December 2002

If Rumors Were Horses

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ALA MIDWINTER ISSUE

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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

The Future of the Book: Does It Have One?

by **Mark Y. Herring** (Dean of Library Services, Dacus Library, Winthrop University) <herringm@winthrop.edu>

Extra! Extra! Read All About It: 500-Year Old Invention Fails! This throwback to yesteryear headline declaiming might yield the following in our future: Extra! Extra! Point and Click All About It! If the computer gurus have their way, this silly beginning might indeed be our end. About every year or so — these days it's more like every three months — we have new declamations about the demise of the book. With every new jump in megahertz, every new wireless laptop, we read somewhere — a library magazine here, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* there — that by golly, Ding, Dong, the book is dead. And thousands of gleeful, small-minded folks go prancing through the pages of the professional and popular literature singing its dirge.

It's hard to figure out why they are so happy. With reading skills plummeting and illiteracy rising, perhaps they are happy that with the new bar of measurement, our future benchmarks will be so much lower than before. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy in some ways. The lower the bar goes, the less

people read. The less they read, the fewer books are printed and purchased. Fewer books mean more something, possibly computers. In the end, those who control the computers will be king.

Perhaps we need not resort to conspiracy theories. It could be that books are simply too old-fashioned to make it in our hip-hop, savvy, high-tech, "my people will videoconference your people, and we must do e-lunch soon," kind of world.

After all, when you can email a toilet to someone looking for one in Hong Kong, as the commercial has it, why in the world would you want to tote something that is 500+ years old under your arm? Talk about anachronisms!

On the other hand, as Aquinas might have said, there may be another point of view. Indeed there is, and herewith are six such views. Not all have bowed the knee to electronic access, and these six stand shoulder-to-shoulder to say why. None of them is a Luddite, though that is surely what all

will be called. It is simply that each of us is certain that while the book's obituary has long since been written, it will not be printed (or posted, if you will) for some time. Too many factors impinge upon its power to wield influence over the world of reading. This gathering is by no means accidental. When the *Chronicle of Higher Education* posted a colloquy on the "death of the book" (a tidbit that followed an earlier "Deserted Libraries" foreboding), I responded as forcibly as I could that the book was not yet dead.

One must be careful what one says, for my friend Katina Strauch saw the posting and asked me to pull together some essays from others who might feel the same way. *Against the Grain* has always been on the cutting edge of free and open inquiry, so I gladly took up the challenge. The five others I commandeered to write should not be guilty by association with me; rather, they should be taken

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If Rumors Were Horses

Hope you all had a **wonderful holiday!** I am just now spending time catching up on all the Rumors that are out there in our world. It reminds me of what my fourteen-year-old son said one night when my husband and I were discussing library "gossip." (I didn't know he was listening. OOPS!) "Gee, Mom, I didn't know that kind of stuff happened in a LIBRARY!"

First up is the **Faxon/Divine/RoweCom** story. At the end of December, the listservs were tapping with rumors of financial collapse. For good coverage check out **Barbara Quint's** and **Paula Hane's Newsbreaks** <http://www.infoday.com/newsbreaks/nb021220-1.htm>.

And on Friday, December 20, notice of an **Ad Hoc Committee re RoweCom/Call for Library & Publisher Mem-**

bers was posted on **Liblicense**. Here's the full announcement—Today, December 20, 2002, an ad hoc committee (the "Committee") was formed in order to, among other things, perform investigations and analyses of the operations and financial condition of **RoweCom, Inc.** ("RoweCom") and its parent corporation, **Divine, Inc.** ("Divine"), initiate negotiations with **RoweCom** and **Divine**, and

to take such other actions that the Committee may determine are in the best interests of its constituency. The initial members of the Committee include a major research library as well as leading publishers (**Blackwell**, **Elsevier**, and **Wiley**). Going forward, committee membership is open to both publishers and li-

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From your (adapting to changes) Editor

Happy New Year, everyone! This holiday has been especially bitter-sweet for me since my son, **Raymond**, has just become engaged. This is his last holiday at home as a single man. And, second surprise, the **College of Charleston** has decided to close the **Conference Center**. So the **2003 Charleston Conference** will be the last one in the **College of Charleston's Lightsey Conference Center**. Another bitter-sweet experience. The **2003 Charleston Conference** will go on as always, but in **2004** and subsequent years, **Charleston Conferences** will be held in the **Francis Marion Hotel**, as well as the nearby **Embassy Suites**, and **Hampton Inn** downtown. Everything will be different, but better. The times, they are a'changin'.

In the meantime, I've had this issue of *Against the Grain* to keep me focused on real-

ity. This issue is about the "book." Articles are by **Sidney E. Berger**, **Mark Herring**, **S. David Mash**, **David D. Oberhelman**, **Edwin Gleaves**, **Allene Stuart Phy-Olsen** and **James Presgraves**. As well, we have **Jack Montgomery's** Pandora's Box with the fourth part of "Managing Gifts" by **Kathy Wachel**. **Bob Nardini's** Vendor/Library Relations on RFPs by **Mark Kendall**, Book Pricing Update includes Trends in Book Pricing by Subject Area by **Tom Loughran**, **Rosann Bazirjian's** Group Therapy deals with mergers between the library, Media Services, and Academic Computer Services, **Don Jaeger's** On the Road contains a discussion of a Library Hotel by **John Riley**. **Anthony Watkinson** provides a report from the **53rd Frankfurt Book Fair** in this issue's International Dateline. There are interviews with

John Sack and **Vicky Reich** of **HighWire Press** by **Margaret Landesman**, a profiles encouraged with **Allen Williams** and much, much more.

See y'all in Philadelphia!

Yr. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strauchk@earthlink.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: *Against the Grain*, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the *ATG Homepage* at <<http://www.against-the-grain.com>>.

Dear Editor:

I noted the In Memoriam for **Frank Clasquin** in the Nov. 2002 issue of *Against the Grain*.

I remember **Mr. Clasquin** sitting in my department head's office at the **University of Connecticut Library** in probably 1963. He was there to confer with **Anna Rockel**, my department head (I was a periodicals assistant at the time), about subscriptions for the library. I do not know what they talked about, but I have always thought that he paid a great deal of attention to what she said about what academic libraries wanted from a

subscription service. It appears that he listened to her. **Faxon** was, for all the years I was involved with them, a very good service. **Anna Rockel** died about two years after that meeting; perhaps they will meet again in the great library in the hereafter. There should be more folks like **Frank Clasquin**.

