July 2016

If Rumors Were Horses

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Recommended Citation

DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6262

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I have to confess that I am filling in here as guest editor. Timothy Cherubini from LYRASIS was slated as our guest editor for this issue but family matters interfered with his schedule. I guess that’s not too bad given that in 24 years I have never had to fill in for any guest editor! My condolences to Tim and hoping for his father’s speedy recovery. So — y’all have to settle for me instead!

In this issue we look at several recent initiatives — the Chicago Collaborative, Discoverability, Offsite Book Depositories and Institutional Repositories. Gail Yokote, J. Mitchell Homan and Jean Shipman give us a glimpse of the beginnings of the Chicago Collaborative and how the AAHSL, SSP, CBE, and others began in 2008 to form a task force and have meetings regarding commonalities of their professional associations and not their employers. In the second paper, Mary Somerville, in a white paper commissioned by SAGE and given at the recent 14th Fiesole Collection Development Retreat, discusses a study of discoverability, collaborative essentials and future collaborations. The full program of the 14th Fiesole Retreat is online at http://www.casalini.it/retrieve/retrieve_2012.html.

The third paper in this issue is by John D. Riley and is about the necessity for offsite storage given the explosion of information, digitization, and less demand for the printed book in light of the electronic counterpart. Finally we have a paper from Bob Schatz regarding institutional repositories. Bob, who spent most of his prior life in bookelling, talks about why institutional repositories are necessary, how to determine what to put in them, and how to evaluate the various software and platform options available.

It is interesting that in this series of papers we have traditional stakeholders in the library, vending, and publishing environment trying to understand and adapt to the changes all around us. 

**If Rumors Were Horses**

Donna Jacobs’ column in this issue (Booklover, Closer to Home) resonated with me. I have started filling my home bookshelves with books that the library wants to discard or gifts that the library doesn’t want! Should we be discarding print for electronic? I think I will have to write an Op Ed about this unless you do!! In the meantime, see p.65.

In the third paper in this issue, John D. Riley’s comments in this issue, p.22 remind me of that science fiction story. And, more coincidences, one of our professors at the College of Charleston has a discussion of this short story on his blog. See http://kasmana.people.cofc.edu/MATHFICT/mfview.php?callnumber=m242. In our haste to follow the trends, are we throwing the baby out with the bathwater?

Speaking of which, the Charleston Conference registration is slated to open Monday, June 4. We already have some early registrants and we already have people who have turned in proposals for papers, continued on page 6

**What To Look For In This Issue:**

- Has the Internet Made Libraries Obsolete After All? Part 2 .................. 58
- To Download or Not to Download, That Is the Question............... 66
- The Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker ...................... 73
- Library Logistics: Archiving and Servicing Shared Print Monographs... 80
- Free Cloud Storage ...................... 84

**Interviews**

- Tim Coates.................................... 30
- Mary Ann Liebert............................ 36
- Fred Gillette .................................. 40
- Sven Fund and Michiel Swormink... 42

**Profiles Encouraged**

- Jean P. Shipman.............................. 16
- Sheri E. Dean ................................. 82
- Plus more..................................... See inside

Pictured here are MichaelWalmsley’s children. On the left is Aidan (2 years old), and Gabrielle (5 years old).
I love Spring. It’s such a wonderful time with flowers and birds and summer in the air, trips to the beach, tomato sandwiches, walks in the park. This Spring was different for me, though, because from now on Spring will walk in the park. This Spring was different because I had to remind me of my 92-year-old dad, who passed away on May 17. It’s a good thing that I had to remind me of my 92-year-old dad, who passed away on May 17. It’s a good thing that I had to remind me of my 92-year-old dad, who passed away on May 17. It’s a good thing that I had to remind me of my 92-year-old dad, who passed away on May 17. It’s a good thing that I had to remind me of my 92-year-old dad, who passed away on May 17. It’s a good thing that I had to remind me of my 92-year-old dad, who passed away on May 17.
In Memory of Mike Arnold
by Bob Schatz (BioMed Central)

A s I write this, I am just days away from receiving the news that Mike Arnold died. I knew Mike had been battling cancer, but the last time we talked, which was not nearly as recent as I would have liked, Mike thought he and his doctors had the upper hand on his disease. Obviously, this did not prove to be the case.

