February 2003

If Rumors Were Horses

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Creativity: It’s All Around Us
by Lisa German (Head of Acquisitions, University of Illinois Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801; Phone: 217-244-2071; Fax: 217-244-9004) <lgerman@uiuc.edu>

Librarianship is a creative profession. We see it around us, every day, in our dealings with each other, authors, publishers and vendors. As I was putting together this annual issue of Against the Grain, the thread running through each article was the creativity we’re employing in our daily lives in order to give better service to our users.

Dan Halloran, a real entrepreneur (and great storyteller) sets the stage by asking if 2002 was “the year of the economy, e-content, vanishing eBooks, or of shelf-ready processing finally gaining the acceptance that it deserves?” Read this article to see his answer.

Joyce Ogburn and John McDonald document the creative ways in which digital scholarship is beginning to flourish. Joyce provides a definition and framework for looking at digital scholarship initiatives and gives examples of programs at the University of Virginia and the Electronic Cultural Atlas initiative based at UC-Berkeley. With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and others, digital scholarship is thriving on several campuses. John explains that the principles of collection development that apply to the print and archival world should be followed and built upon in the digital world.

William Hannay attempts to define “market power” who has it, what affects it, and are efforts like SPARC changing it.

In case all this information begins to overwhelm you, read “Uptight in Library Land” by Ed Merwin. Probably the same things that are stressing out the librarians in South Carolina are causing stress for the rest of us. I loved this article because it says we’re not alone, but there are things we can do about it.

Finally, Richard Abel challenges us to think about scholarship and the scholarly monograph and its importance in the transfer of knowledge. The creative ability of all these authors shines in the articles they’ve written.

They’re examples of where we have been, where we are, and where we’re going.

If Rumors Were Horses

Just back from ALA Midwinter in Philly, saw lots of great people. Not the least of which was the splendid-ferous Evelyn Fazio <emfazio@earthlink.net> who is looking for a job. She is interested in re-entering publishing, perhaps starting her own list for either high school reference sets or perhaps as a publisher in an academic setting. Evelyn says that her time at Baker & Taylor (two years) developing “Ed” was great but that she wants to return to her real love, publishing. You go, girl!

Also the equally smashing Elizabeth Connor <confiez@bellsouth.net> <econnor@rossmed.edu.dne> (Director of Libraries at Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, West Indies) wishes to return to Charleston to be with her husband, Carlos, and is looking for a library or field representative job in publishing, vending, or libraries. If you know of any jobs that might help these two women, please let them know! Thanks!

We were so sad to learn of the passing of Alfred Jaeger, Don Jaeger’s <donaldajaeger@worldnet.att.net> wonderful father, who founded Alfred Jaeger, Inc. I had the pleasure of meeting this charismatic man several times and am sure that he will be sorely missed by his family, employees, and all of us who were touched by his presence.

Here’s the scoop on divine/Faxon/Rowecom as we go to press. This was definitely one of the “hot topics” of ALA Midwinter. divine, inc. (Nasdaq: DVIN) has announced that RoweCom, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of divine, has signed a letter of intent with EBSCO Industries, Inc. for the sale of RoweCom’s business to EBSCO. This agreement supersedes the original letter of intent announced on December 20, 2002, and includes RoweCom’s worldwide operations. RoweCom, which was acquired by divine in November 2001. The proposed transaction, which is contingent upon regulatory approval in France and customary closing conditions., continued on page 8

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tions, has been endorsed by the steering committee of the ad hoc committee of publishers and RoweCom customers. In connection with this agreement, certain publishers represented on the ad hoc committee have agreed to fulfill subscription orders to RoweCom customers who prepaid for subscription orders. “We believe that the sale of RoweCom to EBSCO is the optimal solution for its customers and the various publishers that provide value to customers,” said divine Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Andrew “Flip” Filipowski. To facilitate the sale of RoweCom’s assets and operations to EBSCO, and to ensure that RoweCom’s operations continue without interruption until the transaction is finalized, RoweCom expects to file a voluntary petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. http://www.divine.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=4326PusPage%2F6283SubSectionAndView&c=DevArticle&cid=1043257849029&d=1018281461145. Also, the Outsell eBrief regarding RoweCom et al, is worth a look at http://www.outsellinc.com.

Saw the oh-so-tall and urbane Michele Casalini at <michele@casalini.it> in Philadelphia. He was loaded up with pictures of his son, Pier Nicolo (who’s walking already!) and his lovely wife Susanna.

And speaking of Casalini, have you ever noticed the huge level of information available online through the Libri Database Plus and the riviste Database Plus? In addition, the Mercurio Fulltext System specializes in online publishing services. Be sure and visit digital.casalini.it to get an extensive look. And don’t forget RREA Reference Reviews Europe Annual which Casalini publishes and which is quite a unique reference resource for European publications. www.casalini.it.


