_final.pdf.

Spoilt for Choice from page 22

The report then goes on to suggest other filters which can be deployed by libraries once a decision has been made to invest in an archiving solution, to assist in selecting which is most appropriate for their specific needs. These filters include the range of content covered, costs and the basis of charging, and whether post-cancellation access is offered and if so, how and when it is provided. It recognizes the complex permutations that exist, so that a "one size fits all" approach is not possible, while at the same time provides some guidance for making responsible and defensible choices.

Conclusion

Finding practical, cost-effective solutions to e-journal archiving and preservation which are acceptable to both publishers and libraries has become of pressing importance as the trend to e-only access accelerates. Over recent years, there has been significant progress in e-journal archiving solutions which are gaining the trust of both publishers and libraries. The JISC funded study focused on six e-journal archiving solutions which appeared to be of particular relevance to the needs of the UK library community. Four of the six e-journal archiving solutions assessed by the study are able to satisfy at least some of the needs of the UK library community. This is a considerable advance on the situation a few years ago and so is an extremely encouraging sign. The choices libraries make will be based on a mix of factors and risk management will help to determine which e-journal archiving solution they should support. The decision-making process will be considerably simplified as more publishers participate in e-journal archiving, thereby increasing the volume of e-journals safely archived for current and future use.

Acknowledgements

The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) has funded several projects aimed at furthering progress in digital preservation generally. JISC funded initiatives cited in this report are PRESERV and SHERPA DP (investigating methods and strategies for preserving the content of institutional repositories), the UK LOCKSS pilot project and its evaluation, and a comparative study of e-journal archiving solutions (the subject of this article).

I would also like to acknowledge the co-authors of the study, Terry Morrow (Tee Em Consulting), Julia Chruszcz (Top Class Computer Technologies Ltd); Neil Beagrie (Charles Beagrie Ltd) 🐼

against the grain people profile

Nancy L. Maron

EARLY LIFE: Brooklyn born, but raised in Englewood, NJ.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I started in book publishing, including serving as Director of Academic and Library Marketing for the **Perseus Books Group** and marketing online legal reference for **Oxford University Press**. As an analyst with **Ithaka**, I now enjoy helping digital projects in higher education develop sustainable business models.

FAMILY: Married with two daughters, ages 6 and 3 ½.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE: Playing and listening to music, reading, playing outdoors, and every craft project you've ever dreamed of (suitable for ages 3-6, of course). 🐼

Endnotes

1. Model NESLI2 Licence for Journals <http://www.nesli2.ac.uk/model.htm>.
2. Kenney, Anne R; Entlich, Richard; Hirtle, Peter B, McGovern, Nancy Y and Buckley, Ellie L. (2006) *E-Journal Archiving Metes and Bounds: A Survey of the Landscape*.
3. See for example, PRESERV – http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_preservation/programme_404/project_preserv.aspx and SHERPA DP – http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_preservation/programme_404/project_sherpa2.aspx.
4. Kenney, A et al. Op Cit. p.21 and p.23.
5. See Ejournal archiving for the review of *Metes and Bounds* – http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_preservation/ and for the JISC Briefing Paper – http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/publications/pub_ejournalspreservationbp.aspx.
6. JISC/BL/DPC E-Journal Archiving and Preservation Workshop – <http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/events/0703ejournalwksop.html>.
7. Dalton, Pete, Conyers, Angela (2008). Evaluation of the JISC UK LOCKSS Pilot – <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/programmes/preservation/uklockssevaluation.pdf>.
8. Morrow, Terry, Chruszcz, Julia, Beagrie, Neil & Jones, Maggie. (2008). 'A Comparative Study of e-Journal Archiving Solutions: a JISC Funded Investigation' – http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/media/documents/jisc_collections/reports/e_journals_archiving_%20solutions_report_final_080518.pdf.
9. LOCKSS – http://lockss.org/lockss/LOCKSS_Alliance.
10. CLOCKSS – <http://www.clockss.org/clockss/Home>.
11. Portico – <http://www.portico.org/>.
12. e-Depot – <http://www.kb.nl/dnp/e-depot/e-depot-en.html>.
13. Electronic Collections Online – <http://www.oclc.org/electroniccollections/>.
14. British Library e-Journal Digital Archive – <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/atyourdesk/docsupply/publisher/blejournal/index.html>.
15. Morrow, T et al. p.35.
16. Morrow, T et al. p.37.
17. UKSG. Project Transfer Code of Practice – <http://www.uksg.org/Transfer/Code>.
18. Morrow, T et al. p.12.

Rumors from page 16

ton Conference last year. (NextGen: Field Trip by Christopher Baker, *LJ*, 6/15/2008), Christopher Baker was a student registrant and says, "As a student registrant for the 2007 Charleston Conference, I paid \$90, and I'd

argue it was the best \$90 I've ever spent." The invitation to write the article came after the Rump Session — the author is the MLIS student from Valdosta who spoke up during the Session and Andrew Albanese was there and invited Christopher to write about his experience at the Conference. Like, wow!
www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6566464.html?rssid=220

www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6566464.html?q=nextgen
www.zibb.com/publishing/theme/c/Valdosta+State+University

Many of you know about this but just in case ... PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries) has

continued on page 28

Survey of Library Director Attitudes from page 26

The next set of questions needing exploration then, was: what could be leading to this gap between what library directors say they know is important, and what they are actually doing? What could explain why librarians would acknowledge the importance of e-journal preservation but not act on it?

Who Acts and Who Does Not?

While libraries of all sizes voiced their support for e-journal preservation initiatives, perhaps unsurprisingly taking action correlated strongly with size of the institution, as measured by either enrollment (FTE) or materials budget (LME). Similarly, those institutions which identified themselves as either research-focused or research and teaching-focused, were more likely to also be taking active steps towards digital preservation. These institutions have clearly stepped up to the preservation challenge. While nearly half of those libraries which described themselves as research or research and teaching focused also reported participation in an e-journal preservation initiative; only 24% of those institutions which described themselves as primarily teaching-focused had taken action.

What Was Learned About Non-action Takers?

Looking more closely at just those institutions which had not taken action, it was noted that a large majority (74%) of those not yet taking action agreed that *“libraries need to support community preservation initiatives because it’s the right thing to do.”* What could be causing this disconnect?

