Rumors

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Reference Materials — Where Formats and Budget Lines Collide: Librarians Speak Out!

by Frances C. Wilkinson (Interim Associate Dean of Library Services, General Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, 87131-1466; phone: 505-277-4241, fax: 505-277-7288), <fwilkins@unm.edu> and Linda K. Lewis (Director of the Collection Management Department, General Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1466; phone: 505-277-7828, fax: 505-277-4446), <llewis@unm.edu>

In the 1997 reference issue of Against the Grain (v.9#4, p.1ff) the proliferation of reference materials was discussed by both librarians and publishers. By the 1998 reference issue (v.10#4, p.1ff), the discussions expanded to include the increasing array of format choices, and the Web's effect on reference publishing. Again, librarians and publishers spoke out.

In 1999, the traditional distinctions between reference and subject specific materials are becoming blurred due to the growth of products that combine indexing and fulltext features; this is complicating selection and budgeting for these new resources. The decisions about multiple formats and the need to provide infrastructure for new electronic resources add new levels of complexity to reference selection. Concern abounds about the continued viability of multiple formats and a series of questions arise: How is the Web affecting reference collection development decisions? How much duplication of formats can libraries really afford? What proportion of the reference budget is spent on different formats if it is separated at all? Who has the responsibility for selecting reference materials? Are librarians still concerned about the archiving of electronic indexes? What place will there be for different formats in reference collections?

To address these issues, the authors conducted an interview-style joint discussion among librarians responsible for reference collection management from several different institutions including Kansas State University, Trinity University, the University of New Mexico, the University of Texas at El Paso, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

If Rumors Were Horses

You know what? With every issue of ATG, I wonder, “Will I have any rumors to write about? Hasn’t everything happened that can happen? Ha! Was I far off base??

Acquisitions Librarian makes good! Donna Cohen, who has directed the Olin Library’s Department of Acquisitions at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida since 1986, has been named director of the library. She replaces George Grant who recently retired. Donna, who has been a frequent attendee and presenter at Charleston Conferences, earned her master’s degree in library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (yay!). She also received her master’s degree in English from the University of Maryland.

Guess what? Celia Wagner, the fabulous, has been appointed to the position of New Titles Manager for Blackwell’s Book Services effective August 1, 1999. Celia will continue also as Vice President of Approvals at Academic Book Center with ongoing responsibility for the approval operations there. In her new role at BBS, Celia will be responsible for Book Profiling, Series Services, and the Blackwood New Titles group. Congratulations, Celia!

Janet Flowers <jflowers@email.unc.edu> sends word that she would like for ATG to continue on page 6.

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From your (whew-ing) Editor:

I have to tell you that we are breathing a huge sigh of relief here in Charleston now that Hurricane Dennis has blown out to sea. Whew! I think it was Conrad Richter, when asked why he lived near the San Andreas fault, who said that no matter where you live, you have to accept the fact that you aren’t far from the potential of a natural disaster. Comforting, isn’t it?

Despite all the hurricane scares, though, here is the September Reference Issue of ATG! In 1997, the proliferation of reference materials was discussed by both librarians and publishers. By the 1998 Reference Issue, the discussions expanded to include the increasing array of format choices, and the Web’s effect on reference publishing. Here, in the 1999 Reference Issue, Fran and Linda consider how the traditional distinctions between reference and subject-specific materials are becoming blurred due to the growth of products that combine indexing and full-text features.

Also in this issue, we have an article by the intrepid Cheryl LaGuardia about CD-ROMs which are still around despite forecasts of their demise. Talk about against the grain! And Tom Gilson—who has done another awesome job of guest editing—ponders the uncertainties of the future for libraries and reference publishing. We have interviews with Dr. Pieter S.H. Bolman, President of Academic Press, Sir Charles Chadwyck Healey, the founder of Chadwyck Healey, and David Tyeckson—Head, Reference Services, at CSU Fresno. In Biz of Acq, Brian Flaherty talks about acquisitions librarians working at the reference desk. And Mark McCabe’s article on the impact of publisher mergers on journal prices will rivet you, I promise. And, of course, that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

Ooh! Since when do hurricanes and icebergs go together? I’m going to be quiet so y’all can get to reading! And, see you in Charleston at the 1999 Charleston Conference—November 3-6! Visit our Website at http://www.cofc.edu/library/conference to register.

Yr. Ed. 💟

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strauchk@cofc.edu>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at <http://www.against-the-grain.com>.

