November 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. 5, Article 1.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5179>

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"

Trends: Health Sciences and Biomedical Sciences Content

by **Ramune K. Kubilius** (Collection Development/Special Projects Librarian, Northwestern University, Galter Health Sciences Library) <r-kubilius@northwestern.edu>

Traditionally, many health sciences and biomedical libraries' mission statements have emphasized that the libraries serve the research, education and clinical (patient care) information needs of their users. Addressing these needs is still at the core of service and collection management, but each of these areas has developed, expanded, and brought new challenges over the past few years in ways that a crystal-ball-gazer could not have anticipated. Biomedical research advances have continued at a fast pace, while health profession education and patient care have not stood in place, either. A new alphabet soup of terms and phrases is in current vogue: global health, patient safety, evidence-based health care, the Human Genome Project, embedded health sciences librarians, informationists, bio-informatics, medical informatics. This special issue of *Against the Grain* (ATG) contains

a collection of papers that addresses recent trends in biomedical and health information production, collection, and provision. The papers may reveal threads common to developments affecting various types of libraries, or the publishing and scholarly communication sectors, but perhaps with a slightly unique or different "spin" that is specific to biomedical and health fields.

Libraries serve the information needs of health sciences and biomedical sciences populations in various settings — hospitals and academic medical centers, educational institutions, health associations, government health agencies, pharmaceutical and other health-related industries, etc. Public libraries and general academic libraries, too, are often called upon to provide information resources for health and medical information quests. The **Medical Library Association** (www.mlanet.org) took

up the gauntlet when it developed a **Consumer Health Information Specialization Program**. While Category A of the program addresses administrative and service planning issues, one of the aims of Category B is to help with resource identification training. In her paper, **Patricia Pinkowski** reviews some recent trends and challenges in meeting the information needs of the increasingly demanding user group seeking health information — the general population, patients, collectively called "consumers."

continued on page 20

If Rumors Were Horses

Springer Science+Business Media has reached an agreement to acquire **BioMed Central Group**, the global open access publisher. **BioMed Central** was launched in May 2000 as an independent publishing house committed to providing free access to peer-reviewed research in the biological and medical sciences. **BMC** is the largest open access provider in the world with over 180 peer-reviewed journals.

Derk Haank, CEO of Springer Science+Business Media said: "This acquisition reinforces the fact that we see open access publishing as a sustainable part of STM publishing, and not an ideological crusade. We have gained considerable positive experience since starting **Springer Open Choice** in 2004, and **BioMed Central's** activities are complementary to what we are doing."

Matthew Cockerill, is Publisher of **BioMed Central**.

www.springer-sbm.com/index.php?id=291&b_ackPID=132&L=0&tx_tnc_news=4970&cHa_sh=b5a2aa41d8

Blackwell has just appointed the deserving **Andrew Hutchings 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. We all remember when **Andrew** joined **Blackwell's Oxford office** in 1987. 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 businesses, **Andrew** took on global responsibility for the Acquisitions and Distribution functions. He took on the role of **BBS UK Managing**

Director in March 2005 and led the recovery in performance within that business unit. **Andrew** was appointed **Blackwell Book Services CEO** in March 2007. During **Andrew's** time,

continued on page 6

What To Look For In This Issue:

A Showcase of Specialty Reference Books 44

WorldCat Selection: A Shorter, Smoother Path from Selection to User Access..... 54

Quick Tips for Media Selection and Acquisitions, Part II..... 72

Interviews

Kingsley Greene 58

Bill Cohen..... 60

Profiles Encouraged

Nicole Mitchell..... 8

Patricia Pinkowski 24

Meg White..... 28

Elizabeth Lorbeer..... 32

Jaron-Alena Porciello..... 36

Medha Devare 38

Melissa Nasea..... 42

Kingsley Greene 62

1043-2094(200811)20:5:1-W

From Your (frantic) Editor:

I don't know where the time goes. One minute it's morning and the next minute it's bedtime! I wonder who decided that we had to sleep? If not for sleep, think how much more you could get done? I guess this is just a frantic time-of-year — school is starting, new journal orders and cancellations are in, we are filling open positions so there are search committees, and then there's the **Charleston Conference** and **ATG** and family issues.

Meanwhile, this issue of **ATG** is wonderful.

Ramune Kubilius has collected five stellar papers about **health sciences** and **biomedical sciences** content by **Patricia Pinkowski**, **Meg White**, **Elizabeth Lorbeer** and **Nicole Mitchell**, **Jeron Porciello** and **Medha Devare**, and **Melissa Nasea** and **Ruth Moskop**. We have interviews with **Kingsley Greene** (**Sage Colleges**) and a follow up interview with **Bill Cohen** (**Taylor & Francis/Haworth Press**). We have a "Wandering the Web" by **Lesley Montgomery** about knitting, special reports by **Brett Spencer** on specialty reference books and **WorldCat Selection** by **Kay Covert** and **Brad Gauder**, an "Op Ed" by **Rick Anderson** on preservation issues, two (count them, two) "Biz of Acqs" on **Media Selection** (**Matt Bailey** and **Anita Grommesh**, and **Budget 101** by **Joe Badics**), **John Cox** is

talking about A&I services, **Phillip Hallman** is talking about video game collections, **Tom Leonhardt** is talking about the golden age of librarianship, **Peter Shepherd's** "International Dateline" is about the **European project PEER**, **Cris Ferguson** revisits **Kindle**, **Todd Carpenter** talks about end-user services, **Greg Tananbaum** is interested in the **Center for Science Diplomacy**, **Tony Ferguson** tells us a bit about academic libraries in China, and ... there's even more and more and more!

Oops. Just got a text message! I am missing an important meeting downtown. Gotta run!

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:

Just to let you know ... Today I was listening to an archived **Learning Times Network** "Library Online Community" Webinar (Oct. 2) that was given by **Mark Herring**. One of the moderators, **John Shank** of **Penn State**, in his introduction of **Herring** mentioned that **Herring** had a "regular, thought-provoking and well-written column in **ATG**," and that "this is at least one of the very good reasons you should be reading **ATG** on a regular basis."

There were about 100 people attending this Webinar.

Laura Barfield <lb441@bellsouth.net>

Dear Editor:

What are you doing? Quit sleeping! Why haven't you been updating **Rumors** on the **ATG News Channel**? I should also mention **your blog**! Get cracking! Time's a wastin'!

Sincerely,

Katina Strauch

<kstrauch@comcast.net> 🐼

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

2008 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
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. 🐼

Rumors from page 1

Blackwell has acquired **Everett's Library Services** and more recently **Houtschild Library Booksellers** in The Hague.

www.blackwell.com/

The incomparable **Sandra Hughes** has been named Director of the Library at **Charleston Southern University**! **Sandra** began her new duties September 1. She has been with the **CSU Library** since 1991, formerly serving as Head of Reference from 1994-2006, then Head of Public Services from 2006-2008. This recognition couldn't have happened to a more capable, deserving, and charming person! Congratulations, **Sandra**!

www.csuniv.edu

And, more about **CSU** (above). **David Mash** has resigned as Director of the **CSU Library** but will continue working there until the end of December 2008, when he will move to **Lander University** in Greenwood, South Carolina, as **Library Director**.

www.lander.edu

The awesome **Gloria A. Kelley** (**Winthrop University**) has been appointed director of **CPCC** — **Central Piedmont Community College** in Charlotte, NC. **Mark Herring** tells me he tried to keep **Gloria** but she is fully vested so she could retire from South Carolina. **Gloria** has been working part-time (nights and weekends) for **CPCC** for several years so she decided to accept the director's position effective November 1. Congratulations, **Gloria**! We will miss you in South Carolina!

