April 1995

If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch

College of Charleston, strauchk@cofc.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Strauch, Katina (1995) "If Rumors Were Horses," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 7: Iss. 2, Article 31.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6350>

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.

Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

ISSN: 1043-2094

Reality in the Age of the Virtual: Experiences on the Threshold of the Electronic Library

by **Heather S. Miller**

(University at Albany, State University of New York)
(HM766@albanyvms.bitnet)

Administrators on this campus, as on many others, have joyfully embraced the concept of the electronic library, no longer place but a state of access to the collective output of human intelligence without need of staff or printed materials, accessible to all via computer terminals. Meanwhile, many of those in the trenches roll their eyes and comment, "Yeah. Right."

So, where are libraries in the process of crossing the threshold? The stage at which libraries find themselves varies from not there yet to well into the electronic library. Many are somewhere in between. Those who have ventured into this arena at all, know that it is a mine field that makes selecting and obtaining printed materials look like child's play.

It is not enough to determine that a given non-print title is suitable for the collection as well as the budget. Other factors, including hardware requirements, searching protocols, relationship to printed materials, interfaces with OPACs, and license agreements must be dealt with before a title can be added to the library.

One Library's Tale

The University at Albany Libraries have proceeded in a typically cautious manner, attempting to anticipate and avoid problems whenever possible. The Libraries have ordered increasingly large numbers of CD-ROMs, software, videos, books accompanied by other media, data files and electronic access to remote databases during the last few years. These comments are confined to CD-ROMs and access to remote databases, primarily the former, and will of necessity be brief.

The Libraries have a well-developed collection development policy. Given the nature of the institution and the lack of generous funding, purchases are limited to materials relevant to courses and/or research conducted on campus. The Libraries do not attempt to serve as a general library for the university community. From the outset, electronic media were subsumed under the

continued on page 11

If Rumors Were Horses

Well, we at *ATG* are excited! The new year brought the great news that *Against the Grain* has been selected for indexing in *Library Literature*! Hooray!

Elsevier Science and OCLC have signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the electronic distribution of Elsevier journals. Elsevier and

OCLC plan to work together under a joint marketing arrangement to make all Elsevier Science titles published under the imprints of Elsevier, Pergamon, North-Holland, and Butterworth-Heinemann available electronically. This new service, called **Elsevier Electronic Subscriptions (EES)** will offer libraries complete electronic editions

continued on page 7

This issue of *Against the Grain* was printed on recycled paper.

1043-2094(199504)7:2;1-S

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to strauchk@cofc.edu, phone or fax 803-723-3536, or snail mail: *Against the Grain*, 171 Moultrie Street, Citadel Station, Charleston, SC 29409.

Dear Editor:

The February issue [of *Against the Grain*] just arrived. It looks great — and I don't mean just my article but the whole issue! You've got me hooked, so I want to subscribe. I'd also like to order some extra copies of this issue. If you'll let me know how much they cost, I'll send a check for them as well as a subscription.

Cheers,

Sandy Thatcher (Penn State Univ. Press)
(SGT3@PSUVM.PSU.EDU)

Dear Editor:

Enclosed please find my check for a subscription to *Against the Grain*. As I said on the telephone, I am really enjoying having moved to California. The golf compensates, in part, for moving to the land of earthquakes, floods, and fires. I'm Acquisitions Librarian at O'Melveny & Myers law firm. The greatest transition has been from non-profit to profit and from an academic library to a law library.

I am hoping to make it to the 1995 Charleston Conference!

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Reuter (O'Melveny & Myers)

Dear Editor:

Really enjoyed your latest issue. [February, 1994]

Best,

Henk Edelman (Rutgers)
(EDELMAN@zodiac.rutgers.edu)

Dear Editor:

Got the newest issue of *Against the Grain*. [February, 1995]. Loved the interview with Dr. Dorn.

John Archer (UC, San Diego)
(John_Archer@UCSDLIBRARY.ucsd.edu) ☺

Rumors from page 1

either in addition to or in lieu of paper journals, but will be available initially on a subscription basis to selected (pilot) test sites (expected to last through 1995). Electronic subscriptions will be provided in cover-to-cover bitmapped page images (black/white single-page TIFF files, resolution 300 dots per inch, compressed using CCITT Fax Group IV). At the library's option, the journals can be provided using OCLC's SiteSearch system, which allows building, maintenance, and searching databases locally, and OCLC's Guidon graphical user interface. For more information, contact **Roland D.J. Dietz** (Elsevier, NY, 212-633-3945) or **Nita Dean** (OCLC, nita_dean@oclc.org).

