October 2016

If Rumors Were Horses

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Recommended Citation
Strauch, Katina (2013) "If Rumors Were Horses," Against the Grain: Vol. 25: Iss. 1, Article 3.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6404

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ASA Annual Conference 2012: Best Way to Predict the Future Is to Invent It

by Nawin Gupta (ASA Secretary General and Conference Organizer) <asain@nawingupta.com>

The annual conference of the Association of Subscription Agents and Intermediaries has become the international event that draws a broad spectrum of publishers, agents and intermediaries, librarians, and others who facilitate transfer of knowledge to a growing global audience. The theme of the 2012 conference, held 27-28 February in London, was “Best Way to Predict the Future Is to Invent It.” Featuring 17 speakers, the two-day program was organized around five session themes: Context Not Containers, The Semantic Web, Libraries – What Next, eBooks – Onwards & Upwards, and New Roles for the Modern Intermediary. This issue of Against the Grain is pleased to publish six papers from the conference that were submitted to ATG.

Brian O’Leary — Context First: A Unified Theory of Publishing — talks about publishing being unduly governed by the nature of the container — the physical book. Although demand for digital content has grown substantially, publishers continue to treat digital formats as a derived or secondary use. As a result, context is truncated or excluded, reducing the degree to which content can be discovered and consumed. At the same time, content abundance places pressure on publishers to find new and more effective ways to market content products. O’Leary explains why publishers must start now to revise their content workflows so that they can link to and maintain context while creating and distributing both physical and digital products.

Daniel Mayer — From Discovery to Delivery: Publishing Opportunities on the Semantic Web — addresses how semantics have emerged as a critical technology for the online distribution of content and have entered mainstream adoption by publishers, in particular to power advanced information access features on their portals and to package their content innovatively. He discusses the key current applications for semantics on the Web, including some not present in the original vision, and underscores underlying trends shaping how we shall manage, distribute, and access information in the future.

Chris Banks — Spaces and Clouds: The Library as a Destination and Launch Pad — discusses why in an increasingly digital age the library as a physical entity — one with the right spaces and facilities and services to meet a variety of study and research needs — is as important as it has ever been. She examines the emerging trends at the University of Aberdeen — an institution which has invested strongly in zoology from Aberdeen University ever since he graduated with a degree in zoology from Aberdeen University in 1968 and joined Blackwell Scientific Publications (BSP). In building the BSP publication business, Campbell has been a key assistant of Colleen Campbell will be moving on to new professional challenges. Her last day at Casalini will be February 27th. Word is that Colleen will be joining Ithaka and that she will be based in Berlin. Good luck, Colleen, and please keep in touch!

Colleen has been a key assistant of the Fiesole Collection Development Retreats along with all the charming Casalini familia including Michele and Barbara Casalini. I hope that Colleen will continue to join us at the Retreats! Speaking of the Fiesole Collection Development Retreats, just saw that Tilburg University (TIU) is now running OCLC WorldShare Management Services, making it the first European library to adopt the cloud-based library management solution. Tilburg was ranked among the top 500 universities in the world in 2012. The incredible Mel Collier was the director of libraries during the 2010 Fiesole Retreat. Mel is “retired” except he is always busy, like most retired librarians I know!

http://www.tilburguniversity.edu/
http://www.oclc.org

Was sad to learn of the retirement of longtime executive, Bob Campbell, senior publisher, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Campbell has worked in the publishing industry for the last 44 years, ever since he graduated with a degree in zoology from Aberdeen University in 1968 and joined Blackwell Scientific Publications (BSP). In building the BSP publication business, Campbell continued on page 6
From Your (stressed) Editor:

I pride myself on being as calm as possible but this year has become incredibly stressful! My daughter has gotten engaged and is getting married in September or is it October? That’s the problem, the date keeps changing and with change comes the need for the assistant wedding planner (yours truly) to look into possibilities for venues, caterers, florists, etc. That’s in addition to my regular duties!