<http://www1.cpcc.edu/>

The **Charleston County Board of Directors** has appointed **Cynthia Bledsoe** as interim director of the **Charleston County Library**. **Cynthia** has served as the Main Library's manager since 1999. She earned a master's degree in library information science from the **University of Tennessee** in 1991. She has worked in public libraries for 35 years, including seven years at the **Dorchester County Public Library**, where she twice served as interim director.

continued on page 8

Todd, Lisa, and Owen Rix have a new family member! **Wyatt Davis** was born September 23, 2008, weighing in at 9 pounds, 7 ounces, 20 ½ inches long. Congratulations to **Todd, and Lisa, and Owen!** You will recall that **Todd** once worked in **Collection Development** at the **College of Charleston**. He is now **Instruction Librarian** at **Coker College** which he joined in July 2007. His duties include bibliographic instruction, reference services, and electronic resource management. A self-described “techno-geek,” he also works on maintaining the library’s new catalog.
www.coker.edu/library/

Talk about **College of Charleston** alums, I was recently talking to the fantabulous **John Schmitt** <jschmitt@regis.edu> (Reference Services Librarian, **Regis University Libraries** and also former Chair (for many years) of the **Choice Editorial Board**). **Regis** is a famous Jesuit liberal arts college at the base of the Rocky Mountains. **John** has two daughters and one will head to college next year. We were comparing notes about college tuition, visits to colleges and related financial issues. Hope to see **John** in Denver at **ALA Midwinter** if not before here in **Charleston!**
www.regis.edu/library
www.regis.edu/library.asp?page=about.facstaff

And more Charleston alum news! Got an email from the incredible traveling **Betty and Sevgin Oktay** <oktay@vassar.edu>. This time they are traveling to **Charleston** in October (in the next few weeks) and we are having dinner together! Hopefully, if I take my notepad, I can catch us all up on what they have been up to and where they have been! I still remember many of our visits up in **Poughkeepsie** near where our son **Raymond** was at **West Point**. And we all especially remember the thrilling airplane ride when **Sevgin** took us up in the skies on a big tour around the area!

Speaking of **Charleston** — we are gratified that so many of you have registered to come to the **Charleston Conference** this year! Our enrollment is equal to that of last year even in the face of financial cuts all over the place. Gosh! We haven’t quite had to limit enrollment (we have a ceiling of 1200) but we are getting close. The program is fabulous this year and we hope that the weather will cooperate! Surely it will!

And — did y’all see the post on the *Against the Grain News Channel* — www.against-the-grain.com — about **Sue Polanka’s** blog **No Shelf Required?** Well, pooh on you if not! Anyway, moving right along, **Sue’s** blog, among many other things informed those interested in **eBooks** to look at the **Charleston Conference program**. **Sue** says if you have an opinion on **patron driven purchasing**, stop by the Lively Lunch session Friday at Charleston when **Alice Crosetto (Univ. of Toledo)** and **Sue** herself will debate “Tossing Traditional Collection Development Practices for Patron Initiated Purchasing.” And there are

against the grain people profile

Reference Librarian and School of Optometry Liaison
Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham
1530 3rd Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35294
Phone: (205) 934-2230 • Fax: (205) 975-8313
<anmitch@uab.edu> • <http://www.uab.edu/lister>

Nicole Mitchell

BORN AND LIVED: Covington, GA.

EARLY LIFE: I received both my B.S. (2001) and M.A. (2003) in History from **Georgia College & State University (GC&SU)** in Milledgeville, GA. My thesis was on the **Georgia State Penitentiary** that originally occupied the **GC&SU** campus from 1817-1889. I always used to say the library was built on the spot where the insane inmates were kept! I still enjoy history, especially Southern history, and dabble in it whenever I can.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Until leaving for library school, I served as Assistant Archivist for **GC&SU’s Ina Dillard Russell Library’s Special Collections**. I found that I loved working in the library and wanted to do more. Georgia did not have an accredited library school at the time, so in fall 2005, I accepted one of ten Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) fellowships at the **University of Alabama**. Receiving my MLIS in December 2006, I joined Lister Hill Library as a Reference Librarian in January 2007. I was appointed liaison to the School of Optometry in August of this year.

FAMILY: My partner and I have one dog, Gracie, and one cat, Harman.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I like to bake — especially new recipes I’ve never tried before.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Cookbooks and anything to do with Southern history.

PET PEEVES: The lack of the Oxford comma.

PHILOSOPHY: After seeing a movie on **Coco Chanel**, I found two of her quotes to really sum up my philosophy. “In order to be irreplaceable one must always be different.” “The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud.”

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: I really haven’t decided yet. I’ve only been a librarian for two years, so I’m just starting to figure out what it is I want to do. My problem is that I’m interested in so many different things!

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Librarianship is definitely evolving. People don’t have to physically come to the library anymore. We’re going to have to be proactive and seek out our users. At **Lister Hill**, I definitely see us collaborating more with faculty and integrating our services into their curriculum. 🐉

a ton of talks to attend. Be sure and look at the program ahead of time to plan your schedule! (like **Tinker Massey** told us so in September, v. 20#4, p.83).

www.libraries.wright.edu/noshelfrequired/?p=97

www.against-the-grain.com

www.katina.info/conference

And, speaking of **ATG News Channel** and the **Charleston Conference**, I owe an apology to all of y’all because this has been an especially stressful fall. As many of you know, my father-in-law passed away in Wilmington, NC, and this has meant many family trips hither and yon to take care of “business.” I know that I have not answered some of your emails and that

I have not updated the **ATG News Channel** in as timely a manner as I should have. Please accept my apologies and a promise that things will be better.

And, speaking of the **ATG News Channel**, have you seen **Eleanor Cook’s** and **Rick Anderson’s** blogs? Not to mention your’s truly’s? **Eleanor** is settling in at **East Carolina University** and I am happy that **ACQNET** is now up and running. Have gotten lots of posts lately meaning that **Eleanor** is on that job too! And she says that **ACQWEB** will be redesigned shortly. Stay tuned.

