

February 2012

Charleston Conference

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2012 Charleston Conference — 32nd Annual Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition

Call For Papers, Ideas, Conference Themes, Panels, Debates, Diatribes, Speakers, Poster Sessions, Preconferences, etc. ...

2012 Theme — Accentuate the Positive!

Wednesday, November 7, 2012 — Preconferences and Vendor Showcase
Thursday-Saturday, November 8-10, 2012 — Main Conference

Francis Marion Hotel, Embassy Suites Historic District, and Courtyard Marriott Historic District, Charleston, SC

If you are interested in leading a discussion, acting as a moderator, coordinating a lively lunch, or would like to make sure we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The **Charleston Conference** prides itself on creativity, innovation, flexibility, and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. We'll probably love it...

The Conference Directors for the **2012 Charleston Conference** include — **Beth Bernhardt**, Principal Director (UNC-Greensboro) <beth_bernhardt@uncg.edu>, **Glenda Alvin** <galvin@Tnstate.edu>, **Adam Chesler** <adam.chesler@cox.net>, **Cris Ferguson** (Furman University) <cris.ferguson@furman.edu>, **Joyce Dixon-Fyle** (DePauw University Libraries) <joyfyle@depauw.edu>, **Chuck Hamaker** <cahamake@email.unc.edu>, **Tony Horava** (University of Ottawa) <thorava@uottawa.ca>, **Albert Joy** (University of Vermont) <albert.joy@uvm.edu>, **Ramune Kubilius** (Northwestern Health Sciences Library) <r-kubilius@northwestern.edu>, **Corrie Marsh** <cmarsh12@hotmail.com>, **Jack Montgomery** (Western Kentucky University) <jack.montgomery@wku.edu>, **Audrey Powers** (UFS Tampa Library) <apowers@lib.usf.edu>, **Anthony Watkinson** (Consultant) <anthony.watkinson@btopenworld.com>, **Katina Strauch** (College of Charleston) <kstrauch@comcast.net>, or www.katina.info/conference.

Send ideas by **July 31, 2012**, to any of the Conference Directors listed above.

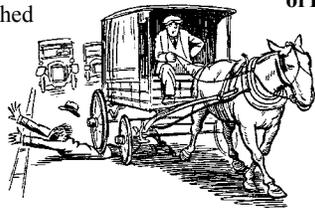
Or to: **Katina Strauch**, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409
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I Hear the Train A Comin' — The Research Works Act

Column Editor: **Greg Tananbaum** (ScholarNext Consulting) <greg@scholarnext.com> www.scholarnext.com

In my very first column on these pages, way back in the fall of 2005, I wrote about the NIH's nascent efforts to capture publicly funded research in an openly accessible archive. In those early days, the **U.S. National Institutes of Health** recommended, but did not require, that all NIH-funded investigators submit an electronic version of their peer-reviewed final manuscripts to **PubMed Central**. NIH asked that authors make these manuscripts available immediately after the final date of journal publication. At that time, I wrote, "This policy set off loud debate within the academy, with most of the volume provided by one of two 'true believer' camps. One camp argues that the NIH is stepping on private enterprise by seeking to make copyrighted materials freely available to the world. By offering a competing, free version of an article, this line follows, the government is on the path to state-run publishing, or even government-controlled science. The other camp believes that the couched language of the pronouncement, including recommendation rather than requirement and a 12-month delay, render it stillborn." In the intervening six-plus years, the game board has tilted in favor of the second



camp. Yes, it is true that the access window has subsequently been formalized as "no later than 12 months" rather than immediately upon publication. However, the policy transitioned from a recommendation to a requirement in 2008. The number of manuscript submissions has grown from 275 in September 2005 to more than 5,000 in May, 2011. Nearly 1,300 journals have agreed to automatically submit the final published versions of their articles in **PubMed Central**. Close to 1,000 publications deposit all articles, not just NIH-funded papers. All told, the database houses more than 2.3 million articles. Given both the growth of the archive and the trend toward publisher participation, this seemed to most to fall under the category of "settled law."

As of this writing, however, that is far from the case. In late 2011, a bill called the **Research Works Act** was introduced into the **U.S. House of Representatives**. The precise language of the bill (found on [govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us) at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill-text.xpd?bill=h112-3699>) is simple:

No Federal agency may adopt, implement,

maintain, continue, or otherwise engage in any policy, program, or other activity that —

- (1) causes, permits, or authorizes network dissemination of any private-sector research work without the prior consent of the publisher of such work; or
- (2) requires that any actual or prospective author, or the employer of such an actual or prospective author, assent to network dissemination of a private-sector research work.

In this Act:

- (1) **AUTHOR** — The term "author" means a person who writes a private-sector research work. Such term does not include an officer or employee of the United States Government acting in the regular course of his or her duties.
- (2) **NETWORK DISSEMINATION** — The term "network dissemination" means distributing, making available, or otherwise offering or disseminating a private-sector research work through the Internet or by a closed, limited, or other digital or electronic network or arrangement.

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