Anyway, we have been lucky to have a fabulous issue this time guest edited by Nawin Gupta, who is the most flexible person I know! I love the theme of last year’s Mawin Gupta — the best way to predict who is the most flexible per

Nawin Gupta — the best way to predict

Nawin Gupta — the best way to predict

florists, etc. That’s in addition to my regular duties!

We have an Op Ed by Bob Holley about collection development theory and a Back Talk by Tony Ferguson about Martin Luther King and dreams and the amount of social progress that has been made in librarianship. We have a lot of great profiles of people and companies. I love the profiles and hope y’all do too! We have From the Reference Desk reviews and regular Book Reviews, a special report about NCCO, what a project, Legally Speaking about the need for legislative reform, Lolly’s great Copyright Questions and Answers. Leila Salisbury lets us in on publishers’ confusion about pricing models, Antje Mays talks about PDA and harnessing data, we have reports from the 2012 Charleston Conference thanks to the hard-working Ramune Kubilius and her great crew of reporters, Tom Leonhardt still loves book collecting (bless his heart), Bob Nardini is in Glasgow, Donna Jacobs is reading folk tales, Collecting to the Core is about French dictionaries (especially useful), Sam Demas is talking about kerfuffles (and it’s not something to eat), and there’s much more. But, excuse me, my cell phone is ringing, text messages are proliferating, and I am feeling the “overwhelmingness” of an assistant wedding planner coming on! In the meantime, keep dry (it has been raining constantly in Charleston) and look forward to spring!

Much love to y’all, Yr. Ed. ♥

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, 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:

I saw your note on the ATG NewsChannel Website and have been meaning to link up. I’ve presented the last two years at Charleston and absolutely love the Conference, the city, and everything related.

I am hoping to attend a Fiesole Retreat in the near future.

Best,

David Myers
Principal, DMedia Associates, Inc.
<Dave@dmediaassoc.com> ♥

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published his first two journals. Freshwater Biology and the Journal of Biogeography, in 1971. Campbell became editorial director in 1978 and rose through the ranks to become President of Blackwell Publishing and Senior Publisher after Wiley’s acquisition of Blackwell in 2007. “I have loved my career in publishing and my time at Wiley,” said Campbell. “However, after 44 years it is time to take a step back, spend more time with my wife and family and enjoy my free time pursuing my interests outside publishing including fly fishing, conservation and farming.” Bob has spoken at the Charleston Conference several times and we will miss him but it sounds like he will be having lots of fun anyway!

http://www.wiley.com

scienncenewroom@wiley.com

Did you see the Dave Letterman Show the night of January 30, 2013? I hope so! A husband and wife team from Charleston — Cary Ann Hearst and Michael Trent appeared to much applause! They formed Shovels and Dirt in 2010 and play two old guitars, a kick drum, a snare, tambourines, harmonica, etc., to sing folk, rock and country songs. Someone in the know likens them to Johnny Cash and June Carter. And, if you ever ate at Jestine’s Porch (wonderful Southern food!) in downtown Charleston (Meeting Street), Cary Ann probably waited on you with her Alabama accent! And many thanks to one of our reference librarians extraordinary, Steven Profit for the link.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpNAgE-9dxI


Was gratified to learn that Rick Anderson will win The Harrassowitz Award for Leadership in Library Acquisitions for 2013! The award will be presented on Sunday, June 30 during the ALCTS Awards Ceremony at ALA Annual in Chicago. Congratulations, Rick!

Speaking of Rick, I was intrigued by his recent opinion editorial in Academic Newswire continued on page 31
covery, management of OA fees, identifying operational efficiencies, and by applying PDA/PPV solutions and standards such as Transfer and COUNTER. By outsourcing these services to intermediaries, libraries and publishers can focus on core activities.

3. Harnessing technology — this takes insight, experience, expertise and substantial investment to make processes more efficient and to keep pace with new mobile technologies, including social media.

