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## ATG Interviews Peter Brueggeman, Life, Health, Marine & Earth Sciences Collection Coordinator, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Archives Curator, UC San Diego Library

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**Life, Health, Marine & Earth Sciences Collections Coordinator,  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives Curator, UC San Diego Library  
(Formerly, Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library Director)**

by **Tom Gilson** (Associate Editor, *Against the Grain*) <gilson@cofc.edu>

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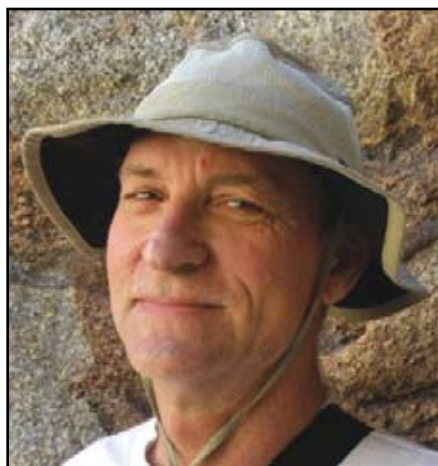
and **Helen Ivy Head** (Marine Resources Library, College of Charleston)

**ATG:** *The closure of a renowned institution like the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library must have been very disheartening. What was your first reaction when you learned of the final decision?*

**PB:** I was not shocked or taken aback by this decision. The **Scripps Library** was a branch library of the **UC San Diego Library**, and had been in existence since 1903. Times change, and so has the way our users access our materials. Today, eJournals predominate in collection use in the scientific community we serve. The gate count at **Scripps Library** reflected this change as the rate of physical access to books and journal back volumes had been on a downward trajectory for some years. I had a birds-eye view of this decline, as my office (with a glass window) was by the front entryway, which gave me a good sense of library usage by **Scripps** faculty and students. The numbers back this up: a 2010 library survey showed that only 14% of **Scripps** and **UCSD** users made weekly or more frequent visits to access items on the shelf, with the remaining respondents visiting several times a quarter or even less frequently. I was well aware of branch science library closures across the country, with the **University of Washington's** closure of its **Fisheries-Oceanography Library** being especially significant.

**ATG:** *Was it mainly budget cuts and lack of demand that caused the closing? Or did other campus-wide factors come into play? How large a factor was the repurposing of the space for other uses?*

**PB:** As I mentioned, the gate count at the **Scripps Library** had been declining for some years, predating the **University of California's** more recent budgetary pressures. While budget cuts were certainly a driving factor in spurring consolidations and closures, the very clear trends that have been underway in the library world and the changes in how our users were interacting with our collections were also part of the equation. In spite of our consolidations, there is no question that the **Scripps** collections in marine sciences are unmatched, and we are committed to maintaining and augmenting them and ensuring they continue to be available to our users. Our University Librarian, **Brian Schottlaender**, and his UL predecessors have a strong track record in supporting distinctive collections at the **UC San Diego Library**, and this includes the **Scripps** collections. In reference to your last question about repurposing the space, there really is no connection between



**Scripps'** desire to repurpose portions of the space in the Library building — which is on the **Scripps'** campus — and the need to consolidate the **Scripps** collections. Some library uses are continuing in the building, such as the **Scripps Archives** and provision of study space for students. Ideas and decisions about how to repurpose the newly-available space in the Library building were not floated until after the decision was made by the Library to consolidate the collections in **Geisel Library**.

**ATG:** *What adaptations are being made at the Geisel Library to accommodate the Scripps collection? What arrangements have you made for researchers in need of print monographs and journals from the Scripps collections as they are consolidated into the Geisel Library?*

**PB:** Compact shelving is being installed in **Geisel Library** to accommodate the **Scripps** collections. We expect that the book/journal collection will be transferred in Spring 2013. Currently, **Scripps** users can request items from the **Scripps** collections (via the library catalog) for delivery to a pickup location on the **Scripps** campus.

**ATG:** *How do you plan to continue developing the electronic and print collections to support the Institution's academic mission?*

**PB:** **Scripps Library's** collections and most services to users will continue without change. The collections will continue to be properly maintained and augmented, and there has been no change in collection funding. The historically-rich **Scripps Archives** and the **Scripps** special collections and rare books will continue to occupy the third floor of the Eckart Building (which housed **Scripps Library** on

all floors). In terms of acquisitions, the **UCSD Library** prefers acquiring eBooks over print books, so that bodes particularly well for **Scripps** users, given the upcoming collection transfer to the main campus. I have also done retro-purchasing of eBooks in oceanography and climate science to further offset the impact of the physical collection move. The **UCSD Library** has long been active in purchasing journal backfile e-archives, which reduce the need for user access to volumes on shelf. With the current and upcoming collections centralization in **UCSD's Geisel Library**, we are seeking more eJournal backfile archives to purchase to offset the need to maintain print journal backruns in our reduced shelving footprint.

**ATG:** *We understand that the Scripps Archives and special collections from Scripps Library will remain on the third floor of the Eckart Building. What limitations does the library's overall closure place on their use? Do plans call for the Scripps Archives and special collections eventually being absorbed by the Geisel Library as well? What about the Hubbs and Map collections?*

**PB:** The **Scripps Archives** and the library special collections (rare books, finely-illustrated old serials, scientific expedition report sets, **Carl Hubbs** ichthyology library, ocean chart collection) will all remain on the third floor of the Eckart Building (see [scrippsarchives.ucsd.edu](http://scrippsarchives.ucsd.edu) for more information). Map cases holding the ocean charts and the oversize archives materials are located on the first floor of the Eckart Building in a new location, where they will stay, as they cannot be relocated to the third floor due to weight. We've never offered walk-in, on-the-spot service for archives and special collections; by-appointment access, which has always been sufficient, will continue. There are no current or future plans to move the **Scripps Archives** and special collections to **Geisel Library**.