Judith A. Douville

(*Science & Technology/Art & Architecture Editor, CHOICE, Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*)
<jdouville@ala-choice.org>

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 15 — 2003-2004

Event	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
Annual Report, ARLIS, Music Library Assoc.	February 2003	11/27/02	12/18/02
ACRL, SLA, MLA	April 2003	01/29/03	02/19/03
ALA Annual, AALL	June 2003	04/09/03	04/30/03
Reference Publishing	September 2003	07/09/03	07/30/03
Charleston Conference	November 2003	09/17/03	10/08/03
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 03/Jan. 04	10/29/03	11/19/03

barries that have (or that have had) a business relationship with **RoweCom**. Therefore, other libraries and publishers that have or have had a relationship with **RoweCom** and that are interested in acquiring information about or joining the Committee are invited to contact the Committee at the following email address: <adhoccommittee@nyc.rr.com>.

Remember in September, I was searching around for the articles in the *Wall Street Journal* that related to **Bertelsmann**? (*ATG*, September 2002, p.0) Well the oh-so-astute **Danny Jones** (**Harrasowitz**) had those articles faxed to me the day *ATG* hit the mailboxes. THANKS, Danny!

It's official. **PubSCIENCE** is gone. See the article in the *Washington Post*, November 21, 2002, p. E01 — "Free Web Research Link Closed Under Pressure From Pay Sites" by **Jonathan Krim** Page E01, Nov 21, 2002. The Energy Department has shut down the Website that offered free searching of government and academic science research abstracts—a free-of-charge cross-indexer of 2 million government reports and articles. Word is that **PubSCIENCE** competed with **Infotrieve** and **Scirus**. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17568-2002Nov20.html>. And see this issue, p.0 for more coverage.

"What we worry about is what's next," said the feisty, speak-his-mind **Chuck Hamaker** (Associate Librarian at the **University of North Carolina at Charlotte**) who was quoted in the *Washington Post* article (above). I have to agree. Just because something is free and something costs, does this mean we have to be stuck with the item that costs? Is our government out of the business of giving us something for the good of us all? And who pays for our government anyway? Those of us who pay taxes (you and I) know that nothing's for free!

Recently got an email from **Courtney Russell** <CRussell@abc-clio.com> who is the new **Public Relations Coordinator** for **ABC-CLIO**. Welcome to our world, Courtney! www.abc-clio.com.

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Rumors from page 6

ALAWON: American Library Association Washington Office Newsline (volume 11, no. 97, November 27, 2002) has a good "Wrap-Up: Status of Library Legislative Issues." Of particular interest to librarians and libraries, when the 108th Congress convenes in January, 2003, are several pieces of proposed legislation relating to copyright issues. "ALA insists that any database protection bill must allow 'fair use' of databases comparable to that under copyright law and must permit re-use of facts and government-produced data contained in a database." Bills introduced in the 107th Congress that will no doubt be re-introduced in the 108th include: a) **The Berman-Coble Bill** (July 2002, HR 5211) which would permit copyright owners to use technological remedies to prevent infringement; b) the **Anti-counterfeiting Amendments of 2002** (April 2002, S 2395 creates "liability for trafficking in illicit authentication features ... and could pose major problems for anyone exercising fair use;" c) **The Broadcast Flag Bill** (The Consumer Broadband and Digital Television and Promotion Act, S 2048) "requires digital content, consumer electronics and information technology industries to, in effect, place a broadcast flag—a type of digital rights management—in all 'digital media devices' to prevent piracy;" d) **Digital Media Consumers' Rights Act (DMCRA)** (HR 5544) "proposes three key changes to sections of the flawed **Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA)** of 1998. This bill reaffirms fair use in the digital environment. Although the bill primarily focuses on the concerns of consumers, it is an important first step in recognizing the rights of copyright users. Librarians strongly support this bill;" e) **Digital Choice and Freedom Act of 2002** (HR 5522) "the signaling to Congress that copyright law must be recalibrated to restore consumer and public rights." This is far from all that is out there on these issues. Check out—<http://www.ala.org/washoff/alawon> for a lot more information!

The splendid **Anne Robichaux** <AWKR772@Charleston.net> forwarded me notice of a neat article in the November 25th **Time** magazine. (**Teri L. Herbert** <herbert1@musc.edu> forwarded the original message from **Ann Ferrari**, Behan Health Science Library, Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA). Moving right along, the article, entitled "Hotels of Whim and Vigor" (p.72-73) is about a **Library Hotel** in NYC, a theme hotel inspired by the **New York Public Library**. "The ten guest floors are each dedicated to a different area of knowledge, and each room has a collection of books. The room numbers are based on the Dewey decimal system (Neil Armstrong once stayed in Room 500.006: Astronomy). There is even a Fairy Tales room (800.005) with volumes of mystical stories and scenes from the *Wizard of Oz* and *Treasure Island*. A poetry terrace is available for guests to read." And, guess what? **John Riley** wrote all about the Hotel for **Don Jaeger's** "On the

Road" in this issue, p.69. My apologies for taking so long to run this article!

And speaking of splendid, **Adam Chesler** joined **Ingenta** as Vice President, New Business (both publisher and library new business) on December 10th. Adam will be based in Cambridge, MA. As we all know, when he's not in **Charleston** setting us all straight on the **Weakest Link Panel** (and not to mention many other panels as well), he was spending his last 17 years at **Kluwer Academic**. Adam was involved in the early stages of the development of **Kluwer Online** and in his most recent role as Director of Library Relations, he was not only responsible for **Kluwer's** global sales team, but also developed strong relationships in the academic library market.

And speaking of **Ingenta**, since September, the company has focused on the formation of a global customer service group. These new key roles in the new structure include **Adam** (above) as well as **Christopher Woodhead** (Director, Client Management) who has worked for **Ingenta** since 1998. Both Adam and Christopher will report to **Simon Dessain** (Chief Operating Officer).

A note of sadness. The awesome **Julie Nilson** died October 25. She died of cancer, peacefully, at home. Julie had been diagnosed in July so her illness was brief. She held several positions at Indiana University in Bloomington including **Head of Acquisitions**. I remember Julie fondly. She was a frequent attendee at the Charleston Conferences. Upcoming is a tribute to Julie written by **Heidi Lee Hoerman** <HOERMAN@VM.SC.EDU> (College of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina).

