If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch

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What’s In a Container? The Future of the Scholarly Journal

by Andrew Wesolek (Head of Digital Scholarship, Clemson University) <awesole@clemson.edu>
and David Scherer (Assistant to the Dean, Carnegie Mellon University) <daschere@andrew.cmu.edu>
and Burton Callicott (Coordinator of Instruction, College of Charleston) <CallicottB@cofc.edu>

A
s we concluded work on our book, Making Institutional Repositories Work, it became clear that much remained to be said. In our discussions, we often wondered how the rise of institutional repositories was impacting and would continue to impact the role of the traditional journal as a container for scholarship. More broadly, as authors continue to take on some of the work of disseminating their individual articles online, impact metrics become more granular, and open access megajournals shift focus from content type to sound science, it would appear that we may be nearing the end of the era of the “traditional” scholarly journal.

While we did not have the space or time to solicit thoughts on the future of the scholarly journal in our book, we are grateful for the opportunity to do so here. Taken as a whole, the contributors to this issue, both librarians and publishers, offer insights not only into the future of the journal as a container of scholarship, but into the future of scholarly communication. And yes, the irony inherent in guest editing an issue of a journal that questions the future of that medium was not lost on us. Although it is in virtually all respects a “traditional,” subscription-based periodical, we think that the uniquely diverse audience of Against the Grain coupled with the fact that the magazine has never shied from honest analysis and reflection on the world of scholarly communication makes it an appropriate venue for this discussion.

In our first contribution, “Academic Publishing Traditions,” Meyers and Wright provide context for the issue, by focusing on two challenges facing the traditional journal: new article-level metrics and author copyrights. First, the authors provide a background for the factors and philosophies that have given rise to article level metrics and show how these new measures, or altmetrics, are having an impact on decisions scholars are making in terms of where they choose to publish. Second, authors explore the role of author copyrights in scholarly publishing, and how the traditional approach impacts scholarly communication and library budgets.

Delving deeper into the themes identified by Myers and Wright, Collister and Deliyannis make the case for the inclusion of Altmetrics, as an additional and complementary component along the continuum of scholarly impact metrics. These new metrics are especially important in an environment of emerging dissemination models and new ways to measure promotion, tenure, and impact.

If Rumors Were Horses

Y
e more consolidation! YBP has purchased Ambassador Book Services. YBP and Ambassador Book Services are working closely together to transition Ambassador customers over to YBP’s systems and services. To avoid any interruption of service, YBP representatives will be in touch shortly to assist with the transition of Ambassador accounts to YBP. https://www.ebsco.com/promo/ambassador-book-services

Oh! How great that we have two ads back to back at the front of this February issue of ATG — one from YBP and the other from Ambassador!

Have you kept up with all that’s happening with the Librarian of Congress (LnOC) position? James Billington was appointed by Ronald Reagan in 1987 and has retired/resigned. David S. Mao became Acting Librarian of Congress Oct. 1, 2015. Nancy Herther has written a two-part article on the ATG NewsChannel about the issues surrounding this important appointment including Billington’s accomplishments, and the need for vision and oversight of the Library of Congress position. There are countless questions and countless opinions on the next steps and what should be done. Peter Brantley (Director of
2016 is off to a good start. Everybody seems upbeat, the students and faculty are back, grandson George is walking and talking and even has teeth, and we are making new improvements to the library.

This issue of ATG is especially full of good vibes! What's In a Container? The Future of the Scholarly Journal by Andrew Weselek, David Scherer, and Burton Callicott expands on the Charleston Insights monograph Making Institutional Repositories Work. Articles are by Carla Myers (academic publishing), Lauren Collister and Timothy S. Delianides (Altmetrics), Laura Bowering Mullen and David Ross (author copyrights), Phill Jones and Mark Hahne (data repositories), Jason Hoyt and Peter Binfield (technology and publishing), and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research).

Our OpEd by Rick Anderson is about giving people what they want (or not), Back Talk (Ann Okerson) is about Consortria, Tom Sanville and ICOLC.

Our interviews are with Jason Coleman (University of Virginia Press) and Peter Froehlich (Purdue University Press). Collecting to the Core is about Francis Paul Prucha’s The Great Father and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies. We have reference reviews from Tom Gilson and other reviews from Regina Gong, also Donna Jacobs continues on her Nobel Laureates and Maggie Farrell and Alicia Wise (advancing research), and Native American Studies.

