



The CHARLESTON REPORT

Business Insights into the Library Market

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Mark Your Calendars: SSP Offers Series of Webinars

SSP Webinar – “Early Career Edition: Everything You Wanted to Know About Open Access But Were Afraid to Ask” — September 15, 2020 | 11:00 am EDT — The idea of “open access” may be easily understandable, but the vast and complex array of initiatives, licenses, and terminology might not be. What is meant by a “read and publish agreement”? What is a “hybrid journal”? Who or what is “Beall’s list”? What is “Plan S”? This webinar will present a primer on open access for early career professionals and anyone else new to the field who may have questions (but were afraid to ask).

SSP Webinar – “The Future of Preprints: Coronavirus as a Case Study” — September 22, 2020 | 11:00 am EDT — In light of the global crisis, researchers are posting preprints in more disciplines than ever before. What are the benefits of sharing early-stage research? What are the risks, and are there ways to mitigate them? This panel will use COVID-19 preprints as a case study to explore these issues.

For more information on these and other upcoming SSP webinars, as well as registration details, logon to <https://www.sspnet.org/events/webinars/>.

Did You Know?

Educopia Publications has issued its “**Bibliographic Scan of Digital Scholarly Communication Infrastructure**” which provides an extensive literature review and overview of today’s digital scholarly communications ecosystem, including information about 206 tools, services, and systems that are instrumental to the publishing and distribution of the scholarly record. The **Bibliographic Scan** includes 67 commercial and 139 non-profit scholarly communication organizations, programs, and projects that support researchers, repositories, publishing, discovery, preservation, and assessment. The review includes three sections: scholarly citations of works that discuss various functional areas of digital scholarly communication ecosystem (e.g., repositories, research, data, discovery, evaluation and assessment, and preservation); charts that record the major players active in each functional area; descriptions of each organization/program/project included. The report was sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and is available as a free, downloadable PDF at: <https://educopia.org/mapping-the-scholarly-communication-landscape-bibliographic-scan/>.

Updates from the Charleston Conference

... with thanks to Leah Hinds, Executive Director of the Charleston Conference, <leah@charlestonlibraryconference.com>

Registration is now open for the **2020 Charleston Conference** at <https://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/registration-info/>. We’re gearing up for an immersive online event featuring everything you love about Charleston — the Vendor Showcase, top-notch keynotes and Neapolitan sessions, practical and compelling concurrent sessions, live Q&A, fun social events, one-on-one and group meetings, and more — that can be enjoyed from the comfort of your own home or office. The conference will be held the week of November 2-6, 2020.

Charleston Vendor Showcase registration is also open. Our virtual vendor showcase will offer many dynamic and interactive features through our online conference platform. More details and exhibitor booth registration at <https://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/events/vendor-showcase/>.

Confirmed keynotes speakers include:

- Earl Lewis, Director and Founder, the University of Michigan Center for Social Solutions
- John Palfrey, President, the MacArthur Foundation
- The Long Arm of the Law annual legal issues panel, including
 - Ann Okerson, Senior Advisor, CRL (Moderator)
 - William Hannay, Partner, Schiff Hardin LLP
 - Nancy S. Kirkpatrick, Executive Director and CEO of OhioNET
 - Pamela Samuelson, Richard M. Sherman Distinguished Professor of Law, Professor School of Information, Co-Director, Berkeley Center for Law & Technology

See speaker photos and bios at <https://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/speakers/>.

Conference registration includes: 4 days of live, interactive content, and access for video on demand within 48 hours after the session ends and for one year. You get all of this for less than the cost of several different series of industry-related webinars!

Check our website for updates as they become available: <https://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/>.

Don't Miss This!