Dear Editor:

The article by Rick Anderson (UNC-Greensboro) in the April issue of ATG about licensing (“BIZ of Acq—To License or Not to License: That Really Ought to Be the Question,” p.68-70, 72) was fabulous. Everyone needs to read it. I will be making copies for people here where I work. Hear! Hear!

Thanks,
Eleanor Cook
(Appalachian State University)
<cookel@conrad.appstate.edu>

Dear Editor:

As part of a decade-long policy of periodically rotating my professional subscriptions, I had decided not to renew my subscription to Against the Grain. Acquisitions is just one part of my job, and my acquisitions budget is just $40,000.

You, however, continued to send more issues and I continued to read them. When I realized how many titles I would be buying from the useful list of biology bestsellers in the April issue, you won my renewal check, enclosed. What other magazine will walk the plank instead of Against the Grain? Your competitors for my (personal) professional subscription budget include Library Journal, Searcher, and Online. Since I have already renewed these subscriptions for 1999, the decision is deferred another year.

Incidentally, over the past five years, when visiting brew pubs and homebrew shops, I believe I have been mistaken on occasion for the well known acquisitions librarian and beer writer with whom I share a name and avocation. Although I have been a homebrewer for five years, I would not think of writing about beer, not under my own name at least.

Best wishes,
Steve Johnson
(26 Northview Terrace, Yonkers, NY 10703)
<sjohnson@wcs.org>

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share the email addresses of Nick Vincelli (Order Librarian, UNC-CH) <vincelli@email.unc.edu> and Selden Durgor Lamooreux (Serials Librarian, UNC-CH) <lamours@email.unc.edu> in Rumors to help them get oriented to the acquisitions community more quickly! Hey, y’all! Everybody send them an email NOW!

Let’s see. The also fabulous Ned Kraft has a new job! After 13 years he’s left the Smithsonian Institution Libraries to join the library of the State Department as Or-continued on page 8

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>

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der Librarian, Ralph J. Bunche Library. Congratulations, Ned. His new email is <Krafitno@student.gov>. Can you believe that Ned has been writing "Adventures in Librarianship" for two years! How time flies! Ned plans to come to the Charleston Conference this year so let's look for him, okay?

And speaking of the Charleston Conference, Evan Reader (Director, CSU-Software & Electronic Information Resources, Office of the Chancellor <ereader@calstate.edu>) will be talking about the Cal State University model (Journal Access Core Collection-JACC) for journal subscriptions which was written up in the Chronicle of Higher Education, July 2, 1999, http://chronicle.com/free/99/07/99070201ht.html. The Web site for JACC is http://www.co.calstate.edu/irr/jacc.

I guess by now everyone knows that Blackwell's Book Services has purchased Academic Book Center. When someone (deep throat) left that "rumor" on my answering machine many months ago, I couldn't believe my ears! Anyway, it is now confirmed and we will be covering this more completely in the Charleston Conference issue of AIT, November, 1999.

Fred Philipp, former CEO of Blackwell's Book Services (among other things) has assumed the position of CEO of Blackwell's Information Services. Fred, who is getting ready to retire, says that he and his wife are looking forward to visiting Charleston in November!

Blackwell Ltd and Swets & Zeitlinger BV have agreed to combine Swets Subscription Service and Blackwell's Information Services, the two subscription agency services. Subject to the completion of satisfactory arrangements currently under discussion, the creation of the new organization will be concluded later this year. The integration of the services and systems will be undertaken over the next 24 months. The head office of the joint venture will be located in The Netherlands. Anthony Thompson, Group Chief Executive of Blackwell Ltd, said: "The combination of Swets Subscription Services and Blackwell's Information Services is a strategic move. Swets has an excellent reputation and we are pleased to be joining forces with such a quality company to deliver the best service to our customers. It is important to recognize that this business operates on a very thin margin and that the cost of doing business via electronic as well as paper journal subscriptions has grown rapidly in the last 3-5 years. To have a sustainable business size and scale are becoming increasingly important. In a competitive global market we have now brought the necessary resources together to meet the growing needs of our customers worldwide."

Well, it will be business as usual. The two companies will continue to provide services to their respective customers and all renewals of subscriptions for 2000 (for customers and to publishers) will be undertaken separately by Swets and Blackwell's. Customers should continue to liaise with their existing contacts at the companies. The integration of systems and services will be phased in during 2000 and 2001 to ensure an efficient transition to the new arrangements. Customers and publishers will be kept informed of developments.

