November 2013

Rumors

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Recommended Citation
Strauch, Katina (1999) "Rumors," Against the Grain: Vol. 11: Iss. 6, Article 3.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3860

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At the Turn of the Millennium, A Library Development Time-Line

by Elisabeth Knight (Extended Campus Services Librarian, Western Kentucky University Libraries)

Today the library hums with computers, copiers and all the modern conveniences to make research and scholarship quick, easy, and as painless as possible. As recently as two decades ago, library users had to go through indexes for the information they needed in book form, which had to be gone through by hand, entry by entry, year by year. Nowadays, copy machines save a lot of time for students since they can make a copy of the material they want and go away to write their paper. But at one time, students had to stay in the library with the materials that didn’t circulate, taking notes by hand. Modern electronic databases and the copier are just two of the enormous advances which have changed the way the library has been used. Consider some of the other kinds of changes that had to occur to make the library as it is today:

Circa 284 B.C. Alexandrian Library was founded by Ptolemy I Solter, prototype of braries throughout the world.

Late 13th, 14th and 15th Centuries
First time chains were used to secure books as an alternative to securing them in cupboards or rooms to prevent theft of the scarce and valuable materials. Typcially, chains were attached to a brass clip on one of the wooden covers.

Bodleian Library unchained the last of its books in 1448.

First known abstracts in the modern sense were the summaries of 36 books (chapters) of Pliny’s Naturalis Historia. written by the author to save the time of Emperor Titus.

First introduction of wall shelving on a large scale at the Library of Escorial in Spain.

Edinburgh established first known circulating library.

Since 1830
There has been Indexing and Abstracting for every major subject discipline.

Microforms were invented. Not used widely in libraries until the 1930s when quality film and equipment first became widely available.

First Periodical Index, William Frederick Poole’s Index to Periodical Literature.

Congress established the Government Printing Office.


Congress passed “New Printing Act of 1895” creating the GPO’s Superintendent of Documents division.

If Rumors Were Horses
Okay. There is so much going on that it makes my head spin. How to keep up with it all?

Well, the minute that the Charleston Conference was over—always a low time for me—I got a cheery phone call from Fred Philipp (Blackwell's)! He always makes me smile. Anyway, Fred said that he wasn't at the Charleston Conference because he broke his ankle of all things. Fred is back at work but using a cane. Break a leg, Fred!

And speaking of Fred. We have a new company—Swets Blackwell. On Tuesday, 30 November, the formal agreement of the merger between Blackwell Information Services and Swets Subscription Services was signed in Lisse, The Netherlands. If you’ll remember, this follows the June 1999 announcement of the intention to create a joint venture combining the two companies. Due diligence, tax and regulatory processes have taken place through the summer and autumn and completion is anticipated to take place in the New Year. The new company, formed through the merger, is called Swets Blackwell. Swets is the majority shareholder and the Head Office of the new com-
From your (freezZzZzng) Editor:

Hi all! Hope every one of you had a delightful Thanksgiving and is looking forward to the December Holiday Season! Here in Charleston it’s cold, but nothing like Watertown, New York, where we went for Thanksgiving to visit our son, Raymond, who is stationed at Ft. Drum. Brrrr... is all I can say and, you know what?... Brrr... I will never forget that cold. I’ll just say that I am too wimpy to live up North!

This issue of ATG is chock a block full of great information and news. We have interviews with Martin Manley and Bob Schatz, articles by Nancy Gibbs, Elizabeth Knight, Kent Mulliner and John Zubal. Library profiles have returned (hooray!) with one in this issue of Western Kentucky University. As well, Julie Gammon is back with a publisher bestseller column (L. of Toronto Press) to match with the Bestsellers in Geology column by Françoise Crowell and Bob Nardini. Many other interesting articles are on the new ISBN (see Chaos) and the “Reconstructing the Library Book Vendor” (Pandora’s Box). There are lots more columns in this issue (Vendor/Library Relations, Academic Book Trends, sotto voce, etc., etc.). The only person who’s missing is Papa Lyman who says he’ll be back in the next issue (February). Speaking of Papa Lyman, up there in New York not far from Raymond. Brrrr...

Yr. Ed. 