Bruce Strauch pulls out his legal glasses to talk about laches and copyright while Lolly Gasaway answers all your questions out there. Michelle Flinchbaugh tells us about the eight-year journey of the repository ScholarWorks@UMBC, Myer Kutz lets us in on the PROSE awards, Ramune Kubilius and her group give us meeting reports from the 2015 Charleston Conference as does Don Hawkins from NFAIS. Beth Daniel Lindsay and Ilke Datig talk about Student Advisory Groups, Stacey Marien and Alayne Mundt follow up on the Washington Research Libraries Consortium and American University’s shared retention project and there is much more but I have run out of room! Oops!

Anyway, gotta go to an oyster roast. It’s an “r” month so the oysters will be perfect.

Enjoy and “good vibes” to all y’all! Love, Yr. Ed.

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:

Letter addressed — Dear Charleston Conference:
I thoroughly enjoyed my first Charleston Conference and greatly look forward to returning to Charleston next November. Will try to attend some pre-conference events as well this time.

Best, Laura

Laura Gewissler (University of Vermont, Burlington) <Laura.Gewissler@uvm.edu>

Dear Laura, Thanks so much for your comments! News about the 2016 (36th Annual) Main Charleston Conference (November 2-5, 2016) will be released shortly. Best regards and see you in November! Katina Strauch, Charleston Conference Founder and Convenor. — Yr. Ed.

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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.

Rumors from page 1

of Online Strategy for UCDavis Library has been vocal about the lack of vision and leadership at the LOC. Other national leaders have been critical as well including Jim O’Donnell and Courtney Young, two of our keynote speakers in Charleston in 2015.

We hope to have more discussion of this topic in Charleston 2016. http://www.against-the-grain.com

Speaking of Charleston 2016, we want to put together a group of younger librarians and end users to talk to us about what they think the library of the 21st century will be/should be like. Please send suggestions to <kstrauch@comcast.net> and label the subject line “young turks.”

I swear I do not understand where Anthony Watkinson gets his energy. He is always on the go (in fact I just got an email that said hello from Morocco). Anthony in his copious spare time just wrote a report for the German magazine B.I.T. (Bibliothek Information Technologie) about the 2015 Charleston Conference. The article is in German but we hope to link to it eventually. It is great to have this international reach. Congratulations, Anthony, and Thanks! http://www.b-i-t-online.de/index.php

Was reading an article in Folio magazine and saw that Time, Inc. has acquired the assets of Viant a data marketing firm that owns Myspace. Remember them? Somewhat shockingly, Myspace still generates significant traffic, with as many as 50 million active or semi-active users, according to one report. http://blogs.wsj.com/como/2015/01/14/myspace-still-reaches-50-million-people-each-month/ continued on page 8
Just heard from Michael DiSanto of Springer/Nature. What wonderful news! They want to sponsor a memorial scholarship in honor of Cynthia Hurd, the public librarian who was shot at Mother Emanuel AME Church. The Cynthia Graham Hurd Memorial Scholarship for Attendance at the Charleston Conference. The attendance includes travel, accommodations (hotel and meal stipend) and will be an annual award. Cynthia Hurd was a librarian for over 31 years in Charleston public and academic libraries. She worked as the branch manager of the popular St. Andrews Regional Library, and as a part-time reference librarian at the College of Charleston. As her brother, Malcolm Graham remarked in a press release hosted on the Charleston County Public Library site after her passing, Ms. Hurd “helped her community discover themselves and learn skills that gave them the ability to live and grow” (http://ccpl.org/content.asp?id=147052&action=detail&catid=5367&parentID=5368). On June 17, 2015, her life ended when a lone gunman entered the historic Emanuel AME and killed nine people after attending a prayer meeting. Despite that tragic loss, Hurd is remembered as a “tireless servant of the community who is remembered as one of the South’s best bookstores. Blue Bicycle Books was once Boomer Books owned by Jim and Lee Breeden from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Jim and Lee have a place in Charleston and Jim is a volunteer at the Addlestone Library processing gift books of which we get plenty! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Régine_Deforges http://www.southernliving.com/travel/2016-souths-best-bookstores/blue-bicycle-books-image

Speaking of gifts, read Steve Carrico’s Materials Gifts to Libraries in Michael Arthur’s Being Earnest with Collections column, this issue, p.64.