Springer-Verlag's Dr. Hans-Ulrich Daniel (president and CEO of the U.S. subsidiary) will return to Germany effective June 30, 1995, where he will join the Board of Managing Directors of Springer-Verlag GmbH & Co. KG in Berlin. Effective July 1, **Mr. Rudiger Gebauer** as Executive Vice President and Publisher, and **Mr. Craig Van Dyck** as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, will jointly take over Mr. Daniel's responsibilities. Both Mr. Gebauer and Mr. Van Dyck have been with Springer-Verlag since 1987 and 1989 respectively. At the same time, **Mr. Dennis Looney** will become Chief Financial Officer. **Mr. Bernard Brouder** will take over new responsibilities with the Berlin office.

Ameritech Library Services' Paul Sybrowsky has recently announced that

he will become chairman of the company to give him more time to pursue a new business venture. Sybrowsky (co-founder of **Dynix, Inc.**, in 1983, and interviewed in *ATG* ten years later in September 1993) has been recruited to become president of **Vicendus**, a new Provo-based enterprise which will apply distance learning technology to adult education conferences and seminars. As chairman of Ameritech Library Services, Sybrowsky will continue to manage alliances with key library professional groups such as **ALA** and the **Snowbird Leadership Institute**. **Thomas Quarton** will succeed Sybrowsky as President of Ameritech Library Services. Quarton was formerly a vice president with Ameritech Enhanced Business Services and will be working in tandem with

continued on page 8

We would like to thank
Ambassador Book Service
for their generous contributions!

Rumors
from page 7

Keith Wilson, executive vice president of the company.

Guess what? **Sandy Thatcher** (Director, **Penn State University Press**) has an op-ed in our February, 1995 issue (which we are getting a lot of reprint requests for!), and now here's another important article by Mr. Thatcher in the March 3 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*! Read "The Crisis in Scholarly Communication," pp.B2-3.

Well. Now **Karen Schmidt's Jacob** (not to mention **Lyman Newlin**) have a new playmate. Seen at the **Nijhoff** booth in Philadelphia was none other than **Julian Joffrey**, the new son of **Marian Reijnen** and **Rodney Goins**. Julian was born August 17 and he doesn't seem to do anything but smile!

C. Berger and Company (CBC), a library personnel and information management services firm in Cold Stream, IL, has been awarded a contract to design the library resource center for **JFK Health World**, the world's first children's "hands-on" health education learning center in Barrington, IL. The museum is an exciting, colorful and playful high tech environment being developed to encourage children to make informed decisions about health-related issues. For further information, contact **Cheryl Dillman** at (708)653-1115.

Roy Conant, formerly of Conant & Conant Booksellers of Portland, Oregon, is now representing the **Book House** in the Western United States. Roy has more than 18 years experience in supplying books to libraries!

The neat-o **David Dresia** (**American Society of Civil Engineers**) wrote to say that he hopes to attend a **Charleston Conference** soon. Unfortunately, he says sometimes we conflict with other meetings that he must attend. How dare such things happen? Isn't the CC the only meeting there is? Seriously, we always try to schedule the **Charleston Conference** the first or second week of November, depending on, of all things, hotel availability. When we started the CC, November was NOT a peak month the way it is now! Usually the meeting is scheduled automatically several years ahead of time.

Speaking of the **Charleston Conference**, the fabled **Francis Marion Hotel**, which long-time attendees will remember, should be available for occupancy in 1996 and will be linked to the **Lightsey Conference Center** by a passageway. Pretty exciting!

McGraw-Hill and **Greenwood Publishing Group** have added their lists to **TitleNet**, **Inforonics' Internet Catalog**. TitleNet now has 34 participating publishers and associations. Access: gopher.infor.com or <http://www.infor.com>.

Have this simply fabulous interview with the unduplicatable **Norman Stevens** (**The Molesworth Institute**). Look for it in an upcoming issue of *ATG*!

