Libraries on the Move

The Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) has launched an official blog—ACRLog (*www.acrlblog.org*), authored by a group of academic librarians who call themselves the BAB (Blog Advisory Board). The blog aims to discuss the issues of the day in the field of academic librarianship. To contribute a post contact <managers@acrlblog.org>.

Two individuals have pledged a gift of $1.5 million to the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The bequest, SILS' largest to date, is intended to enhance the School's technology programs and services. *http://sils.unc.edu/news/releases/2005/10_gravesgift.htm*

A recent student survey at the University of Chicago pointed to the continuing importance of physical library space and services. Andrew Abbott, a professor in sociology and chair of the library task force, said that the survey found that students who are high users of electronic resources also take out many books as well. The university recently announced a $42 million library expansion with space for an additional 3.5 million physical volumes. That expansion is slated for completion in June 2009. *LJ Academic Newswire*, November 10, 2005.

A Certificate of Advanced Study in Digital Libraries is being offered as part of the 2005-2006 school year from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. The post-master's is the first of its kind in the U.S. and focuses on the "design, building and maintenance of digital collections." *http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/programs/cas-dl.html*

Short Takes

CQ Press, as part of the OCLC WorldCat Cataloging Partners program, is offering individual OCLC-MARC catalog records for each *CQ Researcher* online article from 1991-present. The service is available to subscribers to *CQ Researcher* online and offers over 600 individual articles that can be linked directly from the local library catalog, using the built-in persistent link in the 856 field. OCLC-MARC records are full-level and include subject fields and a full-text abstract. The service is intended to raise the visibility and retrieval of these records. CQ Press Release, November 17, 2005.

The signatories of the DC Principles, a group of 57 medical and scientific nonprofit publishers, have offered a new proposal to the NIH as an alternative to the current volunteer deposit program for NIH-funded authors. The plan calls for the NIH to offer online access to articles by linking directly to journal Websites indexed by the NIH's Medline abstracting service. The existing NIH plan "requests" deposit of final manuscripts in PubMed Central, the NIH's repository, within a year of publication. To view the complete proposal, visit *www.dcprinciples.org/linkingproposal.pdf*.

Thomson Scientific has launched Web Citation Index, a multidisciplinary citation index of scholarly content from institutional and subject-based repositories. The service is the result of a collaborative program between Thomson Scientific, NEC Laboratories America (NEC), Australian National University, California Institute of Technology, Cornell University, the Max Planck Society, Monash University, University of Rochester, and NASA Langley. The Web Citation Index enables researchers to navigate forward, backward, and through the literature to find related research using ISI's Web of Knowledge combined with technologies developed by NEC, including "autonomous citation indexing" tools from the CiteSeer environment. For more information, logon to *http://scientific.thomson.com/press/2005/8298416/*. ISI Press Release, November 28, 2005.

The Report from Frankfurt 2005

. . . with thanks to John Cox, Managing Director, John Cox Associates Ltd.

There weren't five hot topics at Frankfurt. Attendance was 6.3% up on 2004, but there was no excitement within the scholarly publishing segment.

Google Print and Google Library constituted the major talking points. The speculation is that the current author and AAP lawsuits will be settled, and that Google will want to reach an accommodation with publishers and authors over capturing in-copyright works. The pending competition from Yahoo will see to that.

Open Access was barely discussed, except that it is clear that Springer is serious about offering its authors a choice through "Open Choice," and was anxious to make that clear. The recruitment of Jan Velterop shows Springer is investing in Open Access as an alternative, but still sees little demand from authors.

Scholarly publishing is a very small segment of the principal publishing trade fair of the year. It is dwarfed by educational and general publishing; the real excitement is in the trading of rights in new works by major authors.

Visit John at *www.johncoxassociates.com*.

Charleston Advisor Upcoming Issue Previewed

The January 2006 issue of *The Charleston Advisor* (v.7, no.3) will offer the following product reviews and articles.

— An Interview with OVID Technologies by Dennis Brunning (Arizona State University)

— Helen Henderson (Ringgold Ltd.) on the Institution Identifier

— Margaret Landesman (University of Utah) with her regular column on trends

— Christopher Cox (University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire) on "Considerations Concerning Collaborative Virtual Reference"

— Reviews of the following databases, products and services:

> Online Asia and Pacific Rim Newspaper Resources (comparative review)
>
> The Archive of Early American Images
>
> Birds of North America
>
> Carroll Publishing's GovSearch
>
> Carroll Publishing's MilSearch
>
> Emporis Research
>
> Grove Art Online/The Dictionary of Art Revisited
>
> Index of Christian Art
>
> LexisNexis Academic Company Dossier
>
> The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
>
> PsycEXTRA
>
> ResearchNow
>
> Scopus Updated (comments on an earlier review)

To learn more about or to subscribe to **The Charleston Advisor**, logon to *www.charlestonco.com*.

