

## Against the Grain

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## If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch

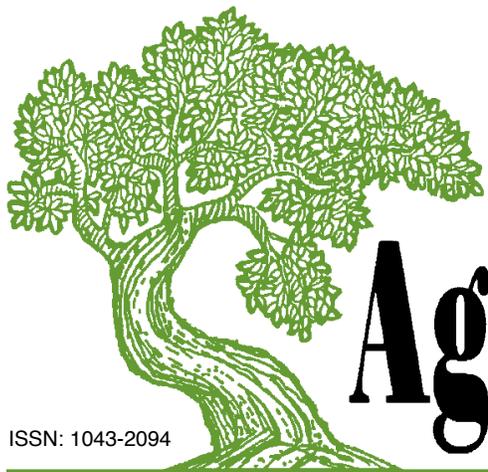
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# Against the Grain

*"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"*

ISSN: 1043-2094

## Library Support of Institutional Curricula

by **Cris Ferguson** (Director of Technical Services, Murray State University Libraries) <Cferguson13@murraystate.edu>

This issue of *Against the Grain* is devoted to the many and varied ways in which academic libraries are supporting institutional curricula. As tuition, the prices of textbooks, and student out of pocket costs continue to rise, libraries are pressed to think both creatively and strategically about how they can best meet the demands of their users, faculty and students alike. Bringing together case studies from a variety of academic institutions, the articles in this issue highlight how libraries are working with their constituents to best support their curricular and class needs. Solutions implemented include buying and making available print and/or electronic textbooks, encouraging

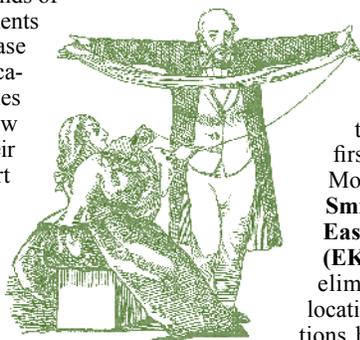
the adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) in place of traditional course materials, providing educational grants to faculty members who are producing or using OER content, and sometimes a combination of more than one of these tactics.

This is a careful balancing act, though. At a time when budgets are shrinking, pressure is on for libraries to make the most effective use of both their holdings budgets and their limited staff time. The first article in this issue, "One Monographs Bucket," by **Kelly Smith** highlights an initiative at **Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)**, where the **EKU** library eliminated all departmental allocations from its library acquisitions budget and created a single

monographic bucket to better support the institutional curriculum. Some of the results included an increase in budgetary flexibility and improved efficiency.

Many library collection development policies used to preclude the acquisition of textbooks — primarily because textbooks change so often that keeping up to date with the editions being used requires a significant budgetary investment on the part of the library. In addition, a single print copy of a textbook can only serve a single library user at a time. However, more and more libraries, like **Brigham Young University-Hawaii**, are revisiting this decision in light of high student textbook costs. In "Textbooks on Reserve — Seven Years and Going Strong," **Becky DeMartini**, **Marynelle Chew**, and **Michael Aldrich** discuss the success of **BYUH's** growing print textbook reserve collection.

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## If Rumors Were Horses



**Sharna Williams**, Registrar for the **Charleston Conference**, and her husband **Julius** celebrated their 18th Anniversary on a **Carnival Magic** cruise after the conference ended last year. Such a good looking couple!

We were thrilled to hear that **Lindsay Wertman**, Managing Director, **IGI Global** had her baby Friday, September 14. Look for **Kendrick Allen Wertman's** photo in this issue, p.10. **Lindsay** says "the little man is already giving us a run for our money and we are enjoying every minute we spend with him!"

Speaking of babies, just learned that **Franny Lee** has a new baby girl. "Hello, I am **Mackinnon (Yu-hei) Inglis**, born April 1 at 9:01am pacific at 6 lbs 14 oz and 19 inches tall. I insisted on arriving 2 days late so that my mom could try out a bunch of wacky induction techniques during her 60 hours of labor. I am ridiculously cute with a full head of hair, I squeak like a hamster when I hiccup, I can quiver my lower lip when I cry, and I love to snuggle. Mom and pops are doing well, enjoying their brand new baby girl and resuming their sugar-filled pre-gestational diabetes diets, and wanted me to share the news with you! Love, Little Mac." Her glamour shot is on p.16.

I hope you have noticed **ATG's** **Trendspotting** initiative. What does the future hold for our industry? We are lucky to have **Lisa Hinchliffe** in charge. She will be running the **Trend Talk Panel** on Thursday November 8, 2018 1:00pm-

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# From Your (anticipating) Editor:

Happy November everybody! Let's hope that is stays cool but not too cool! Or too hot either! We want just right! This is the 38th year of the **Charleston Conference**. Like wow! Hard to believe. We have had some scares this year with last minute hurricanes like Florence but we managed to swim through. Whew!

Besides anticipating the **Conference**, I am anticipating **another grandbaby** to be born, you're right, in November around conference time. Okay!

This issue is edited by the awesome **Cris Ferguson** on the varied ways libraries **support institutional curricula**. There are six featured articles by **Kelly Smith** (PDA and predetermining subject allocations), **Becky DeMartini**, **Maryellen Chew** and **Michael Aldrich** (the textbook reserve collection at Brigham Young), **Kate Pittsley-Sousa** (reasonably priced texts available for library purchase), **Christa Bailey** and **Adriana Poo** (the use of professional development funds), **Tim Bucknall** (UNCG's digital partnership program) and **Laura**

**Pascual** (University of Florida's multifaceted approach). **Ann Okerson's BackTalk** is about fashionable librarians! **Scott Plutchak** has penned the **Op Ed** about facts versus opinions.



Our interviews are with **George Machovec** (CARL and *The Charleston Advisor*) and **Joris van Rossum** (Digital Science).