The American Museum of Natural History Library in New York City has recently signed an agreement with the **Endeavor Information Systems** for the following **Voyager** library modules: Cataloging/Authority Control, OPAC with imaging, Acquisitions, and Serials. For more information on **Endeavor**, see **Doc Aquis**, this issue, page 76.

We miss **Carl Dorr** (Midwest) who retired as of the end of December, but **Steven Chase** is a great addition! Welcome aboard, Steve!

Gary A. Nees has joined **Blackwell North America, Inc.**, as Vice President of Finance.

What a bummer! Missed the opportunity to meet **Sherry Thompson** (Majors) when **Ken Robichaux** brought her by recently. Sorry about that, Sherry. Next time?

Check out the letters to the editor in the Feb.21 (Tuesday) issue of the *Wall Street Journal*. A letter titled "Writers' Union Seeks Justice in Cyberspace" by **Maria Pallante** cites our own **Becky Lenzini** as the "innovative president of CARL." Remember when we interviewed Becky back in the September, 1993, issue of *ATG* (pp.16-18)? We knew it way back then!

The Writers' Union has initiated "Operation Magazine Index," which involves authors wanting an accounting of articles delivered electronically. **The Thomson Corporation** (owner of **IAC**) and **The**

CARL Corporation have acknowledged the feasibility of transaction-based accounting and a creator's royalty system. For more information about "Operation Magazine Index," send an email message to irvmuch@netcom.com. This all from CNI Copyright listserv.

You read about it here. **Charles** (the grandfather) **Germain** has made it. He recently was on **Good Morning America** pitching **Birute Galdikas' Reflections of Eden** (Little Brown, 1995). How did he do it? Remember we told you way back when that he was traveling in Borneo? Well, while he was over there, Charles did a video (he has photography experience, remember he told us in his *ATG* interview, June 1994?). And they are using the video to promote the book. Charles himself might not have been on camera, but his tape sure was. And he says that he is just happy to have promoted the cause of orangutans everywhere! Wow!

Input Culture (Trumansburg, NY), announces the appointment of **Roger Williams** as upstate New York headquarters Managing Director. Their toll free number is 800-876-9971. Internet: 73612.242@compuserve.com.

Jerry Alper and **Readmore** have announced a joint venture. As part of the popular **BACKSERV** service hosted by **Readmore**, users will now be able to access the entire back issues' catalog of **Jerry Alper** via the Internet and to order electronically or request information. For more information, contact **Marilyn Geller** at **Readmore** 800-221-3306 or **Kenneth Hoch** at **Jerry Alper**, 914-793-2100.

The elegant **Rachel Ginsburg** (New York) wasn't in Philadelphia (ALA Midwinter) because she was in New Mexico! Her first grandchild was born January 4! Enjoy!

Eastman Kodak Company and **Live Picture, Inc.** (formerly **FITS Imaging**) have signed a broad technology and product development agreement which covers a variety of imaging applications. As part of the agreement, Kodak obtains a license to apply **Live Picture's** new and advanced resolution-independent image viewing and editing technology in future Kodak digital imaging products. For further information contact Kodak (**Terence McArdle**), 716-726-0751.

Sally Rausch (U. of Indiana) says that her niece's wedding in California kept her

from attending the 1994 Charleston Conference, but she'll be here in 1995!

The 1995 **List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus (LJI)** and the 1995 **List of Serials Indexed for Online Users (LSI)** are now available from the NLM Gopher (gopher.nlm.nih.gov) and via FTP (ftp to nlmpubs.nlm.nih.gov and login as anonymous, using your email address as the password). For further information, contact **Esther Baldinger**, Serial Records Section, NLM, (elb@nlm.nih.gov).

Research Publications International (RPI) has announced *Westward Expansion*, the second CD-ROM title announced in the series which provides access to four centuries of American expansion from the explorations of Columbus to conditions in the West at the beginning of the twentieth century. Further information: 800-444-0799.

Ameritech Library Services has announced that **Calgary Public Library (CPL)** has signed a contract with **Dynix Library Systems, Inc.** of Ontario, Canada. CPL plans to go live with the Dynix system in April, 1995.

