October 2013

And They Were There

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain

Follow this and additional works at: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation

DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1017

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

The Center had two pieces of news before the meeting actually began. The first is that its holdings tapes are available for loading into members' online catalogs as part of or as a subset of local systems. Some of the institutions that have already loaded are: RLG, OCLC, Berkeley, Howard, Minnesota, Brigham Young, Utah, and University of Illinois-Urbana. Thus far, the Center has reconned 165,000 records, and work is continuing. Second, the Center is experimenting with telex facsimile for appropriate titles in its interlibrary loan. This is being tested, with a report to members scheduled for the first part of May.

After a brief opening session, the attendees were split up into small discussion groups, each asked to speak to the same questions. The minutes of each group would be compiled Thursday evening and presented as a consolidated report at Friday's closing meeting. The questions concerned four issues:

1. new directions in collection development;
2. the new technology and the Center's role;
3. preservation; and
4. funding.

Surprisingly (or not, as the case may be), the opinions of all the groups were similar.

1. The consensus was that the Center needed to focus primarily on enhancing its current collection habits: ethnic newspapers, Chinese and Japanese materials, and serials. Broadening its scope could encompass material on the Pacific Rim countries, and expensive microforms outside the purchase-by-ballot system.

2. The membership felt that the Center should not put itself in the forefront of developing new technologies. But it should monitor developments closely, in order to use those which would improve its document delivery and bibliographic access.

3. On the issue of preservation, the group discussions revealed two positions. All agreed that the Center should begin to look at its own collections to determine preservation priorities. That was the extent of the universal agreement. About one-half of the groups felt that the Center should not try to take a leadership role in any deacclification project as that is too costly and the public sector seems to be making strides. The other half did strongly urge the Center to investigate how it could become a prominent deacclification center, if it could be done on a cost-recovery basis. On a third preservation issue, there were several points of view regarding the Center's role as a preservation microfilm repository or a copy-for-sale facility.

4. The Center solicited opinions as to how it should/could raise additional revenues to fund/continue funding its projects. While there were many different suggestions, all present agreed on one point: the membership could not tolerate any significant increase in fees. There were several "innovative" suggestions: the Center should solicit board members from the corporate world; or assemble a group of university presidents whose reputations in fund-raising are well-established, and use them to solicit donations, new institutional members, and corporate members.

I [remember, the "I" in this case is Chris Desjarlais-Lueth] did bring back several copies of the brochure on Tape-Loading. If anyone is interested, give me a call.

The Oklahoma Conference (double feature: includes an update on "The Charleston Conference 1988 Rabbit) . . . Fred Lynden (Brown)

At the Oklahoma Conference in Norman, Oklahoma, librarians, publishers, and vendors heard eight speakers over two days address the topic of "the impact of rising costs of library materials on access to information." This conference is an annual event held in late February or early March on some topic of interest to Acquisitions or Collection Development Librarians. The conference was an intensive experience, covering much in two days and was held in Norman, allowing participants opportunities to see the

The Center had two pieces of news before the meeting actually began. The first is that its holdings tapes are available for loading into members' online catalogs as a part of or a subset of local systems. Some of the institutions that have already loaded are: RLG, OCLC, Berkeley, Howard, Minnesota, Brigham Young, Utah, and University of Illinois-Urbana. Thus far, the Center has recongnized 165,000 records, and work is continuing. Second, the Center is experimenting with telefacsimile for appropriate titles in its interlibrary loan. This is being tested, with a report to members scheduled for the first part of May.

After a brief opening session, the attendees were split up into small discussion groups, each asked to speak to the same questions. The minutes of each group would be collated Thursday evening and presented as a consolidated report at Friday's closing meeting. The questions concerned four issues:

1. new directions in collection development;
2. the new technology and the Center's role;
3. preservation; and
4. funding.

Surprisingly (or not, as the case may be), the opinions of all the groups were similar.

(1) The consensus was the Center needed to focus primarily on enhancing its current collection habits: ethnic newspapers, Chinese and Japanese materials, and serials. Broadening its scope could encompass material on the Pacific Rim countries, and expensive microsets outside the purchase-by-ballot system.

(2) The membership felt that the Center should not put itself in the forefront of developing new technologies. But it should monitor developments closely, in order to use those which would improve its document delivery and bibliographic access.

(3) On the issue of preservation, the group discussions revealed two opposite positions. All agreed that the Center should begin to look at its own collections to determine preservation priorities. That was the extent of the universal agreement. About one-half of the groups felt that the Center should not try to take a leadership role in any deacification project as that is too costly and the public sector seems to be making strides. The other half did strongly urge the Center to investigate how it could become a prominent deacification center, if it could be done on a cost-recovery basis. On a third preservation issue, there were several points of view regarding the Center's role as a preservation microfilm repository or a copy-for-sale facility.

(4) The Center solicited opinions as to how it should/could raise additional revenues to fund/continue funding its projects. While there were many different suggestions, all present agreed on one point—the membership could not tolerate any significant increase in fees. There were several "innovative" suggestions: the Center should solicit board members from the corporate world; or assemble a group of university presidents whose reputations in fund-raising are well-established, and use them to solicit donations, new institutional members and corporate members.

I [remember, the "I" in this case is Chris Desjarlais-Lueth] did bring back several copies of the brochure on Tape-Loading. If anyone is interested, give me a call.

