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Content for Courses: Welcome to Our Special Issue!

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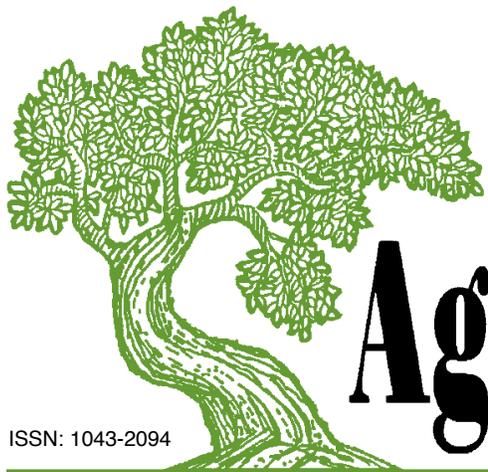
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Against the Grain

“Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians”

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Content for Courses: Welcome to our Special Issue!

by **Heather Staines** (Director, Publisher and Content Strategy, ProQuest, 14 Raynor Ave., Trumbull, CT 06611; Phone: 203-400-1716) <heather.staines@proquest.com> www.proquest.com

I'm very excited to bring you this special issue on the role of libraries in facilitating access to content for courses. Librarians have a long record of working with faculty to ensure that the best resources are available to students, from negotiating the licenses for the most needed journals, databases, and eBooks, to managing e-reserves or course reader initiatives. Now, with new and varying types of content, ranging from multimedia to student generated content to maker-spaces, librarians have a wider role than ever before. **Jessica Clemons** and **Roger Schonfeld**



look at trends demonstrating growing commitments to student retention, progression, and lifelong learning outcomes and offer their take on the subject in “Why should librarians be involved in facilitating access to content needed for courses?”

Two years ago, the November 2014 issue on electronic textbooks, edited by **Charles Lyons**, introduced a number of projects on alternative textbooks and Open Educational Resources. Wherever possible, I wanted to revisit these projects. In “Momentum Building: Progress Towards a National Library OER

Movement,” **Nicole Allen**, **Steven Bell**, and **Marilyn Billings** weigh in about growth indicators and new practical strategies on the OER front overall. In “High Textbook Costs: The Battle Continues,” **Crista Bailey** and **Ann Agee** update us on the Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) project at **San Jose State University**, including the popular Textbooks Available as eBooks in the Library (TABL) list and the Textbook Alternative Project (TAP) Grants for faculty. In “TextSelect revisited: The evolution and success of the textbook reserves program at **George Mason University**,” **Jessica Bowdoin** and **Madeline Kelly** detail new developments in the university's textbook reserve initiative in cooperation with

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If Rumors Were Horses



My first shout out goes to the little guy on the front page — **Carter Mungin** and his family. **Carter** just turned two years old. He had a stroke when he was barely six months old. Between the MUSC doctors and a “Berlin heart” he is doing very well. **Carter** is **Sharna Williams** grand-nephew and he is a sweetheart. This picture is from the heart walk by the **American Heart Association Team Carter** here in Charleston a few weeks ago. And read all about the Berlin heart which was founded in 1996. I was lucky to be able to ask my son-in-law who is a cardiovascular surgeon about it all, and he tried to answer my crazy questions. **Carter** no longer needs the Berlin heart and is doing well. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin_Heart



Center going to the left: **Carter Mungin**, **LaQuanna Mungin** (mom), **Kieran Smalls**, **Maurice Mungin** (dad), **Henry Smalls**, and **LaKetheia Mungin**.

Another picture in this issue. Big news from the **John and Gloria Dove** world. A few weeks ago in San Francisco they greeted the birth of their first grandchild provided by son **Matthew** and his wife, **Jodi**. **Elijah William Dove** arrived at 7 pounds 7 ounces on the 7th of September (talk about synchronicity). As you can see from the photos, everyone is happy, healthy, and the grandparents are “Over the Moon” (p.30).

Speaking of Matthew. Yes, we survived **Hurricane Matthew**! It was nothing like Hurricane Hugo but Matthew took its toll especially on Beaufort and Edisto Island and Myrtle Beach. The scary thing about all hurricanes, and especially this one, was its total unpredictability! Here's hoping we avoid another hurricane for a few more years (how about decades!)! Fingers crossed.