So sad to learn that the wonderful **Janet Flowers** <jflowers@email.unc.edu> and her

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

husband, **Eddie** will not be coming to **Charleston** after all. We had hoped to have them here in November and **Janet** was going to tell/teach us all about Library 2.0. Anyway, just got a book from **Janet** called *Web 2.0 for Librarians and Information Professionals* by **Ellyssa Kroski** (Neal-Schuman Publishing, 2008, 978-1-55570-614-2). It would be better to

have **Janet** to accompany the book through the instruction part, but, still, it's a great resource to have. Highly recommended. And, thanks, **Janet!** We will miss you and **Eddie!**

While we are on Web 2.0 business, was talking to the energetic **Karen Christensen** by email the other day. Did you see her interview in *LJ* October 1? She talks about China and blogging and all kinds of Web 2.0 business. Check it out!

www.berkshirepublishing.com/blog/?p=407

Remembering Tom Raines

Sad news. Our friend and colleague, **Tom Raines**, Executive Director of the Charleston County Library, passed away on October 12, 2009, after a long illness. He was 66. **Tom**, who I never knew not to be smiling, joined the county as deputy director of public libraries 27 years ago and remained in that capacity until January, when the previous director, **Jan Buvinger**, retired. During **Raines'** tenure, he and **Buvinger** led the system through massive growth, ultimately resulting in its recognition nationally and statewide as a leader in library services. The **Charleston County Public Library** has the highest circulation and the most locations of any library in the state. Major changes occurred after the public approved a \$15.75 million bond in 1986 to increase the number of libraries. Four new locations opened in 1992. The latest addition was the **Johns Island Regional Library** in 2004. **Tom** was a Goose Creek resident, received his bachelor's degree in 1964 from **Southwestern** at Memphis (Tenn.), which has since been renamed **Rhodes College**. He earned his master's degree in library science from **Emory University** in 1968. Before moving to South Carolina, he worked in Memphis. **Raines** is survived by his former wife, **Drucie Gullion** of Goose Creek; a daughter, **Patricia Reeves Bellew** of Greenville; a son, **Geoffrey C. Reeves** of Norfolk, VA.; and four grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

www.charleston.net/news/2008/oct/14/library_executive_dies_at57747/

Speaking of the Web, did you see that **Thomson Reuters** has sued **George Mason University** and the **Commonwealth of Virginia** in Richmond City Court for alleging that **Zotero**, an open source software application developed by **GMU's Center for History and New Media**, makes improper use of **Thomson Reuters' EndNote** citation software. \$10 million in damages for each year that **GMU** has offered the software is being sought as well as an injunction. See "Maker of EndNote Citation Software Sues George Mason U.," by **Jeffrey R. Young**, *Chronicle of Higher Education Wired Campus* blog, September 29, 2008.

www.chronicle.edu/

dcist.com/2008/10/14/thomson_reuters_sends_george_mason.php

www.techdirt.com/articles/20080929/0021092389.shtml

Guess you also heard that **ABC-CLIO** and **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt** have made an agreement effective immediately granting **ABC-CLIO** a perpetual license to use the imprints and publish the titles of **Greenwood Publishing Group**, including **Greenwood Press**, **Praeger Publishers**, **Praeger Security International** and **Libraries Unlimited**. In addition, **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt** will transfer certain assets, including copyrights, contracts and inventory, of **Greenwood Publishing Group** to **ABC-CLIO**. "By combining **Greenwood Publishing's** impressive and extensive list of titles with our experience in publishing widely respected databases, reference books and eBooks, **ABC-CLIO** is expanding its role as a leader in the publishing industry," said **Ron Boehm**, CEO, **ABC-CLIO**. "We believe that we will launch the next generation of high-quality reference, professional development and other resources for education and libraries." www.abc-clio.com

www.hmhpublish.com

And, speaking of **ABC-CLIO**, watch for the **2008 Vicky Speck Charleston Conference Leadership Award** announcement during the **2008 Charleston Conference!**

More about Awards — **Richard E. Abel**, known as the "father of the modern day library approval plan" and founder of numerous publishing presses including **Timber Press**, has been selected as the recipient of the **2008 Jack D. Rittenhouse Award** by **Publishers Association of the West**. As we all know from his memoirs currently being published in the print edition of *Against the Grain* (see *ATG* v.20#4 p.84 for his most recent article), **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. Presentation of the **Rittenhouse Award** will take place at **PubWest's Annual National Publishing Conference and Book Industry Trade Show** in Portland, OR on Saturday, November 15, 2008.

www.pubwest.org

continued on page 12

Our B.O.S.S. Puts YOU in Charge!

BASCH
Subscriptions, Inc.

88 N. Main St. • Concord, NH 03301 • Phone: 1-800-226-5310 • Fax: (603) 226-9443 • www.basch.com

Rumors from page 10

Still more — The **SAGE eReference platform** was once again honored, recently earning an **Annual Award for Publication Excellence (APEX)** in the Web and Intranet sites category. This honor follows the platform's selection as a **2007 Choice Outstanding Academic Title** and a **2007 Library Journal Best Reference** earlier this year. APEX is sponsored by the editors of **Writing That Works**, a bimonthly newsletter for communicators who write, edit, and manage business publications. The newsletter is published by **Communications Concepts, Inc.**, a company that provides publishing direction to marketing professionals. **SAGE eReference** was chosen from over 300. Created in partnership with **RDW Group/iFactory**, the dedicated **SAGE eReference platform** is the online host for more than 70 **SAGE Reference** encyclopedias in the social sciences with a growing list in the health sciences (80 titles will be live by the year's end).
www.sagepublications.com
www.apexawards.com/

Heard from **Jean Festa** of Charleston the other day. **Jean** is the wife of the former Provost and President of the **College of Charleston**, **Conrad Festa**. Anyway, **Jean**

and **Conrad** were heading off to Albania to hike and see a new part of the world. And, while they were in Albania, they were planning to visit with **Farfuri Xhaja**, remember her? **Farfuri** is a librarian at the **National Library of Albania** who was at the **College of Charleston** on a **ALA Bogle Scholarship** back in 1995/96. **ATG** interviewed **Farfuri** in v.8#5 (November, 1998), see p.39 and following. Anyway, **Farfuri's** son is in medical school and her daughter **Denada** has a little boy of her own! Boy! Like they say, time stands still for no one!

This news courtesy of **Tom Gilson**, **ATG's Reference Desk** editor. **Sylvia Miller** <skm@email.unc.edu> started a new job over the summer at the **University of North Carolina Press** in Chapel Hill. **Sylvia** is director of a **Mellon-funded** collaborative project called "**Publishing the Long Civil Rights Movement.**" The four project partners are the **University of North Carolina Press**, the **University Library**, the **Center for Civil Rights at the Law School**, and the **Southern Oral History Program** (which is part of the **Center for the Study of the American South**). The group is charged with coming together to publish in innovative ways that expand the chronological, demographic, geographical, and thematic boundaries traditionally associated with scholarship on the civil rights movement.

A fascinating challenge of the project is finding a multiple-access, hybrid business model that will sustain the publishing platform while bridging the differences between publishers and libraries/archives over open access. Oh — and **Sylvia** is attending the **Charleston Conference** on behalf of **UNC Press** so look her up! lcrn.unc.edu

The **Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)** has appointed the energetic **Isabel Czech** as **Executive Director** of its rapidly-growing **North American chapter** with immediate effect. We all know **Isabel** <isabel.czech@alpsp.org> who worked in publisher relations at **Thomson/ISI** for over 30 years. The **North American Chapter of ALPSP** was formed in September 2005 in order to provide a focal point for members of the **Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers** based in the United States of America and Canada. The current Chair of the **ALPSP North American Chapter** is **Crispin Taylor** of the **American Society of Plant Biologists**. **ALPSP** has more than 350 organizational members and around 50 of those are based in North America. **Ian Russell** is **Chief Executive** <ian.russell@alpsp.org>, **ALPSP**. Look for him at the **Charleston Conference** in November!

