Rumors

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain

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From Cancellations to Collaboration — Some Thoughts

by Susan H. Zappen (Head of Technical Services, Lucy Scribner Library, Skidmore College)

Background

Been there, done that. That was my initial reaction a several months ago when Acquisitions staff informed me that some of our microfilm titles were going to double in price and several other titles were more than doubling in price for 1997. We did not anticipate these increases, especially those in microfilm. And judging from our major renewal invoice, we were seeing at least a 12% price increase in our subscriptions for 1997. Again, we were compelled to review our subscriptions to find titles to cancel. Been there, done that.

It's not that 1 don't care about the price increases. It's just that I realize that scholarly communication is changing. Price increases function as an accelerator for change. Eventually we will arrive at the real issue: who owns and controls the information. In the meantime, the college library whether large or small is maintaining its mission to meet the educational and research needs of students and faculty. We are only changing our methods to achieve our mission. And I'm very excited about what we at Skidmore College are doing: we are providing access to contemporary online databases.

If Rumors Were Horses

Well, we have plenty of exciting news this month.

First, there's the appointment of Clifford Lynch, the magnificent, as the new Executive Director of CNI, The Coalition for Networked Information, replacing Paul Evan Peters after his tragic death. Congratulations to Clifford and CNI!

Second, we have just learned about the sale of Carfax Publishing Company (ATG interviewed president John Cox in v.7#4, September of 1994, pp. 31-36). Carfax Publishing Ltd is now part of Routledge Publishing Holdings Ltd, an independent group consisting of Routledge Ltd in London and Routledge, Inc, of New York, who together publish over 800 book titles in the humanities and social sciences (Routledge Ltd. also has a journal program of 35 titles). Carfax remains intact as a stand-alone business based in Abingdon. The Carfax publishing team is unchanged. John Cox remains as Managing Director of the Company; in addition, he has joined the Board of Routledge Publishing Holdings Ltd. David Green remains as Publishing Director. “Our brief at Carfax is to continue to develop our journal program,” says John Cox. “Joining the Routledge family will enable us to do that from within a group that is going for growth, with the resources to make that possible.”

ATG was recently interviewing Colin Jones, President of Routledge US, who used to be director of New York University Press. Stay tuned for our interview coming soon in ATG. In the meantime, there is a great publisher's profile of Routledge which Matt Nauman did in this issue, page 58.

Moving right along, the man who started and has built Carfax over the past 25 years, Duncan Spence, writes that he will have no further involvement with the company. He is now located at Publishers Services Limited (P.O. Box 31, Sark G/Y 0SB, Channel Islands).
Rumor has it that I never sleep. I want to dispel that rumor. I love to sleep. I sleep as much as I can. In fact, the other night, when I was up working on ATG because I couldn’t sleep, my husband was up too. He was asking me if we ever would have started ATG without a computer. I said, “Of course, but it would have been a lot harder.”

This month I have gone through some bitter/sweet experiences. First, our son Raymond (now 23!) graduated from Army Ranger School in Ft. Benning, GA. Boy was I proud! And, second, one of my most favorite people in the whole wide world, Cerise Oberman, Director of the Libraries and Computer Centers at SUNY Plattsburgh, came to visit and keynoted the LOEX conference on May 9. Cerise left the College of Charleston 15 years ago when Raymond was a little kid, about 8 or 9 and she was head of reference at the College. Things were different then. When she left, I got her IBM Selectric II typewriter which was a state-of-the-art machine. And who would have predicted or believed what has happened in our world in the intervening 15 years?

This issue of ATG is a case in point. Many of the articles are about fulltext, that concept that we didn’t know a thing about ten or fifteen or even five years ago. But it is now the driving force behind many of our decisions and delivery of service. We have an article/survey about fulltext providers by Judy Luther (p.18) , from Albert Simmonds on standard identifiers for electronic information (p.78), from Norm Desmarais about the digital video disc format (p.76), from Eleanor Cook about the pitfalls of searching the World Wide Web (p.75), from Glenda Alvin about the problems of acquisitions management (p.72), from Alfred Gans about the subscription pricing models (p.34), from Philip Hallman about the National Film Registry (p.80) and more and more. We also have a charming article from Jack Walsdorf about a collector writing a book (like we used to write them ...) (p.29) . Our interviews in this issue are with Tim Collins (EBSCO Publishing) (p.36) and John Regazzi (Engineering Information) (p.38).

