

Against the Grain

Manuscript 8197

2018 Charleston Library Conference: Oh, Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

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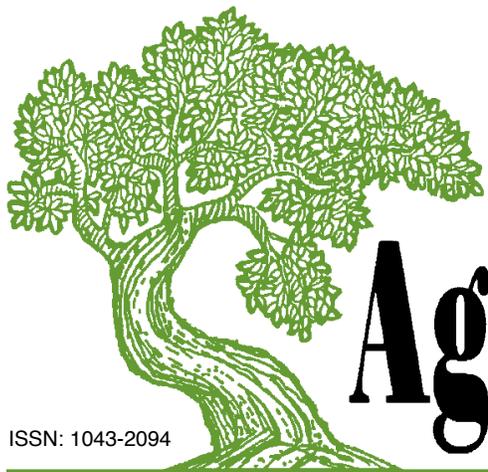
Tom Gilson

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ALA MIDWINTER ISSUE

TM

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 6

DECEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019

Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

ISSN: 1043-2094

2018 Charleston Library Conference: Oh, Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

by **The Charleston Conference Team: Leah Hinds** (Executive Director of the Charleston Conference, Charleston Information Group, LLC) <leah@charlestonlibraryconference.com>, **Tom Gilson** (Associate Editor *ATG*) <gilson@cofc.edu>, and **Katina Strauch** (Editor, *ATG*) <kstrauch@comcast.net>

The 2018 Charleston Library Conference — our 38th annual conference — was held from Monday, November 5, through Friday, November 9 in beautiful Charleston, SC, like always. **Preconferences** and **Seminars** as in years past were held prior to the conference on Monday and Tuesday, November 5 and 6. The **Charleston Seminars** part of the **Preconferences** are in-depth workshops that are offered either before or after the main **Charleston Conference**. This year's seminars were **Acquisitions Bootcamp**, presented in partnership with **UNC School of Information and Library Science**, and **Marketing to Libraries**. A total of 8 preconferences were presented over the two days on many other topics including the user experience, data curation, vendor-library relationships, OERs, and more.

Our attendance (approx. 2,000 total) contained roughly 50% librarians, 23% vendors,

18% publishers, and 9% consultants, students, and others. These statistics were taken from the self-reported "Attendee Type" category on the conference registration form.

The main conference consisted of 7 plenary presentations, 162 concurrent sessions and lively lunches, 18 Neapolitan sessions, and 47 poster and virtual poster sessions. Major themes of the meeting included data visualization, analysis and assessment of collections and library users, demand-driven acquisition, the future of print collections, and open access publishing. This short overview will give you a birds eye view of some of the content which was extensive and far-ranging.

The 2018 Charleston Conference was opened by a keynote presentation from the vivacious **Annette Thomas**, Chief Executive Officer, Scientific & Academic Research, **Clar-**

ivate Analytics, titled "The Future of Research Information: Open, Connected, Seamless," in which she discussed the opportunities, challenges, and pitfalls of this golden age of research, and about embracing the original principles that made the web itself such a powerful force. The audience was heartened to hear that in the future the **Web of Science** will be used to identify the product that we all know and love.

A brief plenary presentation on Wednesday was a short talk from the amazing **T. Scott Plutchak** about the **Open Scholarship Initiative**. "The world of scholarly publishing has always been fraught with issues of access, authority, politics, and funding. Who has access to academic journals? How are studies and

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Someone out here on **Sullivan's Island** has created a small kiosk of sorts that has books that are free to be shared with the community. I think this speaks to the library as place. What do you think?

If Rumors Were Horses

Happy New Year, everyone! We spent the vacation in Winston-Salem at the **Graylyn Estate** figuring that it would be best to stay out of my daughter and her husband's hair since they now have three children and one was only just born on November 3, 2018. **Graylyn Estate** is a very inexpensive and friendly historic hotel owned and operated by **Wake Forest University**. Highly recommended! www.graylyn.com/

Two enterprising librarians, **Christian Lauersen** and **Marie Engberg Eiriksson** launched **Library Planet**, "a crowdsourced Lonely Planet for libraries," in early December. The two librarians from Denmark both love to visit libraries when they travel and had talked about how they could share their experience with other people. They also shared a frustration: travel books often only include libraries if they are flagship or historical libraries, **Engberg Eiriksson** wrote in an email. See A "Lonely Planet" for Libraries by

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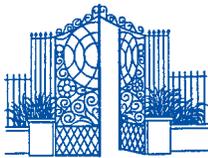
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Charleston Library Conference ... from page 1

articles selected for publication? What are the politics behind these choices? How do institutions fund their studies and, conversely, how do journals, etc. pay staff and publication costs?

“The Open Scholarship Initiative (<http://osiglobal.org/overview/>) proposes to address some of these issues and to bring the work of researchers and scholars of all disciplines within reach of the international community.”

