ATG Luminaries: Ane Carriveau, Galadriel Chilton, Rolf Janke, and Elizabeth Lightfoot
In my experience, a leader is someone who others want to emulate. Someone who inspires others to do what they do best and creates opportunities for growth. Someone who shows respect for others. Someone who has learned from others, and gives them their time to the profession. A leader shows a vision for the future and can articulate how to get there.

We find leaders all over libraries. Some are directors or department heads. But often, the truly inspiring leaders are the ones on the frontline who take the risk and try the new thing. They speak about libraries in terms of our communities and not in terms of staff. They build teams based on respect. They learn from others as well as show others the way. They lead through example and not only do other librarians follow them, but also do faculty, staff, community members and civic leaders.

Those local library leaders that develop naturally from the frontline need help to become fully engaged leaders for the profession. They need mentors that will help them when they stumble. Leadership and mentorship are part of a cycle that loops. When done well, the mentor will also learn from the mentee. And being a mentor can be scary. It requires you to open up about your experiences, both your failures and your successes. The best part about having a good mentor is learning from their mistakes, so you don’t make them. And then you can be an even better leader and pass those lessons on.

As an academic publisher with many miles traveled to academic libraries and conferences, I have had some amazing conversations with several library leaders about the future of the library as well as publishing. But another fascinating theme also emerges, which is they haven’t really had any exposure to the basics of the business of publishing. So, I believe this sets the stage for a continuing conversation on the importance for the next generation of library leaders to understand the economics, business models, and legal and ethical aspects of publishing. From open access, copyright law to the pricing scheme behind an eBook collection, the next generation of library leaders needs to be informed. Why do I think this is so important? Because as a publisher, I believe we are moving into very uncertain yet exciting times as key factors to the business such as content, technology, digital literacy, and new economic models all seem to be intersecting which is changing the game on collection development and electronic resource acquisition. An informed new generation of leaders will provide great benefits, not only to their library but to publishers as well in the form of a twoway conversation that could only be a productive one. But how do we (publishers) educate the current library leadership on how to mentor their staff to the significance and basics of our business? Beyond the Charleston Conference or ATG, it really comes down to one conversation at a time. Publishers, spread the word.