Still more on Ameritech. **Kommunedata Denmark** and **Ameritech Library Services** have signed a distributor agreement where **Kommunedata** (headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark) gains exclusive rights to introduce, market, and distribute **ALS'** client/server system, **Horizon™** throughout Denmark, the Faeroe Islands and Greenland. The agreement also includes an option for **Kommunedata** to acquire the rights to distribute **Horizon** in Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland.

You heard it from the *New York Times Magazine* (Jan. 22, 1995), p.12. Monks at the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Chicago are helping **Electronic Scriptorium**, a private company as well as the **Johns Hopkins University Library** with digital pursuits, such as computerized catalogs.

Over Christmas break, I experienced **life without email** while the techies were "reconfiguring" machines. How horrible! I had to use the phone and play phone tag! And now it's a mad, mad, mad (Home Page) world! You're nobody til you have a HomePage! If anyone has any interest in designing a Home Page either for the **Charleston Conference** or for *Against the Grain*, please contact Katina at strauchk@cofc.edu. Thanks.

Have never been to Hawaii like Cerise

Oberman (SUNY Plattsburgh and a coordinator of the 1995 Charleston Conference) who just got back from a gloriously beautiful time. Four-year-old daughter, **Tova** was a perfect traveler though she didn't sleep a wink on the 15-hour flight and then proceeded to stay up a full 24 hours and remain in a good mood! Ah, the joys of childhood!

This from CNI-Copyright Listserv. **Spectrum Press** has available the complete U.S. Copyright Act 1976 on floppy disk for PC or Mac for \$2 a disk. The PC version includes a search engine. A catalog and details can be obtained by email from 73774.2733@compuserve.com.

Heard from **Georganne Burns** (Tennessee Tech) the other day, who was asking about the next **Charleston Conference**. Don't forget that it is November 2-4, 1995 and the registration fee should be no more than \$135 or \$140. Not a bad deal!

New news from **Digby Sales** (U. of Cape Town, South Africa). "We do not have the final budget for this year. However, it will be similar to last year meaning that at least 3 faculties will have to do journal cancellations. The monograph amount of about R750,00 (\$250,000) will keep my department busy enough especially as we have lost a post, but we work smarter and managed very well last year. (I did have some student help!)." Digby goes on to say that the junior and secondary schools have just begun and this is the first time that all schools are open to everyone. There are obviously some "teething" problems in organizing the 19 education departments into 9 (1 for each province). You can all say "hey" to Digby at DIGBY@uctlib.uct.ac.za.

This from **Anne Jennings** and the **lawlib listserv**, **Butterworth Legal Publishers** and **The Michie Company**, two units of **Reed Elsevier Inc.**, recently announced plans to combine the two legal publishing companies into a new company called **Michie Butterworth**. The new company, with combined 1995 sales projected to exceed \$100 million, will be headquartered in Charlottesville, Va., and will be part of **LEXIS-NEXIS**, acquired by Reed Elsevier on December 2, 1994. For further information, contact **Reginald Ryals** (The Michie Company), (804)972-7640.

Chuck Hamaker was not in Philly

because, sadly, his mother died and he had spent a lot of time in Illinois. However the incredible Mr. Hamaker did send an Op Ed in (this issue, page 23) and is planning on coming and speaking at the 1995 **Charleston Conference**. Hang in there, Chuck!

Everyone was wondering if Philadelphia (Midwinter) would create another **ALAP** . . . that's the group that got stranded in

Chicago during the big snow storm of '79 and get together every year fondly to remember it all. But we got by it all despite minus 27 wind chill factors and 0 degrees in the sun weather. Those of us from the deep South kept calling home to check on the temperatures.

Liz Chapman (University of Oxford) and **Jonathan Waring** (Coutts) tell us that there was recently a television special in England, no less, about Charleston, SC! Since they have been here many times, they felt like old pros!

Norm Desmarais (Providence College) left **Innovations** up to the fabulous **Judy Luther** this time (this issue, page 28) because he is working on his sabbatical project — the American Revolution (from the Stamp Act in 1763 to the peace in 1783), trying to cover the period from various points of view: patriot, Loyalist, blacks, women, Indians, spies. Norm hopes to have finished a first draft of the major section by the time you read this. Whew! Good luck, Norm! What an ambitious task!