The Charleston Advisor's July 2020 issue (v.22, no.1) is now available in print and online at www.charlestonco.com. Included in the current issue are the following reviews:

- American National Biography (Oxford University Press)
- Bloomsbury Medieval Studies (Bloomsbury Digital Products)
- Data Planet (SAGE Publishing)
- Disaster Lit: Database for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (U.S. National Library of Medicine)
- Global Jukebox (Association for Cultural Equity)
- Indiastat (Datenet India)
- LandScan (East View Information Services)
- Lascar EL-WiFi-TH Data Logger (Lascar Electronics)
- PolicyMap (The Reinvestment Fund/TRF)
- Poverty, Philanthropy and Social Conditions in Victorian Britain (Adam Matthew Digital)
- Sustainable Development Goals Online / SDGO (Taylor & Francis Group)
- Women's Studies Archive: Voice and Vision (Gale/Cengage Learning)

Don't forget! Reviews from this issue as well as over 500 updated reviews from past issues are now available in the **ccAdvisor** database, a joint project of **Choice** and **The Charleston Advisor**, available for license through EBSCO. Learn more at <https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/ccadvisor>.

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The Charleston Report is written for publishers, vendors, product developers, merchandisers, and wholesalers who are interested in expanding their library market. Readers will gain insights in effective marketing to libraries, early alerts to library trends, access to library leaders' future plans, library budget projections, library strategic plans, technology directions, and publications needs.

For comments and contributions, contact Rebecca Lenzini, <rlenzini@charlestonco.com>, Editorial Offices, 6180 East Warren Avenue, Denver, CO 80222. TEL: 303-282-9706, FAX: 303-282-9743, (c) Copyright 2020, The Charleston Co. All rights reserved. ISSN 1091-1863.

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Libraries on the Move

Texas Library Coalition for United Action (TLCUA) Brings 27 Universities Together — The newly formed TLCUA has organized to identify the best way to change current models and relationships between academic institutions and publishers. The goals of the Coalition are: improved access to scholarship, greater control over faculty content, and pricing models that are sustainable for strained library budgets in higher education. “We are nearing a tipping point where we can no longer continue under the current business model,” said Sara Lowman, Vice Provost & University Librarian at Rice University and chair of the Coalition Steering Committee. “We want to come up with solutions that benefit everyone involved: the taxpayers and others who fund our research, the professors who conduct the research, the publishers who disseminate our research findings, and people around the world who benefit from research conducted in Texas.” The Coalition institutions collectively have more than 397,000 students and 25,000 faculty. One initial task will be to negotiate with Elsevier whose subscriptions represent a significant investment estimated at over \$20 million. For more information and a complete list of member universities, logon to <https://library.tamu.edu/news/2020/08/Texas%20Library%20Coalition%20for%20United%20Action.html>.

TCR Reports from the Field: ALA Virtual June 2020

Held online from June 24-26, 2020, as a response to COVID-19 realities, and in place of what would have been a typical ALA Summer Meeting in Chicago, “**ALA Virtual – Community Through Connection**” has announced its final figures:

- 7,349 attendees
- 651 exhibitors for a virtual exhibit floor
- 50 sessions, plus live chats with authors and speakers
- 75 publisher and exhibitor sessions on new titles
- 11 featured speakers
- ...plus a Swag-a-Palooza on top!

ALA Round Tables hosted networking events for attendees to chat, while “Continue the Conversation” video chat rooms offered small groups the chance to discuss prior sessions and to network. ZOOM conferences plus voting software were used for the various association governance meetings to take place. Registration fees were held to \$60 for members, while library professionals who were laid off, furloughed, or had their paid work hours cut were able to attend at no cost, all thanks to the generosity of ALA's sponsors EBSCO, Gale, OverDrive, OCLC, Ingram, Scholastic 100, SpringerNature, and Tutor.com.

ALA's Executive Board has since announced that the 2021 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits scheduled for January 22-26, 2021, in Indianapolis, will also take place virtually. The meeting was always intended to be the final Midwinter gathering for the organization as it moves to reorganize three of its long-standing divisions into one and to undertake other restructurings recognizing the challenges ahead for libraries and library organizations.