Letters to the Editor:

Send letters to <strauchk@emailink.net> (Please note NEW email address), 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:

Although I’ve never been an acquisitions or collection development librarian, Against the Grain is rapidly becoming my favorite library publication. I enjoy the Rumors section, the legal issues discussions, even “Adventures in Librarianship.” The layout is easy to read (now that I’ve—ahem—matured into bifocals), and the dingbats and graphics add exactly the right tone.

Thanks, and keep up the good work. My regards to the Holy City!

George Needham
Vice President, Member Services,
OCLC Online Computer Library Center
Inc., 6565 Franz Road, MC 709,
Dublin, OH 43017-3395
<needham@oclc.org>

Dear Editor:

Subject: Group Therapy 9/99 issue

This kind of multiple perspective response article is great and I’m not just saying that because Carl Teresa quotes me (just spell my names right!) The result is the same thing I value about the Charleston conference: multiple points of view so we can come to understand each other.

Philip Wallas
EBSCO Publishing
10 Estes St.
Ipswich, MA 01938
<pwallas@epnet.com>

Dear Editor:

I received your copy of Against the Grain early this week and I am in the process of reading it. Your magazine looks good.

Regards
Jennifer Eagleton
(Kendinnions, Research Centre for Translation, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
<jennifer.eagleton@cuhk.edu.hk>

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pany will be based in The Netherlands. It will begin trading early in early 2000. The merger is between the subscription agency and information services divisions of Blackwell and Swets. Remaining outside the joint venture are the mail order and retail bookselling operations of Blackwell Ltd and the publishing, document services, psychological tests and publishers’ services divisions of Swets & Zeitlinger BV. The overall integration of all systems and offices will be completed by 2001 with the majority of the systems being fully integrated during 2000. Swets Blackwell will be a leading global subscription agent and information services company with a turnover in excess of one billion SUS. Its offices are in 18 countries with total personnel in the region of 1,200. In the meantime, why not stop by the Swets Blackwell booth (1807) in San Antonio and ask the awesome Mike Markwith what is going on?

This is the Linking Project that has the Net all abuzz. A group of leading scientific continued on page 8

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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
and scholarly publishers has announced a name for their reference-linking service to link their journal articles—Crossref—as well as the names of four more publishers who have joined this innovative initiative. The University of Chicago Press, the Institute of Physics Publishing, World Scientific, and Taylor & Francis will be joining this unprecedented cooperative effort, which also includes Academic Press, a Harcourt Science and Technology Company (NYSE: H); American Association for the Advancement of Science (the publisher of Science); American Institute of Physics (AIP); Association for Computing Machinery (ACM); Blackwell Science; Elsevier Science (NYSE: ENL) (NYSE: RUK); IEEE (The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.); Kluwer Academic Publishers (a Wolters Kluwer Company); Nature Publishing Group; Oxford University Press; Springer-Verlag; and John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (NYSE: JWA) (NYSE: JWB). Active discussions are underway with many scientific and scholarly primary journal publishers to make this a broad-based, industry-wide initiative. More are expected to sign on before the service launches during the first quarter of 2000. Crossref was initially announced on November 16. Commenting on Crossref, Robert Shirrell, Journals Manager, The University of Chicago Press, said, “Reference links are a critical part of the utility of electronic publications. This linking service, a voluntary cooperative effort based on an open standard, provides the means for enhancing electronic publications across all scholarly fields.” Jerry Cowig, Managing Director, Institute of Physics Publishing, added, “One of the key objectives of the Institute’s Royal Charter is the dissemination of scientific information to physicists worldwide. This exciting, collaborative initiative will further that objective and help us to realize our vision of e-distributed publishing. By working together publishers should at last achieve seamless linking between online content, wherever it resides.” Doreen Liu, Managing Director, World Scientific, said, “This is the most exciting initiative from the STM group of publishers I can remember during my 18 years in the business. World Scientific was set up with the objective of serving the scientific community and I believe this initiative will greatly enhance our ability to do so.” Researchers will be able to move easily from a reference in a journal article to the content of a cited journal article, typically located on a different server and published by a different publisher. At the outset, more than three million articles across thousands of journals will be linked through Crossref, and more than half a million more articles will be linked each year thereafter. This will enhance the efficiency of browsing and reading the primary scientific and scholarly literature. Such linking will enable readers to gain access to logically related articles with one or two clicks—an objective widely accepted among researchers as a natural and necessary part of scientific and scholarly publishing in the digital age. Crossref will be run from a central facility which will be managed by an elected Board and will operate in cooperation with the International Digital Object Identifier (DOI) Foundation. It will contain a limited set of metadata, allowing the journal content and links to remain distributed at publishers’ sites. Each publisher will set its own access standards, determining what content is available to the researcher following a link (such as access to the abstract or to the full text of an article, by subscription, document delivery, or pay-per-view, etc.). Crossref is being organized as a not-for-profit entity to safeguard the independence of each participating publisher to set their own access standards and conditions. The service, which is based on a prototype developed by Wiley and Academic Press, was developed in cooperation with the International DOI Foundation and builds on work by the Association of American Publishers and the Corporation for National Research Initiatives. It takes advantage of the DOI standard and other World Wide Web standards and Internet technology. By taking a standards-based approach and the international consensus is confident that the sophisticated demands of the readers of scientific and scholarly journals for linking of references can be implemented broadly and rapidly.