Speaking of **ALPSP**, **Oxford Journals** announces that **Bioscience Horizons** has been awarded a **Highly Commended certificate** by the **Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)** for publishing innovation. The winners of the 2008 awards were announced at the **ALPSP International Conference Dinner** on Thursday 11 September 2008. **Bioscience Horizons** is the first national expert-reviewed journal dedicated to **undergraduate bioscience research** to be published by a professional publisher and aims to showcase the best research undertaken by undergraduates in the UK and Republic of Ireland. **Dr. Celia Knight** is Chair of the **Bioscience Horizons** editorial board. The journal is published twice a year and includes papers covering a wide range of the biological sciences, from molecular biology to ecology. The journal was sponsored in its first year by the **University of Leeds** and **Oxford University Press**. The **Biotechnology and Biosciences Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)** is now sponsoring an evaluation of its impact on postgraduate training. I have to tell you that one of our Chemistry professors, **Rick Heldrich** <heldrichf@cofc.edu> has been a huge mover and shaker behind undergraduate research at the **College of Charleston** and he was thrilled when I forwarded him this press release!
www.oup.co.uk/

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

	Preconferences and Vendor Showcase	Main Conference
2009 Conference	4 November	5-7 November
2010 Conference	3 November	4-6 November
2011 Conference	2 November	3-5 November
2012 Conference	7 November	8-10 November
2013 Conference	6 November	7-9 November
2014 Conference	5 November	6-8 November
2015 Conference	4 November	5-7 November

Another person to look for in **November** — The hard-working **Christine Orr** who has joined the staff of **The Optical Society**. As **director of publication sales**, Christine will conduct sales and direct the account services and sales administration functions for institutional subscriptions to all **OSA** journal and publications

continued on page 14

The Charleston ADVISOR

Critical Reviews of Web Products for Information Professionals

"The Charleston Advisor serves up timely editorials and columns, standalone and comparative reviews, and press releases, among other features. Produced by folks with impeccable library and publishing credentials ...[t]his is a title you should consider..."

— *Magazines for Libraries*, eleventh edition, edited by Cheryl LaGuardia with consulting editors Bill Katz and Linda Sternberg Katz (Bowker, 2002).

- Over 250 reviews now available
- Web edition and database provided with all subscriptions
- Unlimited IP filtered or name/password access
- Full backfile included
- Comparative reviews of aggregators featured
- Leading opinions in every issue

\$295.00 for libraries
\$495.00 for all others

☒ **Yes! Enter My Subscription For One Year.** ☐ **Yes, I am Interested in being a Reviewer.**

Name _____ Title _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____ Signature _____

Rumors from page 12

database products. She will work closely with librarians, enhancing OSA's publication presence and relationships within that community. Christine holds a Master of Library Science from Long Island University and has more than ten years of experience in the marketing of scientific journals. Prior to this role, Christine was a marketing manager at the American Institute of Physics (AIP) where she managed all aspects of marketing AIP's journals, conference proceedings, and electronic products to institutional subscribers. There she also oversaw the society's participation in 12 library and scientific conferences per year and helped maintain a healthy subscription revenue. In addition to her work experience, Christine is also an active member of many professional societies including the Society for Scholarly Publishing, Special Libraries Association, and the Association of American Publishers — Professional & Scholarly Publishing Division. Previously Christine was an exhibits coordinator at Elsevier Science where she organized logistics for more than 70 annual exhibits, and before that, at Springer-Verlag New York where she worked on 50 domestic conferences. Uniting more than 70,000 professionals from 134 countries, the Optical Society (OSA) brings together the global optics community through its programs and initiatives. Since 1916 OSA has worked to advance the common interests of the field, providing educational resources to the scientists, engineers and business leaders who work in the

field by promoting the science of light and the advanced technologies made possible by optics and photonics. www.osa.org

Speaking of AAP — PSP Division, this year the Charleston Conference will have attending — ta da — drumroll — the fantastic John Tagler himself!!! As you will remember, John is the Executive Director of the AAP — PSP! Y'all, I can't wait to see him!

We told you in the June ATG (v.20#3, p.59) that Matthew Bruccoli had passed away. I have learned that there will be a Tribute to Matthew J. Bruccoli on Sunday, November 16, 2008, at 2 pm in the University of South Carolina Law School Auditorium in Columbia, SC. I hope very much to attend. By happenstance, while I was working on this issue of ATG for November, I got a wonderful reminiscence about Dr. Bruccoli from Stephen Rhind-Tutt <rhind-tutt@astreetpress.com>. This will appear in the Dec/January issue. If you have a reminiscence to add, please send it to me!

By the time of the Charleston Conference rolls around, Halloween will be over. Still, I am curious and intrigued by The Original Frankenstein, the latest Bodleian Library publication. Frankenstein Day at the Bodleian Library took place on 7 October 2008. There was a special display of Mary Shelley's original manuscripts; a lecture by Charles E. Robinson, the author of the new edition and a book launch with Brian Aldiss as guest speaker. The Original Frankenstein is a new edition of the first and most popular work of science fiction, allowing Mary Shelley's pure authorial voice to be heard for the first time since 1817, when the book was

initially written. The Bodleian publication uses the unique handwritten draft of 1816-17, held at the Library, to distinguish Mary's own words from the additions written in by her husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley. For years, scholars have debated the degree to which Percy Shelley influenced his wife's novel. Until now, no one has been able to read what Mary Shelley herself initially wrote in this original draft of the novel. Going back to the unique draft manuscript of the text held in the Bodleian Library, Charles E. Robinson has identified up to 5,000 edits in Percy Shelley's handwriting. Both texts are in this edition and we are able to hear Mary's genuine voice. www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/bodley

Tracy Gardner and Simon Inger would like to draw our attention to a recently-published White Paper entitled "How Readers Navigate to Scholarly Content." This research repeats an earlier study performed in 2005 by Scholarly Information Strategies (for whom the authors were consultants) that asks researchers about their preferred start points. The subtle shifts in user preferences provide a valuable insight into user navigation, the features that they find useful in publisher Websites, and the role and effectiveness of library technologies. The research findings will be presented by the astute Simon Inger at, you guessed it!, the Charleston Conference this November and will also be discussed during Renew Training's forthcoming Understanding E-Journal Technology course and the UKSG E-Journal Technical Update. The research was jointed funded by Annual Reviews, PNAS, MetaPress, and Nature Publishing Group. www.sic.ox14.com/publications.htm

continued on page 58

Director, The Sage Colleges

by **Katina Strauch** (Editor, *Against the Grain*) <kstrauch@comcast.net>

ATG: Tell us about the Sage Colleges. There are three of them I believe. How many libraries?

