Against the Grain

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Library Space in the Digital Age

Bobby Hollandsworth

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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

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Library Space in the Digital Age

by **Bobby Hollandsworth** (Learning Commons and Adobe Digital Studio Coordinator, Clemson University Libraries)
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What is the purpose of the academic library in terms of physical space in 2018? That should be an easy question to answer, but there's been a paradox brewing in academic libraries for years. It seems the more online journals, books, and services we provide in an effort to make it easier to access our collections and minimize or eliminate the need to visit the library, the more students, faculty, and staff flock to our physical building. This is a good problem to have, yet a curious one. I have multiple theories on why this is happening ranging

from the influence of bookstores and coffee to the physical isolation and disconnection of the digital world. I promise not to delve into these theories at this time, but if you'd like to discuss them I'm game.

After pondering the initial question further, the paradox grows more complex. Online collections and services have expanded, while at the same time print circulation statistics and reference questions have dropped significantly. That makes logical sense — if many of these resources and services are now online you would expect print books and visitor

questions to decrease. These factors coming together at once sets up a perfect storm scenario for the demise of the physical library, right? Well, a strange thing happened on the way to obsolescence: the number of people visiting many academic libraries increased, and those numbers keep rising. You could certainly point to larger college/university enrollments as a reason, along with other factors for so many visits. I will also point out these are broad trends across academic libraries that may not be true on your campus. All this to say things have changed in academic libraries, and luckily there have been some extremely brave librarians who have not only embraced the changes, but have seen their libraries thrive because of the changes.

It's easy to forget or possibly not think about the seismic shift in library spaces over

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If Rumors Were Horses

Hey! Happy June! Thank goodness the weather here in Charleston has been unseasonably cool! And very little humidity! No complaints!

You may have noticed that registration for the **Charleston Vendor Showcase** opened on Monday, June 4. It is almost sold out al-

ready! And registration for **38th Charleston Conference and preconferences** opens **June 11!** Register early to get the Early Bird rate. We haven't increased the prices and we have many excellent sessions during the conference and preconferences.

It was exciting to see that one of my favorite vendors, **Casalini Libri** has expanded their agreement with **OCLC**. The new agreement will provide libraries with high quality bibliographic records that improve library users' access to authoritative content. Under terms of the expanded agreement, **Casalini Libri** will provide bibliographic records for titles from over 4,000 publishers in Europe, in **Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Greek** languages, in addition to **Italian**. By **Casalini** supplying this data to **OCLC**, the libraries can save time in processing the print and electronic content represented by those records, and can quickly make that content available to their users and researchers. **OCLC** and **Casalini Libri** have been working together for 23 years.

A future book reviewer for **ATG** perhaps? Pictured here is **Katina Walser** (granddaughter of **Katina Strauch**) who loves books!

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Library Space in the Digital Age *from page 1*

the past fifteen to twenty years. Over this time libraries have been renovating, repurposing, and redesigning the old book repository look and feel of the physical buildings. Do you remember when this happened at your library? You or someone you work with perhaps helped put in a coffee shop, built an information/learning commons, established a storage facility, moved the physical reference collection to the stacks, moved books from the stacks to the storage facility, built a writing center, got rid of your reference desk, allowed food and drink, built a smart classroom, brought GIS in, created a multimedia studio, put in a makerspace. I could go on and on, or just say academic libraries have changed drastically. These changes have led to new initiatives and engagement with campus and private partners that have opened the gates to transforming libraries from book repositories into exciting places where students want to gather, collaborate, learn, and get energized. Academic libraries are currently involved in projects that will facilitate the changing landscape of the physical space of libraries by keeping in mind the trends we've seen over the years. These projects address the need for more space for people while keeping and adding resources that are essential to making the library a sought-after destination.

As a librarian it's never easy to weed your collection. It's contrary to the old library as

book repository model that was the norm for centuries. For many academic libraries the "just in case" version of collection management no longer makes sense as visitor counts have soared and space has become scarce. **Ameet Doshi** and **Bruce Henson** explain how the **Georgia Institute of Technology Library** moved 97% of their collection to a joint off-site storage facility with **Emory University**, and their plans for the newly repurposed space.