**ATG:** *How do you envision Scripps Library and library services after the collections are moved and the space reallocate? Will it have a recognizable, separate identity? What does this future mean for the Scripps library staff?*

**PB:** The **UCSD Library** is in the process of re-organizing into a more centralized library management environment with no separate domain libraries. Therefore, the **Scripps Library** closure — along with two other previous library closures — is part of that consolidation and re-organization effort. While this is a significant change, it is mostly internal. There

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is and will be a librarian tasked with Scripps user outreach and instruction, and I continue to do collection development in marine and earth sciences as well as Scripps archives/special collections. Other library users will also continue to receive many of the same services and resources they have in the past.

**ATG:** *What does your experience with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library closing tell you about the future of specialized, departmental libraries? What about the future of research libraries in general?*

**PB:** In the case of the Scripps Library closure, while challenging for some in the short term, it's reflective of the need to realign and streamline facilities, collections, and budgets as the academic research library continues to evolve. Looking into the future, as scholarly eBooks are preferentially acquired, as are eJournals, then one would expect a steadily-declining use of physical collections, which of course will continue to impact all libraries. At some point, the cost-effectiveness needs to be examined about shifting physical collections in part or in their entirety to compact shelving on campus or to a less expensive off-campus facility with a reading room and with on-campus delivery. Having said that, the academic research library is as essential as it has ever been to the academic enterprise. The relationships between librarians and their users evolve, but the services and the resources provided by academic libraries continue to be paramount in both research and teaching. 🌱

## against the grain people profile

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### Peter Brueggeman

**BORN AND LIVED:** I'm a native Southern Californian, back when there were highways and not eight-lane freeways, there were orange groves and open space, and Disneyland was not Waiting-in-line-land....

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** I started shelving books in **Huntington Beach Public Library** in high school, drove the bookmobile too, and worked there through college. I worked as a librarian at **UCLA Biomedical Library** from 1980-1984, followed by the **UCSD Library** to date. I was **Scripps Library Director** from 1993-2012. I have been active over the years in the international marine science libraries association and other avenues.

**FAMILY:** I met my wife **Kathy Creely** on a **UCSD** librarian committee. Our son **Leo** was born on his due date.

**IN MY SPARE TIME:** Vintage racing bicycles; cycling; scuba diving; Antarctic underwater field guide; Palomar Mountain local history.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** **R. Crumb** sketch books.

**PET PEEVES:** Bicycle wheel quick release levers on the right side of the bicycle.

**HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** I have been engaged in collection development since the late 1980s. Truly, I thought scholarly publishing would have crashed and burned by now, and some new model would have arisen from the ashes. Nope, financially unsustainable scholarly publishing and academic publishing practice continue. Five years from now, a continuing steady decline... academics aren't going to change their publishing practice en masse. 🌱

## ATG Interviews Michele Casalini

### CEO and Owner, Casalini Libri

by **Tom Gilson** (Associate Editor, *Against the Grain*) <[gilsont@cofc.edu](mailto:gilsont@cofc.edu)>

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**ATG:** *You first launched the first version of your full-text platform in 2003 at the Frankfurt book fair with 20 publishers. Then you launched a newer version of the platform in 2007. And now you have released a brand new platform called Torrossa. Do we have the timeline correct?*

**MC:** Yes, we launched our first collection, the award-winning Editoria Italiana Online, in 2003 with a relatively small selection of eBooks and e-journals by prominent scholarly publishers from Italy. Since my father founded the company in 1958 our mission has been to assist academic libraries in building their global collections, providing them with relevant bibliographical information, books, and journals from the countries we represent.

As a library supplier, we closely followed the changes that, after the debut of **HighWire Press** in 1995, brought about the migration of STM journals to digital, and we were convinced early on that users would demand the

transition to digital even in the Social Sciences and Humanities where the concept of relevance over time overshadows timeliness.

Our conviction and the great support of the library community lead us to the establishment of our Digital Division in 2000 and investments not only in systems but also in resources dedicated to working with publishers.

In 2007 we updated our platform and in 2010 we launched the Edición Española Online collection which, as EIO was and is for Italy, constitutes a snapshot of current research in the Humanities and Social Sciences from a variety of publishers from Spain. Alongside these two comprehensive collections, a number of other publishers selected our platform to offer their own special eBook collections, such as **Leo S. Olschki** and **Zanichelli**, or access to their e-journals, in either print+online or online-only package options, such as **Fabrizio Serra Editore** and **Franco Angeli**.

In the past year, we launched the Torrossa platform ([www.torrossa.it](http://www.torrossa.it)), on which the content we host continues to grow and multiply; **il Mulino** is just one of the publishers that has recently joined Torrossa.

**ATG:** *Tell us about the latest Torrossa platform. How has it evolved from the 2003 version? In what specific ways does it reflect the changes in the marketplace?*

**MC:** When we decided it was time for a new platform, we aggressively sought input from the librarians who use the platform everyday and work with researchers in the field and students, as well as consulting with publishers and authors. The feedback we gathered at a recent Charleston Juried Product Development Forum was also instrumental in our planning.

The Torrossa platform has all of the features today's users have come to expect: a neat and intuitive interface, a quick search textbox,

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