September 2017

Biz of Acq-Going Green at a Library Near You: Transitioning from Print to Electronic Resources at the University of Baltimore Law Library

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Dictionaries is: "A person who is regarded as being deliberately ignorant or old-fashioned." My focus is on the "old-fashioned." These authors focus on past values that are no longer partially or completely accepted. Two excellent modern examples are those who wish that libraries would continue to favor print books and reject eBooks or who believe that libraries should return, at least in part, to the ideal library of the past with an emphasis on reading and silence without any of the current innovations such as makerspaces, social interactions, or new technologies such as 3d printing. They often make partially valid points because the flash-in-the-pan librarians sometimes overemphasize the value of these current innovations. I perhaps even belong a bit to this class because I'm of the opinion that the public library remains a vital institution as a source for "free" reading materials; but I would add, either in print or as eBooks. Troglodytes are prone to forget the imperfections of the past — for example, their ideal library was often difficult to use with a paucity of resources compared with the extensive current availability of digital materials. This library was also likely to have fewer low brow materials like series books, media, and popular culture materials. I'm also old enough to remember the locked case where the library kept controversial materials.

My second point is that the best efforts of troglodytes will nonetheless never bring back the past. I often make the point that the Luddites were accurate that the new technology would destroy their current lifestyle but wrong in their belief that they could roll back the changes. While some of the new library innovations may fall by the wayside, libraries of all types must meet the needs of their users, including those who want access to the benefits of new technologies: eBooks, 24/7 access to resources, online databases, and managing their library records from home.

Unlike sleeping beauties, the library community will understand the viewpoints of troglodytes, provide them with a modicum of support, invite them to conferences for their controversial viewpoints guaranteed to increase attendance, and publish their articles that will get cited. To some, they will be heroes. What won't happen from their efforts is substantive change. Without naming names, I know of several librarians who were respected for their early career innovations but then tarnished their reputations by their old fashioned viewpoints in their later years. Like last year's best sellers, nothing is colder than the last generation's innovations.

What I have left out in my classification are solid studies that fall into none of these three types. These works were important when they appeared, are still relevant today, and will probably remain so for future generations. I'll call them "lasting beauties." To my mind, they share in sometimes unequal measure a study of philosophical issues of continuing interest and solid fundamental research on topics of ongoing appeal. **S. R. Ranganathan** may provide the best examples of enduring relevance for his philosophical articles. His "The Five Laws of Library Science," published in 1931, has 859 citations including almost 250 citations since 2013 (Source: Google Scholar for all citation information). As an example of subject content, *The American Public Library*, published in 1910 by **Arthur Elmer Bostwick**, has 110 citations including 23 since 2013. Part of the reason that these works remain popular is because they continue to be in print, are widely held by libraries, and their high number of citations encourage future citations. I would expect that luck also has a part to play in their success. Perhaps research by citation experts has already discovered the tipping point that creates a high probability of remaining read and cited across several generations.

To conclude, I have always been interested in the temporality of research. I have examined in this column the relationship between scholarship, broadly defined, and changing interests over time. Sleeping beauties were neglected when they appeared but became important later as scholars recognized the importance of their insights or the topic itself became more relevant. Flash-in-the-pan scholarship is of interest for the present since it deals with contemporary concerns but is unlikely to retain any importance as circumstances change. Troglodyte authors attempt to bring back the past and normally find some contemporary support but are unlikely to successfully turn back the clock. The lasting beauties include those works that were important when they appeared and have remained so because they treat enduring philosophical issues or provide solid studies on topics of permanent interest to the library world. 🌳

Biz of Acq — Going Green at a Library Near You. Transitioning from Print to Electronic Resources at the University of Baltimore Law Library

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Introduction

The **University of Baltimore** is one of seventeen campuses that makes up the **University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI)** consortium. The current **John and Francis Angelos Law Center** officially opened its doors on April 16, 2013. This twelve-story 190,000 square foot law center houses a 300-seat moot courtroom, event space on the twelfth floor, fifteen classrooms, faculty and staff offices, and all of its law clinics and centers. The law library occupies 30,000 square feet, and is spread across six floors. The law library contains 29 study rooms and more than 450 seats. Students can find study space on each floor. Students can also find tables or study carrels with power outlets and conference rooms on each floor to promote learning and interaction. Like many academic libraries, the law library has been undergoing a transition from print to electronic format for a number of years in response to a smaller operating budget and the popularity of the digital format.

The **University of Baltimore Law Library** began this transition with cancelling most print journals and relying on the electronic equivalent through Hein Online (a database that consists of law and law related full-text periodicals) to reduce duplication of resources and to save the library money. The same applies to titles we receive through **West** (legal publications) and **Lexis Nexis** (legal publications) — select print subscriptions were also cancelled. Preparing for the move into the new law building was also occurring during this time. The current building offers more open space, and less shelf space, which enabled the law library to discard more than half of the collection, reducing our collection from 172,000 volumes to around 60,000 volumes at the time of the move. These discards

were titles that were no longer being updated including journals. Our print journal collection was reduced from approximately 30,000 to around 1,500 volumes at the time of the move. We donated thousands of volumes of journals to another university, including book titles.

