ALA Midwinter Round Up: Highlights from ALA Midwinter, Boston

... with thanks to Tom Gilson, Associate Editor, Against the Grain, <GilsonT@cofc.edu>

By scheduling Midwinter early this year, ALA may have dodged a bullet — or at least a blizzard. Had the conference been held a couple of weeks later, as it often is, getting in and out of Boston would have been a nightmare as winter storm Jonas roared up the northeastern corridor closing down airports and making travel almost impossible. But fortunately for the 11,716 librarians, vendors, and library supporters attending Midwinter on January 8-12, 2016, the weather behaved. Except for a little rain and some frigid night temperatures, things were manageable by Boston standards. Getting to and from the city was pretty straightforward, and once there, navigating around the conference venues was fairly easy.

Midwinter itself was its usual collection of ALA business meetings, panel presentations, vendor exhibits, and keynote speakers. But as always, not everyone who wanted to attend was able to make it so we thought we would try to convey a sense of what went on by sharing a few conference related posts, articles, and a Midwinter video that “caught our eye.”

American Libraries full and detailed coverage (bit.ly/1QPpQWid/) is ideal for those who can’t get enough of the 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting. It features a myriad of daily reports highlighting everything from keynote addresses, award ceremonies, and panel discussions, to impressions from the exhibit hall, ALA Council reports, and top Tweets. (Midwinter junkies should also check out the online version of Cognotes (bit.ly/1PCLnHhP).

2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits — thousands of attendees address the many ways libraries transform (bit.ly/1PjCLtz) is a report from ALA’s Mary McKay that starts with a focus on ALA’s new national public awareness campaign, Libraries Transform. The post then goes on to discuss numerous ALA sponsored sessions, including the ALA Masters series featuring Jason Griffey on “Measuring the Future...” and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich on “Sustainable Thinking...”; the Ignite sessions that offer five-minute overviews on current projects; various panel discussions like LITA’s “Top Tech Trends”; and ALA’s assorted book and media awards.

Ready for the Next Phase | ALA Midwinter 2016 (bit.ly/1UWksYS) is a post by LJ’s Lisa Peet that also notes the Libraries Transform public awareness program and sees it as a strong theme for the overall conference. In addition, Ms. Peet reports on the launch of the second Knight News Challenge on Libraries that poses the question “How might libraries serve 21st-century information needs?” She also draws attention to high-profile speakers like filmmaker Ken Burns, author Andre Dubus III, designer and media star Isaac Mizrahi, activists Mary Frances Berry and Lizzie Velasquez, library advocate Nancy Pearl, U.S. Senator Cory Booker, and Chelsea Clinton. Other Midwinter topics covered in the article include policy and process issues like privacy, censorship, and the future of digital content.

Attendance Up at ALA Midwinter 2016 (bit.ly/1Pq7GHc) offers Publishers Weekly’s take on the Midwinter conference. Their reporters noted “the impressive turnout” especially considering the upcoming Public Library Association meeting this spring. Aside from the featured speakers and the various book and media awards, they noted other highlights including a session by ALA’s Digital Content Working Group, the Digital Public Library of America’s annual meet and greet, and a session sponsored by the ALA Washington Office, in which New York Public Library officials demonstrated a new app to bring free e-book access to low-income students. (For more on the turnout see PW’s Solid Attendance at 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting (bit.ly/1KzVtyE).)

continued on page 2
By the Numbers

**13.0%**... The rise in sales for Professional Publishing, which includes business, medical, law, scientific and technical books and journals, through the 3rd Quarter of 2015 compared to the same timeframe in 2014, according to the American Association of Publishers. Of note, University Presses declined slightly at 1.8%.


**$1.2 Million...** The amount awarded to Hampshire College Library by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in response to the College’s proposal to remake the College Library and centralize academic support services currently dispersed across campus. Among the priorities for the College Library’s learning-commons proposal are the creation of new workspaces which are open, collaborative, flexible, and technology-rich, and the addition of maker-space labs which will be strengthened and expanded. Read the complete press release at [https://www.hampshire.edu/news/2016/02/08/mellon-grant-of-12-million-funds-reinvention-of-hampshire-library](https://www.hampshire.edu/news/2016/02/08/mellon-grant-of-12-million-funds-reinvention-of-hampshire-library).

Check It Out!