Review Your Current Practices!
We all need to continuously review the real needs of the supply chain. Tinkering won’t work. Financial stability is needed to invest in research; thought leadership is required to innovate; and drive, insight and expertise are essential to thrive in this chaos. Legacy systems, a lack of budget, and a shortage of time can be difficult factors to overcome — but inertia poses a greater risk.

Our advice is for libraries and publishers alike to consult with a range of intermediaries, to compare and explore new solutions, and to find exciting opportunities for intermediaries to add real value. Together we can challenge conventional thinking and help to stimulate change for the better.

Author’s Biography
Ann Lawson is European Publisher Sales and Marketing Director with EBSCO Information Services, a position which involves liaison with EBSCO’s major publisher partners across Europe. After an academic career in linguistics in UK and German institutions in her twenties, Ann worked for HarperCollins and Oxford University Press in electronic business development. Ann joined EBSCO in September 2006 to explore the world of electronic subscriptions. Ann sits on the UKSG committee, heads the ALPSP seminar programme committee, and is a member of the ASA Executive Committee.

Company Profile
EBSCO is the world’s premier full-service provider of information, offering a portfolio of services that spans the realm of print and electronic subscription access and management, research databases, and more. The company’s e-resource renewal and management tools help librarians accomplish in hours what once took weeks. For more information, please visit www.ebsco.com.

If you would like to request EBSCO’s series of papers “The Future Role of the Academic Information Supply Chain,” visit www.ebsco.com/papers2012.

Speaking of awards, Wolper Information Services of Easton, PA, was named a finalist in the Front-Line Customer Service Team of the Year category in the Seventh annual Stevie Awards for Sales & Customer Service. This is the second year that Wolper has been recognized. And there’s more — LM Information Delivery Group and Wolper Information Services have merged to create a global company in the information management industry. Both LM and Wolper were established in the early to mid-1970s and have significantly expanded their customer bases and breadth of services over the past 5 years. Both organizations are

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same possibilities of rejection for library research that is counter to core values/ prej-udices of librarianship or to the operational wishes of library administrators. The library press, blogs, and discussion lists trumpet research in support of libraries but somehow seek to find ways to show why research on a diminished value for libraries isn’t valid.

I came very close to giving this column the subtitle: “Ross Atkinson, Where Art Thou?” Ross Atkinson, who died suddenly in 2006 at the age of 60, was the collection development theorist of my generation. His last article, “Six Key Challenges for the Future of Collection Development,” was published in Library Literature Online.

Ross was brilliant and relished reading each new article. I wouldn’t, however, have assigned his work to my collection development students because many of them would not have had the background or contextual knowledge to understand his reasoning and conclusions. Similarly, many librarians in the print age were skilled at collection development without having read his theories and not even knowing that he existed. His theoretical ideas filtered down to more practical writers like me and thereby improved the practice of collection development. The idea that I pick up tomorrow in The Wall Street Journal may contain the essential lessons of a highly complex management study though simplified enough to be put into practice by the average manager. On the other hand, the same idea might also come from a hard-working boss who discovered the concept by evaluating what worked and didn’t work on the job. Both approaches have their validity. The best case is when they both reach similar conclusions since this fact increases the probability of accuracy, at least for a little while before the next major change.
Interview — Zac Rolnik
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ZR: Actually NOW means exactly what it says — now. Neither Mike nor I thought that naming the business after ourselves was very modern, and we were eager to get going. We also thought that we might create a family of different products, each with its own possible branding, so we did not want to attach too much to the company name. After a couple of glasses of wine with dinner at Mike’s house, I just said “how about now — now publishers?” We liked it and thought that “now” is always current and easy to remember. That was it — no consultants, brand advisors, etc.

ATG: When you’re not out there building the business, what fun things do you like to do? What activities and hobbies occupy your down time?

ZR: When I am not traveling for work or burning the midnight oil, I am deeply home. I love to spend time with my wife, daughter, and dog — my three girls. In addition, I love to cook, spend time in the garden, exercise, and volunteer for civic things in my community, including our local cultural council and diversity council.

