

2016

Charleston Comings and Goings--News and Announcements for the Charleston Library Conference

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Recommended Citation

Hinds, Leah (2016) "Charleston Comings and Goings--News and Announcements for the Charleston Library Conference," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 28: Iss. 4, Article 43.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7487>

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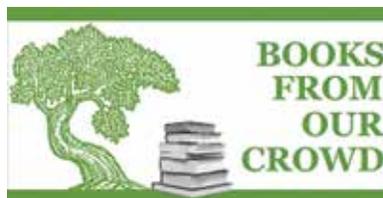
Charleston Comings and Goings: News and Announcements for the Charleston Library Conference

by **Leah Hinds** (Assistant Conference Director) <leah@charlestonlibraryconference.com>

The new **Fast Pitch Competition** at the **2016 Charleston Conference** is inviting proposals that pitch a winning idea to improve service at an academic or research library. The proposal should describe a project or venture that is innovative, useful, and better or different than what has been done in the past or is being done currently. Selected proposers will have five minutes to pitch their idea before a **Charleston Conference** audience and a panel of judges who will determine the finalists. The **Goodall Family Charitable Foundation** will sponsor two \$2,500 awards for the finalists. The **Goodall Foundation** is an independent family foundation that focuses on making grants to support educational endeavors. When asked why the **Goodall Family Foundation** is sponsoring the Fast Pitch Competition, **Steve Goodall**, Founder and President responded, “Academic libraries are at a dramatically new frontier based on all of the advances in information technology. Given this, we want to hear from proactive librarians who are creating change and shaping the future. The award being sponsored is to encourage librarians to develop innovative ways of meeting user information needs in better ways than in the past. By holding the Fast Pitch Competition, we intend to showcase the best and brightest new ideas in library information management.” The application and more information are available at the Conference Website at www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/fastpitch.



Also new on the books is “**Books from Our Crowd**,” a new feature on the **ATG NewsChannel** Website that will make it easier to discover books and authors associated with the **Charleston Library Conference** and **Against the Grain**. New books often get lost in the volume of materials that are released and promoted each month. The **ATG NewsChannel** selects a Book of the Week to highlight important works in the library and information industry, but there are many more that we aren’t able to recognize that have valuable ideas and contributions to the field. “Our idea was to create a listing of works, searchable by author, title, and keyword, that are written by conference presenters or attendees, **ATG** contributors and subscribers, or people associated with either entity,” said **Katina Strauch**, Editor of *Against the Grain*, and Founder/Convener of the **Charleston Conference**. “We hope this project helps draw attention to the broad spectrum of published works by authors who are near and dear to our hearts.” The listing can be viewed at www.against-the-grain.com/bfoc, and we encourage submissions of your own books at the link at the top of the page.



Don Hawkins, Charleston Conference Blogger

And speaking of the **ATG NewsChannel** Website, conference reporter extraordinaire **Don Hawkins** will be continuing the **Charleston Conference Blog** by posting all the happenings online at <http://www.against-the-grain.com/category/chsconfblog/>. You can catch up

on last year if you missed any of his write-ups from 2015. **Don’s** wife **Pat** will also be working at the Information Desk at the Francis Marion Hotel, as she has for the past two years, so you can look for her there. We’re very glad to have both of them coming back!

Winners have been announced for the **SAGE 2016 Charleston Photo Contest!** See the winning entries online at <http://connection.sagepub.com/blog/industry-news/2016/07/01/6-ways-libraries-are-taking-innovative-to-the-next-level/>. The **SAGE** Connection blog asked first place winner **Jennifer Culley**, the Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian at the **University of Southern Mississippi**, about what this award meant to her. Here’s what she had to say: “*I am honored for my photo to be chosen as the grand prize winner in the SAGE Photo Contest for the 2016 Charleston Conference. It is exciting to be able to share the out-of-the box thinking and innovative presentations going on in my library at The University of Southern Mississippi. I am thankful for the SAGE Photo Contest for choosing my photo, and for this opportunity to attend the 2016 Charleston Conference.*” **Culley** will receive a travel grant for the **Charleston Conference** and the five second-place winners each received a \$50 Amazon gift card. All six winners will have their photographs featured in the 2016 Charleston Conference Desk Calendar, which will be provided to all conference attendees. Look for the calendars in your tote bags when you check in!



