November 2013

Call for Papers-1999 Charleston Conference

Editor

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Recommended Citation
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3856

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comparison shop across dealers to get what you want for the price you want.” (Emily’s choices on the Web are Bibliofind and Advanced Book Finder). Bernard Helms of Andrews University also backed up Emily when he said, “Now with the Web I get 80% of the titles I’m looking for and GOOD Prices.” (Bernard uses Interloc and Bibliocat.)

Our fourth question asked: “If payment for the service is required, excluding the cost of the title itself, how is that payment made?” It seems libraries are not asked for any fee except for the cost of the work if it is found. I understand the usual cost of Web site information is paid for by the vendors whose wares are listed at the site. Generally librarians have not had to make a payment for service beyond the cost of the title sought. As for the payment for the successful searches, some librarians prefer to send a purchase order and pay from an invoice. If payment is required, librarians find it convenient to pay by credit card to avoid the delay of writing a check, mailing it, etc. Internally, the department ordering the title is charged accordingly.

When a vendor reports a successful search, Helen Mack at Lehigh, says she checks with the requester regarding price and if that is too high, the request becomes one for an Interlibrary Loan rather than OP. David Fisher at UC, San Diego, states, “We do not use vendors who charge up front for searches.”

In our fifth and last question, we asked for other comments on this topic and got some interesting responses. At Dartmouth, Barbara Sterling responded, “the Web sources are useful but time-consuming. It is a title by title search.”

(Does anyone have advice on how to overcome this?) Meg Cairo at New York State Library Albany says, “Web has changed everything. Made finding OP part of regular search streams.”

Only one librarian commented on the condition of OP titles. “Reading copy condition books” are acceptable. Marilyn Ng at UC, Berkeley wrote, “Science titles and conference proceedings have always been difficult to locate in the OP market. We find that going direct to the author/editor of a book can be rather successful with the needed book being donated to the collection.”

Another accolade for the Web. Laurie Anderson of Maryland Institute, College of Art says: “Web searching is the only way this one-person acquisitions department would ever have time to search for OP titles regularly.” At Baruch College, Doug Duchin commented that the Web “works well for us and is much cheaper. The problem is that some OP vendors want credit card payments, which means we cannot use them at all.”

Dan Evans at Lafayette College said: “The biggest problem we have encountered are smaller dealers who refuse to give their us numbers, as required by law, to our controller’s office.” Steve Johnson, Clemson University, summed up his comments this way: “The Web has revolutionized the out-of-print business. Now we can obtain many more titles, for much less hassle, much faster, at a lower price.”

In summary, I see several major findings, probably not news to all of us, but noteworthy:

1. The Web technology has changed OP searching.
2. More institutions are resorting to credit card purchases.
3. Some state institutions have difficult-to-implement policies.

4. U.S. titles are easier to find than foreign works.

Thanks to all who found the time to contribute to this column! We couldn’t do it without you.

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**Biology Bestsellers**

Moyesian, M. Social Regulation of Competition and Aggression in Animals. Smithsonian Inst. 1998. $27.50. Cloth 156098788x


Gayon, Jean. Darwinism’s Struggle for Survival: Heredity and the Hypothesis of Natural Selection. Cambridge Univ Press. 1998. $95.00. Cloth 0521562503


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**Call for Ideas/Papers/ Speakers/etc.**

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If you are interested in leading a discussion, acting as a moderator, coordinating the lively lunches or simulation rooms, or would like to make sure we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The Charleston Conference prides itself on creativity, innovation, flexibility, and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. We’ll probably like it...

The planning Director for the 1999 Charleston Conference include - Barbara Dean (Arlington County Public Library), Robin Lent (U. of New Hampshire), Heather Miller (SUNY-Albany), Katina Strauch (College of Charleston) Jack Montgomery (Western Kentuckey University) and Rosann Bazirjian (Florida State University Library).

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