Dr. Chong Lee (Exec VP, Veicon Technology) <chong@veicon.com> recently sent a link to an article in the **Business Journal** <http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/stories/2002/11/18/daily16.html?f=et75>. "Veicon to put terminals in California libraries" by **Aliza Earnshaw** <aearnshaw@bizjournals.com>. The article's about the Beaverton company's receipt of a contract from **Santa Clara County California** to install more than 300 of its V-Link terminals in nine public libraries. The Internet-access terminals allow patrons to surf the Net, access email, and search online library catalogs. V-Filter, Veicon's filtering system, will allow blocking of access to particular Internet sites. <http://www.veicon.com>.

Bruce James was confirmed as the **24th Public Printer of the United States** on November 20, 2002 by unanimous consent of the Senate. James is a graduate of **Rochester Institute of Technology** and was CEO of **Barclays Law Publishers** until retiring in 1993 at the age of 51. He is the Chairman of the **Congressional Roundtable of Printing Industries of America**, a trustee of the **National Technical Institute for the Deaf**, was president of **Printing Industries of California** (a trade association for more than 7,000 printing firms), executive board member of the **Government Affairs Council of the Printing Industries of America**, and member of the **Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA)** and **World Affairs Council**. A recent interview can be found in the **Rochester Institute of Tech-**

nology magazine <http://www.rit.edu/~umagwww/fall2002/singledOut.html>.

The absolutely perfect **Janet Flowers** <jflowers@email.unc.edu> has been very busy over the past little bit, selling her house and buying a new one in Hillsborough, NC. Yep, after living in Durham for 32 years, they decided it was time for a change!

Fretwell-Downing, Inc. have joined the **CrossRef** organization as an affiliate member. This affiliation with **CrossRef** will improve the accuracy of **FDs OL2** reference linking product by cross-checking citation and digital content information to ensure that the right copy is provided. **OL2** automatically builds links between citation information and digital content. Together with its **ZPORTAL** information portal solution, **FD** offers information professionals the opportunity to bring together an organization's information resources and offer information discovery and content delivery from one system. **CrossRef**, which was established by scholarly publishers as an independent, non-profit entity in 2000, uses open standards. It is an official registration agency of the **Information Digital Object Identifier Foundation (IDF)**, and is the first full-scale implementation of the DOI system. For more information, contact **Matt Goldner** (Executive Vice President) <matt.goldner@fdgroup.com> www.fidusa.com.

The **State of Tennessee** has signed a contract with **Gale®**, a unit of **The Thomson Corporation** (NYSE:TOC, TSX:TOC), that will give its citizens desktop access to thirteen premium databases through its **Tennessee Electric Library (TEL)**. The contract became effective October 1 and will cover a three-year period. Tennessee citizens can connect for free at their library or remotely from home, school, or office. The URL and password are available at any academic, public, or school library. Supported by **Library Services and Technology Act** funds provided by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services, TEL**, launched in 1999, includes databases that serve the information needs of nearly every citizen. For more information see—<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/tel>. www.gale.com.

The astute and energetic **Sally Morris** (Secretary-General, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, UK) <secgen@alpsp.org> announces that **ALPSP** has just made available at <http://www.alpsp.org/socjourn1.pdf>, its guidelines for good practice when a journal is transferred from one publisher to another, as happens from time to time with society journals published under contract. The guidelines were prepared in consultation with many members, with particular input from **Blackwell Publishing**, **Oxford University Press** and the **Royal Society of Chemistry**. <http://www.alpsp.org>.

Well, unbelievable!, but true! The independent, opinionated, and sharp-as-a-tack **Sandra K. Paul** <Sandy@SKPAssociates.com> has fallen in love! That's right! You heard it here! Sandy has married **Money** (**John**, that is) (Sorry, I just couldn't resist that!). Really. In September, Sandy fell in love with **John Money** and,

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Rumors from page 8

in bride-like fashion writes that he is fantastic, British, her boss and, best of all, a 15-year friend. She adores his grandchild, son, stepdaughter, etc., etc. Sandy and John will be spending half their time in the UK and the other half in the US. On the 21 of December, I got this update from **Sulgrave, England**. About the weather, Sandy writes, it's "just-below freezing temperatures and gray outside." Sounds like England to me, but then it's that time of year. It's even gray and rainy right now in Charleston. Just in the 50s which is cold for Charleston. (This is the truth. I am not making it up!) Anyway, Sandy is spending the holidays with John's family in England. They will return to Miami in early January. She says they will return to the UK for the summer. Now, where will you be in November, Sandy? I hope Charleston! In the meantime, best wishes to you and John!

The **World Intellectual Property Organization** has released a survey of Internet IP issues. The survey covers emerging copyright concerns along with implementation of the WIPO copyright treaties. Survey at <http://ecommerce.wipo.int/survey/>.

Well, I'll bet you've missed this piece of news! According to the **London Times** of November 6, 2002, ("Disney strikes deal with Winnie the Pooh heirs" from **James Doran**, Wall Street Correspondent). **Winnie the Pooh** has teamed up with **Mickey Mouse** in a deal slated to take effect in November, 2004. **Claire Milne**, granddaughter of **A.A. Milne**, and **Minette Hunt**,

granddaughter of **Ernest Shepherd** (the illustrator) have "granted sole rights to **Disney** in a deal worth \$1 billion." Interestingly enough, this is just part of the story. As librarians won't be surprised to learn, it all started with a lawsuit involving a **licensing agreement**. Apparently, **Disney** has held the rights over **Pooh's** image for over forty years paying a \$12 million per year royalty to **Stephen Slesinger**, a literary agent. Based on new US copyright law, the **Milne** and **Shepherd** heirs were allowed to regain rights to their work during a five-year window. Anyway, no doubt **Slesinger** and **Disney** will continue their own legal battles. This sounds to me like a **Legally Speaking** that we need **Bryan Carson** to comment on. In the meantime, I'm wondering if **Mickey** likes honey? <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,5-470954,00.html>.