UKSG's November Conference Goes Online

UKSG has announced the program for this year's November conference. The event, usually held in London as the "UKSG One-Day Conference," will this year be held online as the "UKSG Online Conference," over two half days (November 11th and 12th). The conference, **From Transition to Transformation: Providing Scholarly Content and Services in Tumultuous Times**, will explore how the pace of change in the scholarly communication sector has accelerated as a result of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conference co-convenor Charlie Rapple, Chief Customer Officer at Kudos, explains, "We were already a sector in transition; now we are seeing that become rapid transformation, as so many of our environmental factors have changed overnight. What does this mean for how libraries and publishers will work together in future? UKSG's unique position as a cross-community membership organization means we are well placed to bring together a range of different perspectives for this important and timely discussion."

Included on the Program are the following speakers and topics:

- Ed Fay, Deputy Director of Library Services, University of Bristol: Setting library strategic directions beyond COVID
- Caren Milloy, Director of Licensing, Jisc: Negotiating in the "new normal": getting value for money in the post-COVID economy
- Birgit Fraser, Head of Content Delivery and Discovery at Anglia Ruskin University: The future of the etextbook market: pricing and pressures as education goes online
- Randy Townsend, Director, Publications Operations, American Geophysical Union, Lyndsey Dixon, Global

Journals Director, De Gruyter and Rhodri Jackson, Editorial Director for Open Access at Oxford University Press: Panel discussion of how publishing strategies and operations are evolving as a result of pandemic disruption

- Sara Rouhi, Director of Strategic Partnerships, PLoS: What might our "new normal" mean for collaborative problem solving?
- Coco Nijhoff, Senior Teaching Fellow (Library Services) at Imperial College London and Rowan Williamson, Associate Director for Services and Support in Library Services at University of the Arts London: The Library's role in delivering online teaching: meeting the rapidly changing needs of students
- Masud Khokhar, Director of Library and Archives at University of York: Equipping ourselves for the future: resilience and future skills in our sector

Conference co-convenor Katherine Rose, Head of Content and Discovery at Imperial College London Library Services, adds, "We are thrilled to have been able to bring together such a strong and diverse set of speakers, whose range of perspectives will provide us with real insight into how our sector will move forward from the current situation, and how we will manage future disruptions. We are also excited to be running this event online for the first time, as this brings great benefits in terms of more affordable pricing, and greater inclusivity. We already have an astonishing number of pre-bookings and look forward to a well-attended conference of the high standard for which UKSG is renowned."

To register, visit: <https://www.uksg.org/event/NovemberConference2020>.

More from ALA Virtual 2020: LITA Top Tech Trends

The **Library Information Technology Association's (LITA) Top Technology Trends** panel at ALA Virtual 2020 is perhaps the "end of the line" for this popular session, since LITA has been officially dissolved and reconstituted as part of ALA's new CORE division (which will combine LITA with ALCTS and LLAMA). Whether a comparable panel will be created for CORE, no one knows yet.

As always, the session **featured an ongoing discussion about trends and advances in library technology** with a panel of LITA experts and innovators. The panelists describe changes and advances in technology that they see as having an impact on the library world and suggest what libraries might do to take advantage of them.

This year's virtual session focused on three very "hot" themes:

- **Privacy and Security**, especially as related to widespread expansion of digital monitoring tools for both "work at home employees" and "homebound students" thanks to the Coronavirus
- **Digital Inclusion and Access**, made more essential during the recent lockdowns and continuing work and teach from home realities

- **Remote Programming**, highlighting some of the extraordinary efforts made by libraries to offer continuous virtual sessions for homebound users, including children

Tammy Wolf, Director of Online Strategy for Arizona State University, served as the Moderator. Panelists included Lisa Calvert, Virtual Services Librarian and Marketing Coordinator, St. Johns County Public Library System, FL; Laura Cole, Director of BiblioTech in San Antonio, TX; Matthew Hunter, Digital Scholarship Librarian, Florida State University Libraries; Jeremy Kurtz, Director of Systems and Security, Arizona State University; Alexandra Phillips, Assistant Branch Manager and Youth Services Librarian for St. Johns County Public Library System, FL; and Liz Sundermann-Zinger, Virtual and Media Services Manager at Baltimore County Public Library, MD. Presentations had been pre-recorded in mid-May.