Planning

Looking for ways to enhance our collection, the law library wanted to add MARC records for treatises for three major legal publication vendors (**Bloomberg BNA**, **Lexis**, and **West-law**) for easier access to each platform. We submitted an inquiry about loading MARC records beginning with **Bloomberg BNA** (**Bloomberg Bureau of National Affairs**) materials. Our cataloger contacted the **Bloomberg BNA** representative who sent us files of records for the five **Bloomberg BNA** electronic collections that we chose to add to our catalog. We contacted CLAS (who is US-MAI's Consortial Library Application Support team) for guidance along with instructions on how to request the load of bibliographic records. CLAS requested that we send files for **Bloomberg BNA** materials to a Drop Box that they set up. We were sent tailored instructions on how to edit using Marc Edit. We used this program and edited the records and then sent them to CLAS to set up the loads. We teamed up with the **University of Maryland Law Library** to share records for **Bloomberg BNA**, **Westlaw** and **Lexis**.

Research

While we were planning, we factored in some challenges that may occur during the process and researched other libraries experiences with transitioning from print to electronic.

According to **Rebecca Mugridge** and **Jeff Edmunds** (2012), many libraries face challenges when it comes to managing batch loading activities. Batch loading will increase with more and more records being made available electronically. Challenges libraries face are ongoing with bibliographic maintenance, and finding funds for record purchase and local tech support. These are important factors to take into consideration. **Wu** and **Mitchell** (2012) from the **University of Houston** state that the problem for catalogers is workflow because it's difficult to manage because of the unpredictability of vendor record quality. **Martin** and **Mundle** (2010), cataloging Springer eBook collections at the **University of Illinois Chicago** found problems with using vendor-supplied marc records: poor record quality, loading problems, and access problems. They came to the conclusion that while vendor records may be provided at no charge, there are costs that are incurred in staff time and effort to revise records. Communication and planning are essential to ensure workflows are designed in advance of eBook acquisitions.

According to **Carol Montgomery** (2000), **Drexel University** only purchased the electronic version of journals and cancelled the corresponding print publication to cut down on costs. According to **Mugridge** and **Edmunds** (2012), maintaining consistent record quality can be problematic. Libraries have to keep in mind some key issue such as the source of the bibliographic records, whether or not they can be batch processed, whether or not to combine print and online holdings on the same records, what modifications will need to be done to bibliographic records and how to maintain these records. Ongoing updates can add extra work to Technical Services departments. **Grigson** (2012) mentions that ongoing challenges include keeping up with updates to eBook collections, deleting records, collections that have not been renewed, as well as inadequate bibliographic records.

Workflow

Bloomberg BNA sends out periodic newsletters with new Marc records that have been added, updated, and deleted. The **University of Baltimore Law Library** chose to have marc records loaded for the five electronic collections from **Bloomberg BNA** including BNA Books, BNA Law Reports, American Bankruptcy Institute, Practicing Law Institute, and Wiley Books. Using the procedures given to us by CLAS, our cataloger as well as our Serials Management Librarian sat down together to work through files using Marc Edit to edit records and add these to the Drop Box that was set up by CLAS. CLAS does batch loading of records into Aleph test module where the records can be looked at and tested to see if links are accessible, along with reviewing how they display in the catalog. Once CLAS is given the go-ahead, the records are loaded into Aleph live where they are accessible to students and faculty. Further clean-up may be necessary once records are loaded into the live system. This includes manually adding and deleting records that were either no longer available or had ceased publication. We have gone through the process a few times now with updating records for **Bloomberg BNA** titles, along with removing links that do not work for certain titles. We also deleted records that were either no longer available or have ceased publication. CLAS added bibliographic marc records as well as holding and item records. We went through and identified which records needed to be edited. In collaboration with the **University of Maryland Law Library**, we have just recently added approximately 8,200 Marc records for **Westlaw** and **Lexis** Advance treatises. In adding these titles, we hope that it makes doing research easier and more effective.

Challenges and Opportunities

The recent use of vendor supplied records has also had its own challenges. Members from **UB Law Library** Collection and Database Services department contacted the represen-tative from **Bloomberg BNA** to have files of Marc records sent that are already included in databases we subscribe to. Accessing files that were sent from the vendor proved to be a challenge, but we worked with CLAS and got the issues resolved. In the beginning holdings were loaded without items, but with the implementation of **EBSCO** Discovery Service (EDS), titles are harder to access without item records attached, so we asked CLAS to add item records to electronic titles. We also needed to decide how we wanted these records to display in the catalog. We decided to replace call numbers with a "Click on Find It" note in its place. The solution to the problem? To load items with the OPAC note "Click on Find It."

Conclusion

There are two major trends in modern librarianship. First, like many academic libraries, the law library has been undergoing a transition from print to electronic format for a number of years in response to a smaller operating budget and the popularity of the digital format. The current building gave the library the opportunity to accelerate the print-to-digital transition. Second, as the learning needs and expectations of students and faculty have changed so has the design of learning spaces, where the law library is no longer a "place" with its printed materials. As **Michael Loder** points out in his 2010 *College and Research Libraries* article, "Libraries with a Future: How are Academic Library Usage and Green Demands Changing Building Designs?" it is paramount for modern library spaces to be designed for users rather than books.

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