Well the splendid Robin Lent (U. of New Hampshire <rlent@christa.unh.edu>) has just resigned from her job and she won't be at the Charleston Conference this year! Writes Robin, "This Conference has been one of the most wonderful parts of my job. Which I have loved, too. I think being in Collection Development is the best job in the library." Robin says that she's on to other things—she has a novel to finish! (1, grown children to visit, a house to organize, a retired husband, a painting to finish, a stack of books. We'll miss you, Robin, but, hey, we hope we will be joining you soon!

Leigh Watson Healy <lwhealy@outsideinc.com> has been appointed Vice President, Outsell, Inc. Though Outsell is based in Silicon Valley, Leigh will remain in Florida. It's a virtual world, after all and Outsell is hiring the best people they can find wherever those people may be. Well, we can certainly vouch for Leigh's best-ability! Congratulations, Leigh and see you soon, I hope. Here are Leigh's phone (727-787-3027) and fax (727-787-4881) numbers.

Well, more changes. Martin White (Principal Consultant, TPFL, Ltd.) <martin.white@tpfl.com> writes that he will be leaving TPFL at the end of this month to set up his own business, Intranet Focus Ltd. But, since Martin will be staying in the same business, he will continue to be involved with AIT.

Hooray! But, on the downside, Martin is not sure that he will be able to be at the Charleston Conference this year! Hmmmm ... If we can put up with hurricanes, Martin, you should be able to put up with moving! For more information about Martin's new company, visit www.intranetfocus.com.

There have been major staff changes at Worldwide Books, specialists in the distribution of museum catalogs and books on art, architecture, photography, and design to the library market. Eileen Baker, who for seven years has been tirelessly searching and locating museum catalogs from around the world, will be Manager of the Museum Catalog Program. David Fogel is the new Manager of the Approval Plan Programs. Kelly Fiske continues as Associate Director and Manager of the Trade and University Press Book Program. But these changes didn't keep Ursula Kolmstetter of the Indianapolis Museum of Art from winning $500 in art books from Worldwide Books from over 150 entries at the ARLIS meeting in Vancouver. Sounds good to me. Worldwide Books is a division of The Kraus Organization Limited and is located in Ithaca, New York. www.worldwide.com.

Well, I hope that most of you got your first issue of The Charleston Advisor (TCA) over the summer. The comments that I have gotten have been very positive and wonderful. Comments like: "A great idea and very well executed." The way I look at it is this—there are so many electronic products out there, and we only have so much money. Why not band together to hear what we are all saying about a product? That way, we should be able to affect the development of a product and make it closer to what we need for our libraries and end users! I appreciate hearing from ALL of you! Thanks.

Guess what? Jerry Seay—that humorous lad par excellence—is going to have a baby. That is, his wife, Patricia, is. So this has occasioned a new set of You Gotta Go To School For That columns—this is the baby series! Congratulations, Jerry and Patricia! And see the upcoming AIT in November for You Gotta Go To School For That—Baby Strollers and ZZ Top! We just didn't have the space to print it in this issue! Sob! Did you know that Tricia Davis' daughter is probably going to the College of Charleston? Her daughter is 6! And is a fantastic volleyball player. Boy, is my daughter Ileana envious. (She's only 5 1/2)!

I got a copy of our email that Don Biblarz (U. of Arizona) <dora.biblarz@asu.edu> got from Harold Billings (Director of General Libraries, U. of Texas Austin) <billings@mail.utexas.edu>. (No, he hasn't retired!) Mr. Billings said that he appreciated Dora's great interview with his long-time friend, "that wild man Don Chvalata" (see v.11/3, June 1999, p.30ff). And he was glad to be introduced to AIT, "a fine journal." If you haven't gotten around to reading Dora's interview with Don, why don't you get out the June issue right now and read it!

Whoops! I thought that I'd told you that Steve Sutton had left Blackwell's, but when I looked for the "Rumor" I couldn't find it! In the meantime, Steve has a new job at netLibrary! Hooray for you, Steve, and for netLibrary, too!

Speaking of netLibrary, (www.netlibrary.com), as you have probably heard since it was announced at ALA in New Orleans, they have entered into a partnership with Blackwell Ltd. The partnership will allow Blackwell's Book Services to offer eBooks to their library customers as an additional option to the physical book services they currently offer.

Well, I have never been to the Kentucky Derby but I have always wanted to go. I love watching the Triple Crown even if each race continued on page 10
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only takes minutes and all the "type" takes hours and days and weeks and months. So, Bob Schatz's "sotto voce" got my attention this issue (see p. 69). AND did you know that another horse race fan is Jim Ulsamer (Baker & Taylor)?