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will no longer be posted via FDLP-L. To continue receiving notifications and announcements regarding the FDLP, sign up for the replacement email service or follow the RSS feed. FDLP-related news and events are posted to the FDLP homepage and subsequently sent out via email and RSS. FDLP-L subscribers will NOT be ported automatically to the new system.

And speaking of the Charleston Conference, we will be putting up information about 2013 shortly, hopefully in late March. The tentative theme is TOO MUCH IS NOT ENOUGH! Ain’t it the truth? It appears, happily, that the Embassy Suites Historic District and the Hampton Inn Historic will be back on our list of hotels with room blocks! Whew!

In the meantime, there are many Penthouse Interviews from the 2012 Conference — Peter Binfield (PeerJ), Eric Hellman (Gluejar), Alison Madditt (University of California Press), Annette Thomas (Macmillan), and Stanley Wilder (UNC-Charlotte). Please visit http://katina.info/conferece/ATG_interviews/ and http://http://www.youtube.com/.

Speaking of interviews, we interviewed Bryn Gefert (Librarian of The College of Amherst) <bgeffert@amherst.edu> but were unable to get the interview in this ATG print issue. The interview will be loaded online at the ATG NewsChannel and will be printed in the April print ATG. Coming soon! Bryn talks about peer review in the new Amherst College Press. And, close to my heart, he was the West Point librarian before joining Amherst. West Point is my son’s alma mater. In fact, one of the things I remember fondly (and scarcely) was being flown over West Point and Poughkeepsie by Betty Oktay (once at Vassar) and her husband, Seyvin! How exciting.

Speaking of Bryn, was talking with Bob Kieft (Occidental) who has talked to Bryn considerably about his new press. Bob is interested in running a playful Charleston Conference panel on the business of scholarly society publishing. I am looking forward to it. The call for papers will be up shortly. www.katina.info/conferece

Pictured here is Dennis Brunning’s newest granddaughter, Mia Catherine, along with her sister Elianna, and mother Christina. Congratulations, Dennis!

Speaking of ATG (above), wanted to tell y’all all about the great peer reviewers in the Dec 2012/Jan 2013 issue of ATG who worked with Jonathan Harwell. Special thanks to Karen Jensen, Collection Development Officer, Rasmussen Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Jim Bunnelle, Acquisitions/Collection Development Librarian, Aubrey R. Watzek Library, Lewis & Clark College.

Continuing to speak of ATG and interviews, this issue has a great interview with Mitchell Davis of Bibliolabs, etc. One of the founders of BookSurge continued on page 58
Questions & Answers
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her permission is needed. One certainly could argue that music recordings aimed at children are intended to be played; not only for individualchildren, but also for groups of children, and that the use for story hour is a fair use. If the library has a blanket music performance licenses from ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC, these licenses would cover performance of children’s music. Assuming that the library does not have music performance licenses, then, as a policy matter, it must decide whether it will continue the practice of playing recorded music for children claiming that it is a fair use or seek permission from the copyright owner.

**QUESTION: How does a school know when instructional materials received from publishers are templates that may be customized or adapted?**

**ANSWER:** The initial question to ask is under what conditions do publishers make these materials available. There are two ways to know for sure whether instructional materials are templates that may be customized or adapted. The first is to consult any license agreement that comes with the materials or is posted on the publishers’ Website, if the materials are downloaded from the Web. The second way is to contact the publisher directly and ask. Generally, absent a license agreement which says that the materials may not be customized or adapted, it is permissible to adapt them. The school should not post adapted materials on the Web, however, unless they are password protected for students in the class for which they are being used.