Returning to bookstores, the article “Selling Books in a World Without Bookstores” by Caleb Mason is worth a look. Mason says that even though bookstore sales have hit a plateau, we need to prepare for the “post-bookstore world: bookstore sales were $11.17 billion in 2015, down from more than $17 billion in 2007 (source: Publishers Weekly), now is the time to increase the urgency while we can, to establish separate digital divisions, companies, and R&D units that can operate as if there are no bookstores.” There is disagreement from Martin Foner. What do you think? http://www.bookbusinessmag.com/post/selling-books-world-without-bookstores/#utm_source=book-business-insights&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=2016-02-16&utm_content=selling-books-in-a-world-without-bookstores-1

Speaking of keeping print books, I found Mike Garabedian’s “Shared Print and the Book as Artifact” worth considering. Mike asks if in the post-print age we are paying any attention to the artificial value of the copies retained, see this issue p.73.

Erin Gallagher’s Hot Topics on the ATG NewsChannel this week (did you realize continued on page 30

https://web.mail.comcast.net/zimbra/h/search?si=1&so=0&sc=34440&s-fi=1697570&st=message&id=1781187&x-im=1&action=view

Was talking to Regina Gong who is doing a great job of book reviewing, isn’t she? She wished me happy Chinese New Year since it began the 11th of February! Happy Chinese New Year! It’s the Year of the Monkey! http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/12148312/chinese-new-year-2016-year-of-the-monkey-chinese-horoscope-zodiac-lunar-new-year.html

Got the January/February Information Today with a great write up of the 2015 Charleston Conference by Don Hawkins. Don liked the new venue in the Gaillard Center but some of us missed the intimacy of the Francis Marion. This year we will continue to use the Gaillard and with some adjustments we will all be happy! BTW, the 2016 Charleston Conference will be November 2-5. We are thrilled that we will be a week before Daylight Savings Time so it will be sunnier outside, fingers crossed. Leah will have the Conference Website updated shortly. www.charlestonlibraryconference.com

Speaking of Leah, she will be doing a regular column in every issue of ATG to keep us up-to-date with all the new issues and events that we need to keep up with.
and so forth of that research should be available to them. Members of the public are also interested in accessing publications, but here the publication costs have not been paid by the taxpayer but instead by the publisher. So the ways that public-funded research articles are made available need to enable publishers to recover those costs. This happens in a variety of ways. Under the gold open access model publication costs are paid upfront by the author, funder, or institution or by a sponsoring organization. Costs can also be recovered through subscriptions and in these cases a version of the article is made available under the green open access model — through self-archiving in discipline, governmental, or institutional repositories or via publisher services such as CHORUS. Taxpayers should have the ability to see the results of their investment, and publishers and librarians need to work on ways that honor the public investment in research.

A growing responsibility for academic libraries is the development of repositories that promote access to university research, including student research. Certainly this is essential as universities promote their impactful research. Digital repositories are excellent methods to collect, promote, and make accessible university research. These repositories also support public accountability as universities provide statistics on faculty productivity and outreach and sometimes connect repository systems to faculty activity reports. Open access and scholarly repositories serve a critical reporting function for many universities. It is therefore unsurprising that most publishers support and provide services for digital repositories.

Most importantly, open systems of sharing results, data, and reviews can foster innovation and collaboration. Technology enables new ways of working across disciplines, universities, and geographical distances to discover new methods and to apply research in diverse applications. Researchers can connect in new ways with other researchers and with users of the research, for instance doctors with remote patients. Research advances by sharing quality results and is a public good available as widely and easily as possible.

Moving Forward Together

How might librarians and publishers move forward better and together given that we have common interests in supporting the advancement of research and yet very different views on pricing? While difficult at times, librarians and publishers must continue the collaboration conversation in order to move forward, perhaps at times on parallel tracks, but the relationship must be maintained. Differences in opinions should be clearly stated in a professional manner with common goals at the center of conversations. embargo periods are an example where compromise is possible between librarians and publishers — librarians might wish these to be 0-6 months and publishers 24-36 months — but clearly compromise is possible. This will require attention to data and careful dialog, after all no two journals or subject areas are exactly the same.