Got a fax from Anne Davenport <anne@annedavenport.demon.co.uk> at ALPS/P about a survey ("What Authors Want") of over 11,500 authors from around the world about a broad range of subjects. With a response rate of over 30%, the survey, Anne tells us, "provides librarians with information about what authors think of copyright, preprints, self-publishing, abstracting and indexing services, electronic publications, pricing, and the future of scholarly publishing. Visit www.alpsp.org for more info or send Anne an email!"

It was quite wonderful to hear from Ruth C. Armstrong (325 Jasmine Avenue, Orlando FL 32806-2110; ph: 407-422-7218; fax: 407-245-0706) who is now working at the Church & Synagogue Library Association! Ruth was using a friend's AOL account to send a few messages to friends! Isn't the Internet quite swell? Had been missing Ruth who attended at least seven Charleston Conferences many years ago, but since she left library work she has not been coming. However, Ruth says that she is renewing her teacher certification in libraries and is learning her way around the Internet, and feeling nostalgic for the Conference. In fact, she just finished working the Church & Synagogue Library Association (national) Conference in Orlando in July! Who knows, maybe we will see her sometime soon in Charleston!

This proposed merger was announced at the 1998 Charleston Conference. But, now, months later, The New York Times on Tuesday, June 1, 1999, carried an article by Stephen Labaton on the FTC decision to block the merger of Barnes & Noble and Ingram Book Group. The American Booksellers Association, Amazon.com, the Authors Guild, and many others had wished to block this merger. Barnes & Noble Ends Its Bid to Acquire Big Book Wholesaler. Read a related article by Mark McCabe in this issue of ATG, p. 58.

Ebsco Industries has acquired the Berlin-based Lange & Springer subscription agency and mail order bookseller.

The awesome Anne Jennings <jennings@mindspring.com> sent word of an article by Barrie McKenna in The Globe and Mail on June 2, 1999. The article relates to the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to refuse to hear an appeal launched by Thomson Corp.'s legal publishing unit, West Group, in a dispute over the company's copyright over a widely used page-numbering system for U.S. court documents. Both sides in the case claim victory: Thomson because of a lower-court ruling that upholds their copyright, and West's rivals, who point to two lower-court decisions that threw out West's claim of copyright. The two companies that are challenging West are Hyperlaw and Matthew Bender & Co., a division of Reed Elsevier PLC. West Denied Supreme Court Review On Copyright Claim. For more information, visit <http://www.lawnnews.com/stories/A1987-1999Jun2.html> ATG has covered this issue several times.

This is from Ann Okerson (Yale University) <aokerson@pantheon.yale.edu>, Marian Dorwaczek (University of Saskatchewan Libraries) <dworaczek@sklib.usask.ca> and the Liblicense listserv. The June 1st, 1999 edition of the Subject Index to Literature on Electronic Sources of Information is available at: http://library.usask.ca/~dworaczek/SUBJIN_A.HTM. The page-specific Subject Index to Literature on Electronic Sources of Information and the accompanying Electronic Sources of Information: A Bibliography (listing all indexed items) deal with all aspects of electronic publishing and include print and non-print materials, periodical articles, monographs and individual chapters in collected works. Over 900 titles were identified and indexed in great detail for this project. Thousands of URLs (Uniform Resource Locators) were added to various entries. Both the Index and the Bibliography are continuously updated.

Got quite a few replies to the idea of beginning an ATG Resume Service (ATG, April, p.8). Consensus seems to be to start the service on the ATG Web site <http://www.against-the-grain.com>. If you haven't written me and are interested, let me know. I am still looking for input! Thanks! <strauchc@cofc.edu>

John Cox Associates in partnership with five subscription agencies (Swets, Blackwell's, Dawson, EBSCO, and Harrassowitz), is sponsoring the development of a suite of generic standard licenses for electronic journals. The licenses are in the public domain and available online at www.licensingmodels.com. The new licenses will be designed to reduce the burden on all parties involved by providing standard agreements which, once approved by the appropriate legal councils, will provide a fast and effective method of implementing negotiated terms. There are four model licenses; all are international in application. Licenses have been developed for single academic institutions, academic consortia, public libraries, and corporate, government and other research libraries. John Cox Associates, an international publishing consultancy specializing in licensing and content management, developed the licenses after consultation with a number of librarians, publishers and subscription agents. Says John Cox (who will be speaking in Charleston in November on this project, by the way): "These license models are tools to be used once the parties—publishers and the libraries—have negotiated the business terms of the license. They are succinct and flexible and will help to speed up the process of finalizing the words." Currently available policy statements and licensing models, including the UK model developed by the Publishers Association and the Joint Information Systems Committee of the Higher Education Funding Councils, served as the principal sources in the development of the new models. The American Library Association's Principles for Licensing Electronic Resources and the International Coalition of Library Consortia's Statements of Current Perspectives, as well as the LIBLICENCE Web site, were also valuable resources.