Wednesday morning also included an incisive panel discussion on mining data for effective decision-making featuring **Ann Michael** of **DeltaThink**, **Ivy Anderson** of **CDL**, and **Gwen Evans** of **OhioLink**.

Thursday morning was opened by keynote plenary speaker **Ruth Okediji**, from **Harvard Law School**, whose profoundly energetic and riveting presentation was titled “Navigating Access to Knowledge: Copyright, Fake News, Fair Use, and Libraries.” **Ruth** presented a rousing call to libraries, with reflections like information is not news, news is not knowledge,

and that librarians are critical to the architecture of civic education.

Thursday morning also featured the innovative **Charleston Fast Pitch** competition, which was held as one of our Neapolitan sessions this year. Fast Pitch encourages proposals for ideas on improving or transforming the work environment at a library, or any information-related enterprise or organization in educational technology. Fast Pitch was conceived by **Ann Okerson** of the **Center for Research Libraries** and is made possible by the generous donation of the **Goodall Family Foundation**. Innovators **Rob O’Connell** of **Smith College**, **Molly Rainard** of **Auraria Library**, **Devin Savage** of **Illinois Institute of Technology**, and **Michael Young** of **University of Connecticut** were selected as finalists to present their inventive ideas to the Charleston audience and compete for a chance at two \$2,500 prizes (one selected by the Judges and the other by the audience) sponsored by the **Goodall Family Foundation**. We would like to congratulate **Rob O’Connell** of **Smith College** for winning the audience choice award, and **Devin Savage** of **Illinois Institute of Technology** for

winning the judges’ choice award. “With so many recent developments in information technology, the opportunities for innovation in information

Overheard at the Conference

- “Data belongs to the person who created it.”
- “Just because we can do something with technology, should we do it?”
- “Who owns usage data?”
- “Affordability is not the strategy of choice anymore.”
- “What’s wrong with being commercial?”
- “Copyright law should be an instrument of education.”

management across academic libraries are endless,” says **Steve Goodall**, Founder and President of the **Goodall Family Foundation**. “The Goodall Family Foundation is honored to be part of the Charleston Fast Pitch Competition.”

To encourage international participation, there was also a third award of an international travel stipend to attend the 2018 conference and present a winning idea to the audience. This award was sponsored by **Business Expert Press** and **Momentum Press**. Congratulations to **Tony Xu**, Co-Founder, **Rabbit Hole of Knowledge/STEM Fellowship** for winning the international travel award. “Contributing financially means supporting people from other countries who share progressive ideas in education, new critical resources for our libraries, and solutions to revitalizing academic foundations,” said **Sung Tinnie**, COO of **BEP and Momentum Press**.

Thursday afternoon featured the **Charleston Premiers: Five Minute Previews of the New and Noteworthy**. This session features short lightning round style presentations of new companies and products of interest to the Charleston community. Audience voting at the end determined the following winners:

- Best Design: The HistoryMakers (<http://www.thehistorymakers.org/>)
- Highest Impact: The HistoryMakers
- Most Innovative: PageMajik (<https://www.pagemajik.com/>)

“PageMajik is a workflow solution which uses machine learning to automate repetitive, time-consuming, expensive aspects of the publishing process,” says **Jon White** Global VP, Sales & Marketing. “The Charleston Premiers gave us a chance to really showcase **The HistoryMakers Digital Archive** in front of a large audience. The chance to receive instant feedback on the tool, and on our presentation of its features, through the Audience Choice awards really drove home for us the value of both the premiers and the **Charleston Conference** as a whole. We will definitely be coming back and participating in the premiers to introduce new features and tools in the future,” added **Dionti Davis**, Special Assistant to the President.

On Friday morning, the stimulating **Long Arm of the Law** session was back again for another musical number, including **Ann Okerson** of **CRL**, **Bill Hannay** of **Schiff Hardin LLP**, and **Kenneth Crews** of **Gipson Hoffman & Pancione**, discussing current legal issues affecting libraries and the information industry.

The week was capped off by a Closing Session and “Poll-A-Palooza” on Friday afternoon featuring a poll session hosted by **Erin Gallagher** of **Reed College**, a closing summary from **Stephen Rhind-Tutt** of **Fairfax House Group**, and a preview of things to come in 2019 from **Barbara Meyers Ford** of **Meyers Consulting Services** and **Anthony Watkinson** of **CIBER Research**.

For more detailed reports on the plenaries and other conference sessions, see the **Charleston Conference Blog**, written by **Donald Hawkins**, at <http://www.against-the-grain.com>.

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The Best of the Charleston Conference Blog from page 19

crazy party, partying at one place with a ton of people like there's no tomorrow.")