Librarians and publishers may jointly develop tools that help researchers work across institutions. Researchers require tools that are simple, discoverable, seamless, intuitive, free, and where any IP restrictions are managed transparently. Librarians well understand how faculty work and their immediate needs, and publishers have a wealth of research about their behaviors and needs too. Working with publishers, librarians can help to develop value-added tools that may complement their institutional repositories. In addition, universities require tools and assessment on faculty research supporting their accountability requirements. Librarians can be a strong contributor in this process working with publishers on university needs in the development of reporting and statistical tools.

Higher education funding is an ongoing challenge throughout most of the world. In the USA, states are challenged with mandated costs for prisons, health care, and K-12 education, resulting in less funding for higher education and restrictions on tuition increases. Librarians feel strongly that publishers should work with librarians on ways to mitigate price increases for information resources — for example granting credits for faculty involvement in editing and reviewing, liberal policies for interlibrary loan and consortial purchasing, reduced embargo policies, and national purchasing agreements.

Publishers and librarians can further their collaboration through the development of joint standards for tools that support research. National Information Standards Organization (NISO) is an example where publishers and librarians are able to have an impact on research through the joint efforts to standardize such activities as researcher identification, object identifiers, metadata elements, and usage statistics. Such forums are effective to continue various conversations that build on common goals in support of the research process.

From a library perspective, it can be unfortunate when a particular publisher will develop a great tool for researchers and that tool does not reach a competing publisher. The research ecosystem benefits from tools that are publisher agnostic. There are some terrific examples — identifiers such as FundRef and ORCID, services such as CHORUS, or cross platform text and data matching services such as those from CrossRef. Librarians can be key to the development of these sorts of tools that support a variety of publishing companies: by specifying requirements on what services are needed by researchers or what tools or publications need to be linked to be more effective, and as neutral third parties that can work across publishers to support the joint goal of furthering research.

Conclusion

This is an exciting time as technology enables new ways to communicate, conduct research, connect with a global research community, and disseminate research results, data, and reviews. Librarians and publishers may not always agree, but we can agree that technology and electronic information play a vital role to help society move forward and we can also agree that research is critical for our world. How to fulfill the promise of an open, connected world may be challenging, but this need not deter us from working together, given our shared and ongoing commitment to research.

We have been getting all sorts of subscription renewals to ATG this year. Have you renewed your subscription? Print and online are bundled and are incredibly inexpensive. In the US you are talking ten cents a page! How about that?

Mark Herrings has a new book just out — Social Media and the Good Life: Do They Connect? (McFarland, 2015, $28.95) Congratulations, Mark! BTW everyone, I know that many of you have written many books that we might not all know about. That’s why soon — very soon — I hope we will have a section that many of you have written many books that we might not all know about. That’s why soon — very soon — I hope we will have a section.  

Speaking of a lot to read, perhaps storage won’t be an issue in the future if we live long enough? Here Is a link — Eternal SD data storage could record the history of human kind. *Using nanostructured glass, scientists from the University of Southampton’s Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC) have developed the recording and retrieval processes of five dimensional (5D) digital data by femtosecond laser writing. The storage allows unprecedented properties including 360 TB/disc data capacity, thermal stability up to 1,000°C and virtually unlimited lifetime at room temperature (13.8 billion years at 190°C) opening a new era of eternal data archiving.*

If I’m right — if the distance between what we think our patrons should do and what they actually want to do is getting wider — then there’s a real tension between our service and education roles, and that tension is increasing. And if that’s the case, then we face some pretty difficult questions in the near- to mid-term future, and whatever answers we come up with will be fraught with risk. Move too far in the direction of “just give the people what they want” and we end up abdicating our role as professionals and (in many cases) as faculty members. Move too far in the direction of “educate the people so they learn to want what they should” and we run the serious risk of alienating our stakeholders. The appropriate and effective resolution to this tension is going to vary from library to library and institution to institution, and will depend on (among other things) the amount of political capital the library has in reserve, the actual amount of distance existing between patrons’ desires and library practices, and the nature of the changes the library wants to see in patron behavior.

What does not vary from library to library, I believe, is the radical importance of paying attention to these questions and addressing them in a careful, mindful, and strategic manner. Our future probably depends on how well we do so.

peoples profile

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BORN AND LIVED: Born in San Antonio, TX; college at University of Texas at Austin; graduate school (MFA) at University of Virginia; three years in the Netherlands, where I was married and my first child was born; working in publishing for nearly fifteen years now.