This issue of ATG shows the enormous information resources that are at our fingertips and on many of our desktops. It is exciting! Let’s wake up and read all about it! And see you in San Francisco!

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Phone: +44(1481)-832701; fax +44(1481)-832698) which is a holding company for other publishing-related operations with which Duncan and the previous owners of Carfax are involved. Publishers Services Ltd. has at least two companies that publish medical journals and videos for the pharmaceutical industry. Also, they have a substantial equity share in CatchWord, Ltd., which is developing the RealPage Internet publishing system.

Word was announced in April that Knight Ridder plans to sell Knight Ridder Information, Inc. (KRII). You will remember (see ATG, Sept. 95, v.7, #4, p.22) that KRII consists of CARL and UnCover as well as Dialog and DataStar. Knight Ridder has recently negotiated the purchase of four newspapers from the Disney Company including the Kansas City Star, the Fort Worth Telegram, the News Democrat in Belleville, IL, and the TimesLeader in Wilkes-Barr, PA.

Approximately 13% of all books published appear simultaneously in both cloth and paper editions. Among university press publishers, the figure jumps to 32%.

Some people don't seem capable of ever losing their cool. Your editor is definitely not one of them. But, Helen Protasiewicz, who is celebrating 20 years of service with Alfred Jaeger, Inc., is. Helen, who started in the back volume periodical business with Don Jaeger's father, Alfred himself, quickly advanced from a collator to Sales Manager, her present position. Congratulations, Helen, and thanks for your assistance and friendship over the years!

Speaking of Alfred Jaeger, Inc., remember when Michael John Horak, author of The Evil Side of a Racetrack was at the booth last year during ALA annual? Did you meet him? Word is that Michael's book is in its second printing so you might want to visit his Web site <http://www.yearbookpress.com> to learn even more.

And there's more from Don. He hasn't been busy enough forming Jaeger Global Enterprises and playing ice hockey and baseball with his kids (see ATG, v.8, #4, Sept. 1996, p.33). In addition, he and Susan and the boys have recently moved to a new house to top it all off! Talk about topsy-turvy.


Blackwell's intends to make a significant investment in the redevelopment of the Blackwell's On-line Bookshop <http://blackwell.co.uk/bookshops/>, which has been successfully continued on page 8

<http://www.conference.com>
trading since June 1995. Investment plans include the establishment of a dedicated team led by Chris Beckett.

Blackwell’s is pleased to announce the introduction of Collection Manager, a Web interface to the New Titles System which has been developed in partnership with academic libraries. In its first release, Collection Manager enables librarians to select subjects from the Blackwell’s Subject thesaurus, the Library of Congress Classification system, the National Library of Medicine Thesaurus, or their own profiles in order to search Blackwell’s extensive New Titles Database. Collection Manager displays titles matching selected subjects or profiles, annotating each title with icons representing approval action and order status. Librarians can then review detailed information about any title in the list, including the Table of Contents, and a MARC record. Collection Manager also provides an explanation of the approval action taken for each new title. Future releases of Collection Manager will include an ordering interface, record delivery, and the ability to interactively create and change library profiles, as well as “What if” analysis.

This came out over Serialist. Springer Verlag has announced a new journal entitled International Journal on Digital Libraries. Editors in chief are Nabil R. Adam (Rutgers University) <adam@adam.rutgers.edu>, phone (201) 648-5239 and Yelena Yesha (UMBC/NASA) <eyyesha@cs.umbc.edu>, phone (410) 455-3542. The aim of the journal is to advance the theory and practice of acquisition, definition, organization, management and dissemination of digital information via global networking. In particular, the journal will emphasize technical issues in digital information, production, management and use, issues in high-speed networks and connectivity, interoperability, and seamless integration of information, people, profiles, tasks and needs, security and privacy of individuals and business transactions and effective business processes in the Information Age. The journal seeks high quality research papers that present original theoretical results, algorithms, or approaches, as well as empirical and experimental studies. Instructions for authors are available from: <DOEVL@SPRINGER.DE> For subscription info and sample copies contact Springer-Verlag; Heidelberg Platz 3; D-14197 Berlin, Germany; <subscriptions@springer.de>.