Mike and I worked together for twenty years. He started at Scholarly Book Center at about the same time I started at its sister company, Academic Book Center. When the offices merged, Mike ended up working for me as part of the national sales team. When I say “working for me” I use the term loosely. Mike was part of a sales team that knew its job well and needed very little input from me to do its work effectively. In a group of strong and capable reps, Mike was the most senior in terms of tenure and the leadership role he played. Among booksellers in general, Mike was the dean of the corps, reminding the rest of us how to effectively do our jobs, especially when it came to taking care of customers. There was, and remains, no one better in the business when it came to that aspect of the job. Through Mike’s steady management of any territory assigned to him, his stature and that of the companies he represented always rose. He was the quintessential professional, respected by customers and peers alike.

Mike and I traveled together a great deal. There were several years when we must have taken at least a dozen trips together through Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan chasing approval plan business. The long drives lent themselves to our sharing the kind of information that comes out when Road Warriors travel together: family details, school experiences, how we got into the business, etc. During one of these drives Mike shared with me that he got into sales initially to overcome his shyness. That first job was going through high-rise office towers trying to sell office equipment. There is no tougher type of selling even for the most outgoing person. The fact that Mike took on that to overcome shyness says much about the inner man. He never shied away from a challenge, including the courage he showed when facing his cancer.

All of us will remember Mike for his gentle demeanor, great sense of humor, and true friendship. He was as fine a man as I’ve ever known, the kind of man you hope to have in your life for many years, not one who is struck down before his time due to illness. Whether personally or professionally, all of us who knew Mike are better for the experience.

Remembering Mike Arnold
by Barry Fast <barryfast@gmail.com>

I was in the locker room at my gym, about to change into street clothes, when I got the mail and saw in the subject line “Mike Arnold.” I know what it means, before I tap the screen, when I see an old friend’s name there. I’ve seen it twice in the past year. It’s the modern equivalent of those iconic movie scenes from last century, the telegram from the War Dept. that, with shaking hands, she refuses to open, or two full-dress soldiers ringing the doorbell and the woman inside sees them through the window and collapses into her husband’s arms. I knew Mike had died before I clicked the screen, before I even knew he was sick.

Mike was a tough guy, but you’d never know it by his manner or his behavior. His strength, his ambition and resiliency, were hidden beneath a quiet reserve. Mike was all about under-stating and over-delivering. In our organization when he offered an opinion or analysis, everyone paid attention. He represented us to our customers, but just as significantly, he represented them to us. We all listened when Mike spoke and I think his customers understood that. He was both our sales rep and their advocate. If, as I believed, the bookseller and librarian were joined at the hip professionally, dependent on each other and benefited by each other’s competence, then Mike Arnold was emblematic of that concept.

Outside of work, during a long drive across the Midwest flatlands or at the Choteau bar that evening, Mike and I would talk. Sometimes we got into the deeper stuff, but most of the time it was just relaxing conversation about the day we’d shared in libraries. When we talked about home and family, his love for his wife Eileen was expressed not in what he said, but what he didn’t say. The bonding technique we men tend to use is a superficial device that allows us to display our manhood while we assess the other’s fitness to join our club — or hunting party. It usually begins with a serious analysis of a sports team or attempts at humorous banter about the latest problem our wives are causing us. Mike occasionally indulged in the former because it’s inconceivable that a man who resides within a hundred miles of Chicago wouldn’t have an opinion on the Cubbies or the Sox. But Eileen was never the object of humorous ridicule. I think he loved and revered her too much to use her as a prop. Saying something demeaning about his wife, even in jest, was beneath him.

He was a dignified man, a word we hardly use anymore because there are so few of them around. I don’t mean he was pretentious or decorous — those adjectives describe the opposite of Mike. Because dignity is such a rarity we conjure up all sorts of inadequate synonyms. None work. If you didn’t know him well you’ll just have to take my word on this. He had dignity, and he made all of us feel good when he was in the room. And now, sadly, he’s gone.
other scholarly communication opportunities that might exist in 2025.