More changes. French media conglomerate Vivendi Universal has completed its sale of US educational publisher Houghton Mifflin for $US1.66 billion (1.7 billion euros) to an investment consortium headed by Thomas H. Lee and Bain Capital. Vivendi received $US1.28 billion in cash while another $US380 million worth of Houghton Mifflin debt was taken on by the consortium. Vivendi acquired Houghton Mifflin, which was established in 1832 and is among the oldest US publishing houses in 2001 for $US2.2 billion. http://abc.net.au/news/newsitems/5756701.htm.

Word is that the British Library hopes to acquire the letters of Princess Diana to James Hewitt written from 1989-1991. These would join similar collections of letters, including those Elizabeth I wrote to the Earl of Essex. But there’s a problem of selling price. Dr. Christopher Wright of the British Library told the BBC Online that £10m is “way too high” to pay for the letters, though the library would be prepared to pay a smaller amount for the 64 handwritten missives. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2643655.stm.

This is off the Voyager listserv. After eight years, the go-getter visionary, Jane Burke has decided to relinquish her role as President and CEO of Endeavor, and not to renew her contract with Elsevier and Endeavor. Jane feels that it is time for new leadership at Endeavor, especially given the growing importance of digital content to libraries. “This was a really hard decision for me,” Jane stated. “The marketplace that we used to know as library automation is changing so quickly that I feel that Endeavor needs a fresh view of how to utilize all of Endeavor’s and Elsevier’s combined strengths to our customers’ best advantage. I have loved working with every single one of the Endeavor customers,” she continued. “They are the reason for Endeavor’s success. So many librarians have helped me and have shared their vision for libraries with me. Knowing all of them has been a real joy.” Effective January 2, Roland Dietz will succeed Jane as President and CEO. Roland Dietz has been with Elsevier for over ten years. Most recently, he has been the Managing Director of Global Sales and Marketing for Elsevier’s science and technology division. Roland has a Masters degree in Software Engineering/Artificial Intelligence from Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands, and worked in various high tech environments before joining Elsevier Science. He will be moving with his family to Chicago from the New York area, and will be directing the company from its headquarters in Des Plaines, Illinois. He is looking forward to meeting Endeavor customers and learning the intricacies of Voyager and ENCompass. Endeavor remains a wholly-owned subsidiary of Elsevier. For further information, contact Cindy Negard <cindy.negard@endinfosys.com>. And watch for Judy Luther’s upcoming interview with Roland Dietz for A/TV.

The next two Rumors are from Educause (January 8, 2003) — Columbia University has announced that because of continued unprofitability, the Fathom online-learning venture will be shut down. Fathom was created about two years ago as a for-profit company to develop Web-based courses and sell them to the public. Fathom attracted a number of high-profile partners for development of content, including the American Film Institute, the Cambridge University Press, the London School of Economics and Political Science, the New York Public Library, RAND, the University of Chicago, and the University of Michigan system. Though officials at Columbia would not release investment totals for Fathom, the university in 2001 reportedly funded Fathom with $14.9 million and recouped only $700,000, in fees and sales revenue. Robert Kasdin, senior executive vice president at Columbia, said the decision to dissolve Fathom reflects an understanding that “the university is going to be better served if we focus [on resources] on campus-based initiatives.” — Chronicle of Higher Education, 8 January 2003 http://chronicle.com/free/2003/01/2003010701.htm.

In a blow to the U.S. film industry, Norwegian teen Jon Lech Johansen was found innocent on all counts in a complaint filed against him for violating computer break-ins by the U.S. Motion Picture Association and the DVD Copy Control Association in January 2000. Now 19, “DVD-Jon” was 15 when he wrote and posted on the Internet the DeCSS software, which decodes the Content Scrambling System used by the film industry to prevent illegal copying of DVD films. CSS also prevents consumers from playing DVDs on certain devices, however, and from making legal copies of DVDs. Head Judge Irene Soga ruled that there was no proof that Johansen or others had used the program for illegal purposes and that consumers have rights to DVDs obtained legally “even if the films are played in a different way than the makers had foreseen.” No decision has been made about an appeal in the case. Washington Post, July 7, 2003 http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/ A20997-2003Jul7.html.

This is from Rob Nagy <rnagy@accessible.com> (Accessible Archives, 697 Sugartown Road, Malvern, Pa 19355, phone (610)296-7441, fax (610)725-1745; www.accessible.com) — Effective January 1, 2003, all ordering and correspondence regarding Accessible Archives should be directed to Accessible Archives. Scholarly Resources will no longer be representing Accessible Archives in any capacity.

Well, the copyright extension 1998 law was upheld by the Supreme Court in a 7-2 decision that keeps Mickey Mouse et al from going into the public domain a while longer. (Elerd v. Ashcroft). It was a victory for Disney and a defeat to those who had hoped to use images et al and not have to pay high royalties. Gina Holland, writing for the Associated Press and posted on Yahoo writes a good overview “Supreme Court Keeps Copyright Protections”). See also “High Court Upholds Law Expanding Copyrights by 20 Years,” by Linda Greenhouse. See New York Times, January 15, 2003 or http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/15/business/15CND-COPY.html. We hope to have a Cases of Note on this in the next issue (April).