KG: The Sage Colleges is a complex institution, offering degrees from associates thru the doctoral level to 2000 students, enrolled in four colleges on two campuses in Albany and Troy, NY. The colleges are **Russell Sage College for Women, Sage College of Albany, Sage Graduate School, and Sage After Work.** The latter three are coed. We have a library on each campus.

ATG: Tell us about the library(ies). Number of items? Electronic resources? Budget? Staff?

KG: The Libraries are considered one unit with two service points. The holdings

are around 175 thousand volumes. We offer dozens of databases, and some 50 thousand electronic subscriptions. The overall budget is \$1.5 million. The staff is comprised of nine FTE librarians (eight w/faculty status), two paraprofessional, ten hourly staff, and 20-25 student assistants. The libraries are open a combined 172 hours per week.

ATG: You attend the Charleston Conference regularly. Hope you will attend this year?

KG: The budget for administrative travel was eliminated this year, so I'll miss Charleston this time around.

ATG: Tell us about yourself: background and education? I know that you went to Dickinson College and majored in Geology and History.

KG: Dickinson, B.S. 1971; University at Albany, M.L.S. 1972. Professional academic library experience at **Union College** (Schenectady), 1975-77, **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**, 1977-85, and at **Sage**, since 1985.

ATG: We are intrigued by your "furniture" of books. We understand that you are a furniture/antique collector as well?

KG: I don't collect furniture; I restore it. I have had a side business

doing that since 1980. I saw a photo in **LJ** a few years ago of some furniture made out of books in a library in the Midwest (Kansas City?). A couple of days later, I walked by our mothballed **NUC** set, and a light bulb went off: what perfect building blocks! 800-some volumes, all the same size and color! Soon after, I set about building loveseats in each building. The line also includes coffee and end tables (Books sitting on wooden legs). The volumes in the loveseats and coffee tables are held in place with 2-sided tape. The end tables stay together with hanger bolts and cap nuts thru 1/4" holes in the corners of the volumes. Like any building project, you have to improvise, so other withdrawn books are fitted in where necessary. We've gotten a lot of positive feedback from members of the college community on the **NUC** furniture. I am available for consultation on making furniture out of books.

ATG: What are your other hobbies/whatever?

KG: My wife of 35 years and I have a cottage in the 1000 Islands (St. Lawrence River), where I play golf, fish and putter. We live 20 miles south of Albany in an 1882 farmhouse on 3+ acres, where I ply my furniture restoration business, grow vegetables, and try to keep the house from falling down. I also have a 1910 Brunswick pool table, which I enjoy playing on when it isn't covered with stuff. 🌿

WorldCat Selection from page 56

At **McGill**, it's too soon for a fair assessment of cost and time savings since implementation was recent, but **Hafner** anticipates these savings will be realized. **WorldCat Selection** is freeing up time for **McGill's** acquisitions staff who no longer need to rekey and search for records again, because that part of the work is done for them. "There's always a MARC record available to download," he says.

WorldCat Selection is also making the selection process easier for **McGill's** liaison librarians, who can link from the service to vendor sites to get more information when needed. And with vendor information getting into the Acquisitions system faster, materials are ordered and available to users faster.

Farrell is pleased with the time savings at **Princeton**. "WorldCat Selection shortens the time from selection to expenditure and cuts four to five weeks out of the order process," she explains. "This keeps many orders from going to back-order because it helps put **Princeton** closer to the front of the line when materials are ordered."

And at **Cornell**, where **WorldCat Selection** began as **ITSO CUL**, the big question from colleagues at peer institutions is whether **Cornell** really saved \$100,000 in staff costs using **WorldCat Selection**. **Scott Wicks**, Associate University Librarian for Central Library Operations tells them, "It's only half true."

Wicks explains that yes, **Cornell** did save that much in staff costs, but as new vendors that **Cornell** uses come on board with **WorldCat Selection**, the labor-intensive firm order process becomes more and more automated and the savings continue to grow. "So yes, we did save \$100,000 initially, but we save that and more every year."

Getting Started with WorldCat Selection

The **WorldCat Selection** Web site at www.oclc.org/selection contains training materials and documentation to help libraries implement the service and get started using it. Training materials are organized by activity — selector, acquisitions staff and administrator — and include tutorials and guides, quick reference and set-up guides. Phone support is also available from **OCLC** regional service providers and **OCLC** support. 🌿

Rumors from page 14

Speaking of research, I never got around to posting on the **ATG News Channel** information regarding **Peter Schilling's IT Index**. **Amherst College** enrolled 438 first-year students this fall, for a total student population of 1680 plus. Schilling gathered some statistics to tell the story of the changes occurring with the students at the College. There's not enough room to publish the whole list, but here are a few "interesting," or should I say "surprising" or "revealing." Statistics. a) Number of students in the class of 2012 who brought desktop computers to campus: 14. b) Total number of students on campus this year that have landline phone service: 5. This is just the tip of the iceberg. www.academiccommons.org/commons/essay/it-index

And, speaking of the **Charleston Conference** — how many of you noticed the **Swets Out of the Box Scholarship Competition**? We got many excellent entries and settled on a winner — **Hana Levay** <levay@u.washington.edu> and a runner-up, **Helen Heinrich** <helen.heinrich@csun.edu>. Like I said, there were lots of great essays and we had trouble settling on one! We will be publishing the essays in a forthcoming issue of **ATG** and on the **ATG News Channel**! Thanks to **Swets** and **Christine Stamison** <cstamison@us.swets.com> for funding this fantastically unique scholarship. I hope this continues year-to-year! And, did you know that, like me, **Christine**, has a Greek background? Yassou!

continued on page 82

videogame history, but also provide materials of interest to those studying communications, computer science, economics, and other academic disciplines that are now, and will for the foreseeable future, be drawn to the processes driving the videogame industry.”

Media librarians uninitiated in the ways of video game collecting may be asking “where do I begin?” Like any librarian asked to develop a collection, the same types of tools and resources are available to help understand the history of the medium and to place it into some better context for the selector. As in all cases, reviews are used as a starting source. With video games and gaming in general, a majority of the better reviewing sources will be online resources. Websites and blogging sites are the best ways to keep relevant rather than print sources.

Getting Started...

Books

Everything Bad Is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture Is Actually Making Us Smarter (Steven Johnson, 2005, Riverhead)

Encyclopedia of Arcade Video Games (Bill Kurtz, 2003, Schiffer Publishing)

Arcade Fever: The Fan's Guide to the Golden Age of Video Games (John Sellers, 2001, Running Press)

The Encyclopedia of Game Machines (Winnie Forster, 2005, Magdalena Gniatczynska)

The Ultimate History of Video Games: From Pong to Pokemon (Steven L. Kent, 2001, Three Rivers Press)

Paid to Play: An Insider's Guide to Video Game Careers (Alice Rush, 2006, Prima Games)

Rules of Play: Game Designer's Fundamentals (Salen/Zimmerman, 2003, The MIT Press)

The Game Design Reader: A Rules of Play Anthology (Salen/Zimmerman, 2005, The MIT Press)

Masters of Doom: How Two Guys Created an Empire and Transformed Pop Culture (David Kushner, 2004, Random House Trade Paperbacks)

Dungeons and Desktops: The History of Computer Role Playing (Matt Barton, 2008, A K Peters Ltd)

Video Games Guide (Matt Fox, 2006, Boxtree Ltd)

Book of Games, Volume 1: The Ultimate Guide to PC & Video Games (Stang, 2006, gameXplore N.A. Inc.)