**Corey Seeman** returns with **Monograph Musings**, **Donna Jacobs** continues **Booklover** and **John Riley** talks about summer readings. **Jack Montgomery**, **Bruce Strauch** and **Lolly Gasaway** tell us about **Led Zeppelin** and **Makerspaces**, **Dan Tonkery's Straight Talk** is about the failed **Springer IPO**, **Bob Holley** weighs in about academic libraries and intellectual freedom, **Mark Herring** is philosophical about the Internet, **Myer Kutz** looks at changes in the scholarly commercial sector, and we have a new column from **Darby Orcutt** that focuses on big ideas and the longer horizon. And of course, there's lots more I didn't mention.

Gotta run! The new grandbaby is considering making an appearance early!

See y'all in November! 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**, Post Office Box 799, Sullivan's Island, SC 29482. You can also send a letter to the editor from the **ATG Homepage** at <http://www.against-the-grain.com>.

### Dear Editor:

I love **Against the Grain** and **Charleston Conference** stories! Those stories remind me of this:

I started my library career in 1975, right after completing my undergraduate degree, and simultaneously worked on my MLS. I became a librarian in 1978 and began my first professional library job at **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory** in New York. In 1980 I learned how to search *Science Citation Index* with a computer and began librarian-mediated searching.



I connected to Dialog in California with a 110 baud and 300 baud rate modem. Later, high speed became 1200 baud rate. We were charged by the hour/minute. You had to dial the number for Dialog on the telephone, securely connect the phone to the modem and hope you could connect if the weather didn't interfere — rain and storms created a connection problem. That was the "horse and buggy" days of computer technology and libraries.

I am excited to participate in the Trendspotting Initiative. Thank you!

**Audrey Powers** (Associate Librarian, Liaison for College of The Arts, University of South Florida, Tampa Library) <apowers@usf.edu> 🐿

## AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 30 & 31 — 2019-2020

2018 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 2018-Jan. 2019	11/08/18	11/26/18
2019 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
Annual Report, ACRL	February 2019	01/03/19	01/17/19
MLA, SLA, Book Expo	April 2019	02/21/19	03/14/19
ALA Annual	June 2019	04/04/19	04/25/19
Reference Publishing	September 2019	06/13/19	07/11/19
Charleston Conference	November 2019	08/15/19	09/05/19
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 2019-Jan. 2020	11/07/19	11/25/19

### 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

2:15pm in Salon I, of the Gaillard Center. Come join us for a lively discussion!

What a dynamo **Courtney McAllister** is! **Courtney** has left the **Citadel** (boohoo) to be **Electronic Resources Librarian** at **Yale's Law Library**! She moved over the weekend and did not skip a beat as she was working on the **Charleston Conference** team to input room numbers for sessions on the website. **Courtney** is joining another ball of fire, **Lindsay Barnett**, a **College of Charleston** "alum." **Lindsay** is **Collection Development & Scholarly Communication Librarian** at **Yale Law Library**. And, guess what? They will both be in **Charleston** for the **Conference**!

Talk about an achiever! Besides his squirreling away business column, **Corey Seeman** has compiled a **Monograph Musings** column for this issue, p.40. Don't you love **Corey's** library of squirrel pictures?

**Jack Montgomery** — talk about energy! — has recruited a new legally speaking column editor, **Anthony Paganelli**, the **WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox Campus** librarian. **Anthony** has already sent several great ideas

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# Take a closer look at....

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### Rumors

from page 6

for columns. Coming up hopefully in the December-January issue! Unfortunately neither **Jack** nor **Anthony** will be in Charleston this year but there's always next year! And congratulations to **Jack's** wife, **Lesley** who has decided to pursue her online MLS at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. **Jack** is committed to **Lesley's** success in this dream of hers. He says it was through **Lesley's** support that he was able to realize his own dream. We will miss you this year in Charleston, **Jack!** Good luck and blessings to **Lesley!**

Just got the most eloquent email from our troubadour **Albert Joy!** **Albert** says it has been five years since he retired (can you believe it?) and he is ready to say **Bon Voyage**. I so hope that **Albert** will be back some year soon! Good luck, **Albert** and **Happy Trails!**

Another email from the roadrunner **JoAnne Sparks** (University Librarian, University

Library, Archives & Collections, Library, **Macquarie University**, Australia), who is announcing her retirement at the end of the year. **JoAnne** has "beep beeped" her way through an impressive career! Happy retirement, **JoAnne** and keep in touch please!

**BEP (Business Expert Press)** and **MP (Momentum Press)** have announced the winner of the Essay Contest For Registration To Charleston!, — **Ms. Elizabeth Price** from **James Madison University**. "**BEP** and **MP** were built, in-part, by a panel of librarians, and realize how important it is to support librarians — both in giving them content that



**Kendrick Allen Wertman**

*continued on page 16*

While recognizing that providing textbooks has not historically been a part of the library's mission, **Eastern Michigan University (EMU)** has also begun to reconsider its approach to the acquisition of textbook content. **Kate Pittsley-Sousa** outlines **EMU's** Library Textbook Affordability Initiative in her article "Expanding Options — Promoting the Adoption of Reasonably Priced Texts that are Also Available as Library eBooks," which, among other approaches, encourages the adoption of reasonably priced titles that could be available for purchase as library eBooks. This enables students that may not be able to afford to purchase their own copy of a textbook to rely on the eBook owned by the library.

In the November 2016 issue of *Against the Grain*, **Christa Bailey** and **Ann Agee** introduced *ATG* readers to **San Jose State University's (SJSU)** Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) program. Now, two years later, **SJSU** is back to provide an update on the ALS program. **Christa Bailey** and **Adriana Poo** explain in "TEAMing Up with Faculty: A New Tactic in the Textbook Battle" how **SJSU** began offering professional development funds to faculty to encourage them to adopt OER for use in the classroom as part of a new initiative called Teaching with Engaging and Affordable Materials (TEAM).

The University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG) is taking a slightly different strategy with its Digital Partners program. In "Digital Partners — An Incremental Approach to Supporting Digital Scholarship on Your Campus," **Tim Bucknall** explains that through the Digital Partners program, instead of granting financial incentives, the **UNCG Libraries** awards grants of library staff expertise and time, which support pressing and creative faculty digital scholarship concepts.

In "Creating and Marketing Textbook/OER Programs," **Laura Pascual** outlines the University of South Florida's multi-faceted approach to providing access to course materials, which includes several of the tactics mentioned in other articles in this issue.