**Latest Reviews from The Charleston Advisor’s January 2016 Issue, v.17, no.3**

- Accomplished Teaching, Learning and Schools (ATLAS) by Daniel P. Zuberbier
- Brill’s Encyclopedia of Hinduism by Smita Joshipura
- Colonial America by Jason Martin
- Digitalia Hispanica by Lisa Gonzalez
- EBSCO Flipster by Charlie Remy
- Google Translate App by Jolanda-Pieta van Arnhem
- ORCID: Solving the Name Ambiguity Problem by Aramaka Megwala
- SAGE Video — Communication and Video Studies by Dennis Brunning
- TechCrunch and CrunchBase by Louise Mort Feldmann
- Thesaurus Linguae Graecae by Jeremy Whitt
- TRAILS: Tool for Real-time Assessment of Information Literacy Skills by Christina Miller

Also included in this issue is an informative interview with COUNTER’s Lorraine Estelle by Dennis Brunning, Jill Emery’s “Highlight of the Digital Public Library of America,” and Joel van Arnhem’s write-up on “Aurasma Studio 2.0” in her continuing series on Mobile Apps and a thorough review of “Apps in Higher Education: Criteria and Evaluation” by Rebecca Arzola and Stefanie Havelka of Lehman College at the City University of New York.

All articles are available in print as well as online via IngentaConnect.com. Logon to www.charlestonco.com to learn more.
APE is now in its eleventh year and still flourishing. It is the brainchild of former Springer marketing supremo Arnoud de Kemp up front and the CEO of the Dutch Publisher IOS Press Einar Fredriksson giving help and publishing the proceedings. The 200 attendees in a cold damp Germany are mainly European (especially Dutch and German) publishers with some Americans, fewer librarians and a couple of journalists.

One who ticked all three boxes is Marydee Ojala from Information Today Inc. who is Editor in Chief of Online Searcher magazine. She posed a reasonable question: Why would a U.S. librarian travel thousands of miles to Germany to attend a conference about academic publishing in Europe?” She provided the answer — it is because she gets a “benefit from direct contact with the ‘movers and shakers’ of European scholarly publishing by attending.”

You were not there and may not even wish to travel in January but here are some hot topics:

The pre-conference on 18 January was all about the changing needs of publishers — what sort of staff should they be looking for? From another point of view are the millennials themselves resisting traditional business practices? Publishers are dependent on their authors for their content but are the early career researchers (ECRs) happy with them or are they going to transform the whole scholarly communication system — at last. ECRs were quoted throughout the event. Much needed research on their practices and attitudes is now under way — see ciber-research.eu/harbingers.html.

1. An example of what a transformed system might look like was provided by Barend Mons of Leiden University. He leads the development of the European Science Cloud and has created a lot of new concepts. There are the FAIR data principles, the explicitome, and nanopublications among others — a case for Googling. Researchers should make all research objects available to machine mining or they are not serving science — was one provocative statement.

2. A concept which came up time and time again was “friction” as in “friction in the work flow.” Manuscript submission drives authors wild — because of the friction. HighWire founder John Sack has kindly put up his presentation which had lots in it: http://blog.highwire.org/2016/02/08/augmented-intelligence-in-scholarly-communication-the-machine-as-reader/#more-648.

3. Ralf Schimmer from the virtual library of the huge and prestigious Max Planck Society has updated the impressive calculations that underpin his thesis that flipping from a subscription model of journal publishing to an open access one is not too difficult and not more expensive. He also presented at the Berlin Fiesole Retreat last spring. The latest presentation is at http://pubman.mpdl.mpg.de/pubman/faces/viewItemOverviewPage.jsp?itemId=escidoc:2148961.

4. Another commonly used word was infrastructure — remember cyberinfrastructure. Digital plumbing is the term here in Europe. Sabine Bruenger-Wengel of the German Council for Scientific Infrastructures reflected on the difficulties of getting funders to give money for infrastructure projects. Immediately after Alice Meadows, now at ORCID, handled well a good panel. Daniel Hook, CEO of Digital Science, was cogent and his comments and some others are available at https://www.digital-science.com/blog/events/storify-daniel-hook-philj-jones-ape2016-berlin/

5. The star of the above session was the strategist Geoffrey Bilder of CrossRef. He thinks that institutional repositories are a waste of time because they are not built for discovery. CrossRef and Datacite need to link their DOIs. This is on its way. He worries about an enclosed system — a sort of Facebook of scholarship. His own manifesto is an argument for openness and connectivity — see http://cameronmeylon.net/blog/principles-for-open-scholarly-infrastructures/.