Here is the list of the questions asked at the 2018 Poll-A-Palooza:

- Where is everyone from?
- Are you a first-time attendee of the Charleston Conference?
- What is your favorite sessions format?
- What is the hottest buzzword of Charleston 2018?
- All scholarship must be made freely available for reading and reuse. (multiple choice)
- What's the best book you've read this year?
- What excites you about the future of libraries?
- Is your library using virtual reality?
- If you could implement virtual reality services in your library or organization, how would you use it?
- What is the best thing you ate in Charleston this week?
- Will you be implementing any programs or adjusting existing programs at your library/organization based on what you learned here? (multiple choice)
- What do you think will be significant forces that will change our profession in the next year?
- What do you think will be the hottest topic of Charleston 2019?
- If you could change one thing about the Charleston Conference next year, what would it be?
- Any ideas for the theme for the Charleston Conference 2019?

(Audiences responses are available at: <https://www.against-the-grain.com/2018/11/closing-session-and-poll-a-palooza/>.)

Following the Poll-a-Palooza, **Stephen Rhind-Tutt**, CEO, **Alexander Street Press**, presented an excellent information packed summary of the conference. Here are the numbers:

- 1,600+ attendees
- 146 exhibitors
- 23 hotels
- 100 hours
- 200+ individual events
- 350+ speakers
- 200+ hours of presentation
- Lunches, dinners, breakfasts, chats ...

These are some of the major trends at the conference, primarily drawn from the **Trend Spotting** workshop held on the first day following the preconferences.

- Analytics & Algorithms
- Trust
- AI & Machine-aided Indexing (MAI)
- Content — Abundance, Formats, Data, Code, Fragmentation
- Climate Change & Environmental Impact
- Cybersecurity & Threats to IP
- Defunding & Erosion of support for public goods
- Personalization & Customization of Information Environment
- Research controlled Information Environment (Workflow, Tools)

Rhind-Tutt identified some trends and gave a special mention of **Joris van Rossum's** presentation on blockchain, saying that it was one of the best he had heard and made the concept very clear and understandable. View the slide available on the blog at <https://www.against-the-grain.com/2018/11/closing-session-and-poll-a-palooza/>.

Rhind-Tutt also identified the rise of open and OA as one of the most pervasive trends of the conference, with many presentations, some of which are shown in additional slides available on the blog at the same URL as noted above. Another slide notes that the concept of open also comes into education and training with open educational resources (OER).

Rhind-Tutt quoted **Dr. Garry Henley**, Director of **MERLOT**, who said in 2016, "Materials students might need are available in the library; those they definitely need must be purchased from the bookstore. Openness enables us to build on other people's work, materials, and expertise with appropriate attribution." And finally he mentioned the issue of affordable textbooks and libraries' opportunities, with savings to students served by the OHIOLink system estimated to be as much as \$50 million/year.

In summary, **Rhind-Tutt** mentioned the following takeaways:

- Rise of open. Its tone is becoming more strident, and no part of the ecosystem is unaffected.
- Importance of learning; for example, **SUNY's** journey to OER.
- An inclusive model for textbooks, which constitute the core of all course-material adoptions. Open textbooks are massively important.
- The ever increasing importance of analytics.
- Expanding the role of libraries. Core roles include standards, metadata, social functions, supporting academic research
- Print vs. electronic resources.

He urged us to get involved before outsiders make decisions for us that we don't like.

Following **Rhind-Tutt**, **Barbara Myers Ford**, President of **Myers Consulting Service** described "A Journal Carol in 3 Parts," which is coming in November 2019. Three journal editors-in-chief will look at the journal across three time periods:

- **Past:** 1665-1965, print exclusively, only internal improvements, no technology improvements, first peer review in 1733.
- **Present:** 1966-2019, application of computers to the publishing process producing print + online. Journals read in print and on screen. Challenge of degree of online availability. The sciences took to online, other disciplines not so much.
- **Future:** 2020-2025, connectivity and everything accessible around the world. The biggest challenge is not technical but economics.

Auditions for editor-in-chief of the project will begin in early 2019. 🌱



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[com/category/chsconfblog/](http://www.against-the-grain.com/category/chsconfblog/). The full schedule with session titles and descriptions, speaker listing, and sponsor listing is available at <https://2018charlestonconference.sched.com/>. Videos of all plenary sessions and Neapolitan

sessions, along with select concurrent and lively discussions, are being uploaded to the conferences YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CharlestonConference>. Subscribe for updates and notifications as new content is made available.

This issue contains a series of articles from presenters and staff from the **2018 Charleston Conference**. The aim is to give a flavor of the

materials, topics, ideas, and thoughts that were presented there. Although there is too much to cover in one issue (remember the conference theme "Too Much is Not Enough?"), we hope that these articles cover some of the most salient and important themes.

And don't forget — the **2019 Conference will be held November 4-8**. We hope to see you there! 🌱