The important takeaway from this issue is that the ways in which libraries are supporting their institutional curricula are as many and varied as the institutions themselves and there are no right answers. The important part is to start taking steps. As **Pascual** states, "each local initiative contributes to challenging the traditional textbook model." 🌱

## Correction Notice — September Feature Article

In our last issue of *Against the Grain*, v.30#4 September 2018, the published article by **Daniel G. Kipnis** and **Lisa A. Palmer** (pp. 33-36), titled "Medical Institutional Repositories in a Changing Scholarly Communication Landscape," contained errors in the two tables that were not found until after the issue had gone to press. Our apologies to the authors and our readers. The article has been updated online to incorporate the authors' corrections and is available at <https://www.against-the-grain.com/2018/10/v304-medical-institutional-repositories-in-a-changing-scholarly-communication-landscape>. 🌱

## Textbooks on Reserve ... from page 14

It didn't take long for the word-of-mouth advertising to take effect. Textbook reserve usage averaged 6,500 transactions per year prior to the launch of the all-inclusive library textbook initiative. Immediately after students found out about the program, usage soared. We peaked at 37,871 transactions in a year that coincided with a temporary bump in enrollment, and we appear to have stabilized at just over 30,000 reserves transactions per year.

In addition to the numbers, the feedback from students, faculty, and administration has been largely positive. Students appreciate course reserves and several faculty members regularly contact us to ask us to investigate the possibility of eBook availability or ask us to buy a variety of supplementary texts rather than requiring their students to purchase the books. Faculty members are especially mindful of those \$250+ textbooks, and they ask us to lower our student-to-textbook ratio in some cases. We don't mind acquiring more copies of the really expensive texts for student use.

### Positive Comments Continue to be Voiced by Students

Comments include:

"Yes, books on reserve has saved me hundreds of dollars this semester!"

"Yes, I love being able to leave my books at home."

"I don't buy books because it's too expensive."

"It really helps out poor college students. I use it when Amazon decides to [delay shipping] my books an extra month."

"They are fantastic, super helpful and useful!"

While wildly popular from the students' point of view, there are challenges on the library side. Keeping abreast of edition changes and dropped textbooks and course number changes is an ongoing, labor-intensive, tedious process every semester. In spite of this, we view the program as a success and one that has worked well for our campus.

Recently, we have gone back to the literature to see what other libraries have been doing about textbooks and have discovered that some libraries took a similar track, such as the library at **University of California Los Angeles** (Celik & Peck, 2016). Other librarians took a slightly different approach. For example, librarians at **San Jose State University** gave a presentation at the **Charleston Conference** in 2012 regarding the beginnings of their initiative. At that time, their Provost provided stipends for faculty members to revise their courses using library resources. The librarians subsequently developed a portal making their eBooks easily discoverable (King, 2018). Librarians at **East Carolina University** and the **University of North Carolina at Greensboro** jointly received funding to help with textbook costs. One strategy they developed was to offer faculty members mini-grants to explore no-cost solutions for students. Another strategy was that the librarians identified eBooks currently in use as textbooks and which were already owned or that could be purchased as an unlimited user-access copy (Thomas & Bernhardt, 2018).

Looking ahead, we believe we will continue our current model for the next several years. While some faculty members have switched to using library-licensed materials and some regularly inquire if eBooks are available, the majority of our faculty still use traditional textbooks. There is currently no OER initiative under serious consideration on our campus. Course Reserves continues

to be the most heavily used collection in the library and we are happy to help contribute to student success.

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## Rumors from page 10

educates and stimulates their students, but also by giving them these kinds of financial opportunities to help librarians go to meetings that support their work," said **Sung Tinnie**, COO. "This essay contest was just one way we could say, Thank You to them, as well as offering financial support to an **international librarian to travel to the Charleston Conference in the Fast Pitch Contest**," **Tinnie** added. "This will be my second time attending the **Charleston Conference** (the first time I attended was in 2016)," stated **Price**. "I prioritized attending this academic year because it has proved to be the best place to connect with other academic business librarians and learn about emerging areas in our field," **Elizabeth** added. **Elizabeth Price** has been an academic librarian since 2010, she moved into her current position as **Business Librarian at James Madison Uni-**

**versity** in 2016. Librarianship is her second career, following nine years as a newspaper copy editor and page designer for the *Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader*.

[www.businessexpertpress.com](http://www.businessexpertpress.com)  
[www.momentumpress.net](http://www.momentumpress.net)

Noticed that **George Machovec** and **Buzzy Basch** both like **stamp collecting**!! Have you seen the movie **Charade** with **Cary Grant**, **Audrey Hepburn** and **Walter Matthau**? A stamp plays a big part in it!

I ran into this article the other day — "**Don't Close the Book on Books**" by **Danny Heitman** (August 29 WSJ). It's about a student who didn't like to read and thought that books are a bore. "A 2015 survey by **Scholastic** and **YouGov** showed a sharp decline in the share of young people who read for plea-



**Mackinnon (Yu-hei) Inglis**

sure." **Heitman** points to the need for universities to make books more visible on campus, and I am reminded of **Jim O'Donnell's** valiant efforts to do just that. Kudos to **Jim O'Donnell!**

Those of you who know me know that I am an optimist. I don't think that this generation of students is much different from my generation of students. It's just that there are a lot more distractions now

than there were back then. Back when I was in college I went to the library but it was not to check out books. I wanted a quiet place to meet my boyfriend that was private and was not a "date." What concerns me more than anything is the fact that libraries and bookstores "have pretty much gotten out of the book busi-

*continued on page 20*

## Expanding Options ... from page 18

uses on non-linear titles, although the database vendor sends warning messages that allow us to purchase additional copies if necessary. At EMU most classes are limited to 30 students, smaller than at some universities. We were contacted by another university planning a similar experiment and they did experience immediate problems running low on numbers of use, perhaps due to larger class sizes or more sections using the book. We encourage instructors to also place orders for print copies with the bookstore — if the other university had not done so, that might also explain the problem. For those reasons, open texts or unlimited user eBooks are a better solution for large enrollment introductory course needs, while nonlinear or limited simultaneous user library eBooks can work well as a reserves copy for upper level elective courses (where there may also be fewer OER options). We continue to be uneasy with the non-linear model and tend to purchase those only where there aren't other options, or where we expect less use such as for optional recommended course reading.