Have you heard that Infotrieve has purchased Ariel from RLG? Here is a link for information on the deal http://www.infotrieve.com/news.asp#473. Kristin Tague (Manager, Accounts and Alliances, RLG Inc.) <kristin.tague@notes.rlg.org> says that “In 2002 to help realize the full potential of Ariel and bring it to new kinds of users, [RLG] looked for a buyer with the right kind of mission, resources, and desire.”

The wonderfully splendid Anne Jennings <jenningsa@citadel.edu> calls our attention to the Digital Information Bibliography of Licensing Sources http://www.library.yale.edu/~license/index.shtml recently posted on liblicense. She points out proudly that there are six references to articles in Against the Grain! And, numerous references to papers given at the Charleston Conferences, I might add!

The incredible Tom Peters <tpeters@ cic.uiuc.edu> and his wife have decided to relocate back to the Kansas City metropolitan area for several family-related reasons. Consequently, Tom will resign as Director of the CIC Center for Library Initiatives (CLI) sometime before June 30, 2003. Tom has been director for 3 1/2 years. Barbara Allen, the Director of the CIC, and the CIC Library Directors are beginning the search for a new Director. A position description and search timeline are being distributed and advertised. The goal is to achieve a seamless transition so that the various projects and programs which are in place are not delayed. All best wishes to you, Tom, as you embark on new phases in your career! http://www.cic.uiuc.edu.

This issue is guest edited by the barnzowie Lisa German (Head of Acquisitions, U of Illinois Library) <lgerman@uiuc.edu> who has done a great job and remember her Group Therapy session during the 2002 Charleston Conference? Sounds like a reprise (or is it an encore?) in order! Plus Lisa says she just gave away the last of her Charleston chutney that she bought in the Market! “Lord, Charleston is a great place,” she exclaims! You read it here ...

Effective January 6, Bruce R. James has appointed George A. Taylor as Deputy Public Printer, the second highest position within the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). As Deputy Public Printer, Taylor will serve as Chief Operating Officer of the GPO, responsible for overseeing the GPO’s day-to-day printing, printing procurement, and information dissemination operations serving Congress, Federal agencies, and the public. Taylor comes to the GPO following a 23+ year career in information publishing. His most recent position was Senior Vice President for Operations for the Thomson Corporation, an $8 billion information organization with 43,000 employees globally, where he was responsible for coordinating corpo-
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year and offers fulltext copies of more than one million dissertations dating from the 19th century forward. Some 3,000 (or 5%) of dissertations submitted for publication in 2002 were in electronic format, and that number is expected to increase significantly in the next few years. The new system allows a graduate student to upload her or his approved dissertation into the publishing system, where it is automatically reformatted into Adobe PDF and sent directly to the graduate school. There, the document is reviewed for compliance with graduate school policy and format. Using an administrative tool, the graduate school reviewer can accept the document or request formatting revisions. The author is automatically notified by email of the actions taken. Once the thesis is accepted, the document and all relevant data are delivered to UMI Dissertation Publishing and to the university library for expedited processing, cataloging, and posting. The new automated system is expected to substantially improve the publication process. The backend technology to support the new process was developed by The Berkeley Electronic Press (www.bepress.com). The service is available now and is being rolled out to graduate schools throughout the next year. Graduate schools interested in signing up may contact ProQuest at <electronic_submissions@il.proquest.com>. UMI continues to accept dissertations for publication in print format; www.il.proquest.com.


Heard from the wonderfully stupendous Ineke Middeldorp-Crisplijn (Area Manager, Coutts Nijhoff International) <imiddeldorp@couttsinfo.com> or <icrisplijn@couttsinfo.com>. Andreas (Andy) Afrovs has just been appointed VP Sales & Marketing at Coutts Library Services’ North American operation. Andy is from Coutts’ sister company in the UK where he was the European Sales & Marketing Director. Among other professional positions held in the library and publishing world, Andy worked as an acquisitions manager at the British Library before joining Coutts nine years ago. We are all looking forward to working with Andy! Welcome! www.couttsinfo.com or www.couttsinfo.com.

Oxford University Press (OUP) has appointed Ingenta to build a scholarly books Website to provide online subscription-based access to its books collection. The Website will offer scholarship in the humanities and social sciences and will be online and cross-searchable in the fall of 2003 http://www.oxfordbooks.com. The site will feature: 750 current and selected backlist titles available in fulltext at launch, equivalent to 250,000 printed pages as well as comprehensive coverage of four key disciplines: Economics and Finance; Political Science; Philosophy; Religion and Theology. Access to all of the abstracts and keywords in Oxford Scholarship Online will be freely available alongside journal abstracts through a wide variety of services, including ingenta.com, offering research opportunities for scholars and students in the humanities and social sciences. www.ingenta.com or www.oup.co.uk.