Lack of Urgency

While there is widespread agreement on the overall importance of the issue, respondents to the survey were split on just when that action needed to be taken. The distribution of responses to the statement *“E-journal preservation does not require any action from our library today or within the next two years”* creates a nicely symmetrical graph, but in essence illustrates that most institutions who have not yet acted do not feel compelled to act anytime soon. It would be important to better understand why this many do not feel the “urgency” of the Urgent Action statement: might they feel that other institutions — the ‘early adopters’ — have already taken care of this responsibility for them? If so, do those libraries that have taken action understand that they are shouldering this responsibility for the broader community?

“The funds allocated for e-journal preservation activities are found in a range of places in a library budget...”

Figure 3

Responsibility

Over half of the respondents who have not yet taken action felt that *“research libraries should be ‘taking care of’ e-journal preservation on behalf of the entire library community,”* as opposed to less than a quarter of those participating libraries. Specifically, among the non-action-takers, 59% of the teaching-focused institutions felt that preservation was the responsibility of the research institutions, while only 38% of research institutions agreed. These provocative findings suggest that there may need to be more dialogue about how the digital preservation responsibility could be distributed across the library community. Are the research institutions funded at a level sufficient to carry this burden for all others? As digital collections grow — and become more similar — across the library spectrum, are preservation obligations more broadly shared?

Budget is a Concern

Budgetary concerns are common in libraries of all types. About half of those libraries not yet participating in an e-journal preservation initiative agreed that budgetary constraints limited them from *“adopting new products or approaches until we see they are broadly adopted by the library community.”* This hesitation, likely borne of a need to allocate scarce resources to known quantities, is also underlined by the way the library directors characterized their institutions: those already participating in e-journal preservation initiatives were nearly twice as likely to consider themselves “trailblazers” than were those who had yet to take action.

The funds allocated for e-journal preservation activities are found in a range of places in a library budget, from collection development (56%), binding and processing (15%), librarian’s discretionary fund (10%), to preservation (9%). Does this practice reflect that this activity or priority has not yet been firmly established? To what extent might preservation activities be in competition with other activities, including collection development? What risks does this competition present to future access to digital resources upon which institutional resources are being expended at a growing rate?

The Influence of Campus Stakeholders

It was also noted a significant difference regarding the interaction with faculty on the question of e-journal preservation between those libraries which had taken action and those which had not yet. The former were nearly twice as likely to report that they had been approached about e-journal preservation than those who had not yet taken action. At some level it isn’t at all surprising that librarians respond to faculty requests, but is there an opportunity for proactive campus leadership here? Do libraries have an opportunity to get out in front of faculty or administrator queries and proactively lead conversations on this issue? Is there an opportunity to position the library as a campus leader ensuring long-term access to critical scholarly content?

continued on page 30

Rumors from page 24

been slashed from \$2 million in State of SC funding to \$200,000! That’s quite a cut! We are scrambling to see how many of the online databases that we will be able to continue to

provide to our patrons in light of this huge defusion (is that a word?) of cash.
www.heraldonline.com/109/story/653565.html
pascalsc.org/content/view/full/1731/

And I just remembered to mention that the highly motivated researcher **Sherman Pyatt**, once of the **Citadel** as well as the **Avery Re-**

search Center, is now Coordinator of the Collection Development unit at **South Carolina State University** in Orangeburg, SC.

And, speaking of **forgetting** (is that the half empty and **remembering** is the half full way of looking at things?) — My daughter **Ileana**

continued on page 32

resources to allow the university to be certified by professional associations. Although the materials are not unique, the individual titles have more weight than general materials because they support researchers who are doing more thorough and exacting research.

- Finally we acquire materials in support of advanced degrees in subject fields that the university has defined as its core areas of expertise. While some of these materials may be older, they still provide historic context for the discipline. Every title in support of these subjects is unique and special; each is irreplaceable. Many organizational libraries have these same basic, intermediate and advanced collection levels although specific subject areas are defined differently according to the mission and identity of the organization. For example, we understand that the discipline of Expressive Arts Therapies is far more important at **Lesley University** than at other schools and that Mathematics is far more important at other schools than at **Lesley University**. For us, all Expressive Arts Therapies materials are critically important.

To support the physical preservation of these materials that we define as part of our core areas of expertise and that support programs that are certified or monitored by outside organizations, we have tried to create an environment that is controlled for temperature, light and humidity. We also bind journal issues for durability. Because we don't physically segregate our collections by category of importance to the university's mission, we are preserving all of our acquisitions, not just the mission critical materials. In this way, we feel that we have some control over the continued availability of these materials for our patrons over time.

But how can we create a preservation environment in the digital realm? In order to preserve our digital materials, we would have to "capture" them since we don't have actual possession of this content. This means gathering text files, graphics files, audio and video files, possibly data files. And it means putting the pieces back together to form a coherent replication of the original digital work. It would also entail finding a way to keep the materials readable in appropriate configurations no matter how formats or software packages or hardware platforms change over time. It sounds like a rather daunting task that would take time and money and staff and technical expertise and hardware and software. Or we could choose to outsource the preservation and archiving of digital materials.

To meet our needs in this area, the **Lesley University Library** looked for an archiving service that was wholly focused on archiving born digital materials, that was actively applying and participating in the development of industry-wide digital preservation standards, that could be monitored or certified in some

against the grain people profile

Collection Management Librarian, Lesley University Library
30 Mellen Street Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 349-8859 • <mgeller@lesley.edu>

Marilyn Geller

BORN AND LIVED: Born in New Jersey, lived in New Jersey, West Virginia and Massachusetts.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: In my adult life, I've always been a librarian except for a brief flirtation with graduate work in anthropology.

FAMILY: Husband, one daughter, one son-in-law, and two sons.

FAVORITE BOOKS: There are too many to pick from, and I'm not done reading yet.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: Clichés, especially "think outside the box" and "perfect storm."

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I hope libraries will continue to be the one thing you can count on in an information blizzard. 🐼

way, that had a demonstrable track record for meeting expectations and that required no technology commitment from us since we do not control our own technology services. And the outsourcing solutions needed to be affordable now and for the foreseeable future.