In 2015 a second \$5,000 grant from EMU's Women in Philanthropy allowed us to create an electronic form for instructors to request library eBook versions of course books. The most difficult part of the project was getting the attention of busy faculty. Some requested titles were not available as library eBooks, but it's quick to check on availability and notify requesters, while also offering to research alternatives. A survey of participating instructors showed that most faculty didn't notice a difference in student performance, but 29% thought more students completed the readings. More than half the instructors noticed a reduction in student complaints on the cost of course materials. Most instructors planned to explore using library eBooks for future course readings and more than half said they would also consider open access course materials. Of students surveyed, none reported major technical problems using the eBooks. Where minor issues (such as pages loading slowly or

turn-aways) were reported, those same students reported that they would still choose to use a library eBook again. Most students who used the eBook stated that they did so to save money, and only two thought the eBooks were more convenient. Some students shared that if the free eBook had not been available, they would not have read the book. The survey population was small (14 faculty, 27 student respondents), but results were in line with our experience from the previous grant experiment.

After two successful grant experiments, the Library faculty voted to change our long standing collection policy of not purchasing textbooks, now allowing purchases if the title was requested by an instructor and available as a library eBook. There is concern about adding textbook support to a collection budget already strained by journal subscription costs and any solution involving subscriptions would have little support. Because we didn't foresee a large number of requests from faculty, we judged those small number of one-time purchases could be managed within the library's limited collection budget. In the following years, we have purchased requested eBook titles and have set up eBook contracts with additional publishers. We've been able to fund the moderate number of requests from general collection funds. The number of titles requested and purchased has generally been less than the number of titles purchased during the grant periods (69 in 2014 and 56 in 2015). We haven't been able to support comprehensive purchasing of all course books available as library eBooks (and getting timely info on text adoptions would be difficult), but there is great value in helping students in specific courses where we can.

Since one motivation of librarians is to encourage healthy competition in the textbook industry, we should also ask: Could provision of library eBooks for courses hurt those small publishers? The revenue effects can be both positive and negative, so it would be complex to try to measure the effects. Sales effects may be no worse than using standard print reserves, perhaps less since students face printing/copying limits on most eBooks. We see that even our "born digital" students prefer to have their

own print copy of course books, so when a title is reasonably priced many students will choose to purchase the book over using the less convenient library eBook. If the instructor chose the title in part because we could provide library eBook access for disadvantaged students, the publisher gained sales. Many of the students who use the library eBook are students who would otherwise forego purchasing the text, but there would be some who would have bought the book. In many cases, the title we purchased was published several years ago with many used copies available. We are also mindful that many smaller publishers, while needing enough revenue to operate, are not solely motivated by profit. Certainly university presses, associations, and some specialty publishers might be pleased to see their eBook offerings support low-income students and the spread of knowledge in their fields.

A program to support discovery of course reading options from a wider array of publishers and to further expand student options by sometimes purchasing library eBook versions can be an effective way to immediately help some students, to offer faculty more text choices than an OER program alone, and to support healthy competition in the textbook industry. Efforts have been sustained at EMU with no dedicated OER librarian and no specific funding from the university, aside from two small grants for pilot projects. Making use of the custom search engine, offering a course readings alternative search service, and providing library eBooks for some titles may be possible for even underfunded libraries. 🌱

### Endnotes

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## Rumors from page 16

ness." Why? I realize that we must "adapt to technology" but, pardon my French, why are we throwing the baby out with the bathwater? Libraries used to be quiet places where you could hear yourself think. Are we willingly throwing that away?

Saw this article in *The Spectator* the other day. It's by **Dominic Green** and is a review of a movie called *The Bookshop*. *The Bookshop*, directed by **Isabel Coixet** of Catalonia, is about that mole-like impulse to burrow away from the world, and how the world still forces us to see ugly spectacles of human nature. Adapted

from **Penelope Fitzgerald's** novel of 1978, this is a minor-key pleasure, beautifully paced, skillfully acted, and thoroughly sad."

<https://spectator.us/2018/09/any-storm-in-a-port/>

<https://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2018/09/any-storm-in-a-port-the-bookshop-reviewed/>

Speaking of bookstores, hear that **Barnes & Noble** is up for sale and this article caught my eye. "**Amazon killed Barnes & Noble; now it should Buy It!**" Hmmm...

<https://www.thestreet.com/investing/stocks/amazon-killed-barnes-noble-now-it-could-buy-it-14733932>

Does your library order through **Amazon** or through traditional companies like **GObi**?

Are you ordering more books than you once were? **Joe Esposito, Roger Schonfeld** and **Katherine Daniel** have launched **The Library Acquisitions Patterns project**. An interim report was published a few months ago. The final report should be finished by the end of the year. <http://www.sr.ithaka.org/blog/understanding-library-acquisition-patterns/>

**Textbook affordability** seems to be one of the hottest topics on the **Charleston agenda** this year. There are several panels on this including one by **Joe, Gwen Evans, Mark Cummings** and **Mark McBride!**

<https://2018charlestonconference.sched.com/event/G8SM/the-librarys-opportunity-in-affordable-textbooks>

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**Interview — Joris Van Rossum**  
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ties that would make science more transparent, reproducible and recognizable.

**ATG:** *You've mentioned that blockchain offers a new business model for journal publishing above and beyond the current subscription and OA models. Can you describe what that new model looks like? What are its specific advantages?*

**JVR:** Currently, making micropayments on the internet is an expensive and cumbersome experience. This means that publishers rely on business models based on advertising revenue, which is challenging, or subscription models that lead to paywalls, which are very unpopular. In academic publishing we additionally have OA (author pays) models, but after a few decades we have to conclude that this model has not been universally adopted as some had predicted. And OA has left us with another set of problems, such as predatory publishing and challenges for authors from developing countries to get published.

Business models based on micropayments using blockchain technology might be an interesting alternative — users pay as they read, which can be considered more fair, transparent and therefore acceptable for everyone compared to current models.