License-l. lists.yale.edu has been seriously abuzz with many important issues. One issue: which has gotten much discussion is the practice of deleting published articles from electronic archives. You’ll remember that T. Scott Plutchak gave a paper on this at the continued on page 14
North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE), and Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing (CLAMS). It comprises 41 public and academic libraries in the outlying communities of the greater metro west Boston area. Among its members are the public libraries of Brookline, Natick, and Cambridge, as well as Framingham State College, Bentley College, and Dean College. The Minuteman Library Network was started twenty years ago by a small group of public librarians who were eager to establish a common computer system for improved efficiency and resource sharing. The Network has been supported by a central site staff of sixteen that manages the central computer and telecommunications, provides centralized MARC cataloging, and supports an active program of training and support for member libraries. The shared database now includes 640,274 patrons and 5,983,637 items. http://www.wclii.com/.

Well, the astute Fred Lyden <Frederick_Lyden@Brown.edu> and his even more astute wife, Irma, have been interviewing Vladimir Zaitsev, Director, Russian National Library, St. Petersburg, Russia, and have completed the interview. Now, it's just the translating. Hopefully, we will have the interview soon!

Paratext's 19th Century Masterfile (NCM) now contains over 2 million additional links to ABC-CLIO's historical abstracting and indexing databases, Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life. With this new agreement, library subscribers to NCM who also subscribe to either America: History and Life or Historical Abstracts, will be able to maximize the use and value of both resources. As you no doubt know, Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life were established in 1955 and 1964 respectively, and contain abstracts of journal articles and book reviews pertaining to the history of the world, with more than 16,000 new abstracts added to each database every year. Both databases were brought to the Web in 1998. www.paratext.com.

Speaking of ABC-CLIO, at ALA MW ran into the fantabulous Ron Boehm, CEO of ABC-Clio. He tells me that ABC-CLIO's databases, America: History and Life and Historical Abstracts, have served over five million combined online user sessions since both databases were brought up on the Web. "Our 5 millionth session is a further indication of ABC-CLIO's position as the primary provider of history reference services and products. As we continue to add valued features such as fulltext links and search support tools, it is gratifying to see the significant increase in usage from scholars and students of history." A dramatic increase in user sessions recorded this fall was due to new enhancements. CLIO Links provides links to over 90,000 fulltext articles from publishing partners such as JSTOR, the History Cooperative, and Project Muse, E-Net book reviews, and other products. Helpful new features such as CLIO Alert, CLIO Notes, and multiple search screens have also added tremendous value for database users. "At UNC Charlotte we have seen use of ABC-CLIO databases double since fulltext linking was implemented, compared to the same months the previous year before linking was in place," affirmed the "miss-a-trick Chuck Hamaker (Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technical Services at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte) <calamake@email.uncc.edu>.

Another copyright lawsuit. Remember, we told you about the Custom Copies lawsuit in the Dec/Jan issue (p.14/16, p.16). Four major publishers of scholarly and medical publications have filed suit against Los Angeles-based Westwood Copies and co-owners Sam and Elias Negash for copyright infringement. The suit, filed by Elsevier Science, Inc., The MIT Press, Sage Publications, Inc., and Wiley Periodicals, Inc., charges the defendants routinely photocopied materials from the plaintiffs' publications without their authorization. The publishers' complaint, filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, alleges Westwood Copies produces unauthorized coursepacks for courses taught at the University of California at Los Angeles. "Coursepack producers cannot lawfully photocopy others' intellectual property and then sell those copies without first obtaining rights and paying royalties to do so," said Mark Seeley, vice president and general counsel of Elsevier Science. "This is a clear example of copyright infringement. This type of activity infringes the authors' rights and puts law-abiding copy services at a competitive disadvantage in their markets." The case is the latest being coordinated by Copyright Clearance Center, the world's largest licensor of text reproduction rights and a licensing agent for all four publishers.

Tracey Armstrong, Copyright Clearance Center vice president, transactional services, said that technology has made it effortless to obtain rightholders' permissions and abide by the law without incurring lengthy delays. Copyright compliance is an area of heightened focus by the publishing industry, ranging from more traditional technology such as photocopying to the use of the Internet, email and electronic document formats. Across the industry, efforts to educate content users on how these technologies are affected by copyright law are increasingly visible, as are rightholders' efforts to enforce their copyrights regarding their use. "The proliferation of digital media, which present new ways to access and distribute protected content, shows why copyright compliance is a critical initiative for the publishing industry. But while we pursue digital infringement, we can't let our guard down on more traditional infringement. We have stepped up our enforcement efforts on behalf of ourselves as rightholders and on behalf of compliant content users," said Roy S. Kaufman, Wiley's associate general counsel. Coordinating the suit against Westwood Copies demonstrates Copyright Clearance Center's role in support of publishers and other rightholders; other recent...continued on page 16

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
enforcement activities coordinated by CCC include a lawsuit against Custom Copies, Inc., in Gainesville, Fla., which produces coursepacks for students at the University of Florida in Gainesville, as well as a similar suit filed against the document delivery firm Greg Kessler, in Sacramento, Calif.

