Libraries On The Move

Columbia University and Microsoft are working together to digitize a large portion of the Columbia University Libraries' book collection. Out of copyright books from the libraries' American history, literature, and humanities collections will be made available to Internet users through Live Search Books, Microsoft's search engine for digitized books. Additionally, Microsoft will give the library high-quality digital images of all the materials, allowing the library to provide worldwide access through its own digital library and to share the content with non-commercial academic initiatives and non-profit organizations. This agreement comes soon after Columbia University’s agreement with Google to digitize content to be available through Google’s Book Search. Columbia University Libraries Press Release, January 29, 2008. To read more about this initiative, logon to http://www.columbia.edu/cu/web/news/libraries/2008/2008-01-29.microsoft.html.

The University of Pittsburgh Press is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh’s library system to mount 30 titles from its Latin American series and making them freely available on the University of Pittsburgh Press Website. All of the titles that will be made available are at least three years old and have a market value of approximately $25.00 each. None of the books are in the public domain and the press holds the electronic reproduction rights. The University of Pittsburgh Press is treating this as an experiment that could lead to digitization of additional scholarly publications. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, January 22, 2008. For more information, logon to http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08022/851159-85.stm#.

The Hoover Institution, a conservative think tank and library affiliated with Stanford University, is the new home to records created by Iraq’s Baath Party. The Hoover Institution reached an agreement with the Iraq Memory Foundation, a non-profit group, and will receive about seven million pages of records and other artifacts from Saddam Hussein’s tenure as Iraqi president. The terms of the agreement stipulate that Hoover will hold the records for the next five years. At the end of five years, the two parties will examine the possibility of returning the documents to Iraq. The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 23, 2008. To read more, logon to http://chronicle.com/free/2008/01/1335n.htm.

Short Takes

A recent report, commissioned by JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) and the British Library, contradicts the assumption that the “Google Generation” is the most adept at using the Web. The data in the report indicates that the research traits of those brought up in the Internet age are common among all age groups. These traits include low tolerance for any delay in finding information and impatience in navigation and searching. The report, titled Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future, offers several predictions for the year 2017. Among the future trends that the report predicts are a unified Web culture, a rise in popularity for the eBook, and various forms of virtual publication. The report also suggests that librarians should never forget Google and that the future of libraries may need to include a stronger integration of library materials with large search engines. JISC Press Release, January 18, 2008. To read the full report, logon to http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/programmes/reppress/gg_final_keynote_11012008.pdf.

SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) has recently launched a campaign called “The Right to Research.” The campaign is designed to engage students in Open Access issues and debates. The goal of “The Right to Research” campaign is educational and will attempt to help students recognize access problems, introduce the principles of Open Access, and offer advice on publishing decisions, including how to support Open Access issues. SPARC Press Release, January 28, 2008. For more information, logon to http://www.arl.org/sparc/media/08-0128.html.

The Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control recently released On the Record, a report on the future of cataloging and bibliographic control. The final report recommends several steps that the library community can take to provide effective access despite the rapid pace of technological change. The report suggests that libraries can promote wider participation in creating, enhancing, and distributing bibliographic data, perhaps by collaborating with publishers, national libraries, and library users by developing library systems that can accept user input and other non-library data without interfering with data contributed by libraries. In addition, the report suggests making Library of Congress Subject Headings openly available by cross-referencing them between various classification systems. American Libraries, January 18, 2008. For more information and to download the full report, logon to http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/lcwg-ontherecord-jan08-final.pdf.

TCR Quotes

“It’s easy to become enamored of social networking sites and Web 2.0 toys to the point where they seem like a panacea for everything that’s wrong with your library or your job. Slap a wiki on it and call me in the morning. The most successful uses of the newest tech tools have recognized that they're just that: tools.” — Kate Sheehan on her blog Loose Cannon Librarian (http://loosecannonlibrarian.net), January 16, 2008.
Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action from IMLS

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has created “Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action” which is a multi-year, multi-faceted national initiative to raise public awareness and inspire action (www.imls.gov/collections/). The initiative is grounded in the results of A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America’s Collections, which reports that:

- 190 million objects need conservation treatment,
- 65 percent of collecting institutions have damaged collections due to improper storage,
- 80 percent of collecting institutions lack an emergency plan for their collections and trained staff to carry it out, and
- 40 percent of institutions have no funds allocated in their annual budget for preservation and conservation.