Gerald R. Stormer, “Gerry,” began to represent the world-renowned German-based bookseller, Otto Harrassowitz in the Eastern U.S. as of May 1. Lynam Newlin tells us that Gerry’s bookselling career started in 1984 with Coutts Library Services, though he was no stranger to libraries or to academia, having received his Ph.D. from Tulane University.

More from Lynan. After 51 years, Sidney Kramer Books is closing its doors. This bookstore, in Washington, D.C., is familiar to many of us and was begun, Lyman says, in 1946.

Gary Shirk (Yankee Book Peddler) <gs@yankeebookpeddler.com> is still splitting his time between the US and UK. He writes that all is going well and they’re excited about the new office in Lower Swansea which is up and running. Here are some of the key people in the UK office. Sarah Goddard, UK branch Operations Manager, responsible for the branch office administration and the day-to-day supervision of order fulfillment. Sarah is a Portsmouth, England native and now lives in Park Gate Southampton. She comes to YBP from a background in publishing and office management. Mandy Barney is joining YBP as Office Administrator and Customer Service Representative. Mandy brings to her position extensive experience in marketing and customer care. She is responsible for many of the day-to-day operational functions, including order entry and customer service. David Graves who Gary identifies as “YBP’s first full-time regional sales manager in Europe” will represent YBP (both US and UK services) to customers in the UK, Ireland, and a few European countries. David comes to YBP from a career in English publishing that spans everything from editorial to production and distribution. Also, Gail Merritt has been named Collection Management Services Manager and is developing YBP’s approval plan and collection development services in the UK. She comes to the company with extensive experience in British academic libraries, including stints in a variety of collection development and technical services positions. Gail, who left a position as Technology Faculty Librarian at the University of Portsmouth, is looking forward to the challenges of the private sector.

Rosann Bazirjian (Assistant Director, Technical Services, Florida State University) <rbazirjian@mailer.fsu.edu> is working with Beth Jacoby to plan a program for ALA Annual 1998 on acquisitions workstations. They are looking for people who are using the Internet, Web, etc., for daily acquisitions use; i.e., librarians who have incorporated acquisitions tools available on the Internet in their day-to-day operations. I know that we are at the College of Charleston and if any of you do as well, or know of someone who does, why not drop Rosann a note!

Michael Scheibach (Publishing Director, Allen Press) <mscheibach@allenpress.com> liked Tom Leonhardt’s letter from Oklahoma, “Editing and Writing, Writing and Editing” (ATG, v.9#2, April, 1997, pp.54-55) so much that he has asked to reprint it in the Allen Press newsletter which goes to approximately 4,000 scholarly editors. Pretty impressive and you read it first in ATG!

And, you know what? That Letter from Oklahoma was noteworthy in another respect. It was the last one. Tom is moving far from Oklahoma. His appointment as Library Director at the Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, Oregon, effective July 10, has been announced! Congratulations, Tom. Tom promises to do a profile of the library in an upcoming issue. And he did a report on the Pacific Institute (see page 60) in this issue of ATG which also announces his new email — <tleonhardt@ou.edu>.

Got a really nice note from Mary Page <mpage@rcc.rutgers.edu> (she was at the 1996 Charleston Conference) about the Cougars (you know the College of Charleston basketball team that went to the NCAA tournament and did so well). Mary says that she’ll be watching out for them next year. And I bought a collector’s item — a College of Charleston Cougars T-shirt which I am planning on wearing to the 1997 Charleston Conference.