The daVinci

By **Jennifer Culley**, University of Southern Mississippi

This photo is from a library Science Café event featuring the daVinci surgical robot. This photo shows the surgeon’s console, the robot, and the vision cart. The event included a demo that allowed hands-on research for our patrons.



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We will be sending email invitations soon for the **Juried Product Development Forums**. These sessions are designed to be focus groups for publishers and vendors to gather market input from librarians on the development of a particular product or service. For librarians, this is your opportunity to preview and influence the development of products that you purchase! All of the sessions will be held on Wednesday, November 2, from 5:00-6:15 pm in one of three Conference headquarter hotels, and refreshments will be served. Be sure to save space in your schedule for this important event.

Have you seen the conference schedule online at <https://2016charlestonconference.sched.org/>? If so, are you confused about what a “Neapolitan” is, or a little nervous about attending a “Shotgun Session”? At Charleston, we like to shake things up a bit by having several different session formats. Here is a quick run-down of what to expect:

Plenary Sessions — General sessions of a broad interest for the entire group of conference attendees.

Neapolitan Sessions — Designed to be of interest to a broad audience, but drilling down a bit more into specifics than the plenary sessions, these are “mini plenaries” that are run simultaneously in the three large ballrooms. Since there are three sessions/flavors at a time, we went with a classic ice cream theme!

Lively Lunchtime Discussions — These talks are scheduled during the lunchtime hours, and are intended to include a *brief* presentation or statement of the speakers’ point of view followed by vigorous

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Classrooms”) I proposed extending and enhancing the online catalog into what I called a “discovery system.” I am not sure whether my 2001 article was the first to use that term, but “discovery systems” are today common in libraries. But none are yet as sophisticated as what my article proposed, because it was (and is) my view that a library discovery system can and should be meshed with what today are often called “adaptive or personalized learning systems.” The details of that meshing are too complex to describe here; for more, IJLIS has kindly given me permission to scan my 2001 article to a cloud archive, linked at: <http://belmontabbeycollege.demo.libguides.com/c.php?g=518286&p=3544185&preview=ff14c33b4d64b69e622e2d54b4fd906>.

The last piece of the puzzle I will mention today relates to software for visualizing the dynamic structure of knowledge. This is again its own exciting and fast-developing subfield, but only some strands of knowledge visualization relate at this time to Frey’s notion of a “liquid network for ideas.” I would simply again point to yet another interconnected project I spearheaded in 2002-03, the “Scholastica Project,” when my library at **Belmont Abbey College** became the first library to successfully field test and do focus group assessments of what was then called VisualNet software. For details, the interested reader can find my D-LIB article at: <http://dlib.org/dlib/june03/beagle/06beagle.html>.

To summarize, if **Thomas Frey’s** “liquid network for ideas” is to ever become a tangible reality, the concept must be translated from Frey’s abstract “top-down” perspective as a futurist, to a real-world “bottom-up” perspective that builds upon the evolutionary potential of the existing sociotechnical systems and processes in today’s libraries, and in the colleges, universities, and other institutions that host them. If that never happens, I suspect that **Thomas Frey’s** “liquid network” will follow **Isaac Asimov’s** “mainframe computer storehouse” into the ever-mounting stack of libraries of the future that never make it out of the past. 🍌

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and lively discussion and Q&A from the audience. Food is not provided (unless specified in a sponsored event), but attendees are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

Concurrent Sessions — The workhorse of the conference is a standard 30-45 minute session from a single speaker or group of speakers in a traditional presentation style.

Shotgun Sessions — Moderated by a time keeper and presented in only 6 minutes and 40 seconds each, these succinct, “Pecha Kucha-like” sessions are scheduled during a 45 minute concurrent session timeslot with 5 presentations back to back. Time is provided at the end of the session for Q&A with all the presenters.

Innovation Sessions — These 30 minute sessions focus on innovative or entrepreneurial thinking in libraries — new ways to solve problems, new technology or existing tech utilized in new ways, etc. Innovation sessions are held on Saturday during the conference.

Poster Sessions — Presenters will be available to answer questions and narrate their posters on display at the Courtyard by Marriott. Running concurrently with the poster sessions is a “Happy Hour Networking” event with appetizers and a cash bar. You can mix, mingle, get a bite to eat, and visit the posters all at one time.

Can you believe the next issue of *ATG* will be in your conference tote bags? Eek! In the meantime, check the “News” section of the Conference Website (<http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/news/>) to stay current or email me with questions. See you soon in Charleston! 🍌

<<http://www.against-the-grain.com>> 53