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Rumors

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Toni will boat out of her house to her truck which is on high ground to take care of **ATG** and **Charleston Conference** business. Speaking of which, on last Tuesday the **Intellectual Property & Science Business of Thomson Reuters** became **Clarivate Analytics**. That means that the position of the business in the **Vendor Showcase** guidebook, etc., etc. had to change at the last minute! And this is part of **Toni's** purview. Did she complain? No!

Here's the scoop! The previously announced sale of the **Thomson Reuters Intellectual Property & Science** business to **Onex Corporation** and **Baring Private Equity Asia** was completed October 3. The company's many well-known brands include **Web of Science**, **Cortellis**, **Thomson Innovation**, **Derwent World Patents Index**, **Thomson CompuMark**, **MarkMonitor**, **Thomson IP Manager** and **Techstreet**, among others. The newly independent company will be known as **Clarivate Analytics**, with **Vin Caraher**, as CEO. The new business continues to focus on scientific and academic research, patent analytics and regulatory standards, trademark protection, pharmaceutical and biotech intelligence, domain brand protection and IP management. The new name is effective immediately, and

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Content for Courses

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tion with their campus bookstore. **Monica Metz-Wiseman's** "Textbook Affordability: An Update" brings us up to speed on four initiatives at the **University of South Florida**: Online Course Reserve, Print Textbooks on Reserve program, eBooks in the Classroom, and the Open Textbook Initiative. As you will soon see, there have been many exciting developments, and these initiatives continue to gain wider acceptance and participation. Increasing visibility for these projects is particularly important to me, as, in my day job, I'm focusing on ensuring that the metadata for these new resources is as widely available as possible in discovery and delivery services.

Bookstores, coursepacks, and e-reserves continue to be common ways to provide students with access to items assigned on a syllabus. In "Collaboration is Key to Innovative Textbook Affordability Solutions," **Robert A. Walton** of the **National Association of College Stores (NACS)** provides informative case studies of library-bookstore collaborations to meet the needs of various campus constituencies. On the e-reserves front, I'm also pleased to bring you two views of library activities, including workflow challenges and opportunities, in this changing environment: "Current Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities for Electronic Reserves Services at **Santa Clara**" by **Elizabeth McKeigue** and "SIPX

Electronic Reserves at **Pepperdine University**" by **Sally Bryant** and **Gan Ye**. Ensuring that library resources and open content are visible in faculty workflows translates into more transparency on content use, costs, and other metrics that help support the teaching and learning environment.

In investigating topics on which to commission articles for this issue, it became quickly apparent that the role of the librarian in content provision goes well beyond books and journals — electronic or otherwise — and into the wild world of multimedia. In "Media in the Classroom — Connecting, Collaborating, Creating," **Lori Widzinski (SUNY Buffalo)**, **Debra Mandel (Northeastern University)**, **Andrew Weaver (University of Washington)**, and **Andy Horbal (University of Maryland)** detail the variety of ways that libraries have moved from the storage of knowledge to the creation of knowledge in support of classroom learning. And in "Multimedia Creation in the Small Campus Library," **Alyson Gamble**, Assistant Librarian, Sciences at the **New College of Florida** and the **University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee**, explains her library's focus on metaliteracy and active learning through a case study in the use of videos in the flipped classroom.

Publisher and vendor initiatives offer another view into ways that content can be adapted for use in courses. In "Does there need to be a distinction between 'content for courses' and 'content for libraries'?" **Liz Ma-**

son explains how **Cengage** develops their library products to better meet classroom needs and to help libraries demonstrate how they support better classroom learning outcomes. **Robert Boissy's** "The Affordable Textbook Revolution" reveals how **Springer Nature** has taken a hands on approach to ensuring maximum visibility for ebooks and reference content already licensed by the university, so that faculty will see what is available to them for course use. On the e-textbook front, **VitalSource's William Chesser** takes on the print versus electronic debate in "Dispatches from the Digital Front: Student Attitudes, Digital Content, and Lessons Learned." And finally, to bring video content into the conversation, "From **Alexander Street Press** to the Classroom" by **Bennett Graff** recounts how decisions like semantic indexing and discipline level customization have had a positive impact on the use of video materials in teaching and learning.

Whether it is highlighting the traditional and continuing role of libraries in meeting faculty and student needs in the classroom or detailing new media and support mechanisms that now exist alongside regular content services, these contributors have done an amazing job. I hope that you will enjoy these articles as much as I did and that you will find useful information and practical advice that you can apply in your library or organization. 🌱