Claire Fund (Administrative Coordinator, College of Charleston Libraries) <claire@cofc.edu> points out a recent article by John Schwartz entitled “Net Worth?” See the Washington Post <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> (Health p. 12). It’s about health information on the Internet. Thirty-seven percent of the US use the Internet to investigate health issues. There are 10,000 consumer health information Web sites, but how should users evaluate the quality of the information available? A recent study found that more than 50% of 160 health information Web sites had “inaccurate or biased information.” Here are some good gateway sites — National Library of Medicine’s Visible Human Project <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/visible/visible_human.html>, Healthfinder <http://www.healthfinder.gov>, FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research <http://www.fda.gov/cder>, American Cancer Society <http://www.cancer.org>.
More from Claire <undie@ucsc.edu>. As the Internet's impact on education becomes more apparent every day, many scholars are finding it hard to keep up with developments in the fast-changing field. A newsletter edited by Carolyn Kotlas, a librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, could help. Once a month, Ms. Kotlas summarizes what she thinks are the most interesting new articles about online education. After she has written abstracts about stories on distance learning, cyberculture, and new CD-ROMs, she pastes them into an email message, along with tidbits of news that she's found on the Web. Then she sends her bundle of what she calls "information bits" to more than 4,500 subscribers around the world. The result is called IAT Infobits, a free newsletter sponsored by the university's Institute for Academic Technology. It started as a service for professors and librarians on the Chapel Hill campus, but it has become an internationally popular way to stay on top of educational developments in cyberspace. Several hundred subscribers hail from Australia, Britain, and Canada. The newsletters have been published since July 1993, when the first entry in the email mailed an "intriguing new tool for managing the cornucopia of information linked to the Internet." See: <http://www.iat.unc.edu/infobits/infobits.html> To subscribe: MailingList: IAT Infobits. Send to: listserv@unc.edu; Subject line: Blank; Message text: subscribe INFobITS your name. Good luck!

There's an upcoming conference September 11-12, 1997 in Washington, DC sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Association of American University Presses, and the Association of Research Libraries called The Specialized Scholarly Monograph in Crisis or How Can I Get Tenure If You Won't Publish My Book? For information contact Mary Jane Brooks <maryjane@ari.org>.

Got this from Anne Jennings <biblibrary@charleston.net>. Mary Alice Baish, American Association of Library's (AALL) Assistant Washington Affairs Representative, has been named by Public Printer Michael F. DiMario to a three-year term as one of five new members of the Depository Library Council (DLC). The 15-member Council advises the United States Government Printing Office (GPO) on issues related to improving public access to government information through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). Baish, who has been AALL's Assistant Washington Affairs Representative since February 1995, will bring much experience to the Council, through her many years of service as a documents librarian and her leadership within the major library associations on government information policy issues. She is also the Washington Brief columnist for AALL Spectrum, AALL's official monthly magazine. AALL members have provided the DLC with service for many years. Susan Dow, Electronic Information Services Librarian, Charles B. Sears Law Library at SUNY Buffalo, is completing her term on the DLC, having served as Secretary in 1995-96. Other recent DLC members from AALL include Sally Holterhoff, Government Documents Librarian, Valparaiso University School of Law Library, Robert Oakley, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law, Edward Bennett Williams Library, Georgetown University; Kay Schlueter, Director, Texas State Law Library; and Susan Tulis, Documents Librarian, University of Virginia Law Library. The other new appointees DLC council members are Duncan Aldrich, Head, Business and Government Information Center, University of Nevada-Reno; Diane Garner, Head, Government Documents and Non-Book Formats Department, Harvard College Library; Gregory W. Lawrence, Government Information Librarian, Albert R. Mann Library, Cornell University; and Julia Wallace, Head, Government Publications, University of Minnesota.

Deborah Lee (Mississippi State University) <dle@library.msstate.edu> wrote (from the ATG Web page, no less <http://www.against-the-grain.com>) to find out if the call for proposals to the 1997 Charleston Conference had been issued yet. It sure has and the proposals are coming in hot and heavy (or is it fast and furious). See this issue of ATG, p.47, for more info. And send your proposal in. Now!

I met him at the first Charleston Conference many years ago. Tom Broadfoot of Broadfoot Publishing Co. in Wilmington, N.C. Tom (who's as Southern as they come) will be venturing out to ALA in San Francisco just like many of us other Southerners. Tom and Lloyd Watkins are interested in talking with library reps for main and college libraries regarding their books. If you're interested, go by Booth 404.

It's the season to be awarded. Gretchen H. Neill, interim provost at DeKalb College, Georgia, North Campus, and former dean for learning resources, has been chosen as the recipient of the 1997 EBSCO Community College Learning Resources Leadership/Library Award.

Speaking of which, Cindy Hepfer (Head of Serials and Bindery Department at the Health Sciences Library at SUNY, Buffalo) is the recipient of the annual Bowker/Ulrich's Serials Librarianship Award.

