Libraries on the Move

The Special Library Association (SLA) and SAGE have released via a webinar the preliminary results of a study of North American special and academic librarians regarding high-impact factors and challenges facing the information industry. Full results will be compiled into a white paper, due in June of this year. The full webinar and slides, featuring Elisabeth Leonard, Market Research Analyst for SAGE, are now available at: http://ow.ly/a3gnN.

Don’t Miss This!

Videos from the 2013 Charleston Conference, including all plenary presentations and Against the Grain “Views from the Penthouse Suite” interviews with seven luminaries in the field, can now be viewed on the Conference website at http://www.katina.info/conference/video/ or on our YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/user/charlestonconference.

Short Takes

The Copyright Clearance Center has announced the launch of a MOOC Content Licensing Solution thanks to a partnership with SIPX, Study.net and XanEdu. The goal of the service is to make securing permission to reuse copyrighted content in Massive Open Online Courses as easy as possible, relieving both libraries and instructors of the burden of securing permissions and distributing content. In addition, the service aims to make it simpler for students to secure the licensed content at academic-based pricing from rights holders. Learn more at http://www.copyright.com/content/cc3/en/toolbar/aboutUs/newsRoom/pressReleases/press_2014/press-release-14-03-04.html.

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16th Fiesole Retreat, April 10-12, 2014, Cambridge, UK

Ten Things I Learned at the 2014 Fiesole Retreat

...by Carol Tenopir, Chancellor’s Professor, University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences, <ctenopir@utk.edu>

The Fiesole Retreat always provides thought-provoking and candid presentations from a wide variety of presenters. This year at Cambridge was no exception, with presentations from librarians, publishers, educators, consultants, and others on topics ranging from copyright to publishing as an investment to preparing the next generation of information professionals. My reflection on Fiesole may be personal and idiosyncratic, because since I no longer write a monthly column for Library Journal, my notes these days are purely what strike my fancy. Here are 10 things that fascinated, surprised, or just interested me at the 2014 Retreat.

1. The rise of Chinese R&D investment has led to an amazing subsequent rise in publications by Chinese researchers in English language journals in the last few years. The percent of articles by Chinese scholars in many fields has increased rapidly, and in some such as engineering and materials sciences, a majority of the research articles now come from Chinese scientists. The new center of gravity in scholarly publishing is in China, but we don’t fully know yet the implications.

2. Some things aren’t changing as quickly as we expect. According to Peter Philips, CEO of Cambridge University Press, print has remained important longer than most of us expected. Humanities scholars still rely on long-form books and, except for textbooks or popular science, print-on-paper remains the favored format for scholarly books. Tenure and promotion requirements are either unchanged or have strengthened to become even more conservative. And authors don’t necessarily want gold open access. Just a tiny percent of Cambridge University Press articles last year were published open access, because as Philips told us: “Never tell a tenured professor where to publish.”

3. There are many new roles for academic librarians — libraries and library educators are faced with decisions of how to prepare for or choose from all of these opportunities. Kevin Ashley, Director of the U.K. Digital Curation Centre, described the range of opportunities for libraries to support research data services, from maintaining data repositories, to helping academics find a place to deposit data, to coordinating their university’s efforts to support research data. The library is a natural leader in the efforts to bring IT, research departments, and researchers together for research data management.

4. Are MOOCs a flash-in-the-pan or a lasting trend in higher education? Marrilee Proffitt, Senior Program Officer of OCLC Research, encouraged academic librarians to support students and faculty in all types of online education in their universities, including MOOCs, although many do not yet do so. When libraries are involved in MOOCs, the most common role is to assist with copyright clearance, which can take an average of 100 hours of effort per course! Access to library resources is not the main role of libraries with MOOC students.

5. Charles Watkinson, Director of Purdue University Press and Head of Scholarly Publishing Services at Purdue University Library, informed us that 79% of ARL libraries have a publishing program and already over a quarter of the presses that are members of the American Association of University Presses report to the library. Academic presses in the U.S. are generally much smaller operations than their U.K. counterparts and are in the midst of transition from both a technological and economic point-of-view. The library can

continued on page 2
6. Publishers are trying out many ways to remain relevant into the future. More than one business model, such as subscriptions and gold (author pays) open access, are likely to co-exist for some time, although science publishers in particular are moving towards Open Access. But payment schemes are not the only thing to consider when planning relevance into the future. Annette Thomas, CEO of Macmillan Science and Education, sees the role of publisher as helping scientists both discover new ideas and build a career. Macmillan is investing in digital science services to meet those aims, including FigShare, which allows sharing of data, figures, and negative result experiments, and altmetrics.