This is courtesy of **Liblicense**. The **National Information Standards Organization (NISO)** and **EDItEUR** are establishing a **Joint Working Party (JWP)** to explore the development of a common standard format for the exchange of serials subscription information. A **NISO White Paper** released in September 2002 reported that libraries, content aggregators, publishers, and third party service providers are increasingly exchanging information about serials subscriptions. The **White Paper** indicated that a standard exchange format would be beneficial to all parties in the supply chain and identified **ONIX for Serials** as a good foundation for such an exchange format. The **NISO/EDItEUR** group began work in November 2002 and is tasked to: a) Recommend specific enhancements to the **ONIX for Serials** schema and

documentation to support exchange of serials subscription information; b) Recommend how the query/response scenarios can be accommodated within the emerging **EDItEUR** framework for transaction-based exchange; c) Plan, organize, and coordinate a pilot project involving publishers, intermediaries, and libraries to demonstrate the feasibility of using **ONIX for Serials** as an exchange format for serials subscription information. The **Joint Working Party** will be co-chaired by **Priscilla Caplan**, a member of the **NISO Standards Development Committee** and Assistant Director of the **Florida Center for Library Automation**, Gainesville FL and **Richard Gedy**, Journals Sales and Marketing Director, **Oxford University Press**, Oxford UK. The **NISO White Paper**, titled "The Exchange of Serials Subscription Information" by **Ed Jones** is featured on the **NISO Website** at: <http://www.niso.org>. **NISO** is the leading accredited standards developer serving libraries and content industries (www.niso.org). **EDItEUR** is an international trade industry group coordinating development of the standards infrastructure for electronic commerce in books and serials (www.editeur.org). For further information contact: **Pat Harris** (Exec. Dir., **NISO**) <pharris@niso.org> or **Brian Green** (Manager, **EDItEUR**) <brian@bic.org.uk>.

Retired Librarian and information scientist **David Wilson Taylor** <dwtaylor1@home.com> sends word of a Website was established earlier this year that provides the largest selection of book lists on the Web and no advertising. This site, it should be noted, contains the lists themselves unlike sites that simply point to other sources; also, all lists are complete, e.g. all award-winners are shown from the first year of the award to the present. The **Booklist Center** has, in its four months of operation, been referenced and recommended by more than 150 libraries and information centers around the world. Try <http://www.booklistcenter.com>.

Reed Elsevier Group plc has appointed **Pat Tierney** to the new role of chief executive officer of its global education publishing division. **Mr. Tierney** will join the company at the start of January 2003 and will be based at Reed Elsevier corporate headquarters in New York. He will be a main board director reporting to **Crispin Davis**, **Reed Elsevier's** chief executive officer. **Mr. Tierney** joins **Reed Elsevier** from **The Thomson Corporation** where he has worked since 1997, most recently as chief executive officer of **Thomson Financial**. Prior to joining **The Thomson Corporation**, **Mr. Tierney** held senior management positions at **Knight-Ridder Inc.**, **TRW** and **Caterpillar**. As chief executive officer of **Reed Elsevier's** global education division, **Mr. Tierney** will be responsible for the US schools publishing and testing businesses, the UK education business, and the international schools publishing business.

The **Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation** has awarded a \$9 million grant to the **Public Library of Science** to enable launching of new journals that will allow scientists to make their works freely and universally available from the moment of publication through international, online "public libraries of science," without sac-

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rificing the recognition and audience that a reputable journal can provide. **PLoS** will begin by publishing two journals—**PLoS Biology** and **PLoS Medicine**—that will retain all of the important features of scientific journals, including rigorous peer-review and high editorial standards, but will use a new business model in which the costs of these services are recovered by modest fees on each published paper. This new model will allow **PLoS** to make all published works immediately available online, with no charges for access or restrictions on subsequent redistribution or use. The **Howard Hughes Medical Institute** in the US has strongly endorsed this concept by offering to cover the costs of open access publication by means of a budget supplement to each of its investigators. Several universities have recognized the tremendous value of open access publishing to the scientific and academic communities (as well as long term financial savings of this model) and have taken similar steps by providing funds from library budgets to support open access publishing. **PLoS** has also taken steps to ensure that authors who do not have access to grant funds or institutional support that allow them to pay publication fees will still be able to publish their work in the **PLoS** journals. **PLoS** has begun putting together a professional editorial staff, and assembling a diverse, international editorial advisory board of outstanding scientists who share these goals. **PLoS** hopes to begin receiving submissions by summer 2003, and to begin publishing in the second half of 2003. More information about this new initiative is available at: <http://www.publiclibraryofscience.org>.

This issue is guest-edited by the scholarly **Mark Herring** (Winthrop University). His **CyberAge/Special Report #3** is not in this issue, but will follow in the next issue. Stay tuned!

More from **Liblicense**. On December 16, 2002, **Creative Commons** released version 1.0 of its **Licensing Project** and the first release of content under its **Founders' Copyright**. These are the first two projects in a series that **Creative Commons** will launch, all designed to help expand the amount of intellectual work, whether owned or free, available for creative re-use. The **Licensing Project** will build licenses that will help copyright holders tell others that their works are free for copying and other uses—but only on certain conditions. You're probably familiar with the phrase "All rights reserved" and the little © that goes along with it. **Creative Commons** wants to help copyright holders send a different message: "Some rights reserved" and the "CC Creative Commons" logo. If an author prefers to dedicate his/her work to the public domain, where nothing is owned and

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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

by **Daryl Rayner** (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212) <daryl@xrefer.com>
www.xrefer.com www.xreferplus.com

As I write this most of you are probably "en famille" enjoying roast turkey and pumpkin pie. Sadly in Paddington there is no such "thanksgiving" and we are all at our desks looking forward to a weekend most likely to be filled with Christmas preparations.

Unfortunately this year I didn't make it personally to the **Charleston Conference**, but I hope that many of you got the chance to meet **Carole Myles** <carole.myles@xrefer.com> and **Adam Hodgkin** <adam.hodgkin@xrefer.com> both "xreferers" and involved in various presentations and discussions. I heard from them that the meeting was a great success. Next year it will be my turn to visit and escape from London's grey autumn skies.

Over the past couple of months we have had a steady stream of visitors to our offices in Paddington Station and it is always good to see you passing through. It was wonderful to welcome **Rick Lugg** and **Ruth Fischer** <rick@r2consulting.org> and their children in early November en route to **Madame Tussauds** <http://www.madame-tussauds.com/> (waxworks of famous people). The whole family looked in extraordinarily good shape considering they had just got off a transatlantic flight. I must apologise to them for the weather though. I think it rained for the whole of their two week trip. **Lorraine Estelle** the new Collections Team Manager at the **JISC** <lorraine.estelle@kcl.ac.uk> visited and told us all about her ambitious plans back at the **JISC** offices in **Kings College**, London. We wish you luck, **Lorraine**. **Steve O'Connor** CEO of **CAVAL Collaboration Solutions** <steveo@caval.edu.au> also managed a quick trip to the xrefer offices having just arrived from Australia. We have been seeing publishers and reference editors from **Penguin**, **Cassell**, **Harcourt**, **Longman**, **Cambridge Scientific Abstracts**, **Blackwell** and **Wiley**. The **Bloomsbury** editor wanted to know why our office was on Platform One of Paddington Station and not on Platform 9 in Kings Cross.