I remember when Mary Fugle and I did exercises at NASIG one year (I think it was at Denison in 1987 and that was a long time ago). Anyway, Mary is still exercising and she has recently taken a job with Readmore. Pretty exciting and good luck, Mary!

Data Research Associates, Inc. (DRA) has announced that it has become the Internet service provider for the Library of Congress (LC) and its sister legislative agency, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). LC will use its DRA Internet connection to provide worldwide access for libraries and the general public to LC's multimedia online resources, found on the LCWeb site at <http://www.loc.gov>. Included in the Web site's resources are the LCMARC and Authority databases; LC's ambitious Digital Library database, planned to house as many as five million multimedia items by the turn of the century; the "Preview of the American Treasures of the LC" online exhibition; "Thomas" fulltext access to pending U.S. House and Senate bills; links to state libraries and related special programs; and much more. To provide 10Mbps Internet access to the LC/CBO, DRA has installed a fiber optic loop from LC's office in Washington, DC, to DRA's nearby Internet Point of Presence (POP), connecting from there to DRA's national high-speed ATM backbone.

Speaking of the Library of Congress, libraries from across the U.S. have been given awards totaling $600,000 through a partnership between the Library of Congress and Ameritech to digitize historically significant American collections and make them available for the first time via the Internet. The "Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition," a two-year program made possible by a $2 million gift from the Ameritech Foundation, enables U.S. Libraries, archives, archives, museums and historical societies to digitize their collections of American historical materials for inclusion in American Memory, the Library of Congress's online collection of primary source materials in U.S. history and culture, available at <https://www.loc.gov/>. The Ameritech program is the first effort to make unique collections from libraries across the United States available online via the Library of Congress to millions of children, students, educators, and lifelong learners. The 10 first-year winners are: Brown University for African/American Sheet Music, awarded $72,109; Denver Public Library for History of the American West, 1960-1920 awarded $71,250; Duke University;...
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sity for Historic American Sheet Music, awarded $64,688; Harvard University for American Landscape and Architectural Design, 1850-1920, awarded $33,214; New York Public Library, for Small Town America: Stereoscopic Views from the Dennis Collection, 1850-1910, awarded $74,956; North Dakota State University for The Northern Great Plains, 1880-1920, awarded $15,628; Ohio Historical Society for The African American Experience in Ohio, 1950-1920, awarded $72,844; University of Chicago for American Environmental Photographs, 1897-1931, awarded $67,418; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for First-Person Narratives of the American South, 1850-1920, awarded $74,782, and the University of Texas, Austin for The South Texas Border, 1900-1920, awarded $46,945. The approximately $600,000 in total awards to the 10 winners will be used toward the cost of digitizing specific collections of Americans at the institutions and making them available at the Library of Congress’s site on the World Wide Web. Contacts: Guy Lamolinara, LC 202-707-9217 <glm@loc.gov> or Rick Aspang, Ameritech, 312-364-3570 <rick.w.aspang@ameritech.com>.

The only book on distance learning to provide informative descriptions of media-assisted courses for academic credit, The Orxy Guide to Distance Learning: A Comprehensive Listing of Electronic and Other Media-Assisted Courses is now in its second edition, boasting nearly 4,200 distance learning courses offered by 430 accredited institutions in the U.S.

Yes, that was Barbara McKilip of the Libri Foundation featured on a recent segment on Monitor, the Public Radio show from the Christian Science Monitor. And yes, that was the voice of Bob Schatz at the beginning of the segment. For the last two years, Academic Book Center has extended a contribution to the Libri Foundation in lieu of printing Holiday cards to customers. Ley Garnett of Oregon Public Broadcasting joined the celebration last December, and it ended up on Monitor the week of March 3, 1997. Just shows you what a powerful message the Libri Foundation has to send in its work to get new children’s books into rural public and native American libraries.

Just got back from a book-buying trip to Mumford Library Books (Jacksonville, FL). Did you know that Phil May who works there was recently on PBS in a WWII retrospective? He promises to bring a videotape to the Charleston Conference November 6-8, 1997 since some of us missed it. Stay tuned for the 1997 Charleston Conference. And for the registration form, see this issue, page 47.

Congratulations to Bill Potter (U. of Georgia) who is the recipient of the 1997 Hugh Atkinson award.