RoweCom Inc. (Nasdaq: ROWE) has announced the execution of a definitive binding agreement for the acquisition of NewsEdge Corporation (Nasdaq: NEWZ). The acquisition is intended to permit RoweCom to provide its clients with timely and customized business, technical and political news from hundreds of sources, organized into thousands of topics of interest contextually integrated from NewsEdge into RoweCom’s Knowledge Store (KStore) service. Conversely, embedded links within NewsEdge stories would provide immediate access to related KStore offerings including over 200,000 magazines and journals; 5,300 electronic journals; 4,000 market research reports and 12 million article abstracts and citations from RoweCom catalog; as well as millions of books via RoweCom partner barnesandnoble.com. NewsEdge Corporation is an independent provider of global news and current awareness solutions. The NewsEdge Refinery™ processes tens of thousands of news stories each day, categorizing, prioritizing and organizing them into real-time news services and topics that are delivered directly to the client’s desktop. The company consists of two core business units: “Enterprise,” which derives its revenues from corporate subscribers; and “Individual.com, Inc.”, a free Web-based service for individual business people, which derives its revenues from advertising and e-commerce. Under the terms of the agreement, RoweCom will exchange .26 shares of common stock for each share of NewsEdge stock. Based on RoweCom’s closing price on December 6th, the transaction is valued at about $227 million. In addition, NewsEdge and RoweCom will pursue over the remainder of the month a number of options for Individual.com, Inc., including the sale of a significant portion of the company to an investor. The acquisition is expected to be completed in the 1st quarter of 2000. The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including approval by both RoweCom and NewsEdge stockholders, and is subject to expiration or termination of the waiting periods under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act. To find out more information, visit http://www.rowecom.com.

Vern Cain, former President, CEO of Dawson Information Services Group (ISG), and now with RoweCom Inc., has announced his plans to retire effective December 31, 1999. As we all no doubt know, Vern was President and CEO of McGregor which was acquired by Dawson PLC and also served as CEO of Dawson’s Information Services Group. We’ll miss you, Vern, but wish you all the best!

ATG was distressed to learn that Adam Klein had left RoweCom and that he was not present at the Charleston Conference. We asked Dick Rowe to comment on Adam Klein’s quick departure from RoweCom and this, in part, is what Dick tells us. “There are many individuals within the RoweCom organization that have provided critical guidance through both mergers [presumably with Dawson’s and NewsEdge]. Specifically, Adam Klein, RoweCom’s former Chief Client Officer, was brought in to oversee the Dawson acquisition and to help us develop a solid transition strategy. He recognized the importance of creating a vertical market structure where each sector—academic, medical, corporate and federal—is headed by strong, knowledgeable managers and long term experienced employees who ensure that the needs of each client are met. Given Adam’s seniority, background and experience, it was evident that once the vertical structure was firmly in place, his day-to-day supervision was no longer necessary. He continues as a consultant for RoweCom and is extremely helpful to me. I strongly believe that our ongoing stability comes from having a solid..continued on page 10
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organizational structure in place and I am confident that our current management staff is able to face the challenges of the new millennium head on. Moving forward, you will see some familiar as well as new faces assuming key leadership positions within the company. Dan Tonkery, Roy Reinalla, and Aira Aaron will continue to provide strong leadership in the biomedical and academic areas. Beginning in 2000, Jim Krzywicki, the former Worldwide Director of IBM’s Distributed Learning, will head the introduction of a wider range of knowledge resources linked to KStore. Vice President Jeff Sands, previously with EMG and DEC, is leading our business development group. In addition, Cliff Pollan, President and COO of NewsEdge will lead RoweCom’s entry into the real-time news and current awareness arena, providing you with the information you need delivered right to your desktop, anytime, day or night."

