If Rumors Were Horses

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Disappearing [print] Stacks — No Books, but Everything Else

by Audrey Powers (Associate Librarian, University of South Florida) <apowers@usf.edu>

When the article “Save Our Stacks” appeared in Slate’ there was a flurry of email activity among academic librarians. The article begins with a description of how Colby College moved 170,000 books to storage to free up space in the library for administrative offices. At a time when academic libraries are repurposing library space due to the diminishing footprint of print books, the article sparked a passionate outcry from faculty and students at Colby College. The article points out that repurposing library space is a current trend in libraries; however, the underlying argument for repurposing library space is complex, and opposition can sometimes appear to be driven by the old guard protecting tradition. I don’t think this is the case.

Repurposing library spaces and reducing the footprint of print books sparks controversy among faculty and students, particularly when the decision is to reconfigure the space for non-library programs and activities. Altering the use of library space can become a contentious issue when the needs of the community served are not taken into consideration. One of the arguments used to justify these actions is the increase in the procurement of electronic resources which frees up floor space. As we travel down the road of rightsizing library collections and retooling library spaces, it is incumbent upon administrators to be cognizant of the use of library resources, trends in publishing, current topics and initiatives in collection development, management and assessment, staffing levels, funding, and most importantly, the needs of the community being served.

The academic library I work in is busy all hours of the day and night. It continues to expand services for students by assimilating these departments into the Library: the Writing Studio; Tutoring & Writing Services; SMART Lab; Digital Media Commons; Office for Undergraduate Research; Computing and Information Technology; Job Shop; and of course, Starbucks. In order to be positioned to achieve this, we began collecting eJournals more than 15 years ago and concurrently discontinued print journals whenever possible. More recently we weeded the reference, ready reference, monograph and serial collections and installed compact shelving. These activities afforded the subject librarians the opportunity to be proactive in collection management activities.

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If Rumors Were Horses

Once again, lots has been going on.

According to Laure Haak at ORCID there are two new ORCID team members: Alice Meadows is joining ORCID as Communications Director and Douglas Wright as Membership Director, both starting in May. Alice and Doug will be supported through a grant to ORCID from the Helmsley Charitable Trust.

https://orcid.org/blog/2015/04/15/introducing-doug-wright-director-membership

And April is the month that the astute Dean Smith becomes Director of Cornell University Press. Smith succeeds John G. Ackerman, who retired in January 2014 after 33 years at the Press including 26 as director. Cornell University Press was established in 1869, the first university press formed in the United States, for a university whose founder, Ezra Cornell, was committed to inclusiveness: “I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.”


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From Your (picnicking) Editor:

2015 has begun with a lot of rain. Seems like we have had only about two weeks of sun since January! But at least it has been cool which we in Charleston learn to appreciate. This issue is about The Disappearing Print Stacks and is guest edited by Audrey Powers. We have articles from Audrey, Ann Okerson, Kris Ferguson, Jack Montgomery, Sue Woodson and Blair Anton, Andrea Twiss-Brooks, Eric Parker and Mariel Hilo Nash, Heidi Nickisch Dugan, Mark Berendsen and Mary Anne Zmarczynski.

Michael P. Pelikan is doing double duty in this issue. First, in our Op Ed, he talks about wearable devices and in his regular column, Pelikan's Antidisambiguation he comments on editions, tweaks, and user preferences. Joe Badics tells us about cooperation in collection development among Michigan's public universities in Michelle Flinchbaugh's Biz of Acq. column.

Back Talk is by Jim O'Donnell who talks about libraries and bats. Our interviews are with Heather Joseph, Jody Plank, and Jon Cawthorne.

Our International Dateline is about the new Weston Library (the old Bodleian), Optimizing Library Services discusses services that libraries should be offering in the 21st century, Stacy Marien and Alayne Mundt talk about working together for offline storage in their new column Let's Get Technical. And of course, there is a lot more.

Well, there is a picnic at Dixie Plantation run by the LowCountry Open Land Trust and it is not raining! Excuse me while I leave for a while. See y'all online at the ATG NewsChannel or in June! Love, Yr. Ed.

Rumors from page 1

I did not go to ACRL but several of you did; I understand that there was a record crowd in the lovely city of Portland. There is a report from Don Hawkins online and we will print a shorter report in our June print issue. Meanwhile there are several write ups about ACRL.