6. In another panel ostensibly about money, the Wiley VP for Digital Product Management Todd Toler threw out a lot of ideas. Wiley is good at passing PDPs around internally but the answer is network first. Give up pages. See http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2012/02/14/announcing-the-anywhere-article/.

7. The title of the wake-up panel of the second day was “Can the Academic Sharing Economy add Value to the Scholarly System?” The convener was Richard Padley of Semantico. There was a preliminary update from Fred Dylla, emeritus CEO of the American Institute of Physics, who is in charge of the STM consultation on sharing — see http://www.stm-assoc.org/stm-consultations/scn-consultation-2015/. The bottom line is that the Scholarly Collaboration Networks are not playing or even responding. Is the next move by SCNs to either start publishing or bypass publishing altogether?

8. There was a very European presentation from the policy officer of Science Europe — the pan European organisation of government owned funders: see www.scienceeurope.org. There are 47 members from 27 countries. About 80% fund open access, mostly green, but a growing amount of gold. A second presentation was from Professor David Nicholas on reputation mechanisms. This is available — http://ciber-research.eu/download/20160120-reputation_berlin.pdf. There is a rather new emphasis — on teaching and its measurement as central to the reputation of scholars.

9. The final very long panel concentrated on publication ethics: the convener was Berndt Pulverer who edits the EMBO journal. No single theme predominated. Some considered that the current system does not encourage ethical practices (a PLOS spokesman). Others wondered whether the literature is self-correcting or is there a need for a neutral body to oversee practices. It was a very in-group biomedical discussion until a physicist from the floor pointed out that physics does not have difficulties about reproducibility at all.

One generalisation about the whole meeting can be made. Publishers are really no longer interested in libraries even though they are the customers. Now they are as concerned with the research cycle as some librarians are and it is the needs of the end-users, the researchers, they try to understand.

Final Note: At some date in the future you can go to the weblink referenced here and see not only the presentations but also a video of the whole event — www.ape2016.eu.
Don’t Miss This!

CRL has released a 90 minute video of its January 20, 2016 webinar on the topic of “Perpetual Access: Myth and Reality.” In this webinar, moderated by Ann Okerson, CRL’s Senior Advisor on Electronic Resources Strategy, three thought leaders (James O’Donnell of Arizona State University, Kevin Guthrie of ITHAKA, and Ivy Anderson of the California Digital Library) offered their assessment on publisher efforts to date and how likely those efforts are to meet the need of libraries and scholars, from the academic, publisher and library perspectives respectively. To view the YouTube video, logon to: https://www.crl.edu/events/webinar-perpetual-access-myth-and-reality.

Libraries on the Move

ProQuest has published a 14-page whitepaper on the topic of “Academic Library Book Purchasing Trends” which explores data from a recent survey of over 460 academic librarians and outlines book purchasing trends in academic libraries, with a special emphasis on ebooks. Looking at the shared challenge of “stretched monograph budgets,” the whitepaper examines how librarians have adopted new, demand-driven book acquisition models to better serve their users. To download the full report, free of charge, logon to http://go.proquest.com/acquisition-whitepaper.

Mark Your Calendars


TCR Quotes

“Google Scholar has come of age. The new game is to use Google as a springboard to more content: surf the data in Google, and lead the user to a deep dive on the publisher’s site.” Marjorie Hlava, President of Access Innovations Inc. in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in a January 4, 2016 email post headlined Our Top Information Trends for 2015.

Visit Our Country’s Past

From the birth of a nation to a nation in turmoil, get the perspectives on 200 years of American history. Financial debates, the national debt, commerce and trade, emancipation, feminism... and the wars. How have things changed, how have they stayed the same? From revolution to expansion to conflict to healing — experience it all through our primary source databases.

- African American Newspapers
- American County Histories
- The Civil War
- Frank Leslie’s Weekly
- Godey’s Lady’s Book
- The Liberator
- The Lily 1876-1881
- The Virginia Gazette
- National Anti-Slavery Standard
- National Citizen and Ballot Box
- The Pennsylvania Gazette
- The Revolution
- Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman
- South Carolina Newspapers

For a FREE TRIAL visit to America’s origins contact our exclusive sales and marketing agent: iris.bunney@unlimitedpriorities.com

Call: 239-549-2384

Accessible Archives

www.accessible-archives.com

Harriet Tubman

led an armed expedition in the Civil War