But there's lots happening outside of Platform One too! I can report that **The Bookseller** have now started their own daily book blog at <http://www.thebookseller.com/news/news.html>. The perfect way to keep abreast of the why's and wherefores of the British book scene.

The complete and fully updated UK Marc manual is now freely available online on **The British Library** Website: <http://www.bl.uk/services/bibliographic/marc/marcman.html>. **The British Library** have also launched their **Magic Pencil: Children's Book Illustration of Today Exhibition** <http://portico.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/magicpencil/home.html>. It runs until March 31st 2003. If you can't make

the exhibition I recommend that you browse their fabulous collection of e-postcards <http://portico.bl.uk/ecards/indexmagicpencil.html>.

The **Royal Botanical Gardens** at Kew has launched its Internet based "shop window" for plant information, giving botanists, conservationists and researchers worldwide access to the information held in its databases <http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/epic/>.

Love letters from **Henry VIII** to **Anne Boleyn** and manuscripts of **Emperor Justinian** are just some of the hundreds of thousands of historical manuscripts being added to the Website of the **Vatican Apostolic Library** <http://www.vatican.va>. The library was apparently founded by **Pope Nicholas V** (1447-1455) and has 1.6 million volumes!!

The big event in London in December is the **Online Information Show** <http://online-information.co.uk>. It is always a meeting of the great and good in the digital information world, and the line-up for this year looks as though it is to be no exception. It is good to see that **Peter Scott** of the **University of Saskatchewan Library** <scott@lights.com> will be moderating the first session on content strategy, management and creation. I notice, also, that **Sheila Webber** at the Department of Information Studies, **University of Sheffield** <s.webber@sheffield.ac.uk> will be providing her usual enlightening insights during the session on educating end users. **Charles Oppenheim**, <c.oppenheim@lboro.ac.uk> Professor of Information Science at **Loughborough University** will be providing half of the "double keynote" (in partnership with **Dr. Donald Marchand** from the **International Institute for Management Development**) on the subject of "Managing Information as an Asset." And no Online meeting would be complete without **Gary Price**, <gprice@gwu.edu>, Library Research and Internet Consulting and **Greg Notess**, <greg@notess.com> Associate Professor **Montana State University, Bozeman** giving us the benefit of their up-to-date Web searching expertise.

I can report that **Karen Stanfield** is the new Director of the newly formed Information Services department at the **University of Nottingham**. **Stephen Pinker** who was formerly Academic Services Librarian is now the Assistant Director of Information Services at the **University of Nottingham**. **Alison McNab** has been appointed to the post of Academic Services Section Head in the research and Learning Resources Divisions of **IS**. **Alison** was previously Collections Manager for Journals and Discovery tools at **JISC**. We wish them all luck.

By the time you read this it will be 2003, so all that is left for me to do, is wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Inspiring New Year.

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Rumors

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all is permitted, CC will help you do that. In other words, they'll help you declare "No rights reserved." **The Founders' Copyright Project** will make content available under the same initial term as the framers of the United States Constitution did—just 14 years. **O'Reilly & Associates** is founding contributor to this Project. For further information, visit—<http://creativecommons.org/>.

Stacey Shoup has been promoted to **OCCLC Support Supervisor** with **SOLINET**. Many of us are familiar with Stacey's work as Electronic Resources Coordinator with the Library Products & Services Program of SOLINET for the past few years. Updates will soon be available on the SOLINET Website (www.solinet.net) but in the meantime, please feel free to direct any inquiries you would have sent to Stacey to either **Timothy Cherubini** <tcherubini@solinet.net> (Manager, Library Products & Services, SOLINET) or **Joan Berger** <jberger@solinet.net>.

Well, I certainly hope you were at the **Charleston Conference** in November, 2002. It was the place to be. See the **Report** in this issue, p.76. None of the booths at the **Charleston Vendor Showcase** were still for a moment! And more than one person was heard to comment—"I thought this was a bad idea when it first started, but five years later, it's great. It's just what we acquisitions and collection development people need to show us important fea-

tures of some of the software and hardware."

I remember him well. He loved all kinds of crazy pins and he was oh so much fun to be around. **Daniel T. Richards' Prize Nomination Process** is open. The **Medical Library Association/Collection Development Section (MLA/CDS)** seeks nominations for the **2003 Daniel T. Richards Prize**. **Dan Richards** (1945-1995) was instrumental in establishing biomedical library collection development as a rigorous discipline with a distinct methodology. The prize will be presented to an individual who created a work in any format (print, audiovisual, electronic, etc.) related to collecting in the health sciences. A \$250 cash award along with a certificate will be presented to the winner at the 2003 section meeting held during **MLA '03** in San Diego. Nominations must be received by January 25, 2003, to be eligible; self-nominations are acceptable. Nominations must include complete names of authors/creators, addresses, institutional affiliations, and complete citation of work along with three complete copies of the work (abstracts not accepted). Mail nominations to: **Deborah Bleicic**; Collection Development Department; University Library; (M/C 234); University of Illinois at Chicago; Box 8198; Chicago, IL 60680. Phone: 312.996.2730; Fax: 312.413.0424; Email: <dbleicic@uic.edu>.

Ex Libris (USA) announced that the **University of Miami** has signed a contract for **SFX**, context sensitive reference linking software. With **SFX**, libraries can define rules that allow **SFX** to dynamically create links that fully integrate their information resources regardless of who hosts them—the library itself or external information providers. The user is presented with context-sensitive links that are dynamically configured on the basis of the institution's e-collections. Librarians can configure **SFX** to include links to both licensed and freely available resources; and they can determine the manner in which the component resources can be linked to best suit the library's users. The **University of Miami** is the largest private research institution in the southeastern United States. The **University of Miami Libraries** hold over 2.2 million volumes and subscribe to over 17,000 periodical titles. **Richter Library**, the largest library in the system, houses collections to serve disciplines in the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences. www.exlibris-usa.com.