Portico met our needs as an outsourcing service. The organization is associated with **JSTOR** and has background, growing expertise and a proven track record. **Portico** staff members have participated in the development of industry standards and have designed the ingestion, manipulation, storage and future migration of content according to these standards and industry best practices. **Portico** has also participated in the development of auditing and certification procedures for archives. Finally, **Portico** requires no technological support on the library's side.

All that's left then is to determine if **Portico** is an affordable solution. In FY2007, **Lesley University** became one of the **Portico Archive Founders**. Aside from the honor, this has netted the university a 10% savings for each year of the next five years. We have assumed that over time, the archive would grow to include more titles, and the more titles covered by the archive, the more titles from the **Lesley University Library** collection will be covered. In December 2006, when **Lesley University** joined the program, **Portico** had committed to archiving approximately 5,300 journals. As of this writing, there are over 7,600 journals in this category. In our first year of membership, the archive was committed to preserving 23%

of the titles in the **Lesley University Library** collection. This worked out to \$18.71 per title per year for the service of preserving and archiving titles in the collection. In FY2008, **Portico** was committed to preserving 24.6% of the titles in the **Lesley University Library** collection. The cost per title per year fell to \$17.64. This is only slightly higher than the cost per title per year for binding, which is only one of our preservation expenses in the print environment. **Portico** does, truly, offer us an affordable solution for a significant portion of our digital archiving needs.

Until recently, the solution **Portico** offered us applied only to journals in digital formats. In June 2008, **Portico** announced that it would begin archiving eBooks also. As our library acquires more eBook packages and individually purchased titles, this new initiative is a welcome addition to the archiving effort. One concern we still have regarding the archiving of digital materials is that many of publishers of more esoteric titles in our core areas of expertise are smaller operations and may not have the technical or financial ability to join an archiving initiative like **Portico**. We would encourage **Portico** to find a way to reach out to these publishers whose digital content may be more at risk than content from larger and more robust publishing organizations. This concern aside, we believe that we have made a sound financial decision in selecting our preservation and archiving choice for materials in the **Lesley University Library** digital collection. 🐼

Rumors from page 28

and I spent a delightful afternoon with **Leslie Abrams** and her talented and heading-to-college-son **Nick** in San Diego a few months ago. Turns out, **Nick** and I are big horse-racing

fans and we commiserated on the loss of the **Triple Crown** by **Big Brown** in the **Belmont Stakes**. Anyway, getting back to business, **Leslie** way back when was **Head of Reference** at the **College of Charleston** and she is now in charge of the **Art & Architecture Library** at **UCSD**.

continued on page 40

Was talking to **Janet Flowers** the other day. **Janet** has retired after 38 years at **UNC-Chapel Hill** (!) but not really if you ask me. **Janet** and her husband **Ed-die** are coming to **Charleston** in November AND **Janet** is doing a **Lively Lunch** at the **2008 Conference** called "**Web 2.0 Tools for Newbies**." This program (Thursday, from 12:30-1:40) will provide an orientation to the **23 Things approach to learning Web 2.0 tools**. Boy. You talk about taking a "**glass half full**" optimist's approach. Instead of being old, we are **newbies**. I like it!

www.katina.info/conference

And speaking of **UCSD**, the incredible **Brian E. C. Schottlaender**, the **Audrey Geisel University Librarian** at **UCSD**, is our keynote speaker on Saturday, November 8! Don't forget to be there! And, did you know that **Brian** once worked for **Harrasowitz**? www.ucsd.edu/

We're truly thrilled to have **Ned Kraft** back with his **Adventures** column. And the one in this issue is about **Heroes**, p 8.

From the *New York Times*, August 24, 2008 — A group of scholars are trying to make **George Orwell** more relevant to the younger generation by creating a blog of his extensive diaries. For example on September 7, 2008, **Orwell's** entry for September 7,

continued on page 44

against the grain people profile

Director of Program Management, National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP)
101 Independence Avenue SE,
Phone: (202) 707-2598 • Fax: (202) 252-3173
<mande@loc.gov> • <http://digitalpreservation.gov>

Martha Anderson

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Prior to my current position at the Library — I have served as project manager for the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the **Library of Congress** working with preservation architecture projects. I manage the capture of Web content in support of the **Library's Digital Strategic Initiatives Program** and I am the Library's program officer for the **Web-at-Risk, California Digital Library Project** and the **MetaArchive Project**.

During the first charter period, 2003-2006, of the **International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC)**, I chaired the Metrics and Testbed working group. The **IIPC** is an international organization of 37 national libraries and non-profit archives dedicated to collecting and archiving significant content from the Web. I now serve on the Steering Committee managing the communications.

During my tenure on the staff of the **National Digital Library Program** at the **Library of Congress**, I served in the roles of Manager of the Digital Conversion Group, Production Coordinator for American Memory historical Web collections, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) for the multi-year paper scanning contract and as the **National Digital Library Program Liaison** to the Manuscript Division at the **Library of Congress**.

Prior to joining the **Library of Congress** in 1996, I worked in electronic publishing as editor and project manager for a variety of CD-ROM reference products including **Time Almanac** and the **Patrologia Latina Database**.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I am a Master Gardener.

PHILOSOPHY: There is much to learn about digital preservation from the natural world. Diversity survives in nature.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: The explosion of user-generated content and the availability of personal publishing tools is changing the information environment for libraries and publishers alike. Within the next five years, more and more libraries will serve their online patrons in more dynamic and personalized ways. There will also be a greater demand for more robust searching and filtering mechanisms to help users manage information. 🌿

What About eBooks?

by **Toni Tracy** (Director, Publisher Relations, Portico) <toni.tracy@portico.org>

In response to a growing number of requests from the publisher and library communities to preserve non-journal scholarly literature, including eBooks, **Portico** developed a study in late 2007 to help offer insight to the community about the current eBook landscape, including business models, data formats, and preservation needs. The study was designed to understand what level of need and support for eBook preservation exists in the scholarly publishing and academic library communities and to analyze the structure and preservation requirements of eBooks to determine the operational and technological infrastructure required to offer eBook preservation.

Portico invited eleven publishers and eBook aggregators to participate in the study and nine accepted. These organizations all participated in an interview, and the publishers

supplied eBook content for technological and preservation assessment.