Clifford Lynch <cliff@cni.org> sends word about the Pew Learning and Technology Program which was developed in large part by Carol Twigg <twigg@pri.org>, formerly the Vice President at Educause responsible for the National Learning Infrastructure Initiative. The Pew Learning and Technology Program is an $8.8-million, four-year effort to place the national discussion about the impact that new technologies are having on the nation's campuses in the context of student learning and ways to achieve this learning cost-effectively. To have your name added to the Pew Learning and Technology Program electronic mailing list, which ensures that you receive the newsletter, periodic updates and information about this new effort, send an email message (with subject line left blank) to listproc@lists.pri.edu in the body of the message, type SUB PLTP-L your name. For further information, visit <http://www.centerpri.edu>.

Bob Neville (College of Charleston) <neviller@cofc.edu> sent me this news from the New Scientist (5/15/99). Have you heard? Apparently, Xerox and MIT researchers have developed "electronic ink and electronic paper" which some feel will supersede traditional paper. Word is that electronic paper is easier on the eyes than a computer screen because it has a higher contrast, and it can display millions of different images in the same space (you change content instantaneously). A company called E Ink has already been created.

Did you see the article by Rodney Ho in the June 1 Wall Street Journal entitled: Borders To Try A New Weapon: Printing Books Inside Its Stores? The article's about Sprout, Inc., and the fact that Borders Group has taken a minority stake in the Atlanta start-up company. It's all about "on demand" printing of less-popular book titles by bookstores that don't want to devote the expensive shelf space to titles that don't move as quickly as...
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popular titles but are nonetheless needed by niche markets. Check it out.

Had a nice note from Jeffrey Wilhite (U. of Oklahoma) <jwilhite@ou.edu> who says that he is waist deep in finishing his book on government documents. Jeffrey had just found the article, “The Charleston Phenomenon,” which Judy Webster and I had published in LOGOS: The Journal of the World Book Community (vol. 8, issue 3, 1997). Have you read the article? Jeffrey says he makes him want to drop everything and come to the Conference right now!

The Charleston Conference Web site is quite something! Visit it at http://www.cscc.edu/library/conference.

The incredibly patient and flexible Melanie Vandermark (Project Muse) <melanie@jhupress.jhu.edu> writes that Project MUSE is expanding next year to include titles from at least nine other university presses, more than doubling the number of fulltext online journals they will be offering via the database. The publishers involved are Carnegie Mellon University Press, Duke University Press, Indiana University Press, MIT Press, Oxford University Press, Pennsylvania State University Press, University of Hawaii Press, University of Texas Press, and the University of Wisconsin Press.

Beverley Geer <bgeer@LIBR.UTEP.EDU> wrote to say that the holes in ATG can go! So did Shirley Edwards <Shirley.Edwards@NIST.GOV> and Phil May (Mumford Library Books), I have heard from many of you (thanks!) and the vast majority (no one disagrees) votes for doing away with the holes. So, they are gone as of this issue, September. Bind away!

Starting with subscription year 2000, Elsevier Science intends that annual print price increases for its entire package of journals will be under 10% in each of the company’s invoicing currencies: U.S. dollars throughout the world excepting Dutch guilders in Europe and, starting in 2000, yen in Japan. The includes the effects of currency fluctuation, growth in volume output and inflation.

The wonderful Judy Martin has joined Grolier Educational as Grolier Educational Marketing Director reporting to Phil Friedman. I remember her from Greenwood Publishing and Yale University Press.

Ameritech Library Services has announced the winners of its 1999 Summer ALA drawings for Dell laptop computers. There were four drawings, held daily from June 26-29. The winners of the drawings were Barbara Ann Murphy, Largo Library; Louise Pinckney, Richland County Public Library; Kay Maynard, Canton High School; and Darin Templet, Baton Rouge Community College. Lucky people! The only thing I have ever “won” was the right to fill out a questionnaire from a sample of chosen people!