The Call for Papers for the 2015 Charleston Conference – Where Do We Go From Here – is now up and listed here in our print issue, p.10. November will be here before we know it so get crackin’! Speakers will be listed on our Website as they are confirmed.

www.katina.info/conference

One of our main keynote speakers is Jim O'Donnell. Jim has been a teaching faculty member, a Provost, and is now Dean of Libraries at Arizona State University. It will be riveting to hear what Jim will tell us about libraries and librarians as he sees us. Jim has written this month’s Back Talk “A Librarian Is Not Like A Bat.”

This April print issue of ATG is a case in point. When the Slate article appeared in May 2014, as Guest editor Audrey Powers (p.1) says, there was immediate and continuing reaction and the need for more discussion. Most of our libraries are downsizing the print collections in favor of seating for students and researchers. See this thoughtful set of papers “The Disappearing [print] Stacks” which discusses the phenomenon. I was most interested in the paper by Andrea Twiss-Brooks on “The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library at the University of Chicago” – “Mass digitization leads users to collections; it does not take their place” is a quote from Judith Nadler, the previous library director at the University of Chicago. Selections were made of materials to put in the new library. As well, a “grand reading room” was designed for scholarly work and study and is a popular destination for students on campus. (p.21).

Oh! Got a copy of Jim O’Donnell’s new book Pagans: The End of Traditional Religion and the Rise of Christianity (Harper-Collins, 2015). “InPagans, O’Donnell brings to life various pagan rites and essential features of Roman religion and life, offers fresh portraits of iconic historical figures, including Constantine, Julian, and Augustine, and explores important themes — Rome versus the east, civilization versus barbarism, plurality versus unity, rich versus poor, and tradition versus innovation — in this startling account.”

More about the April print ATG. Ran into Donna Jacobs and her husband at the Lowcountry Open Land Trust picnic last week. It was at Dixie Plantation which was bequeathed

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Letters to the Editor:

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.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:

Where can I find back issues of ATG?

Jack Montgomery
(Collection Services Coordinator, Western Kentucky University)

From the Editor: All back issues of ATG through v.25 have been digitized and are freely available on the Purdue University Press Website at http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg/.

Back print issues of ATG are available from ATG, LLC, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC. Back issues cost $15 each so it’s better to get a year’s subscription for USD $55 if you’re in the US. BTW, the print and online versions of ATG are bundled so if you subscribe to the print, you can also get access the online version and vice versa! — KS

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 27 — 2015-2016

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Toni Nix <justwrite@lowcountry.com>; Phone: 843-835-8604; Fax: 843-835-5892; USPS Address: P.O. Box 412, Cottageville, SC 29435; FedEx/UPS ship to: 398 Crab Apple Lane, Ridgeville, SC 29472.

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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
needs of our patron population, even if money was not a consideration and we could afford them. This may not be the case with certain specialty-focused libraries whose needs can be met solely with digital resources. Once more, each institution must decide for itself what is appropriate for them.

What we do need when deciding the future investment in paper resources is impartial, non-political, reasoned decision-making because the consequences are sweeping and, to an extent, final. Once those paper resources are gone and only digital resources remain, the institution has become financially indentured to the electronic provider and dependent upon their goodwill with regard to future pricing, maintenance, and customer service. The finality of these decisions should not paralyze the decision making however, but make the commitment and subsequent business “marriage” of library and vendor a sober and carefully formulated romance.

What we do not need in these discussions are overstated generalities, parroted ideas, pontification, and lemming-like followership by those who are unable or unwilling to provide true institutional leadership. It is interesting to note that the common image of lemmings stampeding to their deaths over a cliff in a suicidal frenzy was an event staged by Disney studios for dramatic effect in a wildlife documentary called “White Wilderness” in 1958. In reality the lemmings were herded and driven over the cliff as cameras rolled. Aside from the animal cruelty and the moral depravity of this action, it has fostered a myth that however inaccurate, has endured and become a cultural image of how easily groups of these rodents and their human counterparts can be manipulated into a disastrous scenario.

Simply following the latest trend does not necessarily serve the needs of the patrons of our particular institution. Also, libraries do not need to have our institutional and managerial decisions be directed by those with a financial or political interest in a particular product or agenda. We also need to listen with a critical ear to any librarian who appears to have an evangelical zeal for a certain product or strategy. These librarian “heralds” have been around for quite some time and while sincere and charismatic, may not have a full understanding of the product or innovation they are promoting. A clear sign of their heralding is the dismissal of reasonable questions and an unwillingness to discuss the reservations regarding what they are proposing.