This courtesy of **Peter Graham** (Rutgers) and the **Electronic Journal Publishing List (VPIE)**. **Macmillan Publishing USA**, a division of Simon & Schuster, the publishing operation of **Viacom Inc.** has announced the opening of their new WWW site, the Macmillan USA Information SuperLibrary (<http://www.mcp.com>). The first phase of the Information SuperLibrary will include over 1000 titles (with sample chapters, graphics, tables of contents, and covers for many books), Macmillan software, and special online book offers from Macmillan Computer Publishing, are available.

An article in the March issue of the *Journal of Government Information* discusses the importance of a coordinated effort from librarians and other members of the university community in shaping future copyright law. "Copyright Law and

continued on page 10

Rumors from page 9

Information Policy Planning: Public Rights of Use in the 1990's and Beyond" by **Kenneth D. Crews**, Indiana University Library, pays particular attention to the fair use statute and its specific implications for the use of copyrighted works of non-profit educational institutions. For further information on the article or the journal, contact <m.yost@elsevier.com>

The Center for Research Libraries has established a listserv — **CRLONLINE**. The purpose is to widely distribute CRL information and to provide a forum for discussion among all CRL audiences, including librarians, researchers, and the wider higher education community. CRL will continue to issue its bimonthly newsletter *Focus* and other publications and mail announcements and news releases. To subscribe to CRLONLINE, send a message to — **Majordomo@crlmail.uchicago.edu** with the following command in the body of your message: <subscribe crlonline [your email address]>

Recently heard from **Shirley A. Reuter** who used to be at **Bowdoin** and was a regular attendee of the **Charleston Conference**. She has moved to San Francisco and is now working for a law firm! Shirley says she misses family, colleagues at Bowdoin College, and friends in Maine, but she definitely enjoys playing golf year round. She has even joined two golfing clubs: Par-Tee Gold and the Foreplayers and is playing two tournaments a month! This compensates, in part, for moving to the land of earthquakes, floods, and fires. Shirley says she is hoping to see us all at the 1995 Charleston Conference! Don't forget that Charleston has its own great golf courses!

Mary Youmans (Western Carolina University) has retired! She wrote to say that she will miss all of us but that she is looking forward to an undominated-by-serials life! Keep in touch, Mary, and let us hear about all the fun you are having!

This is from SERIALST and ACQNET. **Peter Scott**, at the University of Saskatchewan, has compiled a list of publishers' catalogs available via the Internet. Address is: <http://www.usask.ca/~scott/publish.html>.

Several things have happened with **Faxon** since we last spoke. First, **W.O. Bill Keller** has left Faxon as CEO! Your editor was at a press conference in Phila-

delphia where she met Dawson people **Bryan Ingoldsby** and **Vern Cain** among others. The fact that the press release about Mr. Keller did not mention that his appointment was temporary was discussed. It appears, as of this writing, that Dawson is searching for a permanent CEO of Faxon who will be "from inside the industry." Time will tell. A recent Dawson press release (2/21/95) announces the appointment of the fabulous **Ron Akie** as Senior Vice President, marketing for **Dawson North America**. Congratulations, Ron!

Faxon also announced the mounting of its **World Wide Web** server on the Internet. You can reach the server at <http://www.faxon.com>. Faxon's WWW server has been designed to accommodate graphical user interfaces such as **Netscape** and **Mosaic** as well as **Lynx**, the most commonly used text-only interface.

Faxon has also announced its new **FTP** facility for electronic exchange of data files via the Internet. Faxon clients interested in learning more about implementing the FTP service with Faxon should send an email to: ftp@faxon.com.

And **Readmore** introduced their gopher at ALA Midwinter: gopher.readmore.com. Read our interview with the fabulous **Dan Tonkery**, President & CEO, this issue, page 33.

More about Midwinter. **Geac** unveiled an impressive new line of client/server products designed for users of Geac's **ADVANCE** and **PLUS** system, or any **Z39.50**-compliant system, regardless of the software used. The showpiece of the **GEOS2** line is **GeoPac**, the client/server research station which provides a completely new graphical user interface (GUI) and enhanced searching capabilities for a library's online public access catalog. Geac also introduced **GeoNet**, a series of integrated networking products and services which provides the communications elements libraries need to take advantage of client/server technology and Internet services. For further information, contact Susan Beck, <susanb@cisi.us.geac.com>.