7. In the future, the real value from publishers may be algorithms to mine data and texts rather than just content. David Worlock, an industry consultant, summarized these thoughts with the statement: “goodbye journal publishing, hello research support.” In Worlock’s vision of the near future, evidential data are as important as articles; peer review will be mostly post publication, and format such as chapters and paragraphs becomes less relevant than data in the networked world.

8. The tension between privacy and what usage data allows us to do is becoming an issue. In his keynote, Cliff Lynch introduced a “creepiness threshold” to help us think about when things like journal download notices to authors crosses the line from value-added to “creepy.” Knowing how many times your book or article was downloaded is valuable for authors. But, knowing the popularity of an article by zip code — is that moving into creepy? What about knowing which articles are most popular in particular government laboratories or businesses or by IP addresses? Authors might like to know what page was last read in their book or how many finished the book; when this type of information becomes personal rather than aggregated, does it begin to violate privacy?

9. Cliff Lynch also warned us that we are not doing so well in preserving cultural heritage or popular culture. We don’t even know how many self-published books are published or music that is for the net only or videos or games. Inspired by Cambridge University Library’s massive holdings of nineteenth century popular cultural materials, Lynch made us think about how much we may be losing of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries that are or will be of interest to scholars.

10. Although the Berne Convention is a long-standing international agreement for copyright that many (mostly Western) countries ascribe to, the details of copyright still vary widely around the world. A distinguished copyright panel at Fiesole, that included copyright experts Laurence Kaye, Ben White, Richard Hooper, and Wilma Mossink, described how, in the digital world there is increasing tension over management of rights and exceptions for things such as education, data analysis, quotations, etc., with Fair Use a mostly American notion. Copyright may be too restrictive for the digital world and cover too much. Ben White described how in Europe there are few exceptions, so it means you “need permission to innovate.” Finding out who owns the rights to literary works can be a nightmare, according to Richard Hooper and we need a better identifier system for works, authors, and license rights since the digital age has a high volume of transactions with low costs per transaction.

So there you have it, ten value-adds to my knowledge from the 14th Fiesole Collection Development Retreat. Not to mention the value of dinner in a magnificent medieval hall at Queens’ College, stimulating conversation with thought-leaders in scholarly publishing and academic librarianship, and the chance to finish up with a Pub Crawl led by Cambridge graduate Fytton Rowland. A valuable few days, indeed.

Ed Note: The Final Program and Powerpoints from the 16th Fiesole Retreat will be available soon at the Fiesole Repository, hosted by Casalini Libri at http://www.casalini.it/retreat/retreat_2014.html.

Mark Your Calendars


Once again, ER&L partnered with the Digital Library Federation (DLF) and ProQuest to offer the #IDEAdrop House during SXSWI (South by Southwest Interactive). The intent of the #IDEAdrop House is to provide a venue where members of the library community can engage in salon-style conversations with folks from public policy, social media, and some of the more creative communities within libraryland. To view the videos of this event, please go here: http://www.electroniclibrarian.com/conference-ideadrop2014.

As has become the trend, this year’s ER&L Conference surpassed the last one with growth happening on a number of fronts. Our overall attendance was more than 650 attendees between the online offerings and the in-person conference. A couple of the online participants gave us this feedback:

- What I enjoyed the best was the “flexible platform — I could view it on my iPad or my desktop. As always, very interesting and relevant topics.”
- What I liked best about the online conference for me was “ability to avoid having to make travel plans and the flexibility of being able to view sessions after they were presented.”

We are currently wrapping up on the survey of in-person attendees but overall the presentations are being highly ranked and spanned from the management of e-resources & licensing, through library as publisher, to emerging technology and trends. Our three plenary speakers gave the participants much to think about and consider during the conference and we wish to thank Barbara Fister, Sarah Durrant, and Brent Hecht for giving the attendees thought-provoking presentations that kept everyone engaged. To see their presentations, please go here: http://www.electroniclibrarian.com/conference-info/2014/keynote

We had a number of new alliances and program offerings this year. One partnership, with members from Taiga, provided both a panel discussion and roundtable talk with administrators. Both events were well attended and generated quite a number of valuable conversations on leadership roles in libraries.