The fantastic Kim Dority (G. K. Dority & Associates) sends word that her last day at Jones e-global library was Friday, Jan. 17th. Glenn Jones has decided that e-global will not generate sufficient profit within his desired timeframe, and thus he has decided to scale it back as a licensable, publicly-marketed product. At a minimum, it will be continued as the library for Jones International University, under the very capable direction of Jean Heilig, with the assistance of Deb Pruitt. Existing contracts will be honored, and the company will be exploring several possible future directions. Kim says that she will be taking some time off to do some "serious goofing off" ("sounds like a great plan to me!" and then will be ramping up to do independent project work as G. K. Dority & Associates as well as exploring a couple of other professional options.

The H.W. Wilson Company has announced the debut of Index to Legal Periodicals & Books Full Text, a new WilsonWeb database based on the classic reference Index to Legal Periodicals & Books. Index to Legal Periodicals & Books Full Text delivers articles cover-to-cover from some 180 select sources — in fulltext and PDF page images — in addition to detailed indexing of some 840 periodicals and some 1,400 monographs per year. The database features more than 15,000 fulltext records to start (articles as far back as 1994), with new entries being added in daily updates. Index to Legal Periodicals & Books Full Text also offers options for access to articles that aren’t reflected in fulltext. A library holdings’ indicator, linking to the library’s OPAC, lets users know if they’ll find cited articles on the library’s shelves. WilsonLink SFX-powered technology (the only SFX database-linking software that doesn’t require the library purchase an SFX server) allows users to click from citations on WilsonWeb databases to the fulltext of articles on any open-URL compliant database in the library’s collection, at no added cost. www.hwwilson.com.

As promised by the capable Peter Shepherd at the 2002 Charleston Conference, the first release of the COUNTER Code of Practice is now available and can be downloaded from the Website at http://www.projectcounter.org. The Code of Practice specifies in detail the requirements that vendors must meet to have their online usage reports designated COUNTER-compliant. As we all know, the use of online information resources is expanding exponentially and it is widely agreed by both producers and buyers of information that the use of these resources should be measured in a more consistent way. Librarians want to understand better how the information they buy from a variety of sources is being used, and publishers want to know how the information products they disseminate are being used. The COUNTER Code of Practice meets these needs by setting international guidelines governing the recording and exchange of online usage data. Richard G. Evans, former editorial director of Ex Libris, is Chair of COUNTER. There will be only one valid version of the Code of Practice at any given time, but different levels of compliance will be possible. Release 1 focuses on journals and databases, as these products are not only the most significant budget items for libraries, but they have also been available online for some time and have a core of well-accepted definitions and content structures. There are plans to extend the Code of Practice to cover other categories of publications, such as ebooks. Tony Kidd, Head of Serials at the University of Glasgow, said, “This is a very significant advance in helping us to better understand online usage and compare the effectiveness of different products. We would encourage all publishers worldwide to adopt the Code of Practice and become COUNTER-compliant within the coming year.” COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources) is a multi-agency project whose objective is to develop a single, internationally accepted, extendible Code of Practice that will allow the usage of online information products and services to be measured more consistently. COUNTER is actively supported by the international community of librarians and publishers, and by their professional organizations, including: AAP (Association of American Publishers), ALPSP (The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers), ARL (Association of Research Libraries), ASA (Association of Subscription Agents and Intermediaries), BIC/EDITEUR, JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), NCLIS (National Commission on Libraries and Information Science), NISO (National Information Standards Organization), PA (The Publishers Association), STM (International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers), UKSG (United Kingdom Serials Group). For more information, contact: Peter Shepherd (Project Director—COUNTER) <psherpherd@projectcounter.org>.

And speaking of usage statistics and Project COUNTER, Oxford University Press (OUP) has announced the availability of same across their Online Journals collection. Available both to consortia and individual organizations using one or more titles from the Oxford Journals Online Collection, the reports can be accessed online in HTML format or downloaded as .csv files providing easier manipulation by library administrators. The usage reports include data on downloads over time, title and page type. Administrators can choose to look at accumulated accesses over time, or view detailed information on articles and abstracts viewed during a particular month. “The new statistics package offers a tremendous benefit for consortia subscribing to the Oxford Journals Online Collection,” says Kathy Perry, director of the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) consortium. “It enables us to monitor usage on total articles downloaded across our entire consortium at both the full consortial level and at the individual institutional level. These statistics will assist us in a number of ways, including monitoring implementation at the local level and letting our State legislators and funding agencies know how valuable these journals are to our students and scholars.” Further information, along with a demonstration of the usage statistics package is available at http://www.oupjournals.org/statistics.

