

April 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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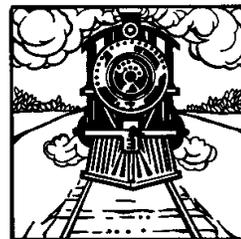
I Hear the Train A Comin' — From the Paris of the Plains

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

In March, I was pleased to attend SPARC's first North American meeting devoted to all matters open access. While the organization has hosted a series of conferences on digital repositories since 2004, this event expanded upon its predecessors to encompass the many threads of the open access movement. Three hundred librarians from around the world convened in Kansas City to hear from some of the leading voices in scholarly communication, including **Heather Joseph**, **John Wilbanks**, **Michael Carroll**, and **Caroline Sutton**. I will leave it to others to provide a detailed summary of the various talks and sessions. Instead, I am using this issue's column to present the three big picture conclusions I took away from the Paris of the Plains (that's a real nickname — look it up!):

1. The aborted *Research Works Act* has lit a fire under the open access movement. As I detailed on these pages last issue, the ill-fated *Research Works Act* stirred deep antipathies within academia. The notion that a certain segment of the publishing industry would seek to roll back postprint accessibility truly angered a large number of professors, researchers, and librarians.

Shortly before the **SPARC 2012** Open Access Meeting, **Elsevier** withdrew its support of the *Research Works Act*. Nevertheless, a theme both on the dais and in the hallways was the need for practical action to capitalize on this emotion. One popular subject was the "Cost of Knowledge" **Elsevier** boycott, which has accumulated nearly 9,000 signatories as of this writing. A decade ago, the **Michael Eisen/Pat Brown** petition against subscription control helped kick-start the open access movement. It eventually led to the establishment of the Public Library of Science. It remains to be seen whether the *Research Works Act* kerfuffle will have similar consequences. Judging by the clear-eyed determination of the **SPARC 2012** Open Access Meeting participants, there is intense interest in moving from the "talking" to the "doing" stage. This could certainly include a new wave of campus-based publishing initiatives, a hot topic at the meeting. It might



also mean a redoubling of efforts to pass the *Federal Research Public Access Act* (HR 5037), a bill that would ensure free,

timely, online access to the published results of research funded by eleven U.S. federal agencies. The bill, known as FRPAA, would require those agencies with annual extramural research budgets of \$100 million or more to provide the public with online access to research manuscripts stemming from such funding no

later than six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The bill gives individual agencies flexibility in choosing the location of the digital repository to house this content, as long as the repositories meet conditions for interoperability and public accessibility, and have provisions for long-term archiving. It may well be, of course, that this anger fades into complacency; however, judging by the intensity of feeling in the City of Fountains (more than 200, according to the hotel magazine),

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