The Peripatetic Browser: Browsing on the Bayou

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The Peripatetic Browser — Browsing on the Bayou

by James N. R. Walser, LTC, EN (U.S. Army) <raymondwalser@gmail.com>

One Saturday morning, last October, I decided to travel to New Orleans to visit bookstores. A quick Google search revealed a pleasing series of rose pins indicating numerous browsing locations. Quickly, I made the two-hour drive from Mobile and was in the French Quarter and my first book store by around 10:00. Faulkner House Books, http://www.faulknerhouse.net/, is a small bookstore of new and rare books. Situated in a quaint alley, I found it a pleasant and cozy boutique with a small selection focused on Southern writers. At this time, I was engrossed in a biography of Percy Bysshe Shelley, so my shopping list included many Romantic authors and I did not browse long.

My next stop was Crescent City Books, http://www.crescentcitybooks.com/, a comfortable location with creaking wooden floors, ratty carpets, and high bookshelves. It contained a varied and well-displayed collection at slightly higher prices than other stores in the city. Around the front desk, there were shelves of old leather-bound volumes with almost unreadable spines. I asked the cashier about other bookstores in the area, and he helpfully provided me with a small New Orleans bookstore map. Before leaving, I flipped through a new copy of The Book Lover’s Guide to New Orleans by Susan Larson displayed at the counter. The book is available on Amazon for those interested in a more in-depth history of New Orleans and its writers.

Before entering Beckham’s Bookshop, http://www.beckhamsbookshop.com/antiquarian-and-rare-books.html/, I waited as two teenagers admired the doors of the “bada** old bookshop.” They went in ahead of me and after rapidly riffling some volumes quickly departed in search of an iced latte. Beckham’s was my favorite book store in the French Quarter, a completely eclectic and disorganized mix that provides the patient browser a wide and well-priced selection. While browsing, I listened to a circular conversation between the cashier and a customer searching for a specific CD. The cashier explained he knew very little about music and that the store had no system of cataloging its CDs so he could not tell her if they had the titles she wanted. She would just have to look.

The third floor, which reeked of cat litter, was a complete chaos of vinyl records at very low prices, most around two dollars, and made me want to buy a record player. On the way down, I paused to look at a black and white picture of a man seated pensively at his desk. As I made my purchases, I inquired about the identity of the man in the photo. The cashier had no idea but mentioned that people would often buy these types of photos and place them in their houses to pretend they were old relatives. I made several purchases and was particularly pleased that I found a nice, inexpensive 1st Edition of J.B. Priestley’s Angel Pavement, a book on my to-read list for some time. Beckham’s also has a sister bookshop, Librairie Books, with a much smaller selection.

After returning to my car to drop off my purchases, I strolled up Conti Street to Dauphine Street Books (no Website). The store has a newer selection shelved in cramped quarters which could not fit two browsers back to back. I was surprised to see Shakespeare shelved in the general fiction area and when I asked the owner about his system for filing he stated that all the fiction was filed together and seemed surprised at the question. I did find a paperback copy of William Godwin’s, Caleb Williams, which was on my to-buy list based on my reading of Shelley’s biography.

After stopping for a muffuletta on Bourbon Street, I went over to Arcadian Books (no Website) which was almost impossible to browse. The owner was very friendly, but most of the books were placed with the spines facing down and the tops out or else covered behind rows of these books. It was difficult to look through anything without moving books, and I didn’t have the energy after lunch. I did purchase a mammoth biography of Joseph Conrad by...
Archiving projects. This chapter effectively illustrates the advances being made in the field of personal digital archiving.

In the final chapter – “The Future of Personal Digital Archiving: Defining the Research Agendas” – Clifford Lynch of the Coalition for Networked Information brings the perspective of three decades of “trying to understand the ways in which information technology and ubiquitous computer communications networks are reshaping the scholarly and cultural record of our civilization.” He explores a dizzying assortment of possibilities for the future of personal digital archiving.

**Open Access To Published Research: Current Status and Future Directions: An NFAIS Workshop**

Although many saysayers of open access (OA) exist, it is still important, and new directions are emerging. A workshop held by NFAIS, the National Federation of Advanced Information Services, in Philadelphia on November 22, 2013 entitled “Open Access to Published Research: Current Status and Future Directions” was very timely and appropriate. It drew an audience of 25 onsite and over 40 remote attendees.

**Today’s OA Landscape**

Richard Huffine — Photo courtesy of Donald T. Hawkins.

Richard Huffine, Sr. Director, Federal Government Market, ProQuest, opened the workshop with a review of today’s OA landscape. He began his presentation with a definition of OA from Peter Suber, co-founder of the Open Access Directory: “literature that is digital, online, and free-of-charge and most copyright and licensing restrictions.” This tag cloud shows some of the terms most frequently encountered in OA discussions.

Huffine reviewed the three generally accepted types of OA:

- **Gold**: The cost barrier has been removed by journals with permission of the copyright holder. Gold OA includes journals dedicated to being open, articles in subscription journals, and supplemental data posted to an author-controlled site. Many gold publications are supported by Author Page Charges (APCs).
- **Green**: The content is hosted on an institutional repository or is made available through “self-archiving” by the author or copyright holder. Publishers’ agreements govern what the author may do and what can be deposited in a repository.
- **Clear (Libre)**: Public domain content where the cost and usage restrictions have been removed. The main rights management model is a Creative Commons (CC) license. Because data cannot be copyrighted, but a collection of it can, there will continue to be grey areas around derivative works derived from data, and many policies are not clear.

**Government Responses to Researchers’ Needs**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds basic research in a wide range of disciplines with a mission to protect our ability to educate the next generation of scientists. Researchers funded by NSF publish their results in a wide variety of journals and are encouraged to make their data available through OA. The OSTP memo is aligned with the goals of NSF, but trust is important to sustain agency policies. NSF has a history of data sharing and fosters Gold OA by permitting researchers to include the APCs in their grant applications.

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