At the famous Charleston Conference some years ago, I heard a colleague and friend pontificating at length about the supposed success of a certain managerial strategy at his institution. Upon closer examination, I learned that this innovative strategy had been implemented less than three months before being heralded as a success. My friend admitted that this was the case and that his enthusiasm for the program has perhaps caused him to claim success prematurely. I suggested that a year’s implementation followed by an objective analysis before claiming success was a more prudent strategy. Managerial strategies are proven valid by their longevity.

The ancient Roman statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero once said: “Never go to excess, but let moderation be your guide.” We need to listen to new and innovative ideas and products and access their value in terms of our particular library organization. We need to be able to freely question these ideas in order to distinguish actual facts from sweeping generalities and hyperbole. Behind all of our thinking must be the following questions:

1. First and foremost: Is this product or idea appropriate for my particular institution? If I reduce the number of titles on my shelves, how will my institutional accreditation be affected?
2. Do I really know what my patron population wants or needs? Have I made any effort to find out? You may think you know the answer to this question, but remember those needs may have changed over time. What does my institution’s circulation data indicate about the actual usage of my print collection? How does it compare to the usage of my digital resources? How long have these e-resources been implemented and do I have enough reliable data on their usage to do an accurate comparison?
3. What impact can I expect from the implementation of such a product or innovation? What sorts of patron populations will be impacted? What will be the potential organizational impact of this innovation on those librarians and staff I ask to make this product or program a success? Will they need some form of additional training and/or organizational refocusing? What sort of promotional campaign will be required to ensure acceptance and adequate usage? Remember that with the continued evolution of electronic resources, we as institutions are moving away from a passive relationship with our patrons to an active, dynamic, engaged posture with lightening speed.

4. What other resources can I develop if funds not spent on print resources are made available? As an example, institutional repositories are a valuable supplement to any library’s holdings, and should be developed wherever possible and practical.
5. Am I basing my decisions on real data from reliable, objective resources? Where did I hear of this product? How many institutions have actually implemented this product? Will the vendor allow me to speak with them? Am I reacting to this innovation on impulse, out of fear, or as a carefully considered option? Am I making a decision based on what I know of my particular environment or am I simply chasing a trend?

As you can see, most of this little piece does not deal with the pros and cons of paper and digital resources or the future of the stack-based library, but on the process of decision-making regarding these important managerial decisions. While we all can gather data, print reports, and construct policies, many of us may not have adequate background in the sort of decision-making required to successfully implement the changes this type of innovation engenders. As a library director once remarked to me after one of my managerial seminars: “Any director can buy new furniture, and invest in the trendy products of the day, but it takes real skill and leadership to analyze, make decisions, and implement those innovations that are appropriate for your particular institution and follow through afterwards.”

Bibliography
http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/m/marcustull134884.html#e3dZL-Dk5desyUIBv:99

Disappearing Stacks? What is... from page 19

Rumors from page 6 to the College of Charleston by the famous naturalist and artist, John Henry Dick. A breathtaking venue. And though Donna is retired she says she loves writing for ATG! See her article in this issue about Freedom of Speech, p. 34.

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

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Galter Library’s Disappearing Stacks

by Heidi Nickisch Duggan (Galter Health Sciences Library, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine) <heidi@northwestern.edu>

and Mark Berendsen (Galter Health Sciences Library, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine) <m-berendsen@northwestern.edu>

and Mary Anne Zmaczynski (Galter Health Sciences Library, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine) <maryannez@northwestern.edu>

Northwestern University’s Galter Health Sciences Library is located on an urban, population-dense campus in Chicago. The Chicago campus includes an academic medical center and law school. In 2001, Northwestern University Library completed the 12,000 square foot Oak Grove Library Center (OGLC), a state-of-the-art off-site, high-density storage facility with the initial capacity to house nearly two million items. Shortly thereafter, we made plans to move the majority of our print collections in order to create space to better meet critical user needs and plan for a future library renovation. At that time, our collection exceeded 205,000 print volumes. Unlike some other medical libraries, we had strong support from our administration to re-purpose stack space into vibrant, flexible, and active learning space, and were under no threat of reduced square footage.