The fabulous Allison Mays <maysap@millisaps.edu> sends word of a Serials/Interlibrary Loan Librarian position at Delta State University. For further information, contact Allison or http://library deltastate.edu.

Watch for our interview with the fantastic David Dekker coming soon, in the April issue of ATG. Have you renewed your subscription?


Pretty cool. As a part of WorldCat, 1.4 million holdings from the catalog will be available to library users around the world. And 93 libraries in Singapore are now a part of the OCLC global cooperative. http://www.oclc.org/oclcpress/20030106.shtml.

Let’s see. More from ALA. Met the incredibly charming, Victor Navasky, publisher and editorial director of The Nation magazine. We were talking about how our families came over to the U.S. as immigrants (mine from Greece, his from Lithuania/Russia) and how peoples’ attitudes towards immigrants were definitely different then from what they are now. (People now are much more accepting than they were back in the olden times of the 1940s and 50s.) Anyway, Dr. Navasky is working on a history of The Nation. In the meantime, the paperback edition of his National Book Award winner, Naming Names, about the House Committee on Un-American Activities, is out. The incisive Betty Oktay (Vassar) <oktay@vassar.edu> has promised an interview with this wonderful man.

In the mail the other day, I got a small autographed booklet entitled Seaward Edge: Short Stories and Poems of New England from the marvelous John Long <john-long@worldnet.att.net>, the consultant who has done so many of our facsimile title and author files. Lisa German introduces this issue (p.1) by talking about all the creativity in our world, continued on page 18.
A Year in Review

by Daniel P. Halloran (President, Blackwell Book Services, Inc., 6024 SW Jean Rd., Bldg. G, Lake Oswego, OR 97035; Phone: 503-684-1140 x.1201) <Dan.Halloran@Blackwell.com>

Was this the year for the economy, e-content, vanishing eBooks, or of shelf-ready processing finally gaining the acceptance it deserves? It was probably all the above. The biggest story was the faltering U.S. economy and its effect on the stock market, state budgets, returns on endowments, and ultimately, funds available for purchasing books. But there were other stories as well:

E-content, other than eBooks, took a big bite out of library budgets and librarians’ time as they grappled with how to manage it. Copyright concerns and licensing models continue to give librarians sleepless nights.

EBooks had difficulty finding a sustainable business model and a format acceptable to the average reader. The eBook market is still looking for its product.

Increasingly, librarians are discovering that shelf-ready processing of books is an easy way to control costs and get books into the hands of readers quickly. Librarians are gaining the notice of university administrators as they demonstrate ways to improve service and save money.

In the end, it was a year like many in the recent past: lots of change, strained resources, and the prospect for more of the same.

The U.S. economy stumbled causing serious losses in the stock markets. The fall was not limited to dotcoms but affected the total market. During the historically long U.S. bull market, taxes on capital gains had become a significant source of tax revenue. Now, with fewer capital gains, tax receipts fell, undermining many state budgets and the budgets of universities and libraries as well. The lack of capital gains also affected those universities and libraries dependent on returns from their endowments. The tragedy of 9/11 only made the situation worse.

A longer term trend of purchasing more electronic resources also affected the year. Two recent studies, one the findings of a Library Journal 2001 study and the other by the Primary Research Group (PRG), confirm the trend. An article in the September 3, 2002 Library Journal Academic News Wire states “… the study shows academic libraries are buying fewer books” and concluded there is “a major shift in library resources toward electronic resources and away from traditional print resources.”

This may be the reason that librarians surveyed for this article seemed concerned with issues around electronic resources while booksellers were concerned with budget cuts. Librarians talked about the need for tools that would help them systematically track negotiations, terms, adherence to contract terms, and access. The issues of functionality, linking, interlinking, and cross-searching are also of concern.

One bright spot, highlighted by Ann Okerson, of the Yale University Libraries, “... is the increasing numbers of publishers giving materials for free or very cheaply to all the residents of poor nations.” For more information checkout the “Developing Nations Initiatives” link at www.library.yale.edu/~license/.

Electronic books stumbled last year as the early leaders found their business models and offerings searching for profitability. netLibrary ran out of cash before they could reach profitability. Early dotcom-type spending in an attempt to establish its brand, publisher reluctance to give them from list material and multi-user access kept libraries from purchasing. In markets outside the U.S., libraries complained that there was not enough local content and the existing content didn’t match local curriculum needs closely enough. OCLC stepped in to protect the investments libraries had already made and to try to insure this deserving technology would survive. Latest reports are that netLibrary is getting much better publisher cooperation, publishers are being paid promptly and a general positive feeling among many publishers about working with netLibrary.

Other companies tried as well, with Questia bursting into and out of the market. ebrary finally made an appearance and offered a business model interestingly different from netLibrary. ebrary supported a variety of payment options such as subscription, pay-per-view, pay-per article, copy/print, etc.

And publishers started making their titles available. Taylor & Francis, Kluwer, and Oxford University Press are all making titles available in a PDF format often through a variety of channels.