Many of the powerpoint presentations from the **2002 Charleston Conference** are up on the Web and more are being placed there as they become available. Here's the URL: <http://www.cofc.edu/cdconference/presentations2002.html>.

The oh-so-awesome **Deana Astle** introduced me to **Charleston Conference** first-time attendee **Stefanie DuBose** <duboses@mail.ecu.edu> (Serials Librarian, Collection Development Department, Joyner Library, East Carolina University). Stefanie's powerpoint presentation (Journal Realignment: Mapping a Brave New World) is just one of the presentations which is available at the URL above.

Did y'all see **Barbara Meyer's Publishers' Panel** at the **2002 Charleston Conference**? It was a glimpse inside the publishers' office. Besides being funny, it gave us a real inside look at how and why some of the decisions to publish a particular journal are made courtesy of **Barbara**, **Anne McKee** (Greater Western Library Alliance), **Eric Neman** (Consultant), **Linda Beebe** (APA) and **Alan Tourtlotte** (Optical Society of America). Next year, I hope we can have a similar glimpse inside the library director's office and how decisions on **electronic database purchases** are made. The inimitable **Eleanor Cook** <cookei@conrad.appstate.edu> is putting this panel together even as we speak!

The American Psychological Association (APA) has reached an agreement with **Elsevier Science** to distribute its **PsycARTICLES** fulltext journal database via the **ScienceDirect** platform. <http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/wnd021104.htm>.

I don't know how many of you have been following the **American Geophysical Union** and the controversy re page numbers. There was a story in **Science** (30 August 2002, p. 1468) talking about **AGU's** transition to electronic publishing; specifically, on issues of page numbering, digital object identifiers (DOIs), pricing, and manuscript backlog. The **AGU** response ("AGU Faulted for Being 'Online Pioneer'—The Rest of the Story") is located at <http://www.agu.org/pubs/reports/eosPioneer.htm>.

The incredibly energetic **Nancy Slight-Gibney** (University of Oregon Library System) <nsg@oregon.uoregon.edu> is now Director, Budget and Management Information Services. The equally enthusiastic **Faye Chadwell** is now Head of the renamed Collection Development and Acquisitions Department.

Unfortunately, **John McDonald's** (Caltech) <jmcdonald@library.caltech.edu> grandmother passed away in late October so he was unable to speak at **Buzzy Basch's** preconference right before the **Charleston Conference**. John still wowed everyone at the main conference on Friday afternoon, however, when he spoke about "Dspace and Digital Archives."

Thanks to **Bernie Sloan** (Senior Library Information Systems Consultant, University of Illinois Office for Planning and Budgeting) <bernies@uillinois.edu> who told us on **Liblicense** of an article in the **Chronicle of Higher Education** regarding "an expansive study of the information-gathering habits of students and faculty members." Bernie tells us that

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the full report, titled "Dimensions and Use of the Scholarly Information Environment", is now available online from the **Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)** and the **Digital Library Federation (DLF)**: <http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub110/contents.html>. <http://chronicle.com/free/2002/10/2002100301t.htm>.

More from **Liblicense**. Take a look at the article on October 14, 2002, from the *Chronicle of Higher Education*—"Copy-Shop That Made Coursepacks for U. of Florida Faces Lawsuit Alleging Copyright Infringement" by **Megan Rooney**. **MIT Press**, **Elsevier Science** and **John Wiley & Sons** have filed a copyright infringement suit in federal district court against **Custom Copies**. The **University of Florida** at Gainesville is not a party to the suit. "Any professional copy shop that is making copies in coursepacks and isn't getting a license from the CCC is breaking copyright law," **Roy Kaufman**, associate general counsel for **John Wiley & Sons** is quoted in the *CHE* article. "We assume that every copy shop knows the law at this point, so either they are following the law or they are violating it by their own choice." **Kenneth Roberts**, president of **Custom Copies** has said that they are being "unfairly vilified."

Heard from the fantastic **Michael Young** <michael.s.young@uconn.edu> who has moved from his position at **SUNY Albany** to **Art and Design Librarian** at **Homer Babbidge Library U-5AD, University of Connecticut at Storrs**. Michael's wife was beginning a new job the week of the **Conference** so he couldn't come this past year, but we hope to see him next year.

In the meantime, we are lucky that the energetic and effusive **Deborah England** of **Wright State** has generously agreed to compile the evaluations for the **2002 Charleston Conference**!

Well, as we go to press, **Yahoo** is planning to acquire **Inktomi**, the search engine service ("Yahoo to acquire Inktomi" by **Margaret Kane**, December 23, 2002, <http://news.com.com/2100-1023-978692.html>) for \$235 million.

The incredible **Peter Suber** <peters@earlham.edu> and *The Free Online Scholarship Newsletter: How the Internet is Transforming Scholarly Research and Publication* is looking for a year-end review of the major events of **FOS** interest during 2002. Anyway, **Peter** has listed what he regards as the landmark events of 2002 in the **FOS Timeline** — <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/timeline.htm> and asks for our input. Check this out!

While you're at it, check out this article in the January, 2003 issue of *Scientific American* — "Fair Use and Abuse: Get Set for an Overdue National Debate About Consumer Rights in the Digital Age" by **Gary Stix**. "The legal system should try to achieve a balance between the rights of owners and users of copyrighted works. An incisive debate is urgently needed to restore that balance." <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?article>.

2003 Charleston Conference - Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition

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include — **Rosann Bazirjian**, Chair (Penn State University) <rvb9@psu.edu>, **Barbara Dean** (Arlington County Public Library), **Stuart Grinnell** (Ambassador Books and Media) <bookman@iquest.net>, **Ramune Kubilius** (Northwestern Health Sci-

ences Library) <r-kubilius@nwu.edu>, **Heather Miller** (SUNY-Albany) <hm766@cnsvax.albany.edu>, **Jack Montgomery** (Western Kentucky University) <jack.montgomery@wku.edu>, **Marietta Plank** (Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance) <mplank@deans.umd.edu>, **Vicky Speck** (ABC-Clio) <vspeck@abc-clio.com>, **Katina Strauch** (College of Charleston) <strauchk@earthlink.net>.

Send ideas by June 30, 2003, to any of the Conference Directors listed above.

Or to: **Katina Strauch**

MSC 98, The Citadel
Charleston, SC 29409
843-723-3536 (phone & fax)
Internet: <strauchk@earthlink.net>

Was poking through *Town & Country*, Special Issue, January 2003, the other day and ran across an article titled: "Booklover's Paradise — **G. Heywood Hill**" by **Victoria Mather**. This famous bookshop was where **Nancy Mitford** worked in London. And, guess what, I just noticed that we have a **BYMI** on this specific article! See this issue, p.85.