By the Numbers

995...the number of participants at this year's 25th Charleston Conference, up from 24 at the first meeting in 1980.

60 million...the number of American adults who use search engines on a daily basis, 41% of all internet users up from 30% one year ago. Search engines are approaching the popularity of email. *http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/167/report_ display.asp*

$44,000...the median starting salary offered by vendors in North America to recent library school graduates. Vendors in the southeast U.S. offered the highest median salary of $50,000 vs.$38,750 in the midwest U.S. LJ 2004 Placements and Salaries Survey, *Library Journal*, October 15, 2005.

$36,457...the average starting salary for a professional librarian in the top 25 largest public libraries in the U.S. *American Libraries*, October 2005.

10,000...the number of Google Book Search (formerly Google Print) full text public domain books online as of early November 2005. *http://books.google.com/*

62 million...the number of bibliographic records in OCLC WorldCat. *http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/open*

Top Five U.S. and European Cities

According to a recent poll of *Condé Nast Traveler* readers. We agree!

U.S.
1. San Francisco
2. Santa Fe
3. **Charleston, S.C.**
4. New York
5. Chicago

Europe
1. Florence
2. Rome
3. Venice
4. Istanbul
5. Paris

Published in the *New York Times*, November 26, 2005.

Don't Miss This!

The UK Serials Group (UKSG) is introducing "The E-Resources Management Handbook," featuring international industry experts offering advice and commentary. Freely available over the Web. Logon to *http://serials.uksg.org* to learn more.

Check It Out!

Library Hi Tech's Special Issue on Open Source Software (Volume 23 Issue 4 2005) is now available online: *http:// www.emeraldinsight.com/Insight/viewContainer.do?container Type=Issue&containerId=23264.*

TCR Surveys: Publisher and Vendor Provided RSS Feeds for Journals

. . . Reported by Kristen DeVoe <devoek@verizon.net>

Many librarians and researchers are familiar with publisher and vendor provided table of contents (TOC) alerts sent by email. Today several publishers and vendors are using a newer method of distributing this information to their readers and subscribers. RSS (rich site summary or real simple syndication) feeds are, simply put, feeds that users can subscribe to, using an RSS aggregator, to provide updates on a Website's content.

By making TOC alerts available using feeds, publishers and vendors may be able to reach a wider audience and provide frequent updates to their journal's content. An informal survey was conducted to discover if libraries are utilizing the TOC RSS feeds and what, from a librarian's point of view, the value of such services are, what the current drawbacks are, and how these services may be improved.

How have libraries utilized vendor provided RSS feeds for journal tables of contents so far?

- Some libraries are posting useful content from vendor and publisher provided RSS feeds to the library's Weblog. Other libraries are subscribing to RSS feeds from journals and then presenting the most recent table of contents to the user along with a link to the actual RSS feeds.

- Libraries are including RSS feeds to journal tables of contents on their subject guide Web pages. On a subject guide page there may be links to RSS feeds for particular journals in that subject area, along with instructions on how to subscribe to these feeds.

- Some libraries are also including RSS feeds for journals into their catalog records. Innovative Interfaces plans to include an RSS tool in the 2006LE version of Millennium that will allow staff to insert RSS feeds into the catalog page templates.

Librarians see that vendor and publisher provided RSS feeds for journals have certain advantages when used in addition to and possibly in place of email TOC alerts. Some of these identified advantages are:

- RSS feeds for journal content enable easy and direct access to the articles that are of interest or importance to the patron.

- RSS can increase the user's ability to monitor published literature.

- RSS feeds for journal content allow users to have content updates automatically provided to them.

- RSS feeds do not clutter email inboxes and do not require the user to frequently visit the journal Website once they have subscribed to the feed.

Librarians also have concerns with TOC RSS feeds provided by vendors and publishers. Some of the identified concerns are:

- The lack of uniformity of how the link to the RSS feed is labeled and located on the Website. Some publishers label the link RSS while others label it XML or RDF, which can be confusing to users.

- Issues related to article access are important to librarians. Vendor and publisher RSS feeds for journal tables of contents include links to articles, but the links go directly to the publisher or vendor Website and bypass the library proxy server. If the user cannot access the article through the link in the RSS feed, then it is of little use. Currently, many libraries are rewriting the feeds to offer access to their users.

- The number of users that are familiar with RSS technologies is fairly low compared to the number of users familiar with email. Libraries, publishers, and vendors will need to address the learning curve that is associated with introducing this new technology to researchers who are unfamiliar with it.

