

October 2013

1989 Charleston Conference

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Against the Grain

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Recommended Citation

Strauch, Katina; Herald, Gary; and Simon, Peter (1989) "1989 Charleston Conference," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 1: Iss. 2, Article 14.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1027>

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WHEN YOU'RE HOT YOU'RE HOT the beat goes on . . .

revised editions of the same work.)

Because *Books in Print* is now being updated via the tapes of major publishers, it is probable that more out of print declarations are being picked up than in years past. Nevertheless, the overall number cannot be ignored.

- As shown in the sample study done with *Books in Print*, it is likely that certain fields of publishing are greater contributors to the "OP universe" than others, particularly mass market paperbacks, childrens' books, and scholarly research materials, with particularly small original print runs.
- The distribution among publishers of OP declarations, on an annual basis, is fairly even. With thousands of publishers listed in *Books in Print* (in

fact close to 25,000), it only takes 3 or 4 titles per publisher (or 10 to 12 from some of the larger ones) to work up to the large counts which are reflected in the overall picture.

After the AAP/ALA RTSD Joint Committee completed its well-publicized survey of the library market (which was presented at the ALA Annual Conference in 1987), a subsequent program was set up on out-of-print acquisition problems. This meeting, held in the Summer of 1988, focused on many of the key problems. This included a desire on the part of librarians to know of out of print declarations in advance, for books that may shortly be unavailable. The result of this meeting was the creation of a Task Force which currently has over 100 actively participating volunteers. One of these subcommittees, chaired by Kerry Kresse (University of Wisconsin-Madison), is

starting out work to focus on the keeping or collecting of statistics on the various issues associated with out of print books. This includes trying to pinpoint the rate at which materials go out of print, with the clarification by type of material and by type of target audience.

In addition, this subcommittee will study what statistical information is available in the hands of book vendors, libraries, and organizations such as R.R. Bowker. Lastly, the subcommittee will study the cost to libraries of ordering materials that are found to be out of print (i.e., staff time, data processing charges, etc.)

The work of this group is just beginning, but it is hoped that over a period of time, the detailed picture relative to the demographics of what is being declared out of print will come into better focus.

Charleston Conference - 1989

-- FYI --

The Charleston Conference is listed in the Ballen Booksellers calendar incorrectly! It will be held November 9-11 and not the dates that are listed in the Ballen calendar (I'm not even going to tell you those dates so you can't get even more confused!)! The dates had to be changed when we had to change hotels and it was too late to update the Ballen calendar!! *Plus ca change !*

Thanks to all of you who sent in paper ideas. We got quite a few. Now comes the job of deciding what goes where. We have made one decision. The fee for next year will be \$95. That's 3% for inflation over 4 years. Really.

Prelim program will be mailed early summer . . .