Brill Academic Publishers has reached an agreement with **CSA (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts)**. **CSA** will produce and host an online edition of the *Index Islamicus*, a leading international bibliography of Islamic and Middle East Studies edited by **G.J. Roper** and **C.H. Bleaney** at the **Islamic Bibliography Unit at Cambridge University Library**. *Index Islamicus* is the international classified bibliography of publications in European languages on all aspects of Islam and the Muslim world, from archaeology to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, from Iran to Muslim minorities in the USA. **Brill Academic Publishers** acquired the *Index Islamicus* in December 2001 and has since seen sales of the 4th edition of the CD-ROM edition grow in line with increased interest in the field of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies. For further information, contact sales@brill.nl.

Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) has launched a transactional licensing service to enable case-by-case permissions for digital reproduction and distribution of copyrighted materials. This transactional service complements CCC's digital repository licensing and allows

external uses. Under this new service, customers request permission to email or post material on their Internet or Extranet sites. Most common digital uses are covered, including PC-to-PC faxing and PDA transmissions. "This service provides the only centralized means for users to license digital use on an as needed basis," said **David Dekker**, chief operating officer of **Marcel Dekker Inc.**, an international publisher of scientific, technical and medical journals. "We are extremely pleased to be able to provide more efficient access for customers while retaining licensing control of our intellectual property." Rights owners set their own royalty fees and terms and conditions, based on types of digital uses sought by customers. Using a secure section on CCC's copyright.com, rights owners can authorize usage on a request-by-request basis. www.ccc.com.

The **2002 Annual Report** of the **CONSER** Program is now available on the **CONSER** Website at: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/acq/conser/annualreport2002.html>. In addition to the highlights regarding electronic serials, training, AACR2, and publication patterns, individual member's reports are included.

The fantastic **Rick Bowes'** email address has changed to <rbowes@bowesweb.com>. For the last many months, **Rick** has been essentially a full time consultant to **CAST**, a leading education R&D group focused on using electronic technologies to advance learning for all students

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Onward to Avalon CD by Jack Montgomery

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and especially those with disabilities (www.cast.org). His work has involved the design and planning for the creation of a national digital library of accessible curricular materials and is now completed. He is in the process of reinvigorating his consulting practice under the name of **Electronic Publishing Associates**. EPA operates in two areas: (1) Working with scholarly, professional and education publishers to develop, evaluate, refine and implement practical electronic publishing strategies in support of their existing or planned print products or stand-alone initiatives; and (2) Working with school district and state education professionals facing the specter of litigation under federal and increasingly aggressive state laws requiring the provision of accessible curricular materials, i.e., textbooks, for the over six million students with disabilities currently in the nation's schools. In addition to helping education professionals develop accessibility plans, EPA will work directly with school publishers to help them address their customers' pressing need for accessible curricular materials.

Enjoyed talking to the vivacious **Florence Sumaray** <f_sumaray@acs.org> and **Matthew J. Price** <m_price@acs.org> from the **American Chemical Society** at the recent **Charles-ton Conference**. And watch for the bam-zowie **Bartow Culp's** <bculp@purdue.edu> upcom

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The Future of the Book: from page 1

at their word. Nothing I say here should be attributed to them.

I'm certain, too, that none of us would say that there would *never* be a time when the book will vanish. This is, after all, a culture which gave us Hollywood where, "based on the book" generally means that somewhere in some library within 100 miles of the filming, there was this book, see, and it, ... you get my meaning. This is a culture in which trial lawyers can work for more than \$6,500 an hour (but no more than \$130,000 an hour) killing off tobacco companies, yet still be able to parade about on television claiming the high moral ground. This is a culture in which Global Crossings makes a political pundit millions, yet goes bankrupt for all the rest who were counting on the income.¹ The point is, *anything* can happen, so none of us would be willing to contend that the book will forever be.

What we will contend, however, is that the book is a far cry from dead. We don't even believe it's valetudinarian. Rather we see it as robust and vibrant and ready to live another 100 years being, as **Amy Lowell** once said, "our essence and quintessence." We are none of us prophets but we are all eager to see this Nostradamian prediction come true. So, who are we, alphabetically speaking?

Sidney Berger is the Director of the **California Center for the Book**. **Mr. Berger** holds, in addition to a library science degree, a PhD from **Iowa**. **Berger** contends that while there is much to commend electronic access, it still has a few bugs, so to say, that prevent it from being the new panacea to all research ills. He praises the book's portability and more, its intellectually pleasing charm. While he praises electronic access with respect to journal accessibility, he also points out some of the inherent problems that every librarian agonizes over: the instability of it all.

Edwin S. Gleaves is the State Librarian and Archivist of Tennessee. **Ed** and I met about twenty-five years ago, when I signed up for one of his classes while working on my library degree. **Mr. Gleaves** points out that we have been through all of this before and the library has remained. Books have remained. Reading has endured. Moreover, we are in the middle of a renaissance of book publishing of late, the most obvious of which is the resurgence of reading among the young with the publication of the *Harry Potter* books. For **Ed**, the book may die a few more dozen times before it really passes away.

In addition to his library science degree, **David Mash** holds degrees from **Southern Methodist University** and **Dallas Theological Seminary**. It will come as no surprise then that he holds the chief library chair at **Columbia International University**, a small school devoted to Christian teaching. **Mr. Mash** points to the future of the book as anything but ill, yet he sees rather formidable problems on the horizon, not least of which are the many errors of the Web coupled with its Soviet-like disinformation.

David Oberhelman is the Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian at the Edmon Low Library at **Oklahoma State University**. **Mr. Oberhelman** holds degrees from the Universities of **California (Irvine)**, **Pittsburgh**, and **Rice**. He tackles the question on the very ground where electronic access should be its strongest: searching. If electronic access can be found to be faulty here, *a fortiori*, it can be found faulty throughout. What **Mr. Oberhelman** evinces so clearly is that even at its strongest point, the Internet, the World Wide Web and all the rest do have serious shortfalls that the unwary ignore at their peril.²

Allene Stuart Phy-Olsen is professor extraordinaire at **Austin Peay University** in Tennessee. **Professor Phy-Olsen** has written extensively, including titles in the ever-useful **Twayne Series** of authors. **Professor Phy-Olsen** envisions a brighter future for the Web if it will only use its full resources. The Web simply cannot compete against that arena in which it has no standing. She sees an interactive future that will give eBooks the advantages they have been touting for so many years but have yet to deliver. If this comes to reality, **Professor Phy-Olsen** sees the potential for the web as stronger in this area, rather than in one it cannot win: print. Meanwhile, however, she's more than ever at home with endless ineffability of words on paper.