The CC has matured and evolved over time and will continue to do so as it addresses the future of scholarly communications. It has already achieved with great success its prime goal of encouraging and enabling open, honest, informed, and trusted conversations between publishers, librarians, and editors. Its collective actions will continue to assist its shared constituent, the author, with shaping and understanding the myriad of opportunities that exist for disseminating scholarly and research results now and in the future.

For additional information about the CC, contact either the co-conveners Irving Rockwood <IRockwood@ala-choice.org> or Jean Shipman <jean.shipman@utah.edu>, or the CC operations manager Margaret Reich <margaretreich@gmail.com>.

*Gail Yokote and Michael Homan were the original AAHSL co-conveners for the Chicago Collaborative.

Rumors

Charleston Conference Website and on the Charleston Conference YouTube channel.

www.against-the-grain.com/

www.katina.info/conference

www.youtube.com

Continuing … Exciting that the joint interview/video with CNI’s Clifford Lynch and Lee Dirks of Microsoft Research has been added to the Clifford Lynch playlist on YouTube, available from CNI’s channel at http://www.youtube.com/cnivideo, or access it directly: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-EDlGUTPJY&feature=sha re&list=PL9DBB9DF1F73BC3E. Topics covered include the librarian’s role in data management, emerging tools in scholarly communication, backing up digital collections in the Cloud, and much more.


Many people helped with the Penthouse Interviews. One of them was the amazing Albert Joy from the University of Vermont. Albert tells me that his brother is playing saxophone during Piccolo Spoleto this year. Wonder if he trained with Bill Clinton? Anyway, Albert tells me that he comes from a family of musicians. Albert himself plays the flute and participates in a Morris dance group. I didn’t know that Morris dance is a form of English folk dancing. These librarians are hard to keep up with!

Really cool that another person who helped with the Penthouse interviews was one or our main hosts from the Gold overflow room during the Conference, Jack Montgomery! Talk about musical and talented! Besides having an announcer’s voice (I understand that Jack was a radio announcer in his younger years), Jack has numerous (how many, Jack?) DVDs continued on page 22
Forward into the Past: Offsite Book Depositories, The Future of Libraries?

by John D. Riley (Eastern Regional Sales Manager, BUSCA, Inc.)

In fact, my interest in the subject of archival storage came about from a talk I attended given by Matthew Sheehy, Head of Access Services of the Harvard University Libraries, where he gave a detailed history and tour of the facility using slides and pictures. The size and scope of this project so amazed me that I later asked Matthew for a personal tour. He turned me over to the capable hands of Patrick O’Brien, Systems and Special Projects manager of the Depository. Lee Anne Hooley, Dark Archive Project and Document Delivery Librarian, was a great resource for details about the journal archiving function of the Depository.

I visited the Harvard Depository on a cool March afternoon, and it was a good preparation for entering the temperature and humidity-controlled warehouse that is kept at a constant fifty degrees and thirty-five percent humidity. The Depository is also pressedurized from inside to create an outgoing breeze when doors are opened to keep out unwanted intruders such as flying insects. So a cool gust of air greeted us as we entered the towering stack area. Summer is the harshest time for the Depository with the infamous New England humidity forcing the air conditioners and dehumidifiers to run twenty-four hours a day.

On this day the Depository was handling its usual hundreds of requests from the Harvard Libraries and many from its Borrow Direct partners: Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, New York Public, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Yale. The partners have access to each other’s catalogues, and patrons can “borrow direct” from participating libraries simply by requesting items from their catalogue screens. The books in the Depository are all in the library’s catalogue and can be delivered anywhere on campus within a day. Books ordered by 6:00 p.m. are delivered first thing in the morning. Same-day delivery is also available if ordered early enough in the day. The Depository circulates about 2.5% of its holdings annually, around 215,000 items.

The Depository also acts as a “Dark Archive,” not unlike a “Seed Bank” which stores seeds against the possibility of some future calamity. By storing runs of journals for JSTOR and others, the Depository provides a physical backup to online journals. In spite of the mass digitization of journals, workers at the Depository deliver many articles electronically after scanning the appropriate journal.