Friends who have been there say it is paradise! Did you and talk to an inhabitant of paradise at the Charleston Conference? Thelma Dieck (Head, Acquisitions Dept., U. of Hawaii Library) <thelma@hawaii.edu> and her University Librarian, John Haar <haak@hawaii.edu>. They are recruiting for a person to serve as the head of their technical services division which they call their Collection Services Division. This person would provide professional leadership for the division which consists of the following departments: Acquisitions, Cataloging, Serials, and Preservation. They need someone who has an experience and knowledge base they can depend upon, who would enjoy working within a diverse community, who has experience in migrating from one library management system to another, and who would be interested in serving as a leader within the administration. The position description is posted at: www.hawaii.edu/lib/ and once there select News and Job openings.

Heard from Judy Harris <jharris@elemimo.cc.ca.us> (Acquisitions Librarian, El Camino College, in Torrance, California) who wanted more information about ATG and the Charleston Conference. Judy has been a librarian for 21 years (I'm not going to tell you how long I've been in acquisitions) and, like all of us, is overwhelmed by all the changes in ideas and technology. Welcome to the club, Judy!

OCLC has opened an OCLC TechPro office at Ambassador Books and Media in Hempstead, New York. An OCLC TechPro service staff works in Hempstead to provide OCLC cataloging on a contract basis for libraries that order books, videos or other materials from Ambassador. A participant in the OCLC PromptCat service, Ambassador forwards to the TechPro office materials that do not match through PromptCat, a service that provides libraries with bibliographic records along with materials from vendors. TechPro also catalogs for libraries that do not use PromptCat. Cataloging is completed according to library specifications, with fully shelf-ready materials available from Ambassador. More information, contact Nita Dean at <nita dean@oclc.org> or visit http://www.oclc.org.

Heard from the wonderfully vivacious Karen Warren (Serials Librarian and Union List Coordinator, USC School of Medicine Library) <karen@deanserver.med.sc.edu>. She just got married and is now Karen W. Rosati! Y'all will remember Karen from the 1999 Charleston Conference! We at the College produce our Consortium Union List of Serials via USC and Karen works very hard on it. Plus we are now ready to try to load it on the Web.

Becky Lenzini's oldest daughter Sarah just graduated from college at Washington University in St. Louis and is working for an old independent bookstore in St. Louis that was recently bought by Borders'. Sounds like what I'd like to be doing...

Ex Libris (USA) Inc. has moved to a new, more spacious office in order to accommodate their growth. The new office address and phone numbers are: Ex Libris (USA) Inc., 1919 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60614-6001; phone: 734-404-5527; toll free: 777-527-1689; fax: 734-404-5606 <grant@exlibris-usa.com>.

Speaking of Ex Libris, Brandeis University has announced a plan to enhance the search capabilities of their libraries by signing a contract to install ALEPH500 as their next generation library automation system. Brandeis University's ALEPH system will support 100 concurrent users on a SUN Enterprise 450 hardware platform and will involve a full data conversion from the DRA Classic system. The new system is scheduled to go live in the summer of 2000.

We told you last issue (see p. 14) to look up the wonderful Christine Lamb (CEO of ingenta, Inc.) at the Charleston Conference? Did you? Well, I sure did and she is thriving and doing all sorts of interesting things. So, look for Christine and ingenta at ALA Midwinter. ATG will be giving out a PREPRINT of our upcoming interview with Christine by the intrepid Judy Luther. The interview will be published in the April, 2000 issue of ATG.

This news came from the eBook listserv and regards an article in The New York Times (12/9/99) by Bonnie Rothman Morris. The article's about eBooks and Emily Post's Etiquette (which was first published in 1922) and other books (Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 9th ed., and Strunk and White's Elements of Style which can all be found at www.bartley.com. The full story is at: http://www.nytimes.com/library/tech/99/12/circuits/articles/09etiq.html.