Organic Letters is the first journal to be published by ACS (American Chemical Society) under collaboration with ARL’s Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resource Coalition (SPARC). Featuring Articles ASAP (As Soon As Publishable), the Organic Letters Web Edition, located at http://pubs.acs.org, allows subscribers to access peer-reviewed articles weeks before they appear in print, explore added content and fulltext searching, and link to relevant articles in other ACS journals. ASAP Alerts! A new email service, features recently published articles on the Web. Since the introduction of the Organic Letters Web Edition on May 17, over 175 articles have been posted on the Web. Other key innovations available to authors and readers include faster publishing with electronic manuscript submission and review, free use of color when appropriate, free electronic reprints, and online galley approval.

More about Ameritech. Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering (WCP), a Washington, D.C. law firm, is installing the Horizon library automation system. The system will link together library collections and services for WCP’s libraries in their Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; London; Brussels; Belgium; and Berlin offices. “The Horizon product fits in with WCP’s technology strategy which is focused on identifying tools which enhance lawyer productivity,” said Jean O’Grady, WCP library director. “The WebPC will enable us to provide one portal to the firm’s many research resources regardless of format (CD-ROM, commercial database, Web, internal documents). The most dramatic aspect for the lawyers will be the ability to link directly to fulltext digital resources from their desktop. It’s not your grandmother’s card catalog! As a director, I expect the software’s circulation and budget modules to offer a significant improvement of my ability to do a cost/benefit analysis of library subscriptions. Since our collection is bar coded, I will now be able to link the usage history with the annual cost of a title and make better budget decisions.” Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering (www.wilmer.com) was established in 1962 and has more than 300 lawyers. WCP has a broad regulatory, corporate, commercial and litigation practice, and represents multinationals corporations in business transactions, regulation and policy development, dispute resolution and trade matters. For further information, contact Ron Passmore, Ameritech Library Services, 519 883-6900 <rhp@amlibs.ca> or visit www.ameritech.com.

JSTOR has moved to a new location: 120 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011. Phone 212-229-3700, fax 212-229-6841. www.jstor.org

Heard from the capable Juliette Arnhem (Princeton) <jarnheim@princeton.edu> the other day. She says that she’s participating in an eJournals panel there on September 8 and hopes to make a similar contribution to Charleston (maybe?).

Let’s see. Academic Press (AP) has formed IDEAL Reference—a collection of online encyclopedias and reference works. While the official launch of the new service will not take place until January 1, 2000, two AP encyclopedias are already available online (Encyclopedia of Human Nutrition and Encyclopedia of Immunology, Second Edition). Read more about AP and its President, Dr. Peter S.H. Bolman in this issue, p.32.

Oxford University Press, Inc. (OUP) and the 16 Regional Networks—Amigos Library Services, Bibliographical Center for Research, CAPCON Library Network, Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FEDLINK), Illinois State Library (ILLINET/OCLC Services), Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority (INCOLSA), Michigan Library Consortium (MCL), MINITEX Library Information Network, Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC), Nebraska Library Commission (NEBASE), NELINET, Inc., Nlyink, OHIONET, PALINET Headquarters, South-eastern Library Network, Inc. (SOLINET), Wisconsin Interlibrary Services (WILS)—have announced a landmark agreement to join forces in the marketing and sale of online access to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and American National Biography (ANB) publications. Under the alliance, the Regional Networks, serving thousands of libraries, schools and other institutions across the United States, will offer cost-saving subscriptions to the online versions of the OED and ANB. “Subscribing institutions will obtain significant savings through the national aggregation made possible through this arrangement with Oxford University Press,” said James Rush, Executive Director, PALINET. “Although institutions can subscribe directly to OUP, they will not be eligible for the cost savings available through the national subscription.” The Regional Networks will provide OUP with centralized ordering and billing, as well as the infrastructure to implement an equitable pricing model at the time of publication. The fees for subscriptions, based on a national aggregate of institutions, will be $38 per user per year for OUP Library Edition, $60 per user per year for OUP Personal Edition, and $75 per user per year for both editions.

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weighted users to the OED and ANB online publications, will be finalized in the coming months. To support an expected user population of seven to ten million in the United States, OUP will maintain a stable publication environment for the quarterly updates to both OED and ANB, as well as adhere to the guidelines of the International Consortium of Library Consortia (ICOLC) concerning statistics, technical issues, and the purchase of e-information resources. Additional details about the Oxford English Dictionary are available at http://www.oed.com and the American National Biography at http://www.anb.org.

As you may know, Deana Astle has been ill all summer. But, she is well now and is ready to run her lively lunch on Distance Learning. Come to Charleston in November and see for yourself!