The Oklahoma Conference (double feature: includes an update on "The Charleston Conference 1988 Rabbit) . . . Fred Lynden (Brown)

At the Oklahoma Conference in Norman, Oklahoma, librarians, publishers, and vendors heard eight speakers over two days address the topic of "the impact of rising costs of library materials on access to information." This conference is an annual event held in late February or early March on some topic of interest to Acquisitions or Collection Development Librarians. The conference was an intensive experience, covering much in two days and was held in Norman, allowing participants opportunities to see the
And They Were There continued . . .

ACRL/New England Chapter/Collection Development Interest Group . . . Linda K. Carr (Boston University)

Thirty-six members met at Regis College in Weston, Mass., on March 10, 1989. This workshop was devoted to a discussion of "The Impact of New Technology on Collection Development in Academic Libraries."

The first facilitator, Art Lichtenstein, Assistant Reference Librarian at the University of New Hampshire, opened with a brief history of automated reference services there: A $9,000 grant from the University Computing department enabled the library to add CD-ROM searching to its DIALOG and BRIS-After-Dark facilities. A larger grant from an outside source allowed the library to expand CD-ROM services. Several new databases also were added. Although Reference and general library funds were used to pay for these discs, the question of funding for future CD-ROMs is unanswered. Will book funds be tapped, or will a separate budget line be introduced for CD-ROMs? CD-ROM technology is still new and Mr. Lichtenstein feels that it is not yet possible to foresee with certainty the impact on book collections. It is assumed, however, that some books will not be purchased where book funds are diverted to acquire CD-ROMs. Although the use of printed indexes may plummet, the decision to cancel or withdraw printed indexes should be made with care; questions regarding the purchase or leasing conditions for CD-ROM make such actions premature. Also unclear is the legality of downloading, due to the gray areas of licensing agreements and copyright.

The second facilitator was Richard Ross, Head of Technical Services/Collection Development at the University of Lowell (Mass.), who spoke of CD-ROMs in institutions subject to "roller coaster budgeting." All possible funding sources should be investigated. Grants from internal and external sources may be available for initial purchases, but thought must be given to the impact of CD-ROM acquisition on the purchasing of traditional library materials.

If online searching declines with the advent of CD-ROMs, that budget line may become a source for the newer technology. The equipment budget may be tapped for hardware purchases. Local and regional library networks and organizations may offer CD-ROM products at discounts. Libraries should consider charging for some CD costs, e.g., paper, ink, and maintenance. Charges also might be based on a percentage of subscription costs. Or, libraries might explore the use of an electronic copycard or a coin box to assess a minimum fee per time used or per printed page. Attendees at the workshop raised additional questions.

What creative accounting methods might be used to write off equipment costs? Are such methods possible in non-profit institutions? What is the life expectancy of CD-ROM software, and who will pay for replacements? How will accreditation teams view resources on CD-ROM? How will libraries meet the costs of increased power usage, rewiring, and space planning required by the new technologies?

The London Book Fair
London England, April 3-5, 1989

Fifth Learned Journals Seminar
London, England, April 7, 1989

UK Serials Group
12th Annual Conference, April 10-13, 1989, University of Birmingham, England
Katina Strauch (College of Charleston)

The weather wasn't great (cold and wet most of the time, and it even snowed one day, quite a rare experience for a Charlestonian), but everything else was perfect and I understand the weather over here wasn't that great either!

The London Book Fair was an event somewhat like ALA exhibits with publishers and vendors dominating. Security was tight. Viking Penguin was displaying—many author speeches—an opportunity to talk to some fellow British librarians and foreign publisher and vendor representatives.

Fifth Learned Journal Seminar was an opportunity to hear publishers, vendors, and librarians talk about 1992 and the move of Europe to one market. Very interesting. One of the hot topics was consolidation services by serials vendors like ReadMore and Swets. Also under discussion was differential pricing once Europe becomes one market and "buying round" in the unified
And They Were There
continued...

European environment.
For sure, 1992 is a red let-
ter year for Europeans. We
need to be listening.

UKSG: Many of the issues
are the same, the accents are different.
Serials pricing and stagnant budgets,
time management and motivation, per-
formance indicators and measures of
library services, education and training
for the book and information world, and
a discussion of the standardization of
information on journal covers were some
of the papers presented. Workshops were
also included. The one I attended was
"Journal Sales and Marketing," run by
Harry Holt of Macmillan Press, Ltd. The
room of publishers and vendors (I was
the only card-carrying librarian, at least
that admitted it ...) was very interested
in issues like marketing of publishers' products by vendors, use of publishers' catalogs by libraries, marketing to librari-
ies (direct mail, distribution of sample
issues) and the effectiveness of various
methods.

Other visits made by Katina:

Pergamon Press on Headington
Hill . . . with the gracious Brian Cox . . .
Driving up in the snow in a taxi to a
hill on the outside of Oxford to one of
the haunts of the man who was recently
listed as the eleventh richest man in
Blackwells in Oxford . . . with the
incomparable John Merriman . . .
Heffers in Cambridge . . . with the gra-
cious Clive Connell and Andy Hall . . .
Sage Ltd. in London with the urbane
Ian Eastment . . . A visit and tour with
the enterprising, vivacious, and energetic
Dianne and John Coles in and around
Oxford . . . And last but not least, a visit
of the Cotswolds with Ina Merriman,
invigorating and splendidiforous tour
guide. If you want to know more, write me . . . That's all I've got
room for this issue!!!!!