The Harvard Depository has found that human rather than robotic retrieval of books works best for them. Employing forklifts fitted with work stations, they can go directly to the box they need and retrieve a single book. Books are grouped by size after bar coding and the continued on page 24

Endnotes
5. Ibid., p. 32-33.
6. Ibid., p. 33.
7. Ibid.
Little Red Herrings
from page 58

five inches deep. Persistent uniform resource locators (purls, http://bit.ly/dr8zdnd) are not as prevalent as I would like. Materials that I bookmarked a year ago are now in that area of cyberworld known as 404-Error-File-Not Found, wherever that is. And while the Web has deepened, we are still a decade away from the resolution of the problem of it as ankle-deep history. I am hopeful about the evolution of the Internet2 (http://bit.ly/aogLlk) but resigned to the realization that its evolution will take place in years, not months, and perhaps not during my lifetime. The establishment of Internet2 or its facsimile would go a long way to make the ‘net a more scholarly “go to” resource.

Finally, even with iPads, Kindle Fires, and the sharing of eBooks via Amazon and other places, I remain hardened on the principle that books are not only ubiquitous but also exceedingly portable. Furthermore, they will endure for the foreseeable future. I have, over the last three years, read on various devices, as mentioned above. On occasions, my eBook reader batteries have failed, both through my own forgetfulness and through no fault of my own. Technology hiccups have caused books not to load and wiped out certain books. When I replaced a reader my materials had to be reloaded, re-synced, or otherwise found again. I have been annoyed by looking for one bestseller only to discover I needed to get it via another provider, the one I did not have with me at the time. Apps have, of course, greatly improved accessibility, but both the apps and the accessibility remain unnecessary hassles. Even the “new” Kindle Fire (http://tcrn.ch/u2mqmL) has its own screen-size problems and battery issues. All of these problems are obviously solvable. For now, however, they remain annoyingly troublesome.

Part 3 will close with some conclusions about libraries, the Internet, and the growing obsolescence of the one with the maturation of the other. ☞

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Rumors
from page 22

Keep forgetting to mention this! My bad! The on-top-of-it Jonathan Harwell has left Georgia Southern University as Coordinator of Content Management as of April 3 and began at Rollins College as Head of Collections & Systems on May 1! Congratulations, Jonathan. Have y’all noticed that Jonathan is writing a lot of the Friday Hot Topics in the online ATG NewsChannel! www.against-the-grain.com/

Greater minds than mine are weighing in on the recent Georgia State University ruling regarding e-reserves and copyright. The ruling is 350 pages long and is largely favorable to GSU. Bryan Carson promises that he will add his perspective to this soon for ATG! What I say ever so quietly (being married to a lawyer) is that judges and lawyers seem to be making sure that there will be job security for the legal profession. This may be appealed as well. http://blogs.library.duke.edu/scholcomm/2012/05/12/the-gsu-decision-not-an-easy-road-for-anyone/http://bit.ly/KCVLij http://www.educause.edu/policy/campus/resources/gastate http://chronicle.com/article/Long-Awaited-Ruling-in/131859/

And this just in from Kevin Smith, J.D. <kevin.l.smith@duke.edu>, Scholarly Communications @ Duke has posted a new item, “Publishers file response to GSU ruling.” On May 31 the three plaintiff publishers in the copyright infringement case against Georgia State filed their proposed injunction, as the Judge required that they do, and a memorandum of law in support of that proposal. So now we have a chance to examine their first legal response (as opposed to press releases) to the ruling. You may view the latest post at http://blogs.library.duke.edu/scholcomm/2012/06/01/publishers-file-response-to-gsu-ruling/

I am going to have to sign off because I am running out of room, but not before I tell y’all that our wonderful friend, Carole R. Bell, head of Acquisitions at Temple University retired April 30th after a 35-year career in academic libraries (Penn, Brown, Northwestern, Univ. of Maryland, and of course Temple). Carole says she is going to miss all of us (are you sure, Carole?) and that she would love to stay in touch! Her email remains the same <crbell@temple.edu>.

Bye for now! And Happy Spring! Yr. Ed. ☞

Against the Grain / June 2012

<http://www.against-the-grain.com> 59