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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
Making Good Libraries Better

by Richard Abel (Consultant; Phone: 503-292-0830; Fax: 503-292-0873)

Librarians of the last generation inherited good libraries, thanks to the generous postwar decades' budgets and the emergence of the re-printers who made good most of the holes in collections attributable to the Great Depression and WW II.

Further, libraries in mid-century enjoyed the financial muscle to move beyond the traditional role of supplying knowledge in books. Librarians were able to move behind the synthesized bodies of knowledge concepts and ethical precepts articulated in books. They could go back to providing some small portion of the raw information — the unprocessed data used by scholars to synthesize knowledge concepts and ethical precepts — that is contained in journals. Seldom have libraries stood so high historically as cultural institutions and icons as in the 25-year period from about 1950 to 1975.

But much changed beginning in the late 1960s and early 1970s. We need not dwell on most of the unhappy consequences of that aberrant period. Rather our focus must rest on the multifarious changes in academe which became visible by the mid-1970s.

For our purposes the most significant outcome of these manifold forces is the progressive decay of book collections and the consequent erosion of library utility to knowledge-seekers manifest in the form of increasing reliance upon the interlibrary loan system. These changes and their historic progression have been analyzed endlessly in all manner of forums for years. So, only a rapid recout of that history need be made here.

1. The 1970s saw the transition of academic governance from deserving academics close to the end of their service who prized libraries to professional management types.

2. The latter are necessarily highly responsive to both marginal income opportunities and marginal cost factors.

3. By the mid-1950s, geometrical increases in support of academic scientific/technological research by government and business were well established.

4. Research faculty and academic management heartily responded to these marginal income opportunities.

5. As a consequence, academic managers came to see research facilities and professional staff as positive financial resources. By comparison, the long-nurtured professional objectives of librarians and their substantial facility came to be viewed as "financial black-holes," to use a favored metaphor.

6. Associated with these macro-changes in marginal and prestige assessments, professional academic prestige migrated from the synthesis and transfer of knowledge concepts and ethical precepts — education and knowledge — to the production.

7. Consequent on these changes in marginal professional financial and prestige quotients, geometrical increases in research results began to pour out of the academy and into the journal literature.

8. Related to these marginal professional increases in the value of producing research results, the system of academic advancement and perks became increasingly dependent upon contributing to this flow of information and data.

9. The obvious consequence of these monstrous year-to-year increases in information generation led to not only the ballooning of existing journals but to the ultimately out-of-control proliferation of new journals. (Incidentally, the open secret that the vast preponderance of this journal literature was of no or, at best, marginal concern — estimates ranging as high as 75% has not slowed the avalanche of journal pages.)

10. This hothouse growth of journal literature led, in turn, to vast and progressive increases in library subscription costs.

11. These massive increases in journal costs occurred in tandem with progressive reductions in library budgets as academic managers diverted resources to marginally higher, immediate returns.

12. While all this was going on, another even more visible revolution was shakily advancing — the computer revolution.

13. Certainly one of the earliest glory points of the computer revolution was realized in libraries with the conversion of the enormous databases of library catalogs and circulation systems to electronic forms together with the parallel conversion of the books-in-print.

14. The early and marked success of these large databases at marginally small conversion and continuing operation costs led to a euphoric confidence that computers could be successfully employed in dealing with what gave the appearance of another large database, namely, the contents of the world's libraries.

15. This enthusiasm and confidence was shared not only by the electronic pied pipers in computing centers and many librarians but, most importantly, by a large fraction of academic managers.

16. Voila! Here was the silver bullet which would solve the intractable "Library Problem." Libraries could return to the idyllic precincts of
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doomed statements of former president Ronald Reagan (who clearly harbored dispensational premillennial beliefs himself) to illustrate the political influence of such ideas.

New also gives a brief history of nuclear weapons, current nuclear politics (especially those of Israel), and the attempts by militants and terrorists to attain nuclear weaponry to further their apocalyptic designs. New paints a grim picture of a militant-driven End of Days in a world awash with atomic arms (mostly from the crumbling, lightly-guarded labs of the former Soviet states) and the readily available knowledge to construct them.

Although New's style is easily readable, and while his work on Christian fundamentalist apocalyptic beliefs appears well-researched and convincing, his use of Ronald Reagan, Jerry Falwell, and Pat Robertson for examples makes his work seem out-of-date. As I read through his early chapters, I kept looking back at the publication date to make sure of the time period to which he referring. New states that "Robertson is a political" and that "he [Robertson] is on the verge of seizing the Republican party." Such statements gave me flashbacks to the 1980s when the Moral Majority was on the rise and good old Pat was running for President.

To be sure, New later considers the political power that Robertson has wielded since his failed presidential bid in 1988. It does indeed sound impressive and scary. Yet, Ronald Reagan, though exalting the influence of such dispensational premillennial beliefs in high political office, has not been a personal force in politics in over a decade. Furthermore, Jerry Falwell, notably incarcerated for soliciting a prostitute, also has only a shell of his former obvious political influence.