Like our peers, we had already been transitioning our collections from print to electronic format. Our users prefer to access information from any location, so an emphasis on electronic delivery, whether through more robust licensing or interlibrary loan, was required. As the demand for electronic access grew, the use of the print collections, particularly print journals, waned.

The Galter staff, particularly our Collection Management Department and Reference Teams, engaged in a planning process to determine which materials to keep on site, which to move, and how to manage materials that didn’t fit either category. Our User Services Department staff were critical to our ability to actually put plans into action.

Ultimately, we kept the following print collections on site, numbering fewer than 20,000 volumes:

- Course reserve books at the circulation desk
- Reference collection books
- A current, five-year collection of print monographs
- Rare books and internal medical school publications not available electronically to be used for historical reference in the Special Collections department
- High-use books (i.e., Atlases, statistical manuals, seminal textbooks)

The materials selected for off-site storage included:

- Theses and dissertations
- Print monograph collections 1800-2005
- Print journal volumes

All collection moves were coordinated with the Evanston campus libraries. Galter and OGLC staff jointly determined a move schedule based on how many volumes OGLC could process from the various university libraries as well as how quickly our own staff could prepare a shipment. We ultimately sent one shipment of 104 tote boxes per week for approximately 20 months. We developed procedures for problem items we could not immediately send to OGLC, such as those items that were damaged, missing barcodes, and the like. We intend to continue sending older materials to OGLC, albeit in much smaller shipments, yearly or bi-yearly. There is no intention at this time, however, to weed the OGLC collections in the future.

We were interested to see what impact, if any, our disappearing stacks project would have on our patrons. We were careful to communicate project goals and status clearly and frequently with our users via newsletter and Website articles, informing them why we were moving our collections, and reassuring them that item recall from OGLC was not only possible, but swift.

Items housed at OGLC are currently available for document delivery and interlibrary loan, and currently make up about 45% of our total ILL/DD volume. The ILL/DD department sends article requests to the OGLC staff who then scan the articles and deliver them directly to the patron; books are delivered to our library within a day or two and are available for pickup by the patron or are mailed to the requesting library. Monographs that are requested by local users more than once are deemed “higher use” and relocated to the Galter stacks. This occurs extremely rarely, however.

In truth, there has been no hue and cry for the print stacks, our electronic collections receive more use than ever, and users are genuinely interested in future plans for the library space.

Rumors
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We linked to the Michael Rosenwald article on Digital Native prefer reading in print on the ATG Newschannel. Read Mark Herring’s take (The Moving Finger …) in this issue, p.71.

Very relevant here is the print February issue of ATG guest edited by Tony Horava (who by the way just celebrated 20 years at UOttawa!) — Reading in a Digital Age: Issues and Opportunities — Part One. Part Two is coming up in June. Here is a link to just one of the fascinating articles in that issue by Barry Cull (Information Services Librarian, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB, Canada) “Time for Reflection?: Digital Text and the Emerging Paper Divide.”

http://www.against-the-grain.com/2015/03/v27-1-time-for-reflection/

A small note here, speaking of anniversaries. Two wonderful ATGers deserve some kudos. Tom Gilson just celebrated four years at ATG! Wow! And Deb Vaughn (with her fourth child!) has been a book reviewer for ATG for over 15 years! Wow again! Where does the time go?

I don’t believe we told y’all that the incredibly upbeat Regina Gong (Head of Technical Services & Systems, Lansing Community College Library) will begin coordinating the book review column for ATG in September. Regina was our ATG Star of the Week, September 6, 2012.


Bob Holley just returned from ACRL and has a mix of random ramblings to share with us. The random rambling that struck me the most was the one about increased standards for tenure and promotion. Sitting on faculty tenure and promotion committees, I have to agree with Bob’s assertion that many dedicated faculty decide to focus less on quality than quantity.

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Interview — Heather Joseph

been part of the scholarly communications community for about 25 years now, I realize that change happens incrementally and slowly. There won’t be one sweeping piece of legislation or radical technological development that changes the picture for any of us — librarian, researcher, publisher — overnight.

However, one interesting and encouraging characteristic of incremental change is that it tends to be cumulative — so the small steps forward we take in the next five years will be added onto the progress we’ve made to date. When we look back over our shoulders at the total mileage we’ve logged on this road towards a more open system, we’ll be surprised at the distance we’ve come.