FAMILY: Wife Margot, daughter Kate (currently attending UT Austin), and son Jan, plus English lab named Lobo, and two lab rats — sorry, I mean cats.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I’m surrounded by scholarly books at work, so it’s pretty much all fiction on my own time — Joyce’s Ulysses, the Modern Library edition of Chekhov’s stories, Jesus’s Son by Denis Johnson, Philip Roth’s Zuckerman Bound, Alice Munro’s Selected Stories, Moty Dick, Lolita...I could go on.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Helping to turn Rotunda from a grant-dependent side project with one title and roughly a dozen customers into a resource that is available in the majority of ARL-member libraries and provides a robust revenue stream for the Press.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: after selling plenty of other people’s books, I’d like to publish my own.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: The digital revolution will create a publishing environment in which nothing goes out of print, where even small publishers have a far greater awareness of alternative markets, and where new technologies (XML workflows, data mining) result in increasingly fluid content. I believe, however, that the book as a physical object will remain the centerpiece of publishing.

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

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Rumors

Talk of Open Access is everywhere! Michelle Finchbaugh’s Biz of Acq about Maryland’s Shared OA Repository, MD-SOAR is about how ten university libraries implemented a consortial repository, this issue, p.70.

Moving right along, Don Hawkins’ report on The Impact of OA Model (p.67) includes many interesting discussions. I especially noticed the View of the OA Front from a Graduate Student (Kenneth Yancey, Cornell) and the comments by Mackenzie Smith (University Librarian, UC Davis) about the increasing disconnect between European and American approaches to OA (gold vs. green). You might recall that Mackenzie Smith riveted us during the 2011 Charleston Conference when she spoke about Data Papers in the Networked Era. http://www.slideshare.net/CharlestonConference/data-papers-in-the-network-era-by-mackenzie-smith-mit-libraries


The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) has announced that Jill O’Neill and Henrietta Verma have joined the organization as Educational Programs Manager and Editorial and Communications Specialist, respectively. Jill O’Neill has been an active member of the information community for 30 years, most recently managing the professional development programs for the National Federation of Advanced Information Services (NFAIS). Her publishing expertise was gained working for such prominent content providers as Elsevier, Thomson Scientific (now Thomson Reuters), and John Wiley & Sons. Jill continues to write for a diverse set of publications, including Information Today and the Scholarly Kitchen blog.

Henrietta Verma is a librarian who has worked in public libraries in New York, first as a librarian then as a library director. In 2006, she started her publishing career at School Library Journal. Etta continues to review for LJ and is also working on book about writing and reviewing that will be released in mid 2016. Congratulations to Etta and Jill and NISO!

I just ordered the book Your Digital Afterlife by Evan Carroll and John Romano (New Riders, 2010). Did you know that you need a digital executor for your estate? How about your Facebook pages? Your emails? I remember an article a while ago (several years) about a woman whose sister had died and she wanted access to her deceased sister’s Facebook account and pictures. Apparently this is not always possible depending on the policy of the provider. I had no idea. Do you?

The Changing Nature of OA Journals: Helping Scholars Identify the Good, the Bad, & The Political — Presented by Matthew Torrence (University of South Florida); Susan Ariew (University of South Florida)

Reported by: Neil Foulger (Levi Watkins Learning Center, Alabama State University) <nfoulger@alasu.edu>

This session provided a useful overview of the Open Access (OA) movement. Both Torrence and Ariew presented the types of OA journals, the politics of the OA movement, how predatory OA publishers operate, the pros and cons of Jeffrey Beall’s blog and list, and solutions to predatory OA publishers. There were four types covered: three actual and one ideal (no money needed to publish). The politics of the movement relate to free exchange of knowledge versus pricing models which include lack of oversight of OA publishers. This lack of oversight allows for some OA publishers to take advantage of researchers seeking publication, thus being “predatory.” The chief signs of a predatory OA publisher include lack of transparency and the tactic to request for author’s information and then charging the author to publish. Beall was described as an OA skeptic who supports traditional publishing despite his list’s purpose to assist libraries and scholars in avoiding scholarly publishing scams. The chief solutions discussed were the need to warn faculty researchers about predatory OA publishers and the creation of more tools to help discern reputable OA publishers. Audience members shared opinions and information regarding experiences with OA, making this session very informative and lively.