- American Mathematical Society
- Elsevier
- Morgan & Claypool
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- Taylor & Francis
- ebrary
- MyiLibrary
- NetLibrary

Portico also invited eleven libraries and one consortium to participate in the study and all accepted. These organizations also participated in an interview about eBooks within their own

institutional setting, or those of their members in the case of the consortium.

- California Digital Library
- Case Western Reserve University
- Cornell University
- McGill University
- Quinnipiac University
- SOLINET
- University College of London
- University of Montana
- University of New England (Australia)
- University of Texas
- Yale University
- York College (PA)

continued on page 42

but the reliability of implementation methods is regarded as unknown.

- **Preservation Concerns/Solutions:** All libraries reported that preservation arrangements needed to be more robust. Several noted that they do not (yet) raise this issue with publishers routinely but expect to do so as eBooks become a more permanent part of the collections.
- **Role of Portico in E-Book Preservation:** All of the libraries interviewed expressed a desire for **Portico** to undertake eBook preservation as a way of facilitating a more secure transition to reliance upon eBooks and permanent inclusion of this content into the collections, but the expressed urgency of this need varied considerably across institutions and disciplines. The greatest sense of urgency was expressed by librarians responsible for medical collections.

Technical and Preservation Summary

The publisher participants in the survey provided sample content for the technical portion of the study. One reason these particular publishers were selected to be invited into the survey was to cover as wide a variety of formats and platforms as possible, including eBook products in standard formats such as OEB, monographs created and/or hosted in journal systems, high-end reference publications, and output from digitization projects for older monographs.

“... libraries are still experimenting with eBooks and how to properly include them in their collection development strategies ...”

Technical Findings:

- **Content in Standard eBook Reader Formats:** There are a number of standard eBook readers and formats, including **Open eBook Publication Structure (OEB)** and its successor, the **.EPUB** family of standards which has been recently released. eBook content produced for eBook readers is inherently standards-driven and highly uniform across publishers; this is in contrast to e-journal content which is designed to work specifically in the publisher's own Website or delivery platform of choice and can be highly idiosyncratic.
- **Content Created or Hosted on e-journal Systems:** This content is typically PDF plus HTML with XML source files behind the HTML. It is similar to the vast majority of the content in **Portico's** current e-journal preservation program. It may present some metadata challenges as a number of publishers may be offering monographs via a journal delivery system, bending the metadata structures in the process.

against the grain people profile

Carol Richman

Director of Licensing, SAGE Publications
2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
Phone: (410) 327-6808 • Fax: (410) 327-7045
<carol.richman@sagepub.com> • www.sagepub.com

BORN AND LIVED: Boston, MA, El Salvador, Los Angeles, Chicago, Baltimore.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: English teacher and professor.

FAMILY: My husband and our pets!

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE: Bicycling, hiking, sitting on the beach reading.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Anything by **Eudora Welty** and great non-fiction.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: People who stand at the top of the escalator and not move — looking bewildered...

PHILOSOPHY: Sighing helps clear the mind...

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: ?

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Decide what I would like to do in retirement...not retire but do something else...

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I think it will be greatly changed and much the same...technology will truly guide events and how we learn, do research, and conduct business. But libraries will still exist...I have been in this industry for a while and I remember the head of **Welch Library** at **Johns Hopkins** telling me that libraries were going to be a thing of the past, that everything would be online...that was over 20 years ago...and, here we are today. So, in five years, there will be a few changes, but libraries will be that much stronger. 🐼

- **Content on Custom Websites:** This was the most problematic data in the study as there were no other data formats beyond the Website HTML available. HTML Web pages are notorious for lack of standards compliance and none of the sites examined had fully valid HTML and many suffered from hard-coded relative file paths.

- **High-end Reference Works:** These are, in effect, custom-designed and semantically-rich databases and they do not lend themselves to generic preservation approaches, at least not without serious loss of meaning. Each preservation project of this type will require a custom preservation plan.

In comparison to the current e-journal content seen by **Portico**, the best eBook con-

tent is much more straightforward: the eBook standards have jumped ahead of the e-journal standards and provide a more robust basis for content management and long-term content preservation. The worst eBook content is no worse than the messiest e-journal content — the difficulties that may arise for preservation will be due to lack of scale and resulting costs. For journals, the significant variations in data tend to be between titles, not at any smaller levels; in contrast, some of the eBook data studied varied from monograph to monograph.

Conclusions

While libraries are still experimenting with eBooks and how to properly include them in their collection development strategies, the eBook publishers are immediately ready to implement a preservation strategy. The technological analysis of the study shows that even the more difficult eBook content will be no more difficult than e-journals. 🐼

Rumors from page 40

1938, will be posted from his political diary when **Orwell** was “consumed by the clouds gathering” for the second World War. **Jean Seton**, a professor at the **University of Westminster** in London, had the idea for the blog and administers the project. **Seton** says the site

will be publishing at least until 2010 and has received many visitors. The original material can be found in **University College London** where many of our **ATG** friends are located — **Anthony Watkinson**, **David Nicholas**, **Liz Chapman** are just a few of them. But. As we all know, putting the material on the Web will make it more visible and accessible. See — “What George Orwell Wrote, 70 years Later

continued on page 55

Near Virtual Silence

That's right, \$100 million has been, essentially, handed to us to infuse new blood into our graying and some would say, dying, profession and we have greeted it with our hands over our mouths. The usual suspects, such as those on library juice (<http://www.libraryjuice.com>), have nothing at all good to say about the program. Some contend that the program is really the **Higher Education Act of 1965, Title-B, Fellowship Program** resurrected. If true, why, until this program, was our profession like the Cheshire cat, but with only its *frown* remaining? One would engage any substantive disagreements (as opposed to hysterical screeds), but there simply aren't any. These are, however, partisan-political ones, and often of the wing-nut variety regularly found among the far left and the far right.

It would be one thing if our profession took equal opportunity shots, but it doesn't. During the **Clinton** administration I often read near hagiographic assessments of what the **Clintons** had done for libraries though I could find no programs that really benefited us and certainly none that supported our profession into the next generation. Of course many who were then swooning over the **Clintons'** every move are, today, **Obama** supporters and excoriating the **Clintons** almost mercilessly. How soon they forget. I should not be surprised, of course, because our profession has been racked by such partisan political nonsense since the late seventies.