I also think that the unrelenting nature of the pressure to improve the system of scholarly communications has had another interesting effect: people under similar pressures tend to find ways to work together to find ways to improve their collective situations. We’ve certainly seen lots of examples that happening as researchers, publishers, librarians and funders have struggled through the past decade to try and carve a sensible path forward. The pressure has led to the majority of established subscription access journal publishers changing models and establishing Open Access options, to be sure, but it’s also led libraries to rethink their budget allocations, and to provide ways to support these new OA journals. The pressure has led research funders to establish new expectations for what authors must do with articles that report on their funded research, and it has also led authors to become more aware of what their rights are as authors, and more vocal about what they value the ability to be able to do with their own works. The changes we’ve seen — and that we’ll continue to see — play out in an atmosphere where a certain amount of balance is necessary, and I just don’t see that changing.

That said, SPARC will still be sitting in the rowboat asking the question, “Are we doing everything we possibly can to create the ideal way for scholarly works to be shared and built upon?” over and over again, and doing our best to back up our words with positive, productive action.  

ATG/BS: Thanks for taking the time to chat, Heather.

HJ: It has been my pleasure.
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were often a profit center. I hope everyone understands the great value a press brings to a campus and to scholarship. Yet if the vast majority of these publishing operations do not make a profit and require a subsidy from the institution, why continue the practice of considering it as a profit-making entity? I believe most libraries have the resources to support a press. You correctly point out that libraries are designed to spend money on resources, but, more and more, library services must evolve. As libraries and presses find themselves in an ever-changing technological environment, our combined efforts to publish quality scholarship, define a publishing list for the press, and create an organizational structure that supports the emerging publishing opportunities in scholarship, it is important to think broadly about how the Libraries strengthen the Press. WVU Libraries and Press are asking questions such as: How are press operations supported under the 25 libraries represented in the AALUP? What would success look like if the press was not held to a standard of revenue generation? Are there innovative ways to publish via open access? Are there funding models that WVU Libraries and Press could explore that would help move the needle? This is still very much a work in progress; however, under the library, salaries are supported and university presses continue to do their important work. We have been given so much at WVU: I feel we have an obligation to push as long and as hard as we can on the library model of publishing.

Are there examples of library-press partnerships that you particularly like? What lessons can be learned from them? How does WVU look to adapt those? How will your partnership be different?

The press director and I are using this year to travel to several leading research libraries that have presses. We just returned from New York University Press and came away very impressed with the position shared between the NYU Libraries and NYU Press that works to coordinate publishing efforts and maximize resources of both organizations. This spring we will travel to University of Michigan and meet with the press director and university librarian. By year’s end we will also visit the University of Arizona Library and Press. In each case, we are asking questions about how these libraries support the press. At the end of the process we hope to create a sustainable structure within the library and press at WVU that serves as a model. We will also look forward to working with K/N Consulting to determine strengths and opportunities at WVU, define a list, investigate open access options, building infrastructure and support for the Digital Publishing Institute, create a service publishing imprint, exploring innovative funding models, and recommend the appropriate staffing within a three-to-five-year timeframe.

Please tell us more about the service publishing imprint you refer to above.

This is an opportunity to explore how the WVU Press staff shares their expertise on publishing projects that don’t require peer review. This assistance might come in the form of advice, design support, or access to a network of editors depending on the project. There are all kinds of publishing projects within colleges, departments, faculty on campus, and authors from across the state of West Virginia that might benefit from service publishing. For instance, in 2016 one of our colleges will celebrate its 150th year anniversary. They would like to publish a pictorial history of the college to coincide with the dedication of a new building. As this service publishing imprint grows, it might be a great project for graduate students to learn more about the publishing process.

Very few university presses have been able to consider open access as a viable model for their operations. How does WVU look to be a leader in open access publishing within its university press offering?

I have a great deal of respect for the work of university presses. With the help of K/N Consulting, I am thrilled to begin implementing strategies to support the press and also investigate sustainable OA initiatives. We are a small press not tied to long-standing series. I think this gives us an advantage. We also have the time to implement the right organizational structure, seek out partnerships, and hire the right people that will make the work of WVU Libraries and Press sustainable. We will likely fail many times on our way to a viable model, but we are going to establish a tolerance for failure, learn from it, and keep moving.