**ATG:** *We know that you have been involved in a non-profit peer review initiative that utilizes blockchain technology. Can you tell us about it? How does it work? Why is it preferable to the current peer review processes being employed by publishers?*

**JVR:** The peer review process has several challenges — a lack of recognition for reviewers, the difficulty of finding reviewers by editors, and overall a lack of transparency leading to a decline of trust in the process, to name a few. We believe that these problems can be solved if we better share data on review activities within the research ecosystem.

In response, we co-founded a new initiative that involves collaboration between our team, several publishers (**Springer Nature**, **Cambridge University Press** and **Taylor & Francis**), **ORCID** and **Katalysis**, an Amsterdam-based blockchain startup. By sharing data, we can recognize reviewers better, create

better reviewer finding tools using complete review profiles, allow reviewers themselves to indicate their interest and availability, and verify and validate the review process independently.

One of the key challenges when we're talking about storing and sharing information about the review process is of course trust — how to make sure we share information while still complying with the demand on confidentiality and privacy, for example, in the case of single blind and double blind review. It is here, we believe, where the blockchain can help. Using the blockchain, we can build a decentralized datastore of review information, and there is no single owner or gatekeeper that we have to trust enough to have access to the data. Moreover, we can make use of encryption techniques ensuring that confidential information (e.g., reviewer names) remains obfuscated. We are currently building on a proof of concept and are hoping we can share the results at the end of this year.

**ATG:** *You've mentioned that your blockchain peer review initiative relies on a sophisticated permissions system. Can you clarify? You've also mentioned that good governance is essential. How do you envision that governance? What would its structure look like?*

**JVR:** An important priority is how to make sure people do not gain access to information they're not entitled to. We do that by not storing the information itself on the blockchain, but instead provide links to the information stored on existing platforms such as **ORCID** and submission systems. This allows us to harness the tested and trusted permissions systems of these platforms.

Governance is absolutely essential, to make sure there is an agreement on fundamentals such as what data is being stored, who is participating and who has access to what part of the information of the review process. One of the options available to us is to eventually create a (not-for-profit) membership organization that will ensure a representative governance. Here, we're looking at successful initiatives like **Crossref** for inspiration.

**ATG:** *How much current adoption of blockchain has there been in the industry? Who are the main players? Can you point to specific examples and initiatives that demon-*

*strate how blockchain technology is currently being used?*

**JVR:** Blockchain technology is still in its infancy, but in the last eight months we've seen the launch of numerous initiatives demonstrating the many ways in which blockchain could have a positive impact on research and scholarly communication. To name but a few: *Artifacts.ai*, *scienceroot.com*, and *Project Aiur* are all projects still in early phases, but with really interesting propositions. So it is a case of "watch this space!"

**ATG:** *We understand that Digital Science wants to expand the adoption of blockchain with grants. What level of funding are we talking about? Who is eligible for these grants? What type projects do you envision funding?*

**JVR:** Basically anyone is eligible for **Digital Science** blockchain grants, as long as a project is still at an early stage! As for the type of projects that we would consider, **Digital Science** has already provided grants to blockchain projects in data management and peer review. However, we also have an interest in exploring the wider potential application of blockchain in research and scholarly communication. Anyone with ideas they are looking to get funded should get in touch with us via our *Catalyst Grant* programme!

**ATG:** *Is there something about blockchain technology that we should have asked you but didn't?*

**JVR:** Between blockchain theory and practice stand factors like legacy, habits, and vested interests. In theory, blockchain could be an ideal technology for research and scholarly communication, but for this potential to be realized many participants within this ecosystem will need to collaborate, including funders and institutions, as well as researchers themselves. **Digital Science** seeks to play an active role in that process! 🌱

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**Editor's Note:** *For those of you attending the Charleston Conference, Mr. Van Rossum will be presenting a Neapolitan session entitled **Blockchain: The Big Picture for Publishing!** It will be held in the Grand Ballroom 3, Gaillard Center on Thursday, November 8, 9:30am-10:15am. — TG & KS*

**Interview — George Machovec**  
from page 51

**ATG:** *George, as busy as you are, it must be important to find time to kick back and relax. What do you do in your down time? How do you unwind?*

**GM:** My leisure time really revolves around the family. I enjoy travel, adventures, reading, stamp collecting, astronomy, walking/hiking, and technology. I am a news junkie and find it very relaxing, even with all of the drama. 🌱

**Rumors**  
from page 20

Media and publishing intelligence firm **Simba Information** has released the latest edition of *Open Access Book Publishing 2018-2022*. The report found that despite multiple years of growth at more than 30 percent CAGR (compound annual growth rate), total revenue generated from book processing charges (BPC) remains small, well under 0.5 percent of total book revenue, comparable in size to a single university press

book publisher or a single open access journal publisher. On the "glass half-full" side of the equation, growth by any metric remains strong. Every company, every program and the overall market continue to grow. An important difference between OA books and journals is that the overall market for journals, particularly life sciences, remained stable through OA's development. The current book market is troubled, which will impact OA books' ability to progress as OA journals did. OA books may become "a" response, not "the" solution, to a crisis in social science and

*continued on page 58*

## Random Ramblings from page 56

mission is not to judge whether these teaching and research needs are valid. Others in the college or university have this responsibility. The department chair, dean, provost, university president, or governing board have the responsibility to make such determinations that will then affect what the library needs to purchase to provide support. Even here, the principle of academic freedom should protect, at least in principle, that ability of faculty members in a public institution to select their research topics and to at least propose teaching their specializations. In the example that led to this column, **Northwestern University** hired **Dr. Nash**, gave her tenure, and promoted her to Associate Professor. I do not know if she has asked the library to provide materials for her research, but I consider her claims to library support to be as valid as any other faculty member in a similar position.