It's too bad, too, because the **Bush** administration deserves both respect and loud applause, at least on this matter. Our profession has been quick to criticize almost all Republican administrations for just about anything and slow and shame-closed to give credit when appropriate. Given our reaction to this one so far, don't be shocked if the next one ignores us altogether, and with good reason.

In any event, I could not let pass the opportunity to give three cheers to the **Bush** administration and I do so now. Disagree if you will about the war, taxes, the budget and so on. But be fair. When something good comes our way by whatever hand, give credit where credit is due. I for one am not looking this gift-horse in the mouth. 🐎

Endnotes

1. Full disclosure: the author is a member of the IMLS board. Neither he nor his institution has, however, ever received an IMLS grant. **Dr. Herring** contributed to this article in his personal capacity. The views expressed are his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Institute of Museum and Library Services or the United States Government.
2. For references for the following, see, **Hirsch, E.D.** *The Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*. "Gift-Horse." Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993 (newer version repeat the same information.); **Brewer, Ebenezer Cobham.** *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*. "Gift-horse." Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1822. (newer version repeat the same information); **Martin, Gary.** "Gift-Horse." *The Phrase Finder*. <http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/117000.html>, accessed 20 July 2008. **Ammer, Christine.** "Look a gift horse in the mouth." *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

THE JOURNALS

of The Endocrine Society

World leaders in diabetes, endocrinology, & metabolism

Renew Now or Begin Your Free Trial!

- **Free Trial Offer for New Institutional Subscribers**—Get 4 months of free online access to any of our four journals. Offer expires June 30, 2008. Available to new institutional subscribers and qualified former institutional subscribers.
- **Two-for-One Offer for Institutional Subscribers**—Purchase a 1-year institutional subscription to *Endocrinology* or *Molecular Endocrinology* and receive a 1-year subscription to the other research journal for one bundled, discounted price.
- **Tailor-Made Pricing for Institutional Subscribers**—Starting in 2008, subscription prices for institutional and multi-site subscribers will be based on the type of organization (tiered pricing).

For more information about these offers or a tailor-made price quote, contact societyservices@endo-society.org.

The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism—

The Must-Read Clinical Journal in the Field
In-depth coverage of the latest developments in diabetes and obesity, pituitary, adrenal, and thyroid disorders; metabolic bone disease; pediatric endocrinology; and other key areas of endocrinology and metabolism.

Endocrine Reviews—An In-depth, Enduring Resource With the Highest Impact Factor in Endocrinology and Metabolism

In-depth reviews on clinical and research topics in endocrinology and related areas, including diabetes, thyroid, pediatric endocrinology, growth factor, and reproductive medicine.

Endocrinology—The Endocrine Research Authority

6,000 pages annually of the highest quality original work, covering subcellular mechanisms to whole animal physiology, with topics including calcium regulation, growth factors, energy balance-obesity, diabetes, steroids, renal cardiovascular, development, cancer, neuroendocrinology and signal transduction, and physiology.

Molecular Endocrinology—On the Cutting Edge of Endocrine Research

Original mechanistic studies examining the actions of hormones and related substances on the molecular biology, structural biology, and genetic regulation of gene expression, using the techniques and methods of molecular research, recombinant DNA, protein structure, and membrane structure.

THE
ENDOCRINE
SOCIETY®

Subscribe online at
www.endojournals.org

Rumors from page 44

to the Day," by **Noam Cohen** www.nytimes.com/2008/08/25/business/media/25orwell.html?_r=1&ref=orwelldiaries.wordpress.com

And speaking of blogs, the industrious **Eleanor Cook** (Assistant Director for Collections and Technical Services at East Carolina's Joyner Library) has a blog on the **ATG News Channel**. She lets us in on happenings in her new position which we told you about in June (v.20#3, p.1). www.against-the-grain.com/d/blog/199

continued on page 61

Notes from the Field from page 60

Discussion

Comments from the surveyed librarians suggest that collection development, library instruction, specialized reference, and keeping faculty abreast of changes in library resources and services were the duties and responsibilities shared by most of them. When questioned about the best practices they had used to identify core/classic titles and what suggestions they had for other librarians attempting to identify these titles in their own libraries, there was considerable overlap in their responses. Consulting unspecified best book lists, other librarians, psychology faculty, and specified resources such as *Books for College Libraries* and *CHOICE's Outstanding Academic Titles* were frequently mentioned. The methods that librarians have used to publicly identify core/classic titles have varied, from placing notes in the item record to stamping books as classic titles. When asked how often psychology collections were weeded and the methods that were used, the responses revealed that the frequency varied widely and that common methods used were circulation/usage statistics, appearance/condition of the book, and the removal of duplicate copies and outdated materials.

Although the responses from this survey will be of interest primarily to psychology librarians, many of the suggested resources, such as *Books for College Libraries*, *CHOICE's Outstanding Academic Titles*, *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries*, *American Reference Books Annual*, and *Balay's Guide to Reference Books*, are certainly valuable to collection management librarians who work with other disciplines such as the humanities or the sciences. Likewise, even though some of the best practices cited in this article are most relevant to librarians working with psychology collections, many would still be useful to those undertaking collection

management projects in disciplines such as the humanities, the sciences, or the social sciences.

Conclusion

This article fills a niche in the library literature concerning best practices of librarians who work in psychology collection management. The sixty-four survey respondents represent only a small sampling of the total number who work with psychology collections, yet their responses provide a revealing snapshot. Perhaps some of the responses may provide "food for thought" to librarians liaising with disciplines other than psychology.

Status of the USC Upstate Project

With faculty retirements and new faculty hires, identifying core/classic psychology titles in the **USC Upstate Library** has been an ongoing process that has been recently completed. The remaining part of the project concerns identifying the books so that they will not be inadvertently withdrawn and so that librarians and library users will recognize them as core/classic books. I plan to have notes placed in the item records alerting the library staff that, per my instructions, these books should not be withdrawn. To benefit library users, there will be notes placed in the library catalog records, and the books will be stamped as core/classic titles. 🐼

Endnotes

1. Core/classic titles referenced in this article are defined as ones cited often within the psychology literature and those that are included in recommended works such as *Balay's Guide to Reference Books*, *Resources for College Libraries*, the third edition of *Books for College Libraries*, and the *Harvard List of Books in Psychology*.
2. When the librarians participated in this survey, *Resources for College Libraries*, 2007 had not yet been published.