And more congratulations to Gail Schlachter (Reference Service Press) who is the recipient of the Louis Shores — Orxy Press Award to recognize excellence in the reviewing of books and other materials for libraries.

And we join CARL Corporation in congratulating Duncan Smith, creator of NoveList on receiving the Margaret E. Monroe Library Adult Services Award for 1997. The Monroe Award is given by ALA’s Reference and User Services Association to a librarian who has made a significant contribution to library service to adults. The award recognizes Smith for his work in the field of readers’ advisory, and in particular, for conceiving of and developing NoveList, the premier electronic resource devoted to readers’ advisory services.

And Karen Schmidt (U. of Illinois — Champaign Urbana) <karens@ux1.eos.uiuc.edu> sends the awesomely exciting news that they have just adopted a bonny baby boy named Jonas Perrin Elerich. He was born April 17, 1997 in Little Rock (does this mean he’s a Democrat already??) and Karen says she was fortunate enough to be at the birth. Jonas, who weighed in at 8 lbs., 5 oz and was 22 inches long with a full head of straight black hair, was made an official member of the Schmidt family on April 29. His 4 1/2 year old brother Jacob is being a terrific older brother!

And we have another birth to report — Rebecca Seger (McGraw-Hill) is the proud mother of a baby girl! We don’t know as much about her as we do Jonas (above) so we have to ASK Rebecca all about it when we see her in Charleston in November.

Over the law library listserv <law-lib@ucdavis.edu> Ann Puckett (Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law at the University of Georgia School of Law Library in Athens GA) <apuckett@uga.cc.uga.edu> <http://www.lawsch.uga.edu> lets us know that they have just made available Professor L. Ray Patterson’s amicus brief in the Michigan Documents case about publishers requiring copieshops to pay royalties on copies made for course packs. The URL is <http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/faculty/amicus.html>.

Did you see the fall 1996 issue of Serials Review? Lots of useful articles and was fascinated by “SERIALST and the Global Serials Community: The Five Year Evolution of an Electronic Discussion Forum” (p. 1-21).

Information was recently posted on <cni-copyright@cni.org> by Howard P. Knopf <knopf@perlaw.ca> about Canada’s copyright revision legislation, Bill C-32, which was passed on April 25, 1997. The official citation is “An Act to amend the Copyright Act, chapter 24 of the Statutes of Canada, 1997.” Links that pertain to this passage can be found at <http://www.canoa.ca/FPColumns/knopf.html> and <http://www.perlaw.ca/revis1.html>.

Elena Kozlova <ekozlova@unixpop.utcc.utk.edu> works in the Library for the Natural Science at the Russian Academy of Science (Moscow) but she is currently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Library of the University of Tennessee (Knoxville). Did you meet her at the 16th Charleston Conference?

Anne Jennings <slibrary@charleston.net> sends word that James S. Heller, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, was elected AALL Vice President/President-Elect in this year’s Association elections. Elected to three-year terms on the Executive Board were Mark A. Folmsbee, Associate Director and Head of Public Services at Washburn University School of Law Library in Topeka, Kansas, and Heather Braithwaite Simons, Law Librarian at the General Motors Law Library in Detroit, Michigan. The new members of the Board will be installed during the Closing Banquet at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore in July.

Mia Brazili (Head of Acquisitions and Collection Development at Smith College Libraries in Northampton, Mass.) <mbrazili@sophia.smith.edu> is thinking about DRIVING to the Charleston Conference in November with a friend.

This is from <digilbns@sunsite.berkeley.EDU>. If you want to know about used book bargains, Friends of Library Book Sales, or book sales that other non-profit groups in the USA sponsor, visit <http://www.Books-Sales-in-America.com>.

Sometimes the South is okay. Like in April when it snows in Chicago! But Patricia Scarry (Associate Journals Manager, The University of Chicago Press) <psarry@journals.uchicago.edu> is already making her schedule up for the fall so that she can attend the 1997 Charleston Conference.