The Charleston Advisor is running a Vendor Showcase prior to the Charleston Conference this year, Wednesday, Nov. 3, 12noon - 6pm. Why not come in early and check the products out? These will be electronic products worthy of review in TCA.

Cornell University has selected Endeavor Information System's Voyager to replace their current integrated library system NOTIS.

The Library of Congress has gone into production with Endeavor's Voyager integrated library system (ILS). With over 12 million bibliographic records and 4 million authority records in the Voyager database, the world's largest library is now officially in production for cataloging and circulation.

Phoenix Public Library has converted to the CARL Information Management and Delivery System (IMDS) from their previous Dynix system in its Central Library and 12 branches.

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville recently became one of the first UnCover customers to add new, optional features to its Customized Gateway, a journal collection enhancement system.

CARL Corporation has announced the appointment of Sara Johnson as Chief Operating Officer. The 20 year veteran of library automation will assume responsibility for business, finance, and administrative functions within the company. See www.carl.org.

This is from Information Today online, July 19, 1999.—Two competing Internet services in the K-12 education market are joining forces in a new company to establish a K-12 portal and leverage their combined strengths in providing research tools for the education community. Bell & Howell Company has separated its K-12 Internet business from its Information and Learning division (formerly UMI), and is forming a new company that will be joined by the Electric Library school and library business of Infonautics, Inc. Infonautics will own 27 percent of the new company and Bell & Howell (B&H) will own the balance. The transaction is expected to close during the third quarter of 1999, subject to regulatory approval and the approval of Infonautics' shareholders. Van Morris, CEO and president of Infonautics, will also be CEO of the new company, which has had an internal project name of "EdCo." Jim Roemer, chairman and CEO of B&H, will serve as the new company's chairman of the board.

John McDonald <jmcdonald@library.caltech.edu> has moved from Richmond, Virginia, to Pasadena, California. John will be giving a paper on providing access to e-journals at the 1999 Charleston Conference so let's be sure to flag him down, okay?

Did you know that Rick Henning and Edward Elgar Publishing, Inc., have moved to the new address is 136 West Street, Suite 202. Northampton, MA 01060. <rhenning@e-elgar.com>.

Marilyn Geilh Mason, retired director of the Cleveland Public Library, has been named special advisor to the president for strategic library services at OCLC. In this post, Mason will represent OCLC in the library community, serving as a liaison for ideas, projects, new products, research agendas and areas of mutual concern. Marilyn was a guest speaker at the Fiesole Retreat (see this issue, p.77) and she is the youngest retiree I have ever seen, bar none!

OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center (EJC), now in its second year of service, has loaded its one millionth journal article. With more than 450,000 article downloads in the last 17 months, the Electronic Journal Center has surpassed all expectations. On average, each university uses over three times more journals than it traditionally holds in print. OhioLINK is a consortium of 75 Ohio college and university libraries and the State Library of Ohio. For more information, contact Kristan Collins <kristan@ohiolink.edu> or Diana Bookbinder <d.bookbinder@scienceserver.com>.

The Faxon Company has been certified by Endeavor Information Systems, Inc. to supply standard UN/EDIFACT serials invoice messages for the Endeavor Voyager System. Although Faxon has supplied EDIFACT format messages for users of the Endeavor Voyager system since December, 1997, the EDI certification program was recently introduced by Endeavor, making Faxon one of the first vendors to receive official certification.

The new OCLC FirstSearch service is now available. The new FirstSearch is being introduced with 47 databases. By December 12, all 86 of the current FirstSearch databases will be available in the new service. The new FirstSearch has three access options: new Web and Lynx-based text-only interfaces and enhanced Z39.50 access. Both the current FirstSearch and the new FirstSearch will be accessible through December 12, when the new FirstSearch Web, Electronic Collections Online, and text-only interfaces will be discontinued. Visit http://www.oclc.org/oclc/fs_new.htm.

Well, word is that Department of Commerce Secretary William Daley will propose the closing of NTIS (National Technical Information Service). The NTIS archive (near 3 million items) would move to the Library of Congress. NTIS, which began back in 1950, has had revenue decreases largely because of the Internet and the fact that many reports are distributed freely there.

Lyman Newlin sends word that Chester Brooks Kerr, Director Emeritus of Yale University Press, died on August 22, 1999 in Woodcrest Village in New London, New Hampshire. The list of Mr. Kerr's accomplishments is awesome and Lyman who says that he was "a genuine one of a kind university press director and good friend" promises to write about Mr. Kerr in a future Papa Lyman Remembers. In the meantime, Lyman has a reminiscence in this issue, see p. 66.