I accept that academic libraries can't buy everything that their faculty want and that purchasing X-rated materials might pose some special problems for libraries. To begin, academic libraries can ethically refuse to honor faculty requests for materials for personal use. This is the function of the public library. I don't expect my university library to support my personal reading and viewing habits though it often does with materials bought for literature and film studies research and teaching. Cost is the second major reason for not purchasing a faculty request. Most libraries have some sort of limit on the individual and cumulative amount of money they are willing to spend on a faculty member's research. X-rated films may fit into this category if they are no longer easily available and must be purchased through secondary markets. A third reason that could be especially valid is format. Perhaps the film is only available on VHS, a format that the academic library no longer supports. This reason was used by many libraries as a way to avoid purchasing *Sex* by **Madonna** since it was spiral bound, a format that many public libraries don't collect. I, like many others, considered this to be a dishonest but plausible excuse for not purchasing a controversial item on the

**New York Times** bestseller list. If the faculty member can deal with the obsolete format with personal equipment, this undercuts the library's reason for not purchasing the item. Finally, I have heard librarians argue that libraries are not obligated to buy materials that will be used by only one person because the purpose of the library is to support multiple uses. To this, I say "bunk." One use is more than a substantial percentage of librarian/vendor selected materials will ever receive.

A more valid concern is that erotic materials including X-rated videos have a greater risk of being stolen. One additional reason for users to steal such items is the perceived possibility of embarrassment during the normal check-out process — the worry that the stuffy librarian will say: "Why would a nice person like you want to read (view) such horrible and immoral materials?" (I actually had this happen to me as a high school student in the early 1960s when I asked for a racy novel from the locked case in my public library). Theft may also occur during processing including the removal of such items by those who find them morally objectionable. With such issues, I would consider it reasonable to find ways to protect these materials such as putting them behind the desk or housing them in special collections.

I'll concede that this column may be more an intellectual debate than a practical matter. Any faculty member or student who needs an X-rated film can most likely find a copy through a Google video search or on a major pornography platform such as Pornhub. With the vast number of videos available and the limited number of porn descriptors, the main requirement might be advanced searching skills to zero in on the wanted item. (I needed about ten minutes to find the key film *Sex World*, that **Dr. Nash** discussed in her talk). Many free tools also exist to download these videos. Doing so is, of course, a copyright violation; but the copyright owners of X-rated videos pay much less attention to protecting their rights and issuing take down notices. Finally, the quality might not be as good as a DVD version but would most likely be satisfactory for content analysis.

To summarize the main points of this column, I've created the following case study to test how readers respond. The situation is

reasonable and close enough to the facts to be possible. The professor who wants the library to make available a copy of the film, *Sex World*, is a tenured Associate Professor in gender studies with an excellent scholarly record that can be verified with a quick search in **Google Scholar**. Her department and college support her research. She teaches a course where this film about a black porn star is part of the syllabus and required viewing for her students. She has also given the same lecture on campus that she gave at **Wayne State University** and thus created possible demand for this film. She is even willing to donate the film to the library so that it will cost the library nothing. The format is DVD, which the library collects. Perhaps she is enough of a radical that she is doing so in part to test the library's commitment to intellectual freedom. She also believes that the film is an important part of the cultural record with valuable insights on the role of race and gender in the United States and provides evidence of attitudes towards sex in the late 1970s. What would you decide? Would the size and private/public status of the college or university make a difference?

To conclude, this column and my upcoming presentation at the **Charleston Conference** are part of my current research agenda that seeks to show that honoring a commitment to intellectual freedom is not as easy as most librarians think it is. (The current controversy about having an open meeting room policy is an example of librarian pushback against First Amendment legal requirements and the Library Bill of Rights). Supporting banned books is important but is only the beginning of a commitment to intellectual freedom. A book or film can't be banned if the public, school, or academic library doesn't purchase it. For most, if not all libraries, some users of all ages have valid information needs on controversial topics such as sex education, non-mainstream religions/atheism, radical political movements, witchcraft, psychological disorders, and even career guidance for sex workers. I also have plans to write an article about what a "balanced collection" really means. While I doubt that I'll change library selection decisions, I can at least broaden the discussion. 🌿

## Rumors from page 53

humanities (SSH) monographs that preceded OA books. A willingness to experiment has become established in OA book culture. New trials in search of a viable future business model continue to be launched. Cooperative ventures include **Knowledge Unlatched** and **MUSE Open**. **Bookboon.com** uses advertising, but this only works for widely viewed topics such as textbooks or health titles directed at patients. **punctum books** calls for donations or subscriptions to gain

early access. While journal publishers like **MDPI** and **Frontiers** depend on support for the original journal article, **Australian National University Press** relies on print sales. But, like journal APCs, most still rely on book or chapter charges. The business models are very diverse, particularly considering the relatively small number of titles involved. **Open Access Book Publishing 2018-2022** provides detailed market information for this segment of scholarly book publishing. It analyses trends impacting the industry and forecasts market growth to 2022. The report includes a review of more than 20 notable OA publishers and programs, including **InTechOpen**,

**Bookboon.com**, **Frontiers Media**, **SciELO**, **De Gruyter**, **Brill**, **Knowledge Unlatched** and **Springer Nature**.

<https://www.simbainformation.com/Open-Access-Book-Publishing-11833736/>

Academic open-access publisher **Multi-disciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI)** has established an **Open Access (OA) agreement with Qatar National Library (QNL)**. **QNL** is committed to supporting and helping **Qatar authors** publish OA at no cost. Through this national agreement, **QNL** will cover the Article Processing Charges (APC) of

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**And They Were There**  
from page 65

**Cameo Role: Now Casting the Future of Film through the Library** — Presented by **Tom Humphrey** (Kanopy); **Amanda Maple** (Pennsylvania State University)

Reported by **Christine Fischer** (University of North Carolina at Greensboro) <cmfische@uncg.edu>

**Maple** described **Pennsylvania State University's** tradition of distance education throughout its history and today's need for providing streaming video access to the land-grant institution's faculty and students. Offering those collections resources contributes to the university strategic plan's emphasis on online education and personalized learning. She shared budget context for online content and specifically streaming video. Graphs provided a snapshot of streaming content activity for several providers, activity by faculty and discipline, user device choices, and user discovery options all of which pointed to a growing reliance on streaming video in instruction. Taking a broader market overview, **Humphrey** discussed several surveys covering data on media preferences, the reasons students use video, and cost per use for library subscriptions and patron driven acquisitions (PDA). The role of the library has changed over time with collections of physical media now being replaced by streaming video, with much of the content accessed by students through consumer services. Libraries can stay relevant by offering quality content that has an impact for students.