Book of Games, Volume 2: The Ultimate Reference on PC & Video Games (Stang, Osterholt, 2007, gameXplore N.A. Inc.)

Classic Home Video Games, 1972-1984: A Complete Reference Guide (Brett Weiss, 2007, McFarland)

Classic 80s Home Video Games: Identification & Value (Robert P. Wicker, 2008, Collector Books)

What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy (James Paul Gee, 2007, Palgrave Macmillan; 2nd edition)

Good Video Games and Good Learning: Collected Essays on Video Games, Learning and Literacy (New Literacies and Digital Epistemologies) (James Paul Gee, 2007, Peter Lang Publishing)

For some, there will always be a nagging suspicion of the medium and questions will continue to be raised about its relevance. Others may be concerned about giving a portion of their already small non-print media collection which barely buys enough DVDs and CDs over to

video games. **Steven Johnson's** book is a great source for contextualizing the reasons why building a collection is acceptable and a good first read. The others will help to identify classic and current games that you may wish to consider purchasing or that will help students consider what career opportunities are available.

Reviews

C/Net (www.cnet.com)

G4 Television Network (www.g4tv.com)

IGN Entertainment (www.ign.com)

Gaming Target (www.gamingtarget.com)

Game Rankings (www.gamerankings.com)

Game Spot (www.gamespot.com)

School Library Journal (www.slj.com)

Reading reviews is an essential element to collecting video games, but the majority of reliable reviews will be found online rather than in print sources. The first four are recommended sites by an avid gamer who trusts the reviews. This same gamer prefers these to reviews by average bloggers who post to their individual sites. Many blogging sites are hit or miss given that most sites are updated intermittently and inconsistent in knowledge or overview of the field. He also suggested **Amazon** because so many game buyers will add comments after purchasing items. Many of the sites offer downloads so that users can try out a game and see if they wish to purchase it.

Journals/Magazines

Electronic Gaming Monthly (www.1up.com)

Game Studies: The International Journal of Computer Game Research (<http://gamestudies.org>)

Game Informer (www.gameinformer.com)

Games for Windows (www.gfw.com)

Nintendo Power (www.nintendopower.com)

Official Xbox Magazine (www.officialxboxmagazine.com)

PC Gamer (www.pcgamer.com)

PC Monthly (www.pconline.com)

Geek Monthly (www.geekmonthly.com)

Play (www.playmagazine.com)

Wired (www.wired.com)

Compared to other disciplines, the selections are limited in numbers. *Game Studies* is a peer-reviewed journal whose mission is “to explore the rich cultural genre of games; to give scholars a peer-reviewed forum for their ideas and theories; to provide an academic channel for the ongoing discussions on games and gaming.” *Electronic Gaming Monthly* and *Game Informer* are broader in scope compared to the others which provide detailed information for specific platform. The last three listed are general interest magazines and provide an overview of games but also computing in general.

Webpages of Interest

Online Education Database (http://oedb.org/library/features/bringing_gaming_100_library_resources)

This page written by **Jessica Merritt** and entitled “Bringing Gaming (and Gamers) to Your Library: 100 Tips and Resources” is something you definitely want to bookmark. First, it begins by providing the library selector with 39 tips to make the selection process easier. Some are practical, some are promotional, but it is certain to have five or six things that you simply didn't think about. Following the tips are a great selection of magazine and journal articles, additional books, blogs and collections to peruse.

Core Collections: Video Game Evaluation, Selection, Cataloging, Storage and Marketing (<http://www.slideshare.net/informationgoddess29/core-collections/>)

This power point presentation by **Beth Gallaway**, self-proclaimed information goddess, is indeed packed with information. It points out all the various considerations that one needs to get started in a beautifully concise and detailed manner.

All books listed, as well as individual games one would wish to purchase, are available through **Ambassador Books & Media**.

And, speaking of scholarships, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the **ACS Charleston Conference Scholarship** which has been funded for several years. This year's winner is **Elizabeth Dyer** <edyer@une.edu>. Thanks to ACS and **Adam Chesler** and his group for this wonderful opportunity!

continued on page 84

I Hear the Train A Comin' from page 91

What are the major barriers impeding international scientific collaboration?

Critical to any effort in international science cooperation is raising the profile of science as an important mechanism for interaction. The science community is obviously critical to engage as it provides the key human resources for such efforts. But successful science diplomacy also requires understanding by the policy community, which is critical for funding activities and for providing the visas necessary for cooperation with some countries. One of the major barriers to any cooperation is that there are not clear funds available for funding science that is based on relationship building. There are also limits to the ability for US agencies (particularly the **National Science Foundation**) to fund the participation of foreign scientists.

How is the Center for Science Diplomacy working to overcome these barriers?

By serving as a node for both the science and policy communities, the **Center** can attract some of the important thinkers and actors in international science cooperation to not only define the barriers, but to investigate possible approaches to overcoming them.

How can universities contribute to a better infrastructure of international scientific collaboration?

Universities are, in many ways, the bench from which the science cooperation community

is derived. We look forward to working with universities to identify where and how science cooperation might help build stronger civil society links with certain countries and societies. In addition, we look forward to engaging with international relations departments in universities to discuss how the study of science cooperation might be better integrated into their curricula. There is a long history of university involvement in diplomacy that provides a framework for future efforts. First, universities provide a gathering place, bringing together some of the best talent from around the world and hosting them in the United States. This is particularly true

in the sciences. These students bring back to their home countries the experiences they have had and the connections they have made in America. Universities are also expanding abroad, engaging people in their home countries. As universities are able to train and educate more and more scientists and engineers around the world, they further develop a broad community that can better engage with each other, both building relationships and critically, solving many of the shared global challenges, such as those related to health, sustainability and innovation.

How can scholarly publishers and information companies contribute to a better infrastructure of international scientific collaboration?

Consulting Services at the Intersection of
Technology, Content, & Academia

www.scholarnext.com

There are numerous areas where scholars can help. Critically there are lessons learned from science cooperation, not only in cases involving the US but also in studying collaborations between and among other countries. Also, there is a lot of information needed about mechanisms and histories of science cooperation. For example, are there lessons learned from the ways that space cooperation might help maintain dialogues even when official relations between countries are strained? Academia can help identify productive patterns and models. Ultimately diplomacy is about connections, connections between societies, between people and between organizations. Information companies are well placed to help build those links and connections. In terms of science collaborations, we are at a point in human connectivity where collaborators separated by oceans, can share data, form ideas, and develop publications, at the speed of light and without leaving their own countries. This network of international researchers goes a long way in building relationships between societies and people from around the world, almost independent of any strains that might exist in the official relationships. 🌱

Rumors

from page 82

And stay tuned to see what **Helen Ivy** <ivyh@cofc.edu> has done with some old shelving. Talk about resourceful! We will have an interview in an upcoming issue of **ATG**!