**QUESTION: Who is responsible for violating the law when a professor makes a DVD copy of a VHS tape and the library then places the DVD on reserve?**

**ANSWER:** The professor is definitely the direct infringer. The library could be viewed as encouraging or furthering the infringement by accepting the infringing copy and putting it on reserve; however, it is a large extent, whether the faculty member or a librarian is responsible for the infringement does not matter because it is the institution itself that will be held liable. The school might then take action against the faculty member, of course. To protect the library, it should develop a policy about whether it will accept copies of DVDs that are not lawfully made, purchased or acquired by gift and then follow the policy it adopts. Many libraries accept for reserve only DVDs that are purchased by either the library or the faculty member or which are donations of purchased (not reproduced) DVDs.

**QUESTION: Since so few libraries have ever been sued for copyright infringement, which libraries are the most vulnerable? Is there a difference between public and academic libraries regarding liability?**

**ANSWER:** Libraries that make concerted efforts to learn about the copyright law as it is amended and interpreted by new court decisions, follow that law, develop policies about how to handle various copyright problems, and educate their staffs about the law and the library’s policies are not likely to be sued even if a library makes a mistake and infringes copyright. That said, there are libraries that are more at risk than others. If one were to create a liability scale, then libraries in for-profit companies are the most vulnerable because they may be unable to take advantage of the exceptions that the copyright law provides for libraries, particularly nonprofit ones. The second type of library that is likely to be most liable is the for-profit educational institution which operates much as do other corporate libraries for copyright purposes. Academic and public libraries are the least likely to be sued, but they are not immune to suit as the [Georgia State University] case (see 863 F. Supp. 2d 1190 (N.D. Ga. 2012)) illustrates.

In fact, academic libraries must be divided into state-supported universities and colleges versus privately supported ones. State-supported universities are protected by Eleventh Amendment immunity which does not mean that they cannot be sued for copyright infringement but that they cannot be sued for damages. Plaintiffs can still sue for injunctions, costs, and attorneys’ fees. Academic institutions that are privately supported do not have Eleventh Amendment immunity, so they are more at risk of suit than are publicly supported ones. Public libraries generally receive their support from local government, and therefore do not qualify for Eleventh Amendment immunity. They are not usually sued, however. A library is much more likely to receive a cease and desist letter from a copyright owner, and it would then have the opportunity to settle rather than litigate.

**QUESTION: If a poet voluntarily registers the copyright on her poems, does she have to register each poem individually? Or does registering a collection of poems extend the registration to each individual poem?**

**ANSWER:** According to the U.S. Copyright Office, published collections of poetry can be registered on a single application with a single fee if all the poems are owned by the same copyright claimant. Unpublished poems can also be registered as a collection on a single application with the payment of a single fee and a deposit of one complete copy or phonorecord of the collection if all the following conditions are met: (1) the elements are assembled in an orderly form; (2) they bear a single title identifying the collection as a whole and (3) “the copyright claimant in all of the elements and in the collection is the same; and all the elements are by the same author or, if they are by different authors, at least one of the authors has contributed copyrightable authorship to each of the elements.” See http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl106.html.

Registration of an unpublished collection of poems extends the benefits of registration to each poem in the collection, although the only listing of the work in the Copyright Office’s catalogs is by the collection title and not by individual poem title.

**QUESTION: What permissions are required for a university to stream video works across a college network and off campus using the Web?**

**ANSWER:** Section 110(2) of the Copyright Act provides an exception for nonprofit educational institutions to transmit performances of copyrighted works as a part of a class without permission of the copyright owner. An institution has to meet several conditions in order to take advantage of this exception. Although other conditions apply here, the most relevant is that the recipients of the performances must be enrolled in the particular course to view the performance. Schools must take measures to prevent reception by others who are not enrolled. Whether the transmission is to the campus only or is beyond, it must be limited to students enrolled in the course. Another important condition is that only reasonable and limited portions of a video may be performed. Obtaining permission from the copyright holder.

If the school wishes to stream entire motion pictures, it must seek permission and should specify whether recipients are enrolled in the specific course, whether the stream is to be available to the entire campus, or whether it is to be shown beyond the campus. Royalty fees probably would vary depending on the answers to these questions.