We also sponsored a UX Day that encompassed highlighting a number of presenter-submitted and reviewed sessions along with curated content of invited speakers for the academia and tech communities to talk about various aspects of user experience work, including design thinking, prototyping, and working in a more agile way. A few quotes from the UX day are:

- “Fabulous. Already using knowledge acquired.”
- “The theme of cross-pollination was good, as I believe libraries are tending toward this dynamic.”
- “This was an excellent, excellent new component to ER&L!”

Thanks to our partnership with Taylor & Francis, we were able to offer two student travel grant awards this year which were awarded to: Roxanne Brazell and Heather Hilton. http://www.electroniclibrarian.com/erlplus/tandfstudent

With our partnership with the Digital Library Federation of CLIR, two Cross-Pollinator Travel Awards were made to Michael Cabus and Carmen Mitchell. http://www.electroniclibrarian.com/erlplus/crosspollinator Both Cross-Pollinator attendees participated in a new social event, Battle Decks @ ER&L where attendees are given a made-up slide deck and must speak on a specific topic with the slide images to make a coherent, timely and semi-relevant presentation. Carmen ended up becoming the overall winner of Battle Decks, so congratulations again, Carmen!

We are pleased to have welcomed 12 new exhibitors to our conference, some of whom were attending a library event for the first time. Two quotes from exhibitors this year were: “I like that there are fresh ideas coming out of this conference” and “This being my first conference, and being new to the industry, I liked the breadth of sessions. I felt like I learned a lot, and that a lot of relevant topics were addressed.” http://www.electroniclibrarian.com/2014/new2014exhibitors

At the end of this year’s conference, ER&L partnered with a new group of engaged and energetic librarians to help support the Leadership, Technology & Gender Leadership Summit. There were about 35 attendees at this event and an executive summary of their meeting will be released soon. To learn more about this event and this group, logon to http://www.ltgsummit.org/. All in all, this year’s conference was another great success. The online conference archive is still available for purchase at http://www.electroniclibrarian.com/erlplus/onlineconf and we hope people will join us as we celebrate our 10th anniversary next year in Austin, Texas. The 2015 conference dates have been set as: 22-25 February 2015.

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2014 Charleston Conference Call for Papers is Out!

The 34th Charleston Conference: Issues in Book and Serials Acquisition, “The Importance of Being Earnest,” will take place November 5-8 in Charleston, SC.

The Call for Preconferences and Call for Papers is out! Please go to http://www.katina.info/conference/ to submit a topic or presentation.

We are excited to have a UNC-Chapel Hill School of Library and Information Science Data Curation Course (Nov. 3-4), and the Charleston Conference Rump Session luncheon and discussion (Nov. 9).

Watch for more information to be posted on the conference website shortly. www.katina.infoconference

…Reported by Jill Emery, Collection Development Librarian, Portland State University <jemery@pdx.edu>
Open Access to research and scholarship has been an aspect of libraryland for almost two decades and it is time for librarians to stop thinking it is a trend or a fad. Open Access publication is a reality and at the Association of Subscription Agents & Intermediaries conference in London February 24-25, 2014, YS Chi, Chairman for Elsevier stated: “Open Access is inevitable.” It is time for librarians to stop focusing on the where and when of the OA evolution taking place and to start grappling with the how and to what extent libraries will be conduits of Open Access content provision.

One prime example of librarians and libraries that are participating in the evolution took place in early March 2014. The SPARC OA meeting held on March 3-4, 2014, in Kansas City, MO was focused this year not just on advocacy and policy but also on practical implementation and professional development from all areas of the academy. http://sparc.earl.org/events/OA14

The SPARC event was followed by the Library Publishing Forum which showcased the ever-growing development of librarian led publishing initiatives. http://librarypublishing.org/events/annual-forum

The proceedings from this event will appear in *Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, a fully Open Access publication. http://jlsc-pub.org/jlsc/

Another hot button issue in libraryland for the past three months has been the adoption of the Code of Conduct by ALA which has led to many other library events drafting and implementing codes of conduct as well. Lisa Rabey has created a blog reading list on both the need for Code of Conduct statements at library events as well as responses to ALA’s Code of Conduct in particular. https://exitpursuedbyabear.net/2014/01/frankensteins-monsters-roundup-of-responses-to-ala-code-of-conduct/

Codes of conduct are as much about protecting the people creating the spaces to interact as they are about protecting the librarians entering into those spaces. To quote Andromeda Yelton: “In the best case, we will never need to put this statement to direct use. But even if we do not, it will be worth having, because it’s better to have and not to need than to need and not to have.” http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/01/opinion/backtalk/why-ala-needs-a-code-of-conduct-backtalk/

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