Have you seen **Library Trends** (v.57#1, Summer 2008)? Title is **Digital Books and the Impact on Libraries**, and the issue editor is **Peter Brantley** (Executive Director, **Digital Library Federation (DLF)**). It's a must-read. Table of contents with abstracts is at muse.jhu.edu/journals/library_trends/toc/lib.57.1.html.

And just read this information about **Basch Subscription Services**. **Markus Library at Rockefeller University** is training for the **BOSS (Basch Online Subscription Services)**! Way to go, **Buzzy!** Congratulations!

workshops.rockefeller.edu/?boss

Be sure and renew your subscription to **Against the Grain** for 2009. Can you believe that we are now on volume TWENTY-ONE??? 🌱

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)			
1. Publication Title AGAINST THE GRAIN	2. Issue Frequency Quarterly	3. Publication Date 10-1-08	4. Filing Date 10-1-08
5. Issue Frequency Quarterly	6. Number of Issues Published Annually 4	7. Annual Subscription Price \$50/US\$15	8. Annual Subscription Price \$50/US\$15
9. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer; street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) Ms. 98 209 Richardson The Grange Chesham, SC 29528			
10. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) same			
11. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Ms. 98 209 Richardson The Grange Chesham, SC 29528 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Ms. 98 209 Richardson The Grange Chesham, SC 29528 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Ms. 98 209 Richardson The Grange Chesham, SC 29528			
12. Owner (Do not leave blank. This publication is owned by a corporation; give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address, as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Full Name AGAINST THE GRAIN LLC Address Ms. 98 209 Richardson The Grange Chesham, SC 29528 Full Name KATHA STANICH Address Chesham, SC 29528			
13. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box. Full Name Complete Mailing Address			
14. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) The applicant certifies that this publication is published for the general public for profit purposes: Yes ☒ No ☐ If not completed during preceding 12 months, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.			
15. Publication of Title		16. Have Claims for Circulation Been Filed?	
15. Publication of Title AGAINST THE GRAIN		16. Have Claims for Circulation Been Filed? 10-1-08	
17. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		2417	
b. Paid Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		32	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 17b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		2009	
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 17d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		300	
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 17d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		300	
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 17c and 17e)		2309	
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers at page 43)		108	
h. Total (Sum of 17f and g)		2417	
i. Proportion Paid		87	
18. Publication of Statement of Ownership		If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. If not, check box. ☒ Publication not required	
19. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner		Date 10-1-08	

students and 300 staff and 400,000 books had to be moved. The homes of many librarians, however, across the province were damaged. It was noted that the encouragement and help from the outside world was extremely helpful and caused these librarians to know they were not alone. **Cheng Huan-Wen**, the Director of the Library and Dean of the **School of Library Science**, from **Sun Yatsen University**, got 400 volunteers to go there to help. He visited 17 higher education libraries and distributed \$500,000, giving most of it to individual librarians to help them get their lives in order before going back to work in the libraries. Large publishers like **CNKI** and **Fang Zheng** bought tents and sent them to Chengdu and offered free access to needed electronic sources of information.

Among the lessons learned from the earthquakes disaster, the following issues were noted:

1. The need for disaster plans.
2. The need for regular (monthly) fire and evacuation drills.
3. The need to analyze all existing buildings, buildings now being renovated and the plans for new buildings in terms of their ability to withstand the stresses produced by major earthquakes.
4. The need for an emergency classification system similar to that for typhoons/hurricanes so everyone can quickly grasp the severity of the disaster confronting the populace and those involved in relief efforts.
5. The need to quickly gather experts together to share experiences with each other and the librarians affected by the disaster. Librarians in Sichuan found this to be very helpful.

Many other topics were addressed by conference members but these are the major ones which interested me the most. A common aspect of Chinese conferences is for the participants to go touring together. In the case of this group of librarians this involved only 50 or so persons but I have attended events where hundreds of librarians go from place to place enjoying the scenery together and in the process establishing personal relationships. In China, foreigners soon learn, everything is personal. In our case, we had a wonderful time visiting a high tech automobile plant manufacturing Volkswagens, the beautiful Changbai Mountains and an interesting trip along the Yalu River dividing North Korea and China. While the river marked the tragic site of so many Korean War deaths, on that day scores of children on the Korean side frolicked in the water while guards in small towers kept their watch. 🌸

Endnotes

1. Sichuan or more traditionally spelled in the west as Szechuan—literally the province where four (si) great rivers (chuan) are present.

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.

Subscribe online at
www.endojournals.org

From the Reference Desk from page 64

in the popular media or on the Internet. Perhaps that is impossible in a single-volume but these are topics are worthy of further exploration and in a sense this represents a lost opportunity. Another drawback is the index which lacks comprehensiveness. As you would expect the Salem witch trials are covered in separate entry and referenced in the index. But the Puritans whose history was impacted are not listed in the index. There is also an article on the Inquisition as well as a listing with subcategories in the index. However, neither the Roman Catholic

Church, (nor the Catholic Church) is referenced in the index. Oversights like this seriously erode the value of the index.

In spite of these problems, the *Encyclopedia of Witches and Witchcraft and Wicca* offers a great deal of useful and compelling information. It is a serious source with articles that are factual and straightforward with references provided at the end of each entry. The fact that it is reasonably priced and that there is also a paperback version make it a candidate for either reference or circulation depending on need. While it will have appeal in certain academic and even high school libraries, it is public libraries, in particular, that will find it worth considering. 🌿

Back Talk — Academic Libraries in China

Column Editor: **Anthony (Tony) W. Ferguson** (Library Director, University of Hong Kong; Phone: 852 2859 2200; Fax: 852 2858 9420) <ferguson@hkucc.hku.hk>

As an observer from Hong Kong, I recently attended a meeting of an academic library working group sponsored by the **Chinese Ministry of Education**. While I learned all sorts of things including how much my Chinese language skills need to improve to handle the wide range of accents represented at such a meeting, I was struck by how much libraries are the same the world over. Perhaps because of our shared library culture we are one of the earliest examples of globalism. The overall theme/purpose of the meeting was to look back at the last 30 years of library development since China opened to the West following the Cultural Revolution and the following Gang of four periods (Check out **Wikipedia** for both topics if you need some background information). Here is a quick review of some of the issues which were discussed at this meeting of top 50 university library directors in China:

1. Quality, not quantity has to be a high priority. While this is a common theme in western higher education, this is a particularly important theme for these mainly large university libraries. With the support of the Government and its universities, China has scores of new two to four hundred thousand square foot libraries, they have hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of eBooks, and they have increasingly large numbers of databases and journals with which to support their students and faculty. But they recognize that the quality of their western language collections and level of their public services need to be improved.

2. Recognizing that people are one of a nation's most important natural resources, they need to improve the undergraduate learning experience. In addition to things like introducing or improving each university's core curricula experience for China's undergraduates; they talked about the need for more computers, more collaboration among academic libraries to stretch the buying power of their resources more effectively.