Ed Note: *An excellent summary of this session is available at LJ thanks to reporter Matt Enis. Check it out at <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=privacy-digital-inclusion-and-remote-programming-are-lita-top-tech-trends-ala-virtual-2020>.*

TCR Op Ed: “Micropublishing Points the Way” says David Worlock

*. . . Excerpted with permission from [DavidWorlock.com](http://www.davidworlock.com), May 20, 2020
<http://www.davidworlock.com/2020/05/micropublishing-points-the-way/>*

A small blogging industry has built up around the upsides of isolation during the current pandemic. I don't want to add to it here, except to remark that the cancellation of a number of publishing events has forced me into other channels, away from my usual haunts where industry colleagues assure each other that whatever happens in terms of change, subscription services, paywalls, impact factors and restricted copyright re-use will see them into retirement. And then it's someone else's problem. Since I have a constitutional requirement to keep reminding them that **Change is not a measurable process**: as soon as you produce a chart that maps its steady progress and have used it to reassure investors and stakeholders that they have nothing to fear in the short term, then you suddenly find the graph line around your neck and strangling you. Think Open Access and forget complacency.

So this month and last I wasn't at a book fair or even in a bar loosely attached to a book fair. Instead I was listening to world experts like Richard Susskind talking about digital law courts last month, and in May it has been a joy to get to the **Open Publishing Fest, organised by Adam Hyde**. My real joy has been three sessions I attended on micro-publishing. In part this is because they were run by librarians and academics with genuine expertise hard won in practice. Partly because of the manner of the discourse — no participant left unthanked, every effort made to acknowledge the pioneering work of others. And partly **because all of these professors or researchers or curation librarians were outstanding experts in publishing, running fully fledged and successful publishing operations within the academic world**. I soon found that I had much to learn from them.

MicroPublishing in this context means **the publication of short, single experiment, peer reviewed OA articles, with DOIs and metadata to make them citable and discoverable**. Typically this might be supplementary or ancillary material that might have been once grouped into a major research program report, delaying it and making it too dense or bulky. Or it might be work on reagents that has genuine scientific interest but, as an incidental finding, only clutters the main report. And MicroPublishing might be a first chance for a post grad or even a student doing lab support work to get their name onto a collaborative publication for the first time. And in all of this work of adding small pieces to the jigsaw and making sure they did not get lost or overlooked — curation is clearly at the heart of these efforts — I heard nothing described in terms of

workflows or process that would not have been identical in a commercial environment. And that is important. There is a great deal of **bogus hype around “publishing expertise.”** If you are clever enough to be a Professor of Genomics, then mastering publishing does not seem to be a huge intellectual challenge. And the digitally networked world has democratised all processes like publishing. We can all be publishers now — and we all are!

But who are these MicroPublishing people? They are women and men of a similar type to those who I have written about for a decade when using Cell Signalling as an example. In this instance the field is data related to genomics, involving research institutions holding and curating data around MODs — Model Organism Databases. Many were members of the Alliance of Genomic Resources. The one thing they have in common is **collaboration around common needs**. They have now **re-invented themselves as fully fledged publishers of their own work** and I left three sessions at Open Publishing Fest thinking that everyone who works in scholarly communications should be very attentive indeed to how they work and what they are doing.

And we should be attentive not just because of the competitive element. I have a 30-year record of saying that **the competitor to the information provider in a digital network is the user doing it for himself**, and I am not altering that view now. But we really need to pay attention because this is **where and how innovation takes place. This is where and how needs are discovered**. If granularity, discoverability and speed to market are the critical issues here, then those are the issues that we must attend to, instead of packing articles with greater amounts of supplemental material, holding articles in peer review until they are “complete” or using citations to game journal impact factors. Above all, we have to remember that scholarly communication is communication by and for scholars. They will, and are, re-inventing it all the time. Rather than propagandising the virtues of “traditional publishing” commercial publishers should be forming relationships that help change take place cost-effectively and at scale.

***Ed Note:** David Worlock has enjoyed over 25 years in a range of roles within the world of research and publishing, and often serves as the Closing Speaker for the **Fiesole Retreat Series**. TCR Readers who are not familiar with his Blog should definitely check it out! His full background is described at <http://www.davidworlock.com/about/>.*