Rumors from page 55

And still speaking of blogs, inspired by Eleanor and the George Orwell project (above) I have begun a lesser blog. Have you seen it? www.against-the-grain.com/d/taxonomy/term/13

And speaking of the *ATG News Channel*, we are no longer requiring user names and passwords in order to access the Website so visit it and see what you think. We would love your input. www.against-the-grain.com/

Was talking to the incredible Ann Okerson (who WILL be at the Charleston

Conference in November — hooray!). Ann was talking about peaches and I was telling her that SOUTH CAROLINA is really the peach state, not Georgia. Did you know that? (I guess it depends on where you're from.) But I think that peaches will never replace chocolate in Ann's heart!

Speaking of the Conference, have you registered yet? The Early Bird Deadline is September 26!

Am hoping to have some obituaries and reminiscences about the wonderful Matthew J. Bruccoli in an upcoming issue of *ATG*. If any of you are interested in writing something, please let me know <kstrauch@comcast.net>.

continued on page 81

Bibliography

ACRL. *Books for College Libraries: A Core Collection of 50,000 Titles*. 3rd ed. 6 vols. Chicago: American Library Association, 1988.

American Reference Books Annual. Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1970 — .

Balay, Robert, Vee Friesner Carrington, and Murray S. Martin, eds. *Guide to Reference Books*. 11th ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 1996.

Baxter, Pam M. *Psychology: A Guide to Reference and Information Sources*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1993.

Best Practice. Dictionary.com. *Webster's New Millennium Dictionary of English*, Preview Edition (v 0.9.7). Lexico Publishing Group, LLC. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/best-practice> (accessed: April 24, 2008).

Budd, John M. "The Utility of a Recommended Core List: An Examination of *Books for College Libraries* 3rd Ed." *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 17 (1991): 140-144.

Comer, Cynthia. "List-Checking as a Method for Evaluating Library Collections." *Collection Building* 3 (1981): 26-34.

Corsini, Raymond J. *Encyclopedia of Psychology*. 2nd ed. 4 vols. New York: Wiley, 1994.

Elmore, Marcus, ed. *RCL: Resources for College Libraries*. 7 vols. Chicago: American Library Association, 2006.

Fisher, William H. "Weeding the Academic Business/Economics Collection." *Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian*, no. 2/3 (1984): 29-37.

Gangl, Susan Diane. "Communication and Cooperation in Psychology Collection Development in a Large University Library: The SCOPE Project." *Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian* 11 (1991): 97-112.

Hardesty, Larry and Collette Mak. "Searching for the Holy Grail: A Core Collection for Undergraduate Libraries." *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 19 (1994): 362-371.

Harvard University. *The Harvard List of Books in Psychology: Compiled and Annotated by the Psychologists in Harvard University*. 4th ed. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1971.

Herzog, Susan. "Collection Development Challenges for the 21st Century Academic Librarian." *Acquisitions Librarian*, no. 31/32 (2004): 149-162.

Kennedy, Scott. *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries*. 6th ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 1999.

Lundin, Anne H. "List-Checking in Collection Development: An Imprecise Art." *Collection Management*, no. 3/4 (1989): 103-112.

Mowry, Beth. "The Elusive Core Collection: A Search for the Sources in which It Might Lurk." *College & Undergraduate Libraries* 11 (2004): 1-13.

Pettijohn, Patricia. "Crossing Boundaries: Selecting for Research, Professional Development and Consumer Education in an Interdisciplinary Field, the Case of Mental Health." *Acquisitions Librarian*, no. 31/32 (2004): 163-176.

Reed, Jeffrey G. and Pam M. Baxter. *Library Use: A Handbook for Psychology*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2003.

Reed, Lawrence L. and Rodney Erickson. "Weeding: A Quantitative and Qualitative Approach." *Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory* 17 (1993): 175-181.

Rubinton, Phyllis. "Classics in Psychoanalysis: I. Publications through 1939." *Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian* 3 (1984): 69-75.

Smelser, Neil J. and Paul B. Baltes. *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*. 26 vols. New York: Elsevier, 2001.

Yang, Eveline L. "Psychology Collection Review: A Cooperative Project between Librarians and Departmental Faculty Members." *Collection Management* 13 (1990): 43-55.

Technology Left Behind from page 80

ers. They are presented with theoretical reference questions and several options for answering the reference question. Students are asked to select the best option for addressing the reference question using the clicker. If the students select different resources / options they are invited to discuss their various approaches and the merits of each approach.

The clickers "add a dimension of interactivity to class that makes things a little more interesting. Especially working with a group you don't know, the clickers help get discussion going. A student who might not raise his/her hand to answer a question will gladly 'click,'" says **Libby Young**, Government Documents/Reference Librarian at **Furman**. **Young** emphasizes that clickers are not appropriate for every circumstance. "You just don't want to overuse them to the point they drag down the presentation," she says.

Texas A&M University (TAMU)

Texas A&M University Library has experimented with the use of clickers in three different types of instruction sessions: faculty and staff training instruction, instruction during Academic Integrity Seminars, and instruction for English Composition classes.

While clicker systems allow instructors to track individual responses and comprehension, at **TAMU** "the sessions were designed to keep student responses completely anonymous in order to encourage maximum participation." (**Hoffman** and **Goodwin**, 430)

Hoffman and **Goodwin** observed several benefits of the use of clicker technology. They found that the clickers served as 'an ice breaker' in instruction sessions. "Before the first clicker question was even asked, students were engaged and curious about the clickers and what the instructors were about to teach." (430) It was also determined that the clickers helped to keep students focused, increase participation, promote discussion, and increase retention. (**Hoffman** and **Goodman**, 430)

Brigham Young University (BYU)

Librarians at **Brigham Young University** play an active role in preparing students for a research project as part of a required First-Year writing course. Students attend two library instruction sessions, "which are weighted toward demonstration and hands-on practice." (**Julian** and **Benson**, 258) Beginning in the fall of 2006, library instructors began using clickers during these information fluency sessions. "Because they spend considerable time watching demonstrations, some students lose focus during the session and miss important information. Clickers seem to increase attention through active participation and provide valuable feedback in the session." (**Julian** and **Benson**, 258)

Using the data from the instruction sessions where the clickers were used, **BYU** identified three advantages the clickers offered: instantaneous assessment of student progress (how far along students are on a particular assignment), assessment of learning comprehension throughout the instruction session, and students' opinions of their own learning comprehension. (**Julian** and **Benson**, 259)

Julian and **Benson** offer this advice when implementing clickers into information fluency

instruction: "Carefully worded questions that fit the context of the instruction provide the best experience for students and the most valuable data for teachers." (260) [For further information on best practices when incorporating clickers into the classroom, see the articles by both **Caldwell** and **Martyn**.]

