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Developing Standards Across the Scholarly Information Chain

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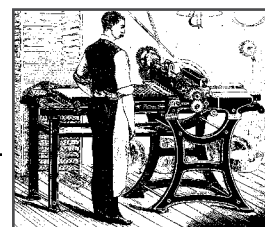


Against the Grain

“Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians”

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Developing Standards Across the Scholarly Information Chain



by **Bev Acreman** (BioMed Central, London, UK)
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The focus in this issue is on how an international organisation — the **UKSG** (www.uksg.org) — fulfils its remit to span the wide range of interests and activities across the scholarly information community of librarians, publishers, intermediaries, and technology vendors. One way we do this is through funding research projects which look to address issues that affect all players in the community. I am grateful to **Ed Pentz** of **CrossRef** and **Sarah Pearson** of the **University of Birmingham**, UK for gathering together such a solid collection of articles covering the topics of ProjectTransfer and KBART — a valuable research project looking at standardising the metadata for online resources by setting standards for knowledge-bases which underpin technologies such as OpenURL. To comple-

ment the KBART articles, **Adam Chandler** of **Cornell University Library** discusses the **NISO IOTA** project. This project looks to overcome the problem of incomplete or inaccurate OpenURLs which lead to an unacceptable rate of request failures. Both projects are critical for publishers and intermediaries to get right as librarians increasingly seek to put quality metrics into their negotiations with publishers.

I know from co-caretaking the lis-e-resources discussion list (<http://www.uksg.org/serials#lis-e-journals>) just how infuriating librarians find it when journals move publisher and platforms at short (or no!) notice. The series of Transfer articles within this issue explains the rationale behind the project, which seeks to bring order to the seemingly

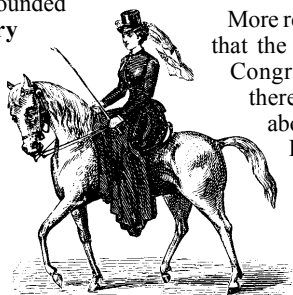
never-ending movements of individual or entire lists of journals. Publishers need to sign up to the code of practice (30 have already joined since its inception representing 10,000 journals), and librarians need to insist that publishers comply with the code to limit the nuisance that sudden loss of access causes. As **Nancy Beals** states in her article, “the issue of titles moving from publisher to publisher not only affects patron access to the title on the user side, but the movement of an electronic journal title also plays a major role on the librarian and staff side.”

A critical part of the **UKSG’s** mission is education and training, and two articles outline the different approach we take to this. First, we have **Graham Stone** from the **University**

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If Rumors Were Horses

Let’s see. Another **ProQuest** rumor to start this off! As its new search platform rolls out to libraries around the world, **ProQuest** announced at the **ALA Midwinter** meeting that they had acquired **ebrary**. Founded in Palo Alto in 1999, **ebrary** is a fast growing leader in the rapidly evolving eBook industry, having increased its 2010 revenue by more than 30 percent over the previous year. **ProQuest** plans continued investment in **ebrary’s** products and services for the academic, corporate, and public library markets. **ProQuest** will also expand **ebrary’s** selection of research tools and ability to support new eBook devices as well as broadening language coverage from its current support of major European languages to include Chinese, Arabic and others. **ebrary** founders **Christopher Warnock** and **Kevin Sayer** will remain to lead the business in its



Palo Alto headquarters.
<http://www.proquest.com/>
<http://www.against-the-grain.com/2011/01/proquest-acquires-ebrary/>

More recent news! Just learned last night that the bubbly **Jill Emery** is pregnant! Congratulations, **Jill!** Hoo-ha! And there is all sorts of news and kudos about the **ER&L conference** on her Facebook page. Congrats, **Jill**, on many accounts!

And speaking of **Jill’s**, noticed an article on **Information Today’s** Website by the awesome **Jill O’Neill**, once of **Elsevier** among other places, who is director of planning and communication at **NFAIS**. The post is entitled “Amazon Raises the Stakes in your Reading Experience: The Platform War Continues,” and is about a recent announcement by **Amazon** of upgrades to the **Kindle**. Right-o, we know all about that

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Rumors
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Something's Gotta Give! What do y'all think of it? Comments welcome. **Greg Tananbaum** (lyrics) and **Jack Montgomery** (recording artist) are already on board. Comments?