- Library staff must discover, collect, maintain, and sometimes rewrite feeds so that they are valuable to users.

How can vendor and publisher provided RSS feeds for journal content be improved?

- RSS feeds for journal tables of contents should be made very visible to end users.

- Publishers and vendors can include links to tutorials on how to set up and use RSS feeds.

- The feeds should provide enough information about the articles so the user can determine if the content will be useful to them before they look at the full article.

- Vendors and publishers could provide author specific or subject specific RSS feeds for their journals in addition to the table of contents feeds. Such subject based feeds can expand a researcher's awareness on what is currently available in their subject area.

TCR Quotes

"Site level linking is an answer for the Web of ten years ago. Content level linking represents the next logical stage of library, publisher and vendor supported navigation of premium content."

Chuck Hamaker, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technical Services, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, in "Deep Linking—Beyond Journal Articles," *Against the Grain*, November 2005.

Hot Topics: The Charleston Conference 2005 — Some Recollections

. . . Reported by Katina Strauch, Conference Founder and Organizer

The 2005 Charleston Conference took place from November 2 (Preconferences and Vendor Showcase) through November 3-5 (Main Conference). This was the 25th year of the conference which began as a small group of acquisitions and rare books librarians in 1980 in a small College of Charleston dorm Commons room. This year boasted 995 attendees from Hong Kong to California.

There were 190 speakers in 143 different sessions which included plenaries, concurrent sessions, lively lunches, beastly breakfasts, table talks, and a rump session. The mood of the attendees was upbeat and, though this was the largest crowd at the Conference since its inception, the Conference did not seem crowded. The Conference was held in two hotels — The Francis Marion (the conference hotel) and the Embassy Suites downtown only a block away. The weather was perfect and Charleston seemed especially desirable as a venue.

Here are some of the "hot topics" which emerged over the two and a half days.

How do we make the library relevant when people aren't coming to the library anymore?

Libraries are becoming more competitive and are focusing on making their collections accessible remotely. Local collections are being digitized and library catalogs are linking to Google Scholar for more visibility.

The Google Impact

There were two panels dealing with Google Scholar and Google Print. Google is definitely dominating life in the trenches and there were discussions as to whether or not the library OPAC was a viable tool anymore. As one attendee said, let's face it, libraries are thorough, but Google is quicker.

The monograph is still alive and well

Books were mentioned repeatedly as being the "gold standard" in publishing. From Larry Portzline (Bookstoretourism.com) discussing bookstore tourism to Jerry Kline (III) pointing out that most library collections are unique, conference attendees were exposed to the breadth and variety of the scholarly monograph.

Statistics. What should we do with all the statistics and journal metrics that we are collecting?

We are collecting a lot of statistics and putting them in spreadsheets but what does it all mean? How can we predict what journals our libraries should collect? Or what books we should purchase?

Open Access continues to be on the radar screen.

Besides many discussions as to what exactly Open Access is and whether or not journals that are supposed to be Open Access are really Open Access, there was a general discussion about what Open Access does to the archival function of libraries. What is the definitive copy?

Technology is driving us.

There were constant references to ipods, cell phones, and all the latest gadgets that are entering the world of our users. Will cell phones be the new computers of the 21st century?

A Quote or Two:

"64 cents of every dollar stays in the community with independent bookstores." Larry Portzline, *bookstoretourism.com*

"I have no use for the Library. I use EBSCOHost." Anonymous university student somewhere in Missouri

"75% of all books owned in one large consortium were unique to just one library." Jerry Kline, III

"Auditors are the last bastion of paper." Anonymous conference participant

"20% of books available are in print." Tom Turvey, Google (Tom said that he is Google's oldest employee!)

The more widely accessible the journal, the higher the impact factor." John Cox, John Cox Associates

"It's not <u>what</u> you publish, but <u>where</u> you publish." (overheard)

"We are making the transition from content is king to convenience is king."

Many powerpoints from this year's conference are already posted at the conference Website — be sure to check them out. The next Charleston Conference is set for November 8, 2006 (preconferences and vendor showcase) and November 9-11, 2006 (main conference).

Visit *www.katina.info/conference* for more information and see you there!

Ed Note: *This year's conference received a full 2-page report in <u>American Libraries</u>, the official publication of the American Library Association. Be sure to check it out (and don't miss Katina's picture with her 25th Anniversary Bobble-head!) Available at http://www.ala.org/al_onlineTemplate.cfm? Section=otherconferences&Template=/ContentManagement/ ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=109197.*

Happy Holidays

The Charleston Company

Coming in Future Issues
— Hot Topics from ALA Midwinter
— Are OPACs Failing?
— Collaborative Virtual Reference: Positives and Negatives
— Local Tools for Evaluating Electronic Resources