New is subject to a bit of hyperbole and gullibility when he notes in the preface that “Russian intelligence has confirmed that Osama bin Laden has nuclear weapons” obtained through a heroin deal with the Chechnyan Mafia. Later, in a small paragraph near the end of the book, we get the details. It seems that a former head of Russian intelligence claims that 84 nuclear “suitcase bombs” have gone missing. The head of a United States House of Representatives task force on terrorism is "virtually certain" that he "knows" that Bin Laden has possession of said bombs. Although we should be concerned about 84 missing nuclear weapons, New offers no evidence other than a bureaucrat’s opinion that they have fallen into terrorist hands. Such confusion of spurious, uncorroborated allegations for well-researched fact undermines New’s "suitcase bomb" scenario.

Overall I liked Holy War for what it did contain. This book clearly lays out the apocalyptic beliefs of Christian fundamentalists (the fastest growing Christian sect) and how these beliefs have become mainstream ideas within the last three decades. It also does a pretty good job of showing how these beliefs tend to enflame the more aggressive brands of Christian fundamentalism, which in turn enflames both Jewish and Islamic revolutionaries. Indeed, to enflame everyone in a holy war is the aim of all of these militant groups.

But don’t be fooled by the title. Holy War, in fact, is only about the rise of menacing, ill-fated beliefs of Christian fundamentalism and the violent fanaticism that results. Jewish and Islamic militant fundamentalism get practically no space here.


Reviewed by Debbie Vaughn (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

In the follow-up edition to his 1991 Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression, Mordechai Nisan “carries the minority narrative into the new century, with new information and analysis.” When Nisan’s monograph debuted, only a handful of titles—six, to be exact (only three of which were written in English)—explored the history of minority groups in the Middle East. Since its publication, another handful of titles have been added to the list; yet Minorities in the Middle East remains one of the only volumes to consider a variety of groups, their relationships with each other, and their collective role in the region and beyond.

Nisan, a professor of Middle East Studies at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has written almost two-dozen books on Arab-Israeli relations and political and social issues. Since the late-1970s, hundreds of libraries have added Nisan’s works to their collections. His writings offer a pro-Zionist sentiment, while also offering a quest for balance and understanding in the wake of ongoing conflict. Throughout his body of work, Nisan makes no apologies for his Jewish background; likewise, it seems genuinely important to him to fairly study and communicate information regarding varying Middle Eastern cultures, peoples, and issues.

Divided into four parts, Nisan categorizes minorities according to their major religion—Muslim, Haredi-Orthodox Jewish, Christian, and Jew. Nisan then examines the minority groups within each religious category. For instance, Nisan looks at the long-standing struggle of the Kurdish population under Muslim rule, their quest for sovereignty (Kurds are the world’s largest ethnic group without a country to call their own), and sundry social, religious, and economic issues facing them in the 21st century. Other minorities—Berbers, Baluch, Druzes, ‘Alawites, Armenians, Sufi Christians, and secular Zionists, to name a few—receive similar attention. The pages are dotted with first-hand oral histories documenting the real-life experiences of minorities in often-hostile regimes and social orders.

Of particular interest is the second edition’s consideration of the impact of 9/11 on these minority groups. As Nisan states in the preface, the post-9/11 political and social watershed has affected more than just the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Changes in American foreign policy have trickled down from Kabul and Baghdad to the myriad minority cultures dwelling in these societies.

If your library’s collection does not include the first edition—or even if it does—Nissan’s second edition will prove an invaluable and timely resource for both public and academic institutions.

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I hear (courtesy of Dennis Brunning <brunning@asu.edu>) that Johnny Mustang lead guitar, MEGADEATH, uses XREFER to answer questions as a participant on MTV's Rock Jeopardy. He communicates with XREFER via email. Dennis promises to get more “details.” Hold your breath!

Got a really wonderful Christmas note (complete with illustrations) from long-time librarian friend, Clara-Mae Chittum, her husband Ruud, and pet parrot, Paco. You'll remember that way back when Clara-Mae was at MIT in acquisitions. Well, Clara-Mae is now working part-time at the Supply Chain Management Knowledge Center at Cranfield School of Management, United Kingdom, living in Bedfordshire. Ruud continues to work for Ice Cream and Frozen Foods at Unilever (there could be lots worse jobs, I say!). She has sold her house in Malden, Mass. Meanwhile, Paco is starting to talk a lot in three different languages, mind you! Here are her snail mail and email addresses — 20 Great Portway, Biddenham, Bedfordshire, MK40 4GB, United Kingdom. Phone: +44 1234 211430. <ruudandem@hotmail.com>.

And, okay, Sandy Paul and John Money have not quite yet gotten married. But give them time...

Gotta go. The printer tells me that I'm out of room. See you in April! Yr. Ed.