3. The need to improve the information literacy of students.

4. The need to grow not just the numbers of books added but also the numbers and quality of the librarians who work in them. The new library director at **Peking University**, **Zhu Qiang**, provided an excellent review of the progress made in each of the previous three decades and the issues confronting libraries, e.g., simple concepts like open book stacks; major renovation and construction projects; libraries have automated their acquisition,

cataloguing and patron access functions; library consortia with shared cataloguing and purchasing have emerged; support for international copyright rules has become the rule not the exception in most academic libraries; e-journals, not printed journals in both Chinese and English are dominant; preservation based digitization programs are expanding; eBooks abound; and there is a growing understanding that international

cooperation is important. He and others noted repeatedly that libraries have to respond to the needs of their academic communities, that these universities are being driven by changes in technology and the rising expectations of everyone that Chinese higher education needs to be internationally competitive.

5. Library cooperation doesn't need to be just national, but local and regional as well. Like in the west, at times these different levels of cooperation are competitive and at times they are all working toward the same end.

6. The need to promote reading and the use of books in the face of competition from the Web. In China the most popular search engine is **Baidu** (<http://www.baidu.com/>) instead of **Google** but the result is the same: students are increasingly going to the Web instead of to libraries. This is one area, however, where trailing the west by a decade or so is reassuring to many librarians.

In addition to the discussion of these issues, the other major theme of the meeting was the situation for libraries in Sichuan¹ following the major 6.2 magnitude earthquakes which began in May of this year. We heard what needs to be done and what lessons can be learned from this monumental tragedy. Fortunately for academic libraries, most of which seem to have been better constructed, the tragedy was limited to fallen stacks, broken windows, and cracked walls. Primary and secondary schools, however, including their libraries experienced human and material tragedy on a much more massive scale. Librarians from the region shared their experiences. We heard, for example, from one of the library directors that on May 12, 2008 at 2:28 p.m. book shelves started to fall — even toppling out of windows. Staff members initiated emergency procedures and evacuated the library within a few minutes. They shut off power and water and locked the doors. Later, after the quakes subsided, just a few librarians returned to the building and retrieved the possessions of students left in their haste to flee. They were careful to record what was found where to make it easier to decide what belonged to which student. Some staff members were stationed in the library buildings overnight to protect their contents. They found that at their campus the medical library was in the best shape so they allowed students who had no place to stay to live there temporarily. On May 14 more of the staff returned to the library to clean it up. The Library reopened to the public on the next day, on the 15th. The damage was broken windows, shelves, and cracks in the wall.

We were told that while most colleges and universities in Sichuan were still standing, a normal school library in Ahba, near Chengdu, was completely destroyed. 6,000 Alba school

continued on page 93

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

21 AACR	12 BASCH SUBSCRIPTIONS, INC.	13 IEEE
59 ABC-CLIO	3 BLACKWELL BOOK SERVICES	2 IET INSPEDIRECT
89 ACCESSIBLE ARCHIVES	29 BOOK HOUSE	41 IGI GLOBAL
15 ACS	16 BUSCA, INC.	75 IGI GLOBAL
48 AIAA	9 CAMBRIA PRESS	67 INFORMS
49 AIAA	39 CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS	7 MARY ANN LIEBERT, INC.
51 AIAA	53 CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS	96 MIDWEST LIBRARY SERVICE
20 ALCTS PUBLISHING	81 CASALINI LIBRI	19 THE OPTICAL SOCIETY
27 AMBASSADOR BOOKS AND MEDIA	14 THE CHARLESTON ADVISOR	37 PALGRAVE MACMILLAN
79 AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION	10 THE CHARLESTON REPORT	83 PROJECTMUSE
47 AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS	17 CHOICE MAGAZINE	73 READEX, A DIVISION OF NEWSBANK
11 AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY	23 COLD SPRING HARBOR LAB PRESS	87 RITTENHOUSE
43 AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY	31 EAST VIEW INFORMATION SERVICES	91 ROUTLEDGE
71 ANNUAL REVIEWS	85 EASTERN BOOK COMPANY	55 SERIALS SOLUTIONS
77 ASBMB	45 EBSCO INFORMATION	65 SIAM
25 ASCE	35 EMERALD PUBLISHING GROUP	95 SPRINGER
69 ASME INTERNATIONAL	81 EMERY-PRATT	33 THIEME VERLAG
5 ATG	63 HARRASSOWITZ	61 WILEY
18 ATG NEWS CHANNEL ONLINE	93 THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY	57 YBP

For Advertising Information Contact: **Edna Laughrey**, Ads Manager, <elaughrey@aol.com>, Phone: 734-429-1029, Fax: 734-429-1711; or **Toni Nix**, <justwrite@lowcountry.com>, Phone: 843-835-8604, Fax: 843-835-5892.

Order your 10 Steps Guide to Implementing an eBook Collection!

**The Free 10 Steps guide will ensure
your library a smooth transition from
print to electronic**

- ▶ Determine YOUR collection development strategy
- ▶ Evaluate different business models
- ▶ Gain internal support

**libraryrelations@springer.com for your FREE copy
of the 10 Steps Brochure, today!**

Continuations and Standing Orders

Preface

Continuations and standing orders represent a frustrating and time-consuming area of book acquisitions. Efficient management of continuations requires a staff knowledgeable in all aspects of standing order procedures, with prompt and accurate service being essential.

Midwest Library Service has been providing continuation and standing order programs to libraries for over three decades with the same commitment to high quality as our firm order service: prompt delivery, accurate invoicing, immediate reporting, convenient communications, and personal Library Service Representatives. Our reputation for excellence is well established and we invite you to place your continuations list with us.

Scope

Our Continuation & Standing Order Service encompasses most series and continuations from U.S. publishers. Our services do **not** include supplying magazines, journals, or loose-leaf updating services.

Procedure

Our Continuation & Standing Order Service incorporates both automated systems and personal surveillance. Instead of relying on the filing and ordering systems of the publishers, we place orders for specific volumes as books are due to be published. If the next item in a series is not received when scheduled, we initiate a new order for the same item. This procedure helps avoid potentially missed volumes and eliminates any dependence upon the publishers' fulfillment systems. If in-house information is not available on future volumes to be published, we call the publisher for future projections and publication schedules. This information is then used to update our new title records.

Advantages

1. Because of our method of ordering specific volumes, we are in regular communication with the publishers.
2. Our status reports are prompt and accurate and should eliminate library claims.
3. Specific claims from an individual library resulting in an updated status report will generate new status reports to all libraries ordering the same series.
4. We do not drop ship.

Quality service depends on good communications between the library and the jobber. Your personal Library Service Representative and our convenient communications provide easy access to us regarding your continuation orders. We invite you to try our service by sending us your next list of standing order titles.

Midwest Library Service

11443 St. Charles Rock Road • Bridgeton, Missouri 63044-2789 • U.S.A.

www.midwestls.com

E-mail: mail@midwestls.com

Fax: 800-962-1009 • 314-739-1326

Phone: 800-325-8833 • 314-739-3100