And the **31st Charleston Conference CALL FOR PAPERS** is already up and we have several submissions already! Come on down. <http://www.katina.info/conference>

Was just talking by email to a first time attendee at the **XXX Charleston Conference last November – Judy K. Schwartz** (Director of Library Services, Trocaire College in Buffalo, NY). Did you know that **Judy's** profile is posted under **First Time Attendees Profiles** on the Conference Website? This was an idea we had at the last minute last year so we didn't get everyone's profile but stay tuned for more this year now that we have some lead (i.e., pester) time.
<http://www.katina.info/conference>



Was so sorry to learn of the death of **Barry Lee**, one of our long-time research editors for **ATG**. **Barry** was just 56, and died Sunday, January 23, 2011, at the Vassar Brothers Medical Center. His death was unexpected **Barry** was an amazing man, full of ideas, energy, and fun. He was always writing and/or editing something, be it business-to-business, religious publication, or a cutting-edge research report. In the 1990s, he won a directory publishing of the year award and at one time he was among the top five directory experts in the world. He is survived by his wife **Judy** and daughter **Jamie** who is in Chicago attending the School of the Art Institute. **Judy** is attending a paralegal studies program. All of our thoughts, prayers, and love are with **Judy** and **Jamie**. May **Barry** rest in peace.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/poughkeepsiejournal/obituary.aspx?n=barry-lee&pid=148087149>

Judy (above) has sure been busy. She tells me that she has been a first-time conference attendee three times in the space of thirteen months. When I asked her if it was snowing there in Buffalo, she told me that one of the local TV stations had a T-shirt contest some years ago about snow. The winner: It's Buffalo!! It Snows!! Get over it!! She says it's still cold there. It does get so hot here in Charleston that we think about snow...

<http://www.wivb.com/subindex/weather>.

Speaking about weather, while some people are digging out of snow (or sand castles) **John Long** is still participating in the **Save the Bay Swims**. And he still loves to write poetry. See one of his poems in this issue p.14.

<http://www.savebay.org/Page.aspx?pid=1342&frcrid=1>

Got a note from **Doug LaFrenier** of the **American Institute of Physics** recently. Of course we all knew he said he was going to retire, but, you know, he actually went ahead and did it! **Doug** was a joy to work with and to have at the **Charleston Conferences**. We will miss him and hope that he will come back and visit. His new email address is:

<delafrenier@gmail.com>. Next time we are in New York City, let's drop in and see him!

Speaking of retirement, you all know that my magnificent boss **Bob Neville** retired in June. He is now babysitting grandkids, visiting his place in New Hampshire, and rescuing turtles on Folly Beach! Doesn't sound too bad. But I am NOT retiring. I cannot tell a lie. The powers that be talked me into taking the **Asst. Dean for Tech Services and Collection Development** position at the **College of Charleston Adlestone Library** in the meantime.

The indefatigable **Mary Massey** talks about retirement in this issue, p.43. She says she'll be retiring for the third time! Third time's a charm? Well, I am NOT retiring at least if I can help it. Not yet. Can't resist this quote from **Bette Davis** — "I will not retire while I've still got my legs and my make-up box."

Hear via the grapevine that **Knut Dorn** is going to retire end of this year. **Knut** has been a constant in my environment since I entered it! (Remember when I gave him a cactus plant as a present at the **Charleston Conference** many years ago? And he still came back!). **ATG** interviewed **Knut** back in February of 1995 (v.7#1) and **Tina Feick** and I are hoping for another interview sixteen years later. How about it, **Knut**?

And, just heard from **Tina Feick** that **Harrassowitz** is going to sponsor another scholarship for the **31st Charleston Conference!** It's great to know so early. We have several international travelers who would like

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East Beach in Autumn

Piping plovers run like track stars
ceaselessly foraging,
working in platoons,
their sandy petite forms
barely ahead of tumbling surf.
Finding tiny crustaceans as waves retreat
along the barrier beach's foamy edge.
Lifting away, skimming the crests of breakers,
flying in an ellipse to another wash of sand
on a sea level stage
overlooking Block Island Sound.
Riding ocean swells
a solitary loon in winter's plumage
peering for menhaden
beneath the ocean's pistachio green surface.
Diving for a few minutes
chasing its prey.
Truly ancient, and incredible swimmers
who zoom through the sea
like sleek, web-foot, black-white torpedoes —
Rhode Island's splendid winter guests.

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Developing Standards ...
from page 1

of **Huddersfield** outlining the development of the Open Access *E-Resources Management Handbook*, (co-edited by **ATG** favorite, the inimitable **Rick Anderson**). Now in its fifth year, it is proving highly popular both as a practical manual and reference guide, including articles ranging from a beginner's guide to working with vendors) to a treatise on the applications of RDF for e-resource discovery — both of which feature in the top downloaded chapters in 2010.

Many of us volunteer our precious spare time to serve on committees in the belief we are giving something back, or making a difference, to the communities we work in and alongside. **Kate Price's** article will provide anyone in the position of chairing such a committee with a toolkit to underpin what she describes as a "root and branch" review of just how well the committee is meeting its aims. Additionally it will help to decide whether the committee is robust and diverse enough to survive the current tough times with reduced resources, fewer staff, and more pressure on our day jobs.

Finally, in addition to offering my heartfelt thanks to all of the authors, I would like to thank **Katina** for the opportunity to highlight the international projects that the **UKSG** is involved with — if you would like any further information on any of the issues raised, please do not hesitate to contact me <bev.acreman@biomedcentral.com> or **Tony Kidd**, Chair, **UKSG** <tony.kidd@glasgow.ac.uk>. 🌸

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