Facilitating Sharing Among Researchers — Presented by Alicia Wise (Elsevier); Maggie Farrell (Clemson University)

Reported by: Ramune K. Kubilius (Northwestern University, Galter Health Sciences Library) <r-kubilius@northwestern.edu>

With chairs drawn in a circle and led by the session facilitators Wise and Farrell, participants, librarians, and publishers shared experiences and insights. It is relatively obvious that there are different sharing needs at different points in the research cycle, both during and post research and publication. In sharing, the goals are to support research and to provide access to research output. But what are researchers’ practices? Are they sharing links to their full-text or actually sharing articles? (Mention was made of another conference session, “The Secret Life of Articles: From Download Metrics to Downstream Impact,” in which the studies showed that the second seemed more prevalent.) The popularity of portals such as ResearchGate can be challenging for publishers, but partnerships have developed between libraries and publishers that can benefit researchers, too. For example, the University of Florida has worked with Elsevier to allow a search in the institutional repository to pass through to Elsevier-published institutional authors’ works in ScienceDirect. An API allows an entitlements check to be done to lead to the final version or to the manuscript. Wise made the group aware of draft “STM Principles for Article Sharing on Scholarly Collaboration Networks” that were posted for public comment earlier in 2015. The round robin discussion followed the traditional “lively lunch” format, with interesting updates and fragments that abounded, but each attendee will have to determine where to go from here.

Vendorbrarians: Librarians Who Work for Vendors and the Value They Provide to Library Customers — Presented by Robert Boissy (Springer); Charlie Remy (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga); Marliese Thomas (Ex Libris); Jalyn Kelley (Client Services Manager, IEEE)

Reported by: Mari Monosoff-Richards (Librarian, Michigan State University) <monosoff@mail.lib.msu.edu>

This panel was organized to teach the audience about the jobs librarians take with vendors. They spoke about the pros (more money but not as much as you’d think, greater opportunities to climb the career ladder, travel) and cons (former colleagues who feel betrayed, lack of understanding about what librarians can do within the company) as well as what their jobs consist of. Their librarian training often plays a large role in the work that they do.

Each of the vendorbrarians encouraged librarians to speak to their vendors about what can be done better. At IEEE, Kelley said she presents a customer wish-list to her programmers once a quarter and it influences the product development roadmap. Someone warned that not all librarian desires are accomplishable, but another member of the panel chimed in that often desired changes are in the works or are new features that the library didn’t know about and can be quickly activated. All three panelists encouraged librarians to speak with their vendors often. As vendorbrarians, they act as intermediaries and educators, not just sales people. Professionally they feel the responsibility to advocate for librarians within their organization.

That’s all the reports we have room for in this issue. Watch for more reports from the 2015 Charleston Conference in upcoming issues of Against the Grain. Presentation material (PowerPoint slides, handouts) and taped session links from many of the 2014 sessions are available online. Visit the Conference Website at www.charlestonlibraryconference.com. — KS

Rumors
from page 33

The eBook. What are we going to do about it? The divide between those who like e and those who like p is almost as bad as the presidential elections (okay, I am exaggerating). But it seems that I have talked to more and more people who prefer the print book rather than the eBook. Hmmm... me... I like them both. Just finished reading Vanity Fair (Thackeray’s not the magazine) and I have to admit I enjoyed reading it on my iPad. My son on the other hand will not read books on devices and I am not going to say how much older than he I am. Anyway, Jim O’Donnell (the director of the ASU Libraries and the keynote speaker at the 2015 Charleston Conference) recently visited our library. The library staff had a special hour plus interview with him to discuss interlibrary loan operations, renovating a library, engaging patrons, and eBooks. Jim is vocal about all the issues with eBooks — how they are all on different platforms, have different usage configurations, can print only a certain number of pages, etc., etc. You’ve heard it all.

To learn more, look at our Penthouse Suite Interviews for the 2015 Charleston Conference. We have interviews with Erin Gallagher, Jim O’Donnell, Gary Price, Mark Sandler, Carol Tenopir, Alicia Wise and Courtney Young. They have been edited into small 10-14 minute snippets which makes them very watchable. Check them out!

http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/video/atg-penthouse-interviews/

That’s it for now!