“Connecting to Collections: Preserving America’s Diverse Heritage” was held January 31 and February 1, 2008 at High Museum of Art and Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Lonnie Bunch, Director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, was the keynote speaker. Sven Haakanson, Executive Director of the Alutiq Museum in Kodiak, Alaska and recent recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, Loretta Parham, Director of the Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center, and Anne-Imelda Radice, Director Institute of Museum and Library Services, provided an overview of the rich collections held by diverse institutions. Other experts included nationally recognized photograph conservator Debra Hess Norris of the University of Delaware/Winterthur and Alan Lewis, who has advised both the Library of Congress and the National Archives on preservation of audio-visual materials. http://www.imls.gov/collections/Tour/atlanta.htm

Anticipated schedule and locations for the remaining forums:

Quote: “In these quilts, recordings, paintings, and botanical gardens, we find a looking glass into our past and a window into our future. By conserving them and making them accessible, they become a storyteller whose memory never fades.” — Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, Director Institute of Museum and Library Services. www.imls.gov/collections

Don’t Miss This

Marshall Breeding, the author of Library Technology Guides (http://www.librarytechnology.org), has released a report entitled Perceptions 2007: An International Survey of Library Automation. The survey contains data from a total of 1,779 individuals from 47 different countries, with the vast majority from the United States. The survey results indicate major differences in satisfaction in the products and companies from which libraries acquire their automation systems. Dissatisfaction and concern prevail, yet some companies maintain exceptional levels of satisfaction from the libraries that use their products. To view the entire survey report, logon to http://www.librarytechnology.org/perceptions2007.pl.

By the Numbers

$44.6 billion...In an unsolicited bid, Microsoft offered $44.6 billion for Yahoo! The New York Times, February 3, 2008.

1 million...The University of Michigan (UM) has placed its one millionth book online. As part of a partnership with Google, UM plans to have their entire collection scanned by early next decade. University of Michigan Libraries Press Release, February 2, 2008. For more information on the project, logon to http://www.lib.umich.edu/news/millionth.html.


30 million...CrossRef recently announced that it had registered its 30 millionth DOI (Digital Object Identifier). The 30 millionth DOI was registered by The American Physical Society for their journal Physical Review E. CrossRef Press Release, January 2, 2008.
Five Library Technology Predictions for 2008

1. There will be some Internet speed and congestion issues in 2008 on a scale that hit AOL in the early days. There will be hand-wringing blog posts and I-told-you-so stories in the MSM.

2. Facebook will suffer some wonkiness in ’08 but will grow rapidly through acquisition and business partnerships. The F8 platform initiative will do better in ’08 than the Google OpenSocial initiative but OpenSocial will win out in the end. Ads will survive and all the chest beating will have the same effect that it had when the Web went commercial. Watch for financial, global, mobile, multilingual, and other niche stuff from MySpace.

3. Microsoft and Yahoo! will suffer some acrimony and that will result in some sort of business alliance.* The Open Content Alliance will be part of this with some relationship to academia, research, and scholarly publishing.

(*Ed Note: See By the Numbers, page two — one of Stephen’s predictions may already come true.)

Hot Topics from ALA Midwinter

The ALA Midwinter meeting took place in Philadelphia, PA, from January 11-16, 2008. More than 13,000 librarians, library supporters, publishers, and guests from around the world attended. Approximately 2,200 discussion groups, committee meetings, and events were held and many focused on technology, teen literacy, online gaming, users’ privacy, censorship, library funding, public awareness and advocacy. www.ala.org/

Just some of the many hot topics:

Libraries and Publishers — More and more libraries are taking over management of their institution’s university press, exploring ways to digitize valuable parts of their rare and special collections, or looking at publishing alternatives. The recent ACRL report “Establishing a Research Agenda for Scholarly Communication: A Call for Community Engagement,” points to eight themes and research opportunities – the impact and implications of cyberinfrastructure; changing organizational models; how scholars work; authorship and scholarly publishing; value and value metrics in scholarly communication; adoption of successful innovations; preservation of critical materials; and public policy and legal matters. http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/scholarlycomm/SCResearchAgenda.pdf

The Future of Bibliographic Control — The Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control released a 49-page report, On the Record on January 9, 2008. There was much discussion about this report which stated: “Unless the library community confirms its role(s) in the evolving and expanding environment, and develops arrangements with new participants to take advantage of what each has to offer, library data will be isolated from the many non-library communities (such as publishers, authors, and information service providers) and end-users that are engaged in accessing and making use of bibliographic information.” (See more on this issue, page one.)

For the full report, logon to http://lcwg-ontherecord-jan08-final.pdf.