Jim Presgraves is the antiquarian book dealer, *par excellence*. **Mr. Presgraves**, in addition to being unflappable, maintains one of the wryest and engaging senses of humor I have ever had the pleasure of encountering. In addition to his myriad yarns, **Mr. Presgraves** also has one of the finest book dealerships I have been able to find. We have been doing business for more than two decades and, try though I may, I have yet to be unhappy with the outcome. If you need to buy a used or rare book, **Jim** (and his **Bookworm & Silverfish**) is your man. **Mr. Presgraves'** concerns have to do with the art form called the book as opposed to its functionality as a tool of learning. Though he is concerned with both, he points out what may not be so obvious: all those rare materials we look at longingly will be even more breath-taking when they are replaced by laptops under glass.

Finally, there has been one other person who must be singled out. I have the uncanny good fortune to have hired a retired English teacher who acts as the Secretary to the Dean. **Bessie Meeks** has done as much editing on these essays as I have, and more. Her proofreading skills are *sine qua non*, and while she cannot be faulted for anything I have said, she has made everything all of us have tried to say in these essays so much the better. 🌿

Endnotes

1. Incidentally, Terry McAuliffe remains the head of the Democratic National Committee, "the party of the people" after his \$100,000 investment in Global Crossings made him \$18 million before going bankrupt. See www.timeswrs.com/V020902.HTM for more.
2. Technically speaking the Internet and the World Wide Web are two different species of the same or similar beast.

Monster of Non-circulating Library Collections Rears Ugly Head ... Again

by **Phil Davis** (Life Science Librarian, Albert R. Mann Library, Cornell University) <pmd8@cornell.edu>

In economically desperate times, the monster of inefficiency rears its ugly head again to show how wasteful we are. This monster attacks collection librarians for purchasing books that are never used. While this argument is popular (even trendy), it is both unfounded and unproductive.

The pinnacle study frequently cited is the famous (or infamous) Pittsburgh study¹ which found that 40% of books and monographs acquired in 1969 never circulated after six years.

While the authors looked at the properties and attributes of those things that circulated, there was no analysis done on those things that did *not* circulate (the so called "zero class"). Follow-up studies in other libraries^{2,3} have determined that many of their non-circulating items were:

- 1) things that *could not* circulate (i.e. reference materials),
- 2) things that the library didn't purchase (i.e. gifts and exchange),
- 3) things that the library receives out of legal requirement (i.e. government depository), or
- 4) things the library purchases because of a comprehensive collection mission.

With these classes removed, the proportion of non-circulating items becomes very low. So in summary, this argument of the non-circulating library collection is empirically unfounded.

But whether the non-circulating figure is 40% or 20% or 10% still leads us to the second part of the question, "why are librarians so wasteful?"

Circulation studies are all historical in nature. What they give us is a statistical and aggregate snapshot of a population of materials that the library has already acquired. Understanding what has circulated in the past, nevertheless, gives us little or no future predictive ability for future purchases.

It is clear that senior administrators and dubious library efficiency consultants that use the Pittsburgh study as an example of library wastefulness have never read this study — they always forget the key argument presented on page 5 in the introduction:

"...it is not particularly useful for a bibliographer to know that 10% of all the titles (s)he selects will satisfy 90% of client demand for materials in a given discipline, unless s(he) can also be told which 10%. It is useless to tell the acquisitions librarian that half the monographs ordered will never be used, unless you are also in a position to say which 50% to avoid buying. The simple fact is that the available data lack sufficient predictive power to enable the librarian to modify selection practices with assurances that the results will be more responsive to future needs of clients."

Tony Ferguson ("Back Talk — Use Statistics," *Against the Grain*, Sept 2002) provides several arguments for why the academic library mission leads to the purchase of books that may not circulate soon after purchase. But even institutions that lack the scholarly mission of the academic library have the same problems. For-profit bookstores return millions of dollars of unsold books every year to publishers that are not sold to their clientele. They face the same uncertainty as libraries, that new authors and new titles will never be purchased and turn a profit.

If libraries only purchased what they knew would circulate, they would fail to serve academia. They would function like a bookstore that only carried the latest titles from the *NY Times*

best sellers list — a reactionary library, and a poor one at that.

Library collections are born from uncertainty and grow with uncertainty. It is through uncertainty that we best serve the needs of academics and support scholarly research. If this is the reason that we are criticized for wasting library funds, let the efficiency consultants eat their words.

Endnotes

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2. Blecic, Deborah D. "Monograph Use at an Academic Health Sciences Library: The First Three Years of Shelf Life." *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 88, no. 2 (2000): 145-51.
3. Eldredge, Jonathan D. "The Vital Few Meet the Trivial Many: Unexpected Use Patterns in a Monographs Collection." *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 86, no. 4 (1998): 496-503.

Here Lies The Book, R.I.P.:

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tools will not be available in print formats. This is alarming but not catastrophic. Journals will also go the way of all ion but costs will remain as high as ever.¹²

Books on the other hand will have a different fate, at least for now. There will still be many more obituaries written between now and 100 years from now. But by and large they will be greatly exaggerated. Some will surely argue that we who defend the book defend the wrong thing. Medium is nothing, they will say, only content. And I believe it is just that sort of nonsense that told us soup cans and oddly bent coat-hangers with meta-physical names were art forms. For now, anyway, we will thankfully live yet another generation or two in the "sweet serenity of books."

Rumors

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ing interview with **Lorin Garson** <l_garson@acs.org> very soon, we hope! Did you know that Bartow's mother lives in Charleston where he was visiting before he went to see his NYC daughter. That **Bartow** sure does get around!

Just heard that the debonair **Craig Flansburg** joined TDNet on January 6. Hurray!

Last but definitely not least, **Ron Chepesiuk** (Winthrop University) <rchelesiuk@compuserve.com> and a long-time contributor to **ATG** has announced that he is gone from Winthrop as of December 31 to embark on a full-time writing and teaching career. Good luck, **Ron**, and we hope to hear a lot more from you!