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which has bought by Amazon and morphed into CreateSpace. Mitchell was recently interviewed as a top tech influencer. http://www.techfaster.com/top-tech-people/interview-with-mitchell-davis-chief-business-officer-of-bibliolabs/ And ATG, being the great publication that it is, interviewed Mitchell in this issue, p.49.

This is funny! I am having lunch today with Mitchell and Myer Kutz who was interviewed (about publisher backlists when he was at Wiley) in v.1#4 of Against the Grain! What a coincidence! Myer is still working but he is also playing golf at Kiawah and he has a new book, In the Grip which I am looking forward to reading! It sounds fascinating! And in the peer review space, interesting discussion of cutbacks in copyediting and other services in open access and indeed all of academic publishing. I remember when Sandy Thatcher (where are you these days, Sandy?) guest edited an issue of ATG about this. The topic has resurfaced on Scholarly Kitchen and liblicense again. We asked a question on the ATG news channel about this and got some interesting responses … http://liblicense.crl.edu/discussion-forum/ http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/scholarlykitchen http://www.against-the-grain.com/duo-u-readingspecials/ http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0056178

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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
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upon. Ms. Clement was an excellent facilitator, and because of the wide range of attendees, it was a lively exchange of ideas on pertinent collection development issues. At the conclusion of the session, she distributed a survey, inviting session attendees to be part of her continuing study of trends (results may be published in Against the Grain).

What’s the Use? Usage, Utility, the Value of Library Resources, and the P- to E-Text Transition — Presented by Bob Kieft (Ocidental College) and Roger Schonfeld (Ithaka S+R)

Reported by: Cat Faircloth (MLIS Student, University of South Carolina) <faircloo@email.sc.edu>

Kieft and Schonfeld tackled the subject of evaluating library resources as the shift from print to digital text continues to increase, in this somewhat unconventional session. Having the attendees move into a circle to facilitate discussion, they began by briefly reviewing some of the methods used to currently collect data, discussing the weaknesses, and then opened up the dialogue to include questions or strategies concerning specific cases from the attendees’ various libraries. There were numerous concerns over metrics used and types of collections evaluated, suggesting that there is much left to study. Their proposed research project, fueled by their belief that improved methods in data collection may prove, or disprove, their hypotheses concerning the demand for printed material when there is a digital copy either fully or partially available, seems to have a promising start, as the goal of this session was to gauge whether there is sufficient interest in this subject to warrant further intensive study.

What’s the Value of the E-Resources Librarian? — Presented by Gayle Baker (University of Tennessee Libraries), Rachel A. Fleming-May (School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee); Jill Grogg (University of Alabama Libraries)

Reported by: Charles Hillen (Loyola Marymount University) <chillen@lmu.edu>

The presenters began by outlining a brief history of e-resources and the extent to which management issues have changed over the past twenty years. Fleming-May provided a brief review of the Lib-Value Project, the inspiration for this session. Grogg highlighted several issues that make it difficult for e-resource librarians to demonstrate their value and contributions to services. Baker and Fleming-May discussed ARL collection expenditures since 2004, showing that the majority of a library’s materials budget is often devoted to e-resources, while staffing and other modes of support for e-resources management are not enhanced. Grogg engaged the audience well and asked several questions, including: Is this trend valid for your institution? Have workflows been shifted in order to manage these changes? How do you demonstrate your value? How often do you interact with vendors? Attendees offered many helpful insights, including ways to enlist the aid of other staff, documenting relegated concerns, relating core activities to the institution’s mission, promoting better training to colleagues, and leveraging vendor assistance. This session was lively and informative and proceeded as advertised.