What Do Clickers Cost?

There are several audience response systems available on the market. **Turning Technologies** (<http://www.turningtechnologies.com>) offers **TurningPoint**, which can be configured for a variety of settings: higher education, K-12, or corporate applications. According to the Tech-Knowledge section in the August 2006 issue of *School Library Journal*, a 32-seat student response system from **Turning Technologies** runs \$1,483. (**Staino**, 25) **Dickinson College** reported paying \$2800 for its **TurningPoint** system. (**Bombaro**, 298)

Texas A&M University (TAMU) Libraries selected the **InterWrite PRS** system (<http://www.interwritelearning.com/>) from **GTCO Calcomp**, which is also used at the **University of Nebraska**. "Given a small budget, it seemed to be a cost-effective, bare-bones system that also offered several special features relevant to **TAMU Library** needs: it can create questions 'on-the-fly' and has interoperability with **WebCT**, **Microsoft PowerPoint**, and **Microsoft Excel**." (**Hoffman** and **Goodwin**, 427-428)

Ultimately the price for any **ARS** will vary based upon the application of the system (academic, K-12, public library, etc.), the number of clickers purchased, and the features the organization desires.

When used effectively, **Audience Response Systems** have the ability to engage students actively in library instruction sessions. They foster anonymity, garnering responses from students that might not otherwise participate, and providing a "safe" way for students to respond when dealing with touchy issues, such as academic integrity. At a price between \$2000 and \$3000 for an **ARS** installation, the cost of the clickers is not terribly expensive. In the same neighborhood as an electronic reference resource, it is an expense well worth the end results: active user engagement and positive publicity for the library.

Rumors from page 61

Speaking of **Dr. Brucoli**, **Joel Swerdlow** wrote to obtain a PDF copy of the essay "The End of Books and the Death of Libraries" (*ATG*, v. 19#1, Feb 2007) with his students at the **U. of Texas in Washington, DC** this fall.

And, speaking of PDFs, **Felicia M. Cleburn**, <FCLEBURN@mail.twu.edu> who works for **Texas Woman's University** as a library assistant in **Electronic Resources** participated in an online class in August called **Fundamentals of Electronic Resources Acquisitions**, sponsored by the **American Library Association**. Turns out the course reading list included an article from *ATG*—"Biz of Acq—A Database By Any Other Name" (*ATG*, v.14#2, April, 2002). And **Felicia's** was just one of many requests that *ATG* received for the article! **Sue Wiegand**, the author, gave us permission to post this online so it is now available

Coutts congratulates Michelle Emanuel!

Winner of the Coutts
ACRL Award for Western
European Studies

(800) 263-1686 • info@couttsinfo.com • couttsinfo.com

References

Bombaro, Christine. "Using Audience Response technology to teach academic integrity: 'The seven deadly sins of plagiarism' at Dickinson College." *Reference Services Review* 35, no. 2 (2007): 296-309.

Caldwell, Jane. "Clickers in the Large Classroom: Current Research and Best-Practice Tips." *CBE—Life Sciences Education* no. 6 (Spring 2007): 9-20.

Hintz, Rachel. "Interactive Whiteboards and clickers in the classroom." *Ohio Media Spectrum* 59, no. 1 (Fall 2007): 37-38.

Hoffman, Christine and **Susan Goodwin**. "A Clicker for your thoughts: technology and active learning." *New Library World* 107, no. 1228/1229 (2006): 422-433.

Julian, Suzanne and **Kimball Benson**. "Clicking your way to library instruction assessment." *C&RL News* 69, no. 5 (May 2008): 258-260.

Martyn, Margie. "Clickers in the Classroom: an Active Learning Approach." *Educause Quarterly* no. 2 (2007): 71-74.

Staino, Rocco. "Clickers for the Classroom." In *TechKnowledge. School Library Journal* (August 2006): 25.

for all to see on the *ATG News Channel*! Thanks to **Sue** and to **Felicia**. And, let us know if there is a specific article that you would like to see online and we will do our best to comply.
www.against-the-grain.com

And, last but not least, if you have time (Friday 2:15-3:00), please stop by for a discussion of **The Charleston Conference Observatory – A Proposal** by **David Nicholas (UCL)**. Currently there is no mechanism by which the exciting ideas and challenges raised can be tested or researched further and the results reported back to the **Charleston Conference** to ensure or build continuity and dialogue. **The Charleston Observatory** will provide a mechanism by which this can be done. **The Observatory** will be the research adjunct for the **Conference**, the medium by which the ideas generated are turned into robust research projects, which provide the evidence base for strategic planning. **The Observatory** will be a place where information experiments can be undertaken

continued on page 88

Future Tense from page 87

more than 90% full, one component of the plan calls for weeding of 175,000-350,000 volumes.

- The **University of California, Santa Cruz**, as part of a building renovation, had to select and move 50,000 volumes to the **UC System's Northern Research Library Center** in a three-month period. It is unclear how many of those will return to the library when the renovation is complete.
- The **University of Utah's Marriott Library** recently opened an **Automated Retrieval Center (ARC)**, which now houses 40% of the print collection in robotically-served compact shelving. Among its other benefits, students reportedly achieve alpha-wave trance states while watching it operate.
- The **Auraria Library** at present has no additional shelf space in subclass ranges N-NX, until a major shift (which doubles as a student worker fitness program) has been completed. This means that the newest Art books are stored on overflow shelves behind the Circulation desk.