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News (no.28, December 8, 1999) which contains price comparisons of STM journals 1998/2000. The tables are available at http://www.harrassowitz.de/news/9912p01.html. The first table includes data for five leading STM publishers for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000. The publishers are unnamed and labeled A-E. The number of titles, total cost of all titles, average price of the titles and the increase in average price over the previous year is given for each publisher for each year. The second table uses invoicing data from actual customers with different collection emphasis and attempts to illustrate the effect of price increases for 2000 from the five publishers on different types of libraries. Eight libraries are included, including two in each of the following categories: general academic (including sci-tech) libraries, general academic (mostly humanities and social sciences) libraries, medical libraries, and sci-tech libraries. The table shows the percentage increase for each library over 1999 expenditures for each of the publishers. These two tables are intended to illustrate the overall effect of pricing from the major STM publishers for 2000 on libraries.


According to Edupage, 8 December 1999: The city of Los Angeles has announced plans to expand its successful Kids' Path Web content-filtering program throughout its entire library system. See the Los Angeles Times, 12/7/99.

This is from Today's Legal News (12/8/99) NEWSWIRE @ LAWNEWSPRO.COM. A federal court in Washington state has issued a preliminary injunction on barnesandnoble.com, intimating that their "Express Lane" shopping system may infringe Amazon.com's "1-click" technology. Barnesandnoble.com is sticking to its guns. See (E-Commerce Law Weekly and The Wall Street Journal (12/3/99). http://www.lawnewspetwork.com/stories/11041-1999Dec7.html.

Troy Johnson (Public Services Librarian, School of Law Library, Valparaiso University) <troy.johnson@valpo.edu> and Kyle Winward (Librarian, Iowa Western Community College) have created a Web site that deals with electronic book readers and libraries. The site is intended to be a place where librarians can get up to speed on what electronic book readers are and what is on the market. The site is also designed to be a place where issues that effect libraries in regards to electronic book readers can be presented. The site is called Bibliofuture and can be found at http://Bibliofuture.homepage.com.

And Ana Terry's <Ana.Terry@netpubsintl.com> article "Demystifying the e-Book — What is it, where will it lead us, and who's in the game?" (November, 1999, p.18 ff) is loaded up on the Web site (above). Pretty cool.

Simon & Schuster has launched www.hotauthors.com which will allow you, for a contribution to the literary crisis, to download chapters from books by popular authors like Stephen King, Stephen Ambrose, Jackie Collins, etc. Another small step for the eBook.

Recently got this Rumor from the fabulous Edna Laughey (Ad Manager, ATG) <claughey@iol.com>, the woman that ATG could not exist without! Sheryl VorderWagen (Georgetown Township Library, Jenison, MI) <jensvw@lakeeland.lib.mi.us> writes that one of their wonderful patrons has won a national Cracker Barrel sweepstakes. Part of the prize is the donation of 20,000 books to the library of her choice. The patron selected Georgetown Township Library to receive 10,000 and the school libraries of Jenison Christian School to receive the other 10,000. Now that’s making the most of a sweeps!

Thanks to all of you for the detailed Charleston Conference evaluations that we have gotten. We are going through them one by one. Just two of the evaluations that really impressed us were from John Abbott <abbottip@conrad.appstate.edu> and Keith Mulliner <mulliner@ohio.edu>! Thanks.

Jane Pearlmutter <jpearl@slis.wisc.edu> tells us that the School of Library & Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will offer an interactive continuing education course via the Internet on Virtual Collection Development. Every day, new resources become available in electronic formats and on the Internet. How does this impact traditional library collections? This online course will cover how to select and evaluate these resources (both free and licensed), what policies should be in place, and how to use the Internet as a collection development tool. The course will run from January 31 to March 10, 2000. The fee is US$285, and 3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are offered. You may participate at any time of day. For a more complete course description and enrollment information please contact Jane Pearlmutter, director of continuing education, UW-Madison School of Library & Information Studies, 600 N. Park Street, Madison, WI 53706. 

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
A little bird told me about two marriages that took place this fall, quite recently, in fact. First, Ken Soechner of the Metropolitan Museum of Art got married in Paris (sounds quite elegant) and second, Michele Casalini <michele@CASALINI.it> got married in New York. Both of these gentlemen did not come to the Charleston Conference in November, 1999, after coming for many years. I guess they have an excuse. Congratulations to both of them!