Why Are Publishers Developing Their Own Ebook Content Delivery Platforms — What Are the Pros and Cons for Libraries? — Presented by Helen Clarke (University of Calgary); Nancy Gibbs (Duke University Libraries); Jessica Grim (Oberlin College); Tony Horava (University of Ottawa); Tim Williams (Edward Elgar Publishing); Michael Zeoli (YBP Library Services)

Reported by: Ramune K. Kubilius (Northwestern University, Galter Health Sciences Library) <rkubilius@northwestern.edu>

Moderator Zeoli inadvertently seated the panelists in “order” — librarians from large and small libraries on the sides, with one publisher in the middle. The discussion was friendly as well as fluid, not only covering issues and questions listed in the handout: publisher platforms, buying, and collecting models, workflow & technical services, and usability from both publisher and library perspectives. Zeoli provided an overview based on top publishers, indicating whether they have their own eBook platform, work with aggregators, and offer single (a la carte) titles. Per Williams, publishers treat authors as customers whose desire is to be widely distributed and cited. Horava’s institution uses a multi-pronged approach that includes front-list purchase and e-approval.

Gibs mentioned the graduated move to e-preferred two years ago and the “E-Book Advocacy Statement” on the library’s home page, also a preference of publisher to aggregator platform. Grim provided the small library’s perspective — advantages of consortia (bigger collections), disadvantages of single-library purchase (inability to share), and advantages to preferred eBook platforms (aggregators) for workflow. Clarke advocated divorcing content from interface. Licensing, rights, and niceties trump publisher bells and whistles. Discussion included the concepts of “platform fatigue,” ecosystems built around publishers’ own platforms, and library vs. publisher “branding” perspectives.

That’s all the reports we have room for in this issue. Watch for more reports from the 2012 Charleston Conference in upcoming issues of Against the Grain. Presentation material (PowerPoint slides, handouts and taped session links from many of the 2012 sessions are available online. Visit the Conference Website at www.katina.info/conference. — KS

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And speaking of past ATG interviews and Charleston Conference speakers, Mary Ann Lileber is a true ham-zowie-person! Does she ever stop? Was interested to see that the launch of a forum for discussions, debates, and announcements and advancements in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) community! Wow! Wish I had thought of that! www.liebertpub.com/

Sometimes I get cantankerous. The conventional wisdom is that academic library circulation is continuing to go down. Duh, I say. Of course it is going down! We are buying and touting eBooks, discarding print books, putting them in compact shelving, or relying on consortia to keep one copy for the group. Plus how many of us are reporting e-resource usage with our circulation statistics? I was recently perusing the big thinker Walt Crawford’s Cites and Insights: Crawford at Large. The latest edition (March 2013, v.13/3. p.3-17, “Libraries: Academic Library Circulation Surprise!” reveals that “for the 3,882 institutions for which [Crawford] could find FY2008 and 2010 stats...1780-46% had more circulation per capita in 2010.” Libraries have had a brand for a long time. It is print books and quiet. In our zeal to be innovative, are we throwing the baby out with the bathwater? http://citesandinsights.info/

Hate to end Rumors this way, but it’s important to remember our old colleagues. It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Danny Jones, husband of Rajia Tobia, Executive Director at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) Libraries. Danny fell and sustained a very severe head injury. He passed away on January 18, his birthday. In her statement, Rajia wrote, Danny was a loving husband and father, the very best. He was fun loving, enjoyed life and the occasional glass of fine wine. When you remember Danny, remember the good times. Danny retired a year ago from his position as Director of the library at Texas Biomed. He previously worked at Harrassowitz, was for many years Head of Collection Development at the UTHSCSA Briscoe Library and was a medical librarian at the University of South Alabama. Danny’s obituary, funeral arrangements and a Guest Book can be found at http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/. Rajia is checking the guest book frequently. I remember Danny’s emails and calls. He was always looking out for us in the publishing/vending/library business. May he rest in peace and much love.

OOPS!! Looks like there was a typo in Dennis Brunning’s column in this last issue — he refers to Bill Hanney as Bill Hadley. Bill is always complaining that I give him a different middle initial every time he speaks. I told him we were just trying to keep him on his toes!

Looking forward to spring! See y’all soon!