Sometimes the opportunity to create a new space in a particular place presents itself unexpectedly, and even though it's not the best location, it's wise to seize the moment. This gives you the chance to prove how vital the new space and the services it provides can be to the library and possibly the university. For **Andy Horbal** and **Preston Tobery** it took three different locations at the **University of Maryland's** main library to find the ideal spot for the **John and Stella Graves MakerSpace**. Proving their worth right out of the gate eventually led to the largest and most beneficial location for the new makerspace.

Big show-stopping renovations are always going to turn heads and be featured in the *American Libraries* Design Showcase issue, but budgets, time, and large spaces may not be available for such projects. Oftentimes a smaller purpose-driven space renovation project can be just as impactful and important as a larger one. **Teresa Walker**, **Anna Sandelli**, and **Rita Smith** report on the big impact that small space renovation projects have had on the library and students at the **University of Tennessee**.

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Charleston Comings and Goings ... *from page 8*

[net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/The-Charleston-Conference_Making-the-case_Final.pdf](#).

Fast Pitch

The Charleston Fast Pitch Competition is your chance to "pitch" your idea for innovation or improvement to the **Charleston Conference** audience and a panel of judges for a chance to win one of two \$2,500 prizes! To encourage international participation, we're also expanding the competition to provide a travel stipend for a qualified international applicant to attend the 2018 Conference in addition to the two domestic prizes. The call for participation is open to all who are in the process of developing new, innovative, and implementable ideas to improve their academic libraries or related organizations. The intent of the competition is to showcase innovation in library information management and to award the most deserving examples of innovation. For more information or to apply, visit <http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/fastpitch>.

ATG Trendspotting

Last year, a small working group met prior to the main conference to discuss future trends and issues affecting the library and information industry. This year, we're expanding to solicit input from the wider community on trends and issues that you feel will be shaping our industry in the next five years. We're calling the project **ATG Trendspotting**, and the goal is to have a community-engaged process for cooperatively and collaboratively exploring social, policy, economic, technology, and educational trends and forecasting the impacts scholarly communication/publishing and academic/research libraries. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon! We'd love to hear from you.

Room Scheduling

The Conference Directors are trying something different this year for room scheduling for the Concurrent Sessions and Lively Discussions. In the past, we've had complaints about the room assignments — sometimes very popular sessions end up in smaller rooms without adequate seating. We're going to wait until closer to the time of the conference to assign meeting rooms, allowing time for attendees to build their personal agendas using the *Sched.com* platform. Once we have an idea of attendance, then we'll make room assignments based on that data. All that to say, PLEASE log in and create a personal agenda once the schedule is posted! We need your input in order to make room assignments that will fit demand. We will be sending out a link to the schedule along with instructions for creating your free account with *Sched.com* in late August.

Stay tuned for more information on the conference website at www.charlestonlibraryconference.com, or join our email list at <http://bit.ly/chs-email-list> to receive periodic updates. 🐼

Column Editor: **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus) <bruce.strauch@gmail.com>

Editor's Note: Hey, are y'all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to *Against the Grain's* attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We're listening! — **KS**

THAT BOOK FAIR YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

No one can quite define the “Welsh Marches.” They're a border area between English and Wales. But the river Wye is definitely one of the boundaries.

And **Hay-on-Wye** hosts the famous **Hay Festival** (May 24-June 3 this year). Everything you want in a book fair: author lectures, secondhand books at the **Hay Cinema Bookshop** and **Richard Booth's**, walks to working farms, Medieval artwork. And you can eat lobster and chips at the **Lobster Shack**. Woo!

See — **Alexandra Henton**, “Making for Hay,” *The Field*, May, 2018, p.86.