Open Source Architecture and Open Data — These continue to get much interest in the industry. Two examples: Evergreen is an open-source ILS currently being developed by the Georgia Public Library Service for use by the Georgia Library PINES Program (http://open-ils.org/). Koha in another open source ILS. It is currently maintained by a team of developers spread across New Zealand, France, Canada, and the United States (www.koha.org/).


Preservation and Archiving of Information — Large libraries seem to have moved away from print preservation and are concentrating on digital materials. “The Preservation of Digital Materials,” published by Library Technology Reports (Feb/Mar 2008) and authored by Priscilla Caplan who has been involved with digital preservation for more than ten years is especially relevant.

“As a specialty, digital preservation has to be one of the most interesting areas ever to emerge in the domain of information science.” — “The Preservation of Digital Materials,” Library Technology Reports 44:2, “Introduction” http://www.techsource.ala.org/ltr/the-preservation-of-digital-materials.html

A Miscellaneous Quote — “… last year almost 1.8 billion visitors checked out more than 2 billion items from U.S. libraries. www.ala.org/
TCR Surveys: The Future of Print-Only Journal Subscriptions

“We will retain print subscriptions when there are no perpetual access rights, when e-only is not an option, when e-only is not full text, and when there is no electronic version.”
— Academic Librarian and TCR Surveys Respondent.

In an effort to better understand the current and possibly the future state of print subscriptions in libraries, this issue’s TCR Surveys asked over 190 librarians about their library’s preferred format for journal subscriptions; why they might opt to subscribe to the print version of a journal rather than electronic; if they plan to move to electronic-only subscriptions in the future; and if they could comment on the future of subscribing to journals in a print-only format.

As the majority of the respondents (161) work in academic libraries, the responses best reflect the status of print-only journal subscriptions in that type of institution.

• Electronic-only was overwhelmingly the preferred subscription format for both new journal subscriptions and renewals.

• Second among preferred format options for journal subscriptions and renewals is a print + electronic option.

• Few (13) respondents indicated that print-only is their library’s preferred format for new subscriptions or renewals.

• Cost was the most frequently cited factor that would prompt librarians to subscribe to a journal in print-only.

• Issues in the following areas were also cited as reasons that a library would prefer the print-only subscription over electronic.
  — licensing issues
  — user demand for journals in print format
  — archival concerns
  — subject area of the journal in question.

• One-half of the survey respondents indicated that their library has, or intends to develop, a plan to move to an electronic-only format for future journal subscriptions and renewals.

• Many respondents did not see much of a future for print-only subscriptions at their libraries. Some envisaged a move to e-only while others see a decline, but not disappearance of print-only subscriptions. Sample responses regarding the future of print-only journal subscriptions include:
  — “Print will only be chosen when electronic is not available or the licensing is a problem.”
  — “We are subscribing to fewer print journals each year...In the next five years we hope/plan to subscribe to more publisher electronic journal packages.”
  — “Going down, down, down…”
  — “Very low number of print-only journals, primarily in humanities and social sciences.”

• Despite the overwhelming popularity of electronic-only as the future format for most journal subscriptions, some respondents indicated that they plan to continue to subscribe to print-only until some issues such as archival and licensing concerns are resolved or as long as they feel it is the preferred format for their users.

Check These Out!

Bookshelf User’s Guide, a 44-page booklet is a guide to the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, a core set of texts that are essential for the care of collections. Developed by Heritage Preservation, in consultation with the Getty Foundation, the guide contains an individual sheet on each text (containing bibliographical and other information), and FAQ’s. To access the guide visit http://www.imls.gov/collections/bookshelf/index.htm.

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) has released a new publication, Library 2.0 Initiatives in Academic Libraries. This publication is a hybrid book and wiki presenting 12 case studies of significant applications of Library 2.0 in academic libraries. Content covers a wide range including blogs, wikis, podcasts, IM, RSS, XML, Web services, mashups, and social computing. In order to keep information current, the authors will provide regular updates on their initiatives for at least two years through a wiki hosted by ACRL. To view the wiki, logon to http://acrl.ala.org/L2Initiatives.

Just released — the ATG News Channel www.against-the-grain.com. Read more rumors, job notices, news of new books, announcements and much more! http://www.against-the-grain.com

Mark Your Calendars!

The 28th Annual Charleston Conference is scheduled for November 5-8, 2008 in Charleston, SC. This year’s theme is “The Best of Times, The Worst of Times.” For more details, visit the Charleston Conference Website at www.katina.info/conference.


Coming in Future Issues

• Promotion and Marketing of eBooks In Libraries
• Electronic Resource Management Systems: Benefits and Pitfalls
• Library Budget Updates
• Library Database Evaluation Criteria