What do you think of the OA initiatives (Luminos) recently introduced by the UC Press?

I think open access experimentation of all kinds is good, and when it comes from as traditional a press as the UC Press, it’s an encouraging sign that OA is considered the future for everyone. I especially admire that they are trying to establish a model to publish open monographs, while still maintaining a revenue stream.

Innovation in packaging, pricing, and distribution is the name of the game in print and eBook publishing. Can university presses and libraries grow in this regard? Any hints on your thinking in this regard for the WVU Press?

This is still a work in progress; however, the way we are thinking will lead to different results. We are currently asking questions about the broad relationship between scholarly communication librarian positions, digitization librarians, institutional repositories, and archives of special collections that may help generate published content through the Library and the Press. Do we have the right organizational structures to support these new directions? Are there positions, like at NYU Press that live and work across library and press operations? As we discuss the integration of the Libraries and Press, we also look forward to working very closely with WVU’s new Digital Publishing Institute, which facilitates collaborations between research, teaching, and outreach into the university, local, and international communities in regards to scholarly communication. In my case, I met some very smart, dedicated people in digital communication and publishing held in the space of the Library in conjunction with the Press will add a service learning, outreach, and pedagogical research component that expands on what the Library has served to the university community thus far.

In three years, where would you like the press to be in terms of list development and reputation? How about in five years?

I am hoping our work in the years to come will redefine what constitutes a successful university press in the twenty-first century, and that WVU Libraries and Press can serve as a successful operating example. This means building a strong reputation for our own list as well as being present during key policy discussions that affect future directions in publishing, and also pursuing grants that could stimulate innovative directions. I have met some very smart, dedicated people in university publishing, and I believe deeply in their place, purpose, and work in the scholarly process. We just need new models that will allow them to do their important work. I hope that WVU will offer a compelling example that inspires other library leaders and press directors to work closely together in the future.

What contribution do you hope to make at WVU to the larger conversation about presses and library as integrated units?

I look forward to WVU contributing to more university presses living successfully within the research library environment. Part of this will require new thinking not only on the part of my library dean and director colleagues, but also among press directors. Merging these cultures and figuring out how they work together will require a shift for sure, yet I hope that WVU Libraries and Press will elevate the conversation and demonstrate some potential ways forward.

Rumors
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became an independent business in 2012. Students, faculty members, schools and publishers promptly embraced SIPX’s simple solution for compiling, delivering and managing digital reading lists. Educators, librarians and support staff at leading schools — including the University of Illinois, the University of Notre Dame, Stanford University, the University of Texas-Austin, and others — use SIPX to set up course readings and immediately benefit from the system’s automatic check for works that are available at no cost to students via library subscriptions or open sources. “We are thrilled..."


**Appendix A:**

State Library Association journals (* indicates peer-reviewed)

Research was conducted to find out what other states offer a state-level library journal. The research found that as of July 2013, there were 21 State Library Associations that currently publish a state-level journal in some format; 11 include peer-reviewed articles, and 2 are password protected for members only. There were 34 State Library Associations that publish a newsletter in some format, 3 of which are password protected for members only.

The following is a list of State Library Association journals found online including the state, the name of the publication, and the URL for the journal. 🌐

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**Rumors**

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...to join forces with our long-time partner ProQuest, a true industry leader that believes in and supports our vision to provide users with content quickly, easily and cost-effectively,” said Franny Lee, Co-founder of SIPX. “In joining ProQuest’s ranks, SIPX is better positioned to continue working with valued partners and customers to deliver unparalleled service, both now and as new developments in higher education arise in this ever-changing digital and global era.”

Effective immediately, Ms. Lee will lead SIPX, reporting to Ben Lewis, ProQuest’s Senior Vice President for Strategy & Business Development. Watch for Nancy Herther’s report on the merger online. *ATG* is in the process of interviewing Franny and Ben. Watch for our interview in the print June *ATG* and online as well. http://www.proquest.com/about/news/2015/ProQuest-Acquires-SIPX.html

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *The Wall Street Journal* report that “LinkedIn announced Thursday it has agreed to acquire the online-learning company lynda.com for $1.5 billion. It is the social-networking giant’s largest acquisition to date, and signals its continued expansion into the education realm. lynda.com offers more than 2,900 courses online, which include video tutorials for various skills…” See also “A Higher Profile” by Paul Fain in *Inside Higher Ed.*

http://chronicle.com

continued on page 58
they will assist faculty, make textbooks more affordable to students, and help change the marketplace of textbooks.