These are just top-of-the head examples, intended only to highlight how common and severe the problem actually is. Nor are these isolated situations; in our experience, variations on these circumstances exist in almost every library. The space associated with storing print books and journals is beginning to look very scarce and very expensive — in direct costs, maintenance costs, and opportunity costs.

Solutions such as automated compact shelving (e.g., **Colgate's LASR** (Library Automated Storage & Retrieval) and **Valparaiso's ASRS** (Automated Storage & Retrieval System) enable denser storage of books onsite and will buy some time. Shared offsite storage facilities such as the **Harvard Depository**, the **University of California's Northern and Southern Research Library Centers**, and the **Five Colleges Library Depository** (better known as "The Bunker") provide additional lower-cost space, but also enable librarians to defer decisions about withdrawal. And even these massive facilities are filling rapidly. They are part of a sustainable collections strategy, but only part. The underlying problem remains. There are too many books. There are too many copies of the same books. And there are too many unused books to justify the space they now occupy, and the time spent caring for them.

Rumors from page 81

and witnessed, where evidence can be collected in a robust and validated manner, and where diverse communities can come together and share their data to the benefit of all. **The Observatory** will promote international research collaboration; global problems require global solutions. If you cannot attend, please join the forum discussion on the **ATG News Channel**.

www.katina.info/conference
www.against-the-grain.com

That's it for now. More coming in November and on the Website — www.against-the-grain.com/. 🌱

There are several ways to control collection size, of course. One is to reduce the amount of incoming material, e.g., by cancelling print subscriptions in favor of securely archived e-journals. This approach is increasingly being adopted. For current US Federal Government documents, more than 95% of current titles are available in electronic form, allowing receipt of tangible items to be dramatically reduced. For monographs, eBooks are gradually assuming a role in new title decisions. Some enterprising librarians, such as **Peter Spitzform at the University of Vermont**, are experimenting with a purchase-on-demand approach for new print monographs from major publishers — deferring purchase until a title is requested by a user. Collaboration can also help control collection size. Consortia such as the **Orbis/Cascade Alliance** have initiated "distributed print repositories," in which member libraries divide responsibility for last print-copy archives of major journal backfiles — allowing other members to withdraw their copies, releasing valuable shelf space. The **Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries** is in the third year of testing a shared approval plan, which will reduce the aggregate number of copies held by participants.

But the problem is bigger than any of these solutions. Even if the incoming volume can begin to be controlled, our collections overflow with the results of past decisions and deferred maintenance. Ultimately, *libraries really do need to weed*. It's like dieting or cleaning out the attic, though. We know it's the right thing to do, but as **Slote** notes "It is hard to find practicing librarians who feel that their collections have been weeded sufficiently."

It's time to usher in a **Golden Age of Weeding** — i.e., to de-select from collections built over the past 40 years with the same dedication with which we selected for them.

Permit us a note of pre-emptive defense: We are not advocating the abolition of print. We are not advocating that research libraries abandon their mission of collecting for the ages. While we believe that it is possible that some content has no value, we are not even advocating withdrawal and discard of that. We are simply suggesting that little-used content need not be so widely held, especially in print form, and that the space occupied by the miles of shelving now required can be used more effectively. There is far more redundancy in the current system than is needed, even for the most ambitious collectors.

Why focus on weeding? First, it benefits libraries and users. **Slote** and others cite five major benefits:

1. To save (or recover) space
2. To increase book usage.
3. To increase reader satisfaction.
4. To save staff time.
5. To make room for new technologies.

Why now? Conditions are currently better for weeding than at any time in recent memory. Consider how the following factors a) reduce the risk of withdrawing titles; b) increase accuracy and efficiency in weeding; and c) reinforce the need to start now:

1. **More content is accessible digitally.** Print is more often the format of last resort.
2. **The infrastructure for resource sharing has improved.** Couriers, union

catalogs, direct borrowing, ILL, and shared print repositories all allow timely access to shared print titles.

3. **Withdrawn content is easier to access or replace if needed.** **Google Book Search** has 1 million digitized full-text titles; the Open Content Alliance 750,000. **Lightning Source** has 400,000 print-on-demand titles. Commercial eBook providers collectively offer more than 200,000 titles. **WorldCat** holdings are easily visible to members. Out-of-print or used book dealers can provide millions of older titles.

4. **Circulation statistics are easy to retrieve from most library systems.**

5. **Volume count is becoming a less important metric in assessing collection strength.** ARL and other statistics have begun to use materials budget rather than volume counts as a measure of collection strength (although accreditation boards for specific disciplines may not).

6. **New tools are being developed to support rules-based weeding and batch maintenance transactions.** R2 has a patent pending on a "Sustainable Collections System" that we hope to introduce in 2009.

7. **Space for collections is becoming a lower priority.** University and college administrators are more reluctant to build and maintain space for "warehousing" printed books and journals.

8. **We can't (and shouldn't) afford to keep doing what we're doing.**

Yes, there are plenty of issues to resolve, even after we accept the need to weed. Complaints surface regularly about relying on other libraries' collections: timeliness of access or delivery; inaccurate or disparately expressed holdings; missing issues in runs that are purportedly complete; the relative condition of materials; the effect of constant transport on their longevity; restricted access to some titles. But these can and should be managed, through standards and service agreements. Over time, digitization will ameliorate some of these problems — and create some new ones. There are also some ironies here. Better discovery tools such as consortial borrowing, ILL, **Google Book Search**, and **WorldCat Local** may actually *increase* print usage of older titles, even as they are being withdrawn or moved offsite. This long tail effect may be especially pronounced in research libraries, where unique content abounds.

But while all of these issues must be monitored and addressed, there remains an enormous problem, and an equally sizable opportunity. As with the making of books, there is no end to their weeding. It's time to consider what level of collection is sustainable, and to take steps to manage accordingly. It's time to move vigorously in this direction, as responsible stewards not only of our collections, but of our space, talent, and other resources that also belong to our host institutions and users. 🌱

Column Editor's Note: This is the first of several articles on this topic. In future issues, we will consider *A Rules-Based Approach to Weeding; Sustainable Collection Development; and De-Selection Workflows*. — **RL**

<<http://www.against-the-grain.com>>