**Reviewing A&I Aggregators in a Large Research Library Collection** — Presented by **Weijing Yuan** (University of Toronto Libraries); **Holly Inglis** (University of Toronto Libraries); **Cristina Sewerin** (University of Toronto Libraries)

Reported by **Colleen Lougen** (SUNY New Paltz) <lougenc@newpaltz.edu>

The presenters all hailed from the **University of Toronto** which astoundingly has 44 libraries across 3 campuses. The presentation explored several important questions. What is the role of Abstracting and Indexing (A&I) and aggregator databases in the new information environment of Google, discovery systems, and extensive full text e-journal collections? How does a large research institution assess its substantial collections for duplicate indexing and full text coverage and identify low value databases? The presenters delivered practical details about their review project that could be easily adapted for any library: a methodology used to assess the value of a database; a discussion of challenges they faced; information about the tool that helped them identify overlapping full text and indexing; and finally, the outcomes of their review, including the databases they decided to cancel.

**Rumors**  
from page 58

manuscripts published by Qatar-based corresponding authors in **MDPI** journals. Eligible corresponding authors affiliated with Qatar research centers and universities are prompted to choose **QNL** as part of the **Institutional Open Access Program (IOAP)** when they submit an article via **MDPI's online submission system**. The program will be selected automatically if authors submit their papers using their institutional email and/or a computer registered with the institution's IP range. **QNL** will then crosscheck the information and confirm the APC funding.

[www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com)

<https://www.qnl.qa/en>

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**Shotgun Session** — Presented by **Ramune Kubilius** (Moderator, Northwestern University, Galter Health Sciences Library); **Edward Lener** (University Libraries, Virginia Tech); **Thomas Karel** (Franklin & Marshall College); **Whitney Kemble** (University of Toronto Scarborough); **Heidi Busch** (The University of Tennessee at Martin); **Bobby Hollandsworth** (Clemson University Libraries); **Carola Blackwood** (De Gruyter)

Presentations:

- 1) **It's NOT Just Kid's Stuff! (Reorganization of Juvenile Collection in an Academic Library)** (Heidi Busch)
- 2) **Technology Lending: Just Like Any Other Collection, Sort Of** (Bobby Hollandsworth)
- 3) **Collection Assessment: A Cure for Office Clutter?** (Thomas Karel)
- 4) **Cooking the Books: Developing an "Academic" Cookbook Collection** (Whitney Kemble)
- 5) **Hosting a Library Vendor Week: A Better Way to Manage Vendor Site Visits?** (Ed Lener, Carola Blackwood)

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

**Kubilius** moderated the session which provided varied views on collections (juvenile, cookbooks, and technology) in academic libraries, as well as the intersection of office and general collection assessment projects, and finally, the hosting of a fast-paced vendor (visit) week. **Busch** described a project to assess and update a juvenile collection, both on-site and off-site, that serves the Education Department, local educators, and the community. **Hollandsworth** described a rather impressive technology lending collection, and the related policies and procedures that needed to be devised. (The logistics sounded daunting to some attendees). **Karel** described the library's CAP (Collection Assessment Project), comparing and contrasting it with his own work office (backlog) triage project. **Kemble** described the library's aims to stay within budget limits, while building a niche, locally-relevant (particularly immigrant community) cookbook collection that benefits not only food science students, but also the university community as a whole. **Lener** (a librarian) and **Blackwood** (a participating vendor) described an interesting "speed dating" vendor visit week scheduled during a university's spring break that featured 27 vendors with products of potential interest to the library. When asked, **Lener** admitted that vendors did not cross paths during the scheduled meeting times.

**Successful Strategies for Partnering for Student Success** — Presented by **Michael Carmichael** (Moderator; SAGE); **Austina Jordan** (University of North Georgia); **Melissa Lockaby** (North Georgia University); **Todd Campbell** (University of North Georgia)

*NOTE: Melissa Lockaby is affiliated with University of North Georgia.*

Reported by **Robin Sabo** (Central Michigan University) <sabo1r@cmich.edu>

The three presenters from **University of North Georgia** (two librarians and the Director of General University Studies) responded to three questions posed by the moderator — 1) How should the academic library define student success?; 2) Where do you feel the library is not clearly articulating how it contributes towards this success?; and 3) Where are the opportunities for effective collaboration between the library and other stakeholders?

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We are delighted to announce our newest streaming video collections, joining our many subject collections on the *Films On Demand* platform!

		
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### And They Were There from page 68

session? (concurrent won out this year, again). Suggested changes to the conference were often humorous (e.g., no rain, midnight sessions), but also there were attempts to provide practical ideas (e.g., longer time slots for concurrent sessions, or, decrease the number of them, give umbrella titles to shotgun sessions, offer unconferences). Popular buzzwords? AI and more. Will IRs play a key role in the future of scholarly publication and research dissemination? More than half of the attendees voted “yes.” For variety, **Gallagher** jokingly added a question about the best books audience members had read (for her own reading list), and names of favorite Charleston restaurants (to check against her list of visited/to be visited). Were audience members mentored or served as conference mentors? About 1/3 responded “yes,” which gave clues about the composition of the audience in this year’s last session. Suggested themes for the 2018 conference ranged, from “Up the Down Staircase,” “Who’s on First,” “Tomorrow is Yesterday Before Today,” “Winning the Information Wars,” and more.