And heard recently from Barbara Casalini <barbara@casalini.it> who says how sorry she was to have missed the fabulous Charleston Conference in November. But she tells me that the olive tree that we planted in Fiesole in memory of Mario Casalini is giving olives and that she knows that Mr. Casalini would have been proud of this. This news made me wish that I was back in Italy again.

It was great seeing Kaut Dorn (Harrassowitz) in Charleston <kdorn@harrassowitz-wu.uenet.de>! And, read what Bob Schatz says about Harrassowitz and Casalini—not to mention Everett—in this issue of ATG, see p.36.

And, speaking of interviews, it was great interviewing Martin Manley of Alibris for this issue, see p. 40. Martin is the only person I know who could send an email to 4 in the morning and have it back at 7! Wow! Don't they sleep in Silicon Valley?

As most of you know, Britannica.com has opened a new free Web site recently. Since South Carolina, for one, has worked out a deal for access to Britannica Online for a fee, we were all curious as to how these two Web sites are different. Apparently the former is designed for the “mass market consumer market” and the latter is designed for “serious and careful work done by students, faculty, and library patrons.” Watch for a discussion/review in an upcoming Charleston Advisor. www.charlestonco.com.

For those of you who heard David Stam's <dstam@library.syr.edu> inspiring keynote to the 1999 Charleston Conference, we have received a copy and hope to be printing it in one of the next few issues of ATG. By the way, have you renewed your subscription? And, for those of you who haven't visited the Web site recently—www.against-the-grain.com—it’s been enhanced. As funds permit, we will be providing searchable tables of contents and some articles electronically. Jack Montgomery (Western Kentucky University) <jack.montgomery@WKU.edu> and Judy Luther (Informed Strategies) <luther@earthlink.net> are working hard on this initiative. Make suggestions on what were your favorite articles and/or what articles you would like to see on the Web and we can try to get money/permissions. Thanks.

This is off of Liblicense-I. On November 3rd, the National Academy of Sciences presented the report of the Committee on Intellectual Property Rights and the Emerging Information Infrastructure. This report was created under the aegis of the National Research Council’s Computer Science and Telecommunications Board. For more information, the Chair’s Statement, Press Release, and Report Summary and Conclusions, visit the Web site at: http://www.nationalacademies.org/. This is a must read document. Just a few excerpts from Chairman Randall Davis (Professor, Computer Science Department, MIT) who introduced the report: “The trend toward licensing ... is making a substantial difference in access to digital information.” ... “increasing use of licensing also means that information’s more an event to be experienced, rather than an artifact to be kept…” “licensing of information products becomes widespread, we may see contract law taking the place of copyright law.” “licenses are contracts and as such are under no obligation to conform to the letter or spirit of public policy in copyright.” Ann Okerson (moderator of Liblicense-I) <Ann.Okerson@Yale.edu> also suggests that we see an MSNBC article about the report, written by Alan Boyle, Science Editor, at: http://www.msnbc.com/news/330805.asp.

It was great seeing Tom Smith (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory) <smith79@llnl.gov> in Charleston. Tom and the Dept. of Energy Librarians descended on Charleston again last November and, besides attending the 19th Annual Charleston Conference, they had their 10th DOE Acquisitions Mini-Conference in the College of Charleston Libraries!

We are beginning to plan the 2000 Charleston Conference even as we speak. Working on the conference at this point are: Rosann Bazirjian <rbb@psu.edu>, Barbara Dean, Jack Montgomery <jack.montgomery@WKU.edu>, Heath Miller <hm766@csnvas.albany.edu>, Marietta Plank, and yours truly <straucik@earthlink.net>. See our announcement in this issue, p.72.

Coinciding with the sesquicentennial of Harper’s Magazine, Bell & Howell Information and Learning and Harper’s Magazine Foundation have announced a new collaboration to produce Harper’s Magazine Online—a complete electronic index of the nation’s oldest continuously published monthly magazine—over the next two years. The first installment of Harper’s Magazine Online will be available in spring 2000 and then contain indexing from 1850 to 1877. For further information, visit www.harpers.org. <http://www.against-the-grain.com>