NewsBank, Inc., provider of newspaper-based curriculum and research resources for schools and libraries, has introduced NewsBank Newsroom Reference Services, a collection of NewsBank resources designed specifically for newsrooms and news libraries. For more information, contact Elfi Taylor at <etaylor@newsbank.com>.

Academic Press (AP) has launched AP Forensics, a product line covering the discipline of forensic science and released its first title, Criminal Profiling: An Introduction to Behavioral Analysis by Brent Turvey. The book contains the author's analysis of the JonBenet Ramsey homicide and the famous Whitechapel Jack the Ripper Murders of 1888. The increasing reliance on forensic evidence in courtrooms was a driving force behind this launch. Visit www.academicpress.com/apforensics.


Several of our faculty members at the College of Charleston are having a semester-long study of the War in Vietnam, a war continued on page 71

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
which continues to fascinate readers of all ages. So we were excited to learn about the new book by Lynne Rienner Publishers (will we ever see you in Charleston again, Lynne?) called the Siege at Hue by former U.S. Army Captain George W. Smith, who was there.

Speaking of the College of Charleston, we have been trying to get access over the Web to the Philosopher’s Index so I was gratified to learn that PI will soon be available in electronic form exclusively from SilverPlatter Information. A bibliographic database with author abstracts, The Philosopher’s Index covers scholarly research in the fifteen fields of philosophy published in journals and books since 1940 and will be offered via the Internet, Hard Disk, and CD-ROM. Philosopher’s Index is published by the Philosopher’s Information Center of Bowling Green, Ohio, whose director is Richard H. Lineback. www.silverplatter.com

Heard from Clara Mae Chittum the other day. She is still one of my very favorite people. Here is her new address and email: C.M. Chittum/van der Velden, (Unilever) Colworth House, Dept. ICTU, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire MK44 2LQ, United Kingdom <ruudfl@flashmail.com>.

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Can’t Hide on the Net
by Bruce Strauch (the Citadel)

As anyone ought to know by now, your trail on the Web can be tracked. Those who thought the laws of libel didn’t apply are learning the hard way. HealthSouth CEO Richard Scrushy launched cyberlethals on a particularly scurrilous anonymous critic and sued him for defamation. Providers of message-boards are liable only if they attempt to control what is posted under the theory that a distributor is not the same thing as a publisher. The anonymous critic is the publisher. Needless to say, these cybercritics of corporate America see this as intimidation and a First Amendment issue. Another sued critic is demanding company data that will prove she spoke the truth. And some argue the stock chatter takes stock opinions out of the cozy control of Wall Street. Some prudent stock analysts on the Web themselves monitor the bulletin boards for data that might not appear in company reports. See — Michael Moss, “CEO Exposes, Sues Anonymous Online Critics,” The Wall Street Journal, p. B1, July 7, 1999.

Archival Death
by Bruce Strauch (the Citadel)

The popular press has suddenly discovered what the library industry has long been talking about. Electronic media is fragile and much of it won’t last longer than a decade. Hardware and software needed to read it go rapidly off the market. No one has an answer for it except that impossible first step — separate the consequences from the important. See — Arlyn Tobias Gajilan, “History: We’re Losing It,” Newsweek, p. 47, July 12, 1999.

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The Next Step?
by Rick Heldrich (College of Charleston)

While not a done deal, the idea in this report should catch your attention. The director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Harold Varmus, supports the concept of establishing a Web-based site for biomedical papers. NIH has the resources and prestige to make the Web the premier choice for dissemination. But potential antagonists to this project, including societal and commercial publishers, have substantial investments in traditional printed dissemination of scientific data which would be at risk if the NIH dream materializes. The NIH initiative, in its early planning stage, is modeled after the successful efforts of physicists and astronomers who make use of a Los Alamos e-print Web-based structure. Of course, NIH, is not alone. Discussion by the European Molecular Biology Laboratory about possible Web dissemination is also taking place. For greater detail and commentary on pros and cons of the ideas, check out this news item in Science. See — Eliot Marshall, “NIH Weighs Bold Plan for Online PrePrint Publishing,” Science, vol. 283, March 12, 1999, p. 1610.

Editor’s note: In case this looks familiar, another intrepid Bet You Missed It sleuth, Pam Rose, covered this same article in ATG, June, 1999, p. 70. I figure when an end user and a librarian BOTH feature the same article, we should really pay attention! — Yr. Ed.

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