By creating partnerships with faculty and obtaining grants to assist with costs of textbook creation, the library can assist with better quality textbooks at a more reasonable cost. I was not aware, until this session, that there are currently monies available in grants to assist libraries and faculty with this endeavor. However, I hope to bring this up, and the topic of textbooks in general, to my library in the hopes we can explore some of these cutting edge ideas.

One main reason to do user studies is that users come to a search with different expectations. Stohn began the presentation by explaining user and usability studies, and how libraries can use these to provide more effective searching for their patrons. Ex Libris collaborated with Harvard over the past year to collect usage scenarios and feedback from users. Morse explained how this data helped Harvard create personas and scenarios in order to optimize searching in their discovery service. Several recurring themes appeared in the studies, including a need for students to build up their terminology on a subject, and a desire among faculty members and researchers for the newest material in their field.

Gelfand began the session, stating that her library has been working to develop their video support for science and engineering. She mentions reasons for this initiative, including, but not limited to, the fact that users are interested in using video for teaching and learning, there are many new products on the market now, video brings extra interaction and expression to one’s learning experience, and students are more and more creating their own academic work in the form of video.

Fusco spoke about JoVE’s role in helping students engage with scientific experiments through video. He presented a number of case studies and data that demonstrated the effectiveness of learning through video in both the corporate and academic sectors.

Burton spoke about using video for enhancement. He deliberately wanted video content in Ideas Roadshow to emphasize conversations and pedagogical goals, and much of their product consists of academic interviews between himself and a researcher. He explored three examples of this “deliberate enhancement”: providing a motivational and contextual environment for “humanizing” researchers, demonstrating interdisciplinarity, and revealing new insights and perspectives through informal conversation.

After providing a brief history of Alexander Street Press, Lawrence spoke about her company’s focus on added-value tools that they develop and provide along with their content. She spoke about different models of licensing streaming video, from the traditional (annual subject-based package subscriptions) to the emerging (evidence-based, PDA, perpetual rights, single title, topical bundles), some of which ASP will be offering in 2015.

Two years in, and Bucknell is still extremely pleased with the results of their move from approval plans to a 100% patron-driven approach to selection and acquisitions. Bucknell is the largest private liberal arts college in central Pennsylvania and uses OCLC’s WorldCat as their discovery service. Bucknell’s approval plan process was efficient, adding roughly 12,000 titles per year to their collections, but Clarke and Heuer found that only titles “rush” ordered or from a specific request were actually being used. Bucknell’s patron-driven plan provides a two-pronged approach: over 200,000 bibliographic records were loaded into their catalog based upon a profile using subjects and costs as parameters. These titles were available for browsing, short-term loans, or purchases. If a needed title was not available through this plan or as part of existing collections, the title was borrowed or purchased through a mediated request form via Illiad. This new approach resulted in a 73% reduction in titles ordered from 2012-2014 and a 75% reduction in monies spent although concerns persist about the rising costs of short-term loans. The reduction in staff time needed for selection and acquisition resulted in new metadata responsibilities for technical services staff, and public services staff had more time to spend embedded in classes. A new digital humanities position was created. Bucknell is in the process of joining HathiTrust, continues to weed their collections, and plans a major deselection project in the future. Saved monies were used to purchase primary source materials, journal backfiles, and materials for Special Collections. This presentation did not address textbooks.

It is unclear when or if the merger will be approved. The final sentence of the SK editorial is worth repeating, “Scale is the new normal, and those without some element of scale to their business may soon find themselves with few options.”

The Springer and Macmillan potential merger was discussed in detail in Scholarly Kitchen by Kent Anderson January 20, 2015.

Rumors
from page 48

http://www.wsj.com
https://www.insidehighered.com

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http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org

Given all this consolidation in the industry, several articles on the ATG NewsChannel by the perceptive Nancy Herther are worth reading. Google Deals & Privacy: What Have We Been Sold? (Part 1 of 2 Parts). Mastering the Curation, Integrity and Citation of Quality Research Data: Research Data Publication, Part II. http://www.against-the-grain.com

Thank goodness it is Spring even though it means that the heat will return to Charleston! Happy Spring! Yr. Ed.