Intrepid **Charleston Conference** blogger, **Don Hawkins** reports more details, including more poll results through screen captures, in his blog entry about this final session: [www.against-the-grain.com/2017/11/closing-session-conference-poll-a-palooza/](http://www.against-the-grain.com/2017/11/closing-session-conference-poll-a-palooza/). 🐼

*Well this completes the reports we received from the 2017 Charleston Conference. Again we’d like to send a big thank you to all of the attendees who agreed to write short reports that highlight sessions they attended. Presentation material (PowerPoint slides, handouts) and taped session links from many of the 2017 sessions are available online. Visit the Conference Website at [www.charlestonlibraryconference.com](http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com). — KS*

*Against the Grain / November 2018*

### Rumors from page 66

**Publishing services provider Sheridan**, a **CJK Group** company, has expanded its partnership with research technology company **Digital Science** to enable support for **Dimensions badges** and **Figshare supplemental data widgets** across the **PubFactory hosting platform**. Launched in January 2018, the **Dimensions badges** provide citation counts for any publication. Driven by the underlying technology of the **Dimensions platform**, which indexes over 96 million publications, users can click on the **Dimensions badges** to explore all of the citations a publication has received, with further detail on when they occurred and how the academic influence of the publication compares to other articles published in the same discipline. The **Figshare widgets** are a dynamic, embeddable integration that make it easy for publishers to provide the supplemental data relating to individual articles alongside the main text of the article, ensuring it is much more discoverable and encouraging reuse.

<https://www.digital-science.com/blog/news/sheridan-expands-pubfactory-partnership-with-digital-science/>

This seems cool to me. According to **The Bookseller**, a U.S. producer and former **Netflix** executive are embarking on a joint venture, “**TaleFlick**,” which offers a library of searchable books for adaptation across film, TV and digital media. Producer **Uri Singer** of **Passage Pictures** and **George Berry**, previously of **Netflix** and **Apple**, said the database “bridges the gap between the written word on paper and the spoken word on screen by paving the way for storytellers around the world to shop their content to the entertainment industry.” The platform is for all content including published books and short stories and the submission fee is \$88 (£67) to cover curation, which makes the content

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*<<http://www.against-the-grain.com>> 69*

# LIBRARY PROFILES ENCOURAGED



## Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries

3801 E. Florida Ave., Suite 515  
Denver, CO 80210  
Phone: (303) 759-3399  
Fax: (303) 759-3363  
<https://www.coalliance.org>

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:** The Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that began in 1974 and was formally incorporated as a non-profit in 1981. From the beginning, the consortium was designed to help research and educational institutions share information resources and reduce operating costs by working together. Current initiatives include the Alliance Shared Print Trust, the *Prospector* union catalog, e-resource licensing, Gold Rush software suite, and training/education.

**KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES:** *Prospector* union catalog, Gold Rush (shared print analytics, content comparison of journal packages, ERMS, A-Z, link resolver).

**CORE MARKETS/CLIENTELE:** Academic Libraries and large public libraries. All services have been developed for member libraries in the consortium and are made available to other libraries for an additional fee.

**NUMBER OF STAFF AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** Six staff involved with the *Prospector* union catalog, Alliance Shared Print Trust, Gold Rush software framework, e-resource licensing, training, continuing education

**OVERALL CONSORTIUM BUDGET:** An operating budget of \$1 million/year.

**TYPES OF MATERIALS YOU BUY:** eBooks, ejournal packages, video streaming, databases, and other e-resources of interest to our members.

**WHAT TECHNOLOGIES DOES YOUR CONSORTIUM USE TO SERVE MOBILE USERS?** Nothing specific.

**DOES YOUR CONSORTIUM HAVE AN ILS OR ARE YOU PART OF A COLLABORATIVE ILS?** The Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries operates a shared union catalog called *Prospector* (<https://prospectorhome.coalliance.org>). This union catalog is not an integrated library system but rather a shared discovery and resource sharing system.

**DO YOU HAVE A DISCOVERY SYSTEM?** Encore for the *Prospector* union catalog.

**DOES YOUR CONSORTIUM HAVE A COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT OR SIMILAR DEPARTMENT?** Staff work with the Shared Collection Development Committee to determine what should be licensed.

**IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR BUDGET AND WHAT TYPES OF MATERIALS ARE YOU PURCHASING? PRINT OR ELECTRONIC OR BOTH?** About \$17 million/year for licensing on behalf of our member libraries. We only license e-resources.

**WHAT PROPORTION OF YOUR MATERIALS ARE LEASED AND NOT OWNED?** The only "owed" materials are for some of the eBook packages and some of the backfiles of e-journal packages.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR CONSORTIUM WILL BE LIKE IN FIVE YEARS?** The future is built on the past so I'm expecting many of the same services but with new technological enhancements and opportunities.

**WHAT EXCITES OR FRIGHTENS YOU ABOUT THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?** Collaboration fatigue is one of the problems facing many consortia. We need to be careful to not accidentally give up the core benefits of collaboration since working together is still crucial in many areas of librarianship.

**IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK OUR READERS SHOULD KNOW?** Shared print programs for monographs and serials are an important effort by academic librarians in shaping long-term access to materials. Collaboration at the local, regional, and national levels are key to providing long-term access to the scholarly record.

## Rumors

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available for one year on the website. Authors will retain all rights to their books, but will give the Los Angeles-based company the chance to bid on their dramatic rights and present their stories to studios and production companies.

<https://www.thebookseller.com/search/site/taleflick.com>  
[taleflick.com](https://www.taleflick.com)

SSP's **Scholarly Kitchen** blog is definitely worth reading (along with *ATG* that is!) Have you paid attention to the "Read and Publish model?" Is it good for the academy and will it transform the scholarly journal publishing business? **Emma Wilson** is the **Director of Publishing** at the **Royal Society of Chemistry**. **Read and Publish** just arrived in the U.S. when MIT and the RSC signed just such a deal. **Emma** pens that "this is significant as it signals the model has appeal to research intensive universities outside of Europe, and global uptake is needed for the model to impact the open access (OA) landscape. Our deal with MIT attracted much attention and comment. Unlike other **Read & Publish** models, the 'Read' component is directly linked to changes in the amount of paywalled content, allowing for a smooth transition toward more OA content in future."

<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2018/09/24/guest-post-why-a-society-publisher-is-moving-toward-read-and-publish-models/>



Pictured above is my granddaughter, **Katina Walser**, who just like her father, **Raymond**, loves to read. She has recently moved to San Diego California and was so excited to find this bookmobile stopping nearby. She is also taking karate and hopes to have her black belt very soon.

Happy November and see many of you in Charleston soon! Many good thoughts! **Yr. Ed.** 🌿