One of the most energetic and creative people I know is **Barbara Moran**, Dean of the School of Information and Library Science at **UNC-Chapel Hill**. The latest *News from Chapel Hill* carries news of Dean Moran's reappointment as dean for another five years. Congratulations to Barbara and to UNC-CH!

The Book Industry Study Group (BISG) has announced publication of its 1994 *Consumer Research Study on Book*

Purchasing, an annual report comprising the latest study of the book-buying habits of the American public. For further information, contact **Sandy Paul** at 212-9829-1393.

Terry Carroll (Santa Clara, CA) has written a copyright FAQ. It can be reached via <ftp://ftp.netcom.com/pub/ca/carrollt/law/copyright/faq>.

Saw the gorgeous **Athena Michaels** and the wonderful **John Chambers** at Midwinter. We all decided we needed to read Wiley's bestselling title, **The Warren Buffet Way** (by Robert C. Hagstron, Jr.)!

The snappy **Ted Arnold** (BNA) was in blue jeans and **Christian Boissonnas** was in a three-piece suit in Philadelphia.

Virginia Rodes is now with **Ingram** and she paid cash for a subscription to **ATG**! Smart woman!

Harry Hoffer (where does he get all his enthusiasm?) (**Readmore**) called to say that his February issue of **ATG** with, among other things, the fabulous **Knut Dorn** interview, was missing a signature. Don't forget to SEND BACK defective issues! We are charged BY THE ISSUE so this allows us to get a little credit!

The incredible **Dora Biblarz** wasn't in Philly, but she sent in an **IFLA** in Havana write up. Check it out, this issue, page 58.

Worth noting is that many of the papers of the 1993 **Charleston Conference** are forthcoming in **Collection Management**! Watch for them! Many of the papers from the 1994 **Charleston Conference** will be published in *Library Acquisitions: Practice and Theory* this spring or summer!

John Archer (UC, San Diego) was so fancy with barcodes that we had trouble producing his picture for his profile to accompany his barcode article in the February issue. Anyway, the problems have been solved, so look for John's profile in this issue, page 46.

Well, the inaugural conference, **Publishers Meet Faculty: How to Get Published** went off very well and several of you — **Richard Abel** (Book Trade Counselor), **Arnold Balk** (Univ. of Georgia), **Sever Bordeianu** (U. of New Mexico), **Nancy Essig** (Univ. Press of Virginia), **Donald Lamm** (W.W. Norton), **John Lyons** (U. of Virginia), **Lyman Newlin** (Book Trade Counsellor), **Barbara Meredith** (AAP), **John McNeil** (Annual Reviews), **Fred Spilhaus** (American Geophysical Union), **Ann Reinke Strong**

(Springer-Verlag), **Brian Scanlan** (Publisher), **John von Knorring** (Routledge) — were there. We hope to have a report of the conference in the June issue!

Recently had supper with **Anne and Ken Robichaux** (MUSC Library and **Majors Book** respectively). They showed us an intriguing new book by a once-employee of Majors and good friend of Ken's, **Jerry Potter**. The book is called **Fatal Justice**. Just out from **W.W. Norton**, it tells the other side of the famous **Fatal Vision** (by **Joe McGinnis**) **Jeffrey MacDonald** story. The book has already gone into its second printing. I haven't been able to tear it away from my husband to read it, but I am planning on it!

Dieke van Wijnen (Kluwer) is now editing **International Dateline!** **Glen Secor** will continue to edit **Legally Speaking** but he said he needed a break and in walked Dieke! She sends us the following information about **Kluwer Academic Publishers'** complete publications catalog including over 11,500 book entries and 260 journal titles which is now available online. To access, **GOPHER.WKAP.NL**; IP-Number: 192.87.90.1. WWW URL: **gopher://gopher.wkap.nl**. If you have any questions about this service or experience any technical difficulties, contact: (outside North America) **Peter Foppen** (**foppen@wkap.nl**) or (in North America) **Erik Maki** (**emkluwer@world.std.com**).