LET'S READ CAMBRIDGE SPIES

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

Geoffrey Hoare, *The Missing Macleans* (1955) (Hoare was a neighbor to the **Macleans** in Cairo. **Macleans** drank his way to a nervous breakdown, wrecked the American ambassador's secretary's office, was sent home for his health.); (2) **Rebecca West**, *The New Meaning of Treason* (1964) (West excoriates the establishment for not finding the spies.); (3) **Tim Milne**, *Kim Philby* (2014) (Milne was **Philby's** best friend from age 13, worked with him at **MI6**. A true insider account.); (4) **Andrew Lownie**, *Stalin's Englishman* (2015); **John Banville**, *The Untouchable* (1997) (novel about Fourth Man **Anthony Blunt**, curator of the Queen's pictures).

See — **Roland Philipps**, “Five Best,” *The Wall Street Journal*, May 12-13, 2018, p.C10. **Philipps** is the author of “A Spy Named Orphan: The Enigma of Donald Maclean.”

LITERARY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

Who could resist? **Virginia Wolf's** Hogarth House in leafy Richmond-on-Thames, a 1750 villa divided into two residences. Husband moved her there due to her fragile mental health and suggested they begin the **Hogarth Press**.

It started on the dining room table with a hand-operated printing press. Published *The Waste Land*. Survives as an imprint of **Random House**.

The **Wolfs** owned it from 1917 to 1924 when they moved to Sussex and **Virginia** began her affair with **Vita Sackville-West**. It was during the love affair that she was the most prolific — *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925); *To the Lighthouse* (1927); *Orlando* (1928).

And then she put stones in her pockets and walked into water.

Each of the two units of **Hogarth** are offered at \$4.62 million.

AND in the same **WSJ Mansion section**, **George Plimpton's** duplex, East 72nd, overlooking the East River is for sale at \$5.495 million. **George** of course is *Paris Review* and *Paper Lion* et al.

19th century, five stories, black with red doors. 4,700 square-feet.

And, I note from the photos, there are *Audubon bird prints on the wall*. **George** was a *WASP old-money birder*.

See — **Ruth Bloomfield**, “For Sale: Rooms That Wolf Once Owned,” and **Katherine Clark**, “George Plimpton's New York Duplex Up for Sale,” *The Wall Street Journal*, April 20, 2018, pp. M2 and M3.

Library Space in the Digital Age from page 10

Renovating and repurposing space involves numerous moving parts and multiple stakeholders. In an HGTV influenced world where the before and after pictures take on more importance than the actual work that leads to the big reveal, it's easy to forget the planning and hard labor that facilitate the new beautiful, shiny space. **Derek Wilmott** details the process of clearing the stacks of monographs and bound journals at **Clemson University** to make room for the **Adobe Digital Studio**, a multimedia creative space.

The goal of library space renovation over the years has been to raise the profile of the library by providing new learning spaces and technology. Many times, this includes working with campus partners to ensure

students get the best services, expertise, and meaningful learning spaces. **Lauren Pressley** and **Serin Anderson** present three case studies that identify the complexities of two buildings and two separate campus departments in relation to the physical collection and a learning commons at the **University of Washington Tacoma**.

Although similar in nature, one of the things I appreciate the most about libraries is their uniqueness. This uniqueness can take many forms; collections, space, furniture, layout, purpose, staff, etc. **Lorrie McAllister** and **John Henry Adams** share their perspective on the rare opportunity they have at **Arizona State University** to clear out the largest library on campus and create unique spaces to accentuate their print collections. They also hope to involve students and the community in the development of print collection displays, curation, and exhibitions.

It's important to remember there are thousands of stories like the ones chronicled here in this special issue on library space in the digital age that show the resourcefulness and adaptability of librarians and libraries to make an impact on the learning of the people they serve. The stories you are about to read are innovative, thought provoking, and inspiring. I hope you enjoy them as much as I have.

I would like to thank all of the wonderful authors for sharing their stories, and the hard work they do every day to improve their libraries. I would also like to thank **Katrina Strauch** for giving me the opportunity to guest edit this issue. Years ago I got my first chance to present at a national conference and lucky for me it was the **Charleston Conference**. I would like to thank **Katrina** for giving me that break back in 2009 and always standing up for the quiet ones who have something to say. 🌈