The amazingly energetic Barry Lee <research@juno.com> has been promoted to Executive Editor, Databases & Directories continued on page 14
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I can't keep up with Ron Chepesiuk (Contributing editor, ATG, and Professor, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC). He has signed a contract with ABC-CLIO, Inc. to research and write the first international encyclopedia on narcotics trafficking and the War on Drugs. Projected to be about 175,000 to 200,000 words in length, the encyclopedia will cover personalities, seminal events, terminology, and legislation worldwide, from the Opium Wars in the nineteenth century to the present. The publication date is scheduled for 1999. Ron is currently on sabbatical in Colombia writing an scholarly investigative history of U.S. anti narcotics policy for McFarland Publishing. All I can say is like — wow!

And speaking of wow, Sarah Tusa <TUSA@ALMARK.LAMAR.EDU> (stop — this is the right email address, I promise) who is editing Bet You Missed It these days (thank goodness!) is doing a wow-y job with Review of Texas Books which she has been coediting for a year now. The editorial and desktop publishing activities are done in the Library at Lamar, and a number of the current and retired faculty are steady reviewers. The Review circulates primarily to public and school libraries in Texas and was started by Sally Dooley about 10 years ago. Sally was about to discontinue it last year when Sarah stepped in to help to keep it going.

Mike Phillips (College of Charleston's ILL Librarian and music enthusiast and great pianist) <philips@cof.cof.edu> is excited. Multicultural Media has announced its new web site <http://www.worldmusicstore.com>, which contains thousands of world music and dance CD, video, CD-ROM and book titles.

Got a great note (on paper, no less, sort of like notes used to be!) from Sherry Thompson <sthompson@majors.com>, Sherry wanted to recommend Against the Grain and the Charleston Conference to Barb Lucas (U. of California-Irvine). I guess more works are in order!

And, did you see Time, April 21, 1997 (p. 80)? There's an article entitled "The Cheerful Giver," about Vance Opperman, president of West Publishing Company. Says the cut line — "a businessman with a corner on publishing court documents was also a master of political donations."

The New York Times (8 May 1997) carried news that Microsoft and Reed Elsevier, the British and Dutch publishing company that owns the Lexis-Nexis online information service, have agreed to a $30 million deal that will allow Reed Elsevier to use Microsoft's commercial Internet-oriented system applications for future electronic offerings in the scientific, legal, business and travel information markets.

If you're a desperate library school student and you need a copy of an article on "writing a deselection policy," try reading Against the Grain (February, 1995, v.7 #1, p. 68-69, 86.) That's how the enterprising Linda Arbaugh (Supervising Librarian, Mountain View Public Library, Mountain View, CA) helped one of her library patrons!

Well, we don't have a Book Pricing Update in this issue. This is because Celia Wagner <WAGNER@BNAMF.BLACKWELL.COM> has been choreographing an annual high school musical in her spare time. She asks if anyone will appreciate a break with tradition? She says that she has taken the traditional Marian the Librarian number in The Music Man (which is usually done in tippy-toe ballet shoes) and changed it to a loud tap dancing number. How about them sounds?

Monique Morris (Lyndon State College, Lyndonville, Vermont <LSC_MONIQUE@scolarc.vsc.edu>) has gotten married. I wouldn't have discovered this unless her last issue of ATG (v.9 #2, April 1997) hadn't had four pages blank! Look — even the printer screws up. So if you discover a defect in ATG (heaven forbid) please send it back! We will send you a new and improved copy! No questions asked. And congratulations to Monique on her marriage.

HAD a delicious breakfast with Janet Flowers <jflowers@email.unc.edu> in Chapel Hill, discussing old and new times. We are finally running Janet's 1996 Charleston Conference musings in this issue (see p.59). Also visited with Marcia Tuttle who is thriving and looking forward to retirement in June. BUT she will be at the Charleston Conference 1997 (registrar, see this issue, pp.47). Come on down!

Kay Hershey (Metro Community College, P.O. Box 3777, Omaha NE 68103; phone: 402-457-2763; fax: 402-457-2768) <khershey@metro.mcccneb.edu> is trying to do some planning and has already asked for information on the Conference.

Okay, I am going against [my] grain to report that Katina Strauch is the 1997 winner of the ALCTS AS Leadership in Acquisitions Award. Y'all, the emails and personal notes which I have gotten have been voluminous and amazing and I thank you all! It's fabulous to get awards for doing what you really and truly love. Go figure. And I would like to thank Ron Ray (U. of the Pacific) who chaired the committee and each and every and every single one of you.