And speaking of **Kluwer**, **Steve Dane** writes to tell us the exciting news that effective March 6, **Charles Withington** is sales manager for North America and Latin America. Charles was employed by the **Faxon Company** in various interna-

tional sales and service positions for the past six years. At **Kluwer**, he will be responsible for servicing their wholesale, retail, and major library accounts in Canada, the U.S., and Latin America. We will next see Charles at the **Charleston Conference** along with **Steve and Hermann**, (not to mention **Dieke**) I hope.

Westerville (Ohio) Public Library, a **VTLS** library since 1984, has seen the future and made it theirs. Thanks to **VTLS** turnkey networking services, this 29,000 square foot library situated just outside Columbus is connected to the world via the **Internet** and **World Wide Web** which patrons who dial in to the library can access via the **Westerville gateway**. The **Westerville Library** is also the first library in Ohio to install patron self-checkout machines for its customers. Over 41% of all print materials are now checked out by the patrons themselves. For further information contact **Gail Gulbenkian** at **VTLS** (703)231-3605.

The always-beautifully-dressed-in-something-I-wish-I-had **Linda Crismond** (Professional Media Service Corp.) has taken over the editorship of the **Exchange**, the monthly newsletter of the **Urban Libraries Council**. This means that she will no longer be editing **Media Minder**. Sob! Linda says that she is very impressed with how much **ATG** has grown over the past year and that she will commit to sending us news that she thinks would interest us voracious **ATG** readers! Also, Linda says she is looking forward to remaining involved with the **Charleston Conference!** Thank you, Linda, for all your hard work and good luck with the **Exchange!**

Remember the amazing **Allan Wittman** (**Wittman Associates**) from the

1993 **Charleston Conference**? Recently learned that his firm had acted as publishing consultants to the **Microscopy Society of America** for the launching of their new **Journal of the Microscopy Society of America** with **Jones and Begell Publishing**.

CARL Corporation and **SOLINET** have announced the joint marketing of **CARL Corporation's** latest addition to its product line, **NoveList**, reader's advisory software which helps users to find adult fiction titles based on titles they have already read and enjoyed. For further information, contact **CARL's** **Dodie Owens** at 303-758-3030 ext. 154 or **SOLINET's** **Don Hardy** at 800-999-8558, ext 263.

Check out: "The Bottleneck in Research Communications," by **Albert Henderson** in **Publishing Research Quarterly** (Winter, 1994-95). The average rate of failure of university library collections to supply items requested by patrons in proportion to the size of the collection has nearly doubled during the last two decades, says the article, which dubs the new measure the **Collection Failure Quotient (CFQ)**.

Recently received **The 1995 Librarian's Yellow Pages**. What an incredibly useful resource by the awesome **Raissa Fomerand** and her staff! I keep it near my telephones and never have to scramble for phone numbers anymore because everyone and everything is in it! It is also fun just to browse through! Highly recommended. And if you want to know more about **Raissa** and her company, **Garance**, check out our interview with her in **ATG**, April 1994, pp.46-48.

See you in June . . . ☛

Reality in the Age of the Virtual from page 1

existing policy, basic selection being determined by their immediate usefulness to University at Albany students and faculty. Early on, it was decided that nothing would be ordered for which the Libraries did not own appropriate equipment.

As the Libraries moved farther across the threshold of the electronic library, it became clear that a broader range of people needed to be involved in selecting electronic materials in order to deal with technical issues and to develop electronic services in a coordinated manner. Initially, requests for electronic materials were re-

viewed by a committee to determine such things as whether the libraries owned suitable hardware. Later, three task forces were established to envision the electronic future. Still more recently a standing committee charged with overall planning for and creation of the electronic future (and building on the work of the task forces) was established.

In 1991, the Standing CD-ROM Committee replaced a less formal group. Now called the Electronic Materials Selection Committee, it reviews suggested titles in light of the following issues: service and staffing, hardware compatibility and demands on hardware, location within the Libraries (Reference *vs.* Interactive Me-

dia Center *vs.* branch library). In other words, it was charged with determining whether the libraries could provide proper service for the item being requested. The Library Systems, Reference, Collection Development Departments as well as the Interactive Media Center, the Internet Librarian and the Online Search Coordinator and other interested persons were included on the committee. At the time of its establishment, this committee reviewed order requests for all types of media excluding microforms and printed materials. Video requests have since been mainstreamed as well and are no longer reviewed by the committee. This commit-

continued on page 12