Interview — Peter Brueggeman
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is and will be a librarian tasked with Scripps user outreach and instruction, and I continue to do collection development in marine and earth sciences as well as Scripps archives/special collections. Other library users will also continue to receive many of the same services and resources they have in the past.

ATG: What does your experience with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library closing tell you about the future of specialized, departmental libraries? What about the future of research libraries in general?

PB: In the case of the Scripps Library closure, while challenging for some in the short term, it’s reflective of the need to realign and streamline facilities, collections, and budgets as the academic research library continues to evolve. Looking into the future, as scholarly eBooks are preferentially acquired, as are eJournals, then one would expect a steadily-declining use of physical collections, which of course will continue to impact all libraries. At some point, the cost-effectiveness needs to be examined about shifting physical collections in part or in entirety to compact shelving on campus or to a less expensive off-campus facility with a reading room and with on-campus delivery. Having said that, the academic research library is as essential as it has ever been to the academic enterprise. The relationship between librarians and their users evolve, but the services and the resources provided by academic libraries continue to be paramount in both research and teaching.

ATG Interviews Michele Casalini
CEO and Owner, Casalini Libri

by Tom Gilson (Associate Editor, Against the Grain) <gilson@cofc.edu>
and Katina Strauch (Editor, Against the Grain) <kstrauch@comcast.net>

ATG: You first launched the first version of your full-text platform in 2003 at the Frankfurt book fair with 20 publishers. Then you launched a newer version of the platform in 2007. And now you have released a brand new platform called Torrossa. Do we have the timeline correct?

MC: Yes, we launched our first collection, the award-winning Editoria Italiana Online, in 2003 with a relatively small selection of eBooks and e-journals by prominent scholarly publishers from Italy. Since my father founded the company in 1958 our mission has been to assist academic libraries in building their global collections, providing them with relevant bibliographical information, books, and journals from the countries we represent.

As a library supplier, we closely followed the changes that, after the debut of HighWire Press in 1995, brought about the migration of STM journals to digital, and we were convinced early on that users would demand the transition to digital even in the Social Sciences and Humanities where the concept of relevance over time overshadows timeliness.

Our conviction and the great support of the library community lead us to the establishment of our Digital Division in 2000 and investments not only in systems but also in resources dedicated to working with publishers.

In 2007 we updated our platform and in 2010 we launched the Edición Española Online collection which, as EIO was and is for Italy, constitutes a snapshot of current research in the Humanities and Social Sciences from a variety of publishers from Spain. Alongside these two comprehensive collections, a number of other publishers selected our platform to offer their own special eBook collections, such as Leo S. Olschki and Zanichelli, or access to their e-journals, in either print-online or online-only package options, such Fabrizio Serra Editore and Franco Angeli.

In the past year, we launched the Torrossa platform (www.torrossa.it), on which the content we host continues to grow and multiply; il Mulino is just one of the publishers that has recently joined Torrossa.

ATG: Tell us about the latest Torrossa platform. How has it evolved from the 2003 version? In what specific ways does it reflect the changes in the marketplace?

MC: When we decided it was time for a new platform, we aggressively sought input from the librarians who use the platform every day and work with researchers in the field and students, as well as consulting with publishers and authors. The feedback we gathered at a recent Charleston Juried Product Development Forum was also instrumental in our planning.

The Torrossa platform has all of the features today’s users have come to expect: a neat and intuitive interface, a quick search textbox, and intuitive navigation. We added a dashboard for librarians and researchers to follow the evolution of the platform and track trends. We also introduced a new feature that allows users to download pages as PDFs. The platform is fully customizable, offering a range of options, including the ability to discover and access content from the publisher’s site, or to access the e-journal platform.

In conclusion, the Torrossa platform is a testament to the evolution of scholarly publishing and the changing needs of researchers and librarians. It offers a seamless experience for users, with features that enhance their ability to discover, access, and manage content. As the marketplace continues to evolve, we remain committed to staying ahead of the curve and providing our customers with the tools they need to succeed.