Check It Out

NEW for 2016: Charleston Conference to Reward Creative Ideas!

In 2015, the Charleston Conference presented several well-received panels about startups, innovation, and entrepreneurship. For 2016, the Conference will seek to expand on those themes and that spirit by actively encouraging creative solutions in academic libraries. In an exciting new and experimental session called CHARLESTON FAST PITCH, 3-5 applicants, thoughtfully pre-selected from among all those who respond to a CALL (soon to be issued), will “pitch” their ideas to the entire audience and a select group of judges. TWO proposals will be awarded, one by the judges and one from audience votes. This Call will be open to all who have interesting, useful, and implementable ideas for change and improvement in their own workplaces and seek a community “vote of confidence” plus a small financial award ($2,500 each) to seed their proposals. Immense thanks to Steve Goodall and the Goodall Family Foundation for funding the 2016 prizes in this new Charleston Conference Feature. For further information, contact Ann Okerson <aokerson@gmail.com> or Katina Strauch <kstrauch@comcast.net>.

Short Takes

NASIG has announced that, beginning with volume 70 (2016), its conference proceedings will be open access on the Serials Librarian site at http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wser20 after a six-month embargo. In addition, proceedings through 2015 will also be open access online once Taylor and Francis has completed data conversion. Under the terms of a new agreement between T&F and NASIG, authors will retain copyright but assign exclusive license to publish to T&F. More details available at https://nasig.wordpress.com/2016/06/01/nasig-conference-proceedings-open-access-online-with-6-month-embargo/.

Electronic Resources & Libraries Round-Up, 11th Annual Conference, April 3-6, 2016, Austin, TX

... by Elizabeth L. Winter, Head, Collection Acquisitions & Management Department & Electronic Resources Coordinator, Georgia Tech Library, Georgia Institute of Technology, <elizabeth.winter@library.gatech.edu>

Ed Note: We hope you enjoyed the “Italian View of ER&L” in our last issue! Following are more details from the chair of ER&L’s program planners group.

ER&L recently held its 11th annual conference, continuing our exploration of fresh ideas and emerging trends in electronic resource and digital services. In-person attendance continues to grow and this year reached 850. Including online attendees, total 2016 participation was over 1,200. We had 73 sponsors this year, 23 (31%) of whom were new to ER&L: https://www.electroniclibrarian.org/conference-info/2016-sponsors/.

Sessions covered a variety of topics, with some focused on core electronic resources issues of workflow, internal and external partnerships, negotiation, and delivery of different types of electronic content. There were also unique presentations related to employing creative staffing solutions, developing assessment strategies, optimizing discovery for users, promoting open educational resources, considering user privacy and data sharing, and experimenting with new tools for productivity.

Dawna Ballard’s opening keynote challenged attendees as to the way we think about time. Her session, “Finding Time: From Industrial Mythology to Chronemic Literacy,” can be viewed freely at http://events7.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Play/03f11a2a88b88b4da5a32f143a5f49b4301d.

S. Craig Watkins’ closing keynote explored how social and media technologies in the social and learning lives of children and teens can impact the way we design learning spaces. His session, “Doing Media: Learning Futures in a World of Change,” can be viewed at http://events7.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Play/a7ac6d5e77d4c149680306af0d6dce931d.

We also presented the two-day Designing for Digital, an overlapping conference offering intensive, hands-on workshops and informative sessions. Designing for Digital brought together colleagues working on user experience, discovery, design and usability projects inside and outside of libraries, drawing expertise from the tech and education communities, as well as from peers. https://www.electroniclibrarian.org/designing-for-digital-conference/

With our partnership with the Digital Library Federation of CLIR, a 2016 Cross-Pollinator Travel Award was given to Danielle Trierweiler. In addition, two Cross-Pollinator Online Conference Awards were given to Melissa Goertzen and Shayna Pekala. https://www.electroniclibrarian.org/erlplus/crosspollinator/

Thanks to our partnership with Taylor & Francis, we were able to offer two student travel grant awards this year, which went to Yi Ding and Anne Ligon Harding. http://electroniclibrarian.org/erlplus/tandfstudent/

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Electronic Resources & Libraries Roundup — from page 1

This year’s attendees summed up ER&L 2016 by saying:

“The variety of types of sessions and level of sophistication is great, makes it accessible and valuable for attendees at many points in their careers.”

“The networking was great, the sessions were excellent and the venue was the best I have seen. Easy to get to sessions and still have time to network. Great food!”

“Great sessions. Friendly people. Relevant content.”

One online attendee noted, “As a web attendee, I like the ability to space out my viewing over the year. Also, I get to see almost all the concurrent sessions that way.”

The online conference archive of recorded sessions is available for purchase at https://www.electroniclibrarian.org/online-conference-archive-2016/.

Please join us for next year’s conference, April 2-5, 2017, in Austin, Texas!

Libraries on the Move

Two programs in Colorado are experimenting with Demand Driven Acquisitions (DDA) for printed scholarly monographs. Colorado State University and the University of Denver are loading selected sets of MARC title records into their integrated library system for potential acquisition. When a patron finds one of these records in the local library catalog, they are told that it is not owned by the library and then are given three options. First, the system checks in real time with the union catalog of the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (http://prospectorhome.coalliance.org) to see if copies are available in the region for borrowing (with delivery in about 3 business days). The system also offers the patron the option to request that the book be purchased for the library with standard delivery (an approximate 2 week timeframe) or expedited purchase (ordered from Amazon and delivered in 4 to 5 business days). Of note, CSU reports that so far only 20% have chosen the expedited mode — patrons were told that this would cost the library more and seem to be cost conscious.


The Charleston Report, Business Insights into the Library Market is published six times a year by The Charleston Co., 6180 East Warren Avenue, Denver, CO 80222. Subscription price per year is $155 (U.S.) and $170 (outside the U.S.).

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 2016, The Charleston Co. All rights reserved. ISSN 1091-1863.

Contributing Editors: Tom Gilson <GilsonT@cofc.edu>
Editorial Board: Rebecca Lenzini, Katina Strauch
Chief Financial Officer: Rebecca T. Lenzini
Publisher: The Charleston Co.
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To place an ad, contact Toni Nix, Ads Manager, <justwrite@lowcountry.com>, TEL: 843-835-8604, FAX: 843-835-5892.

By the Numbers

$5,105... The average price of Chemistry journals, according to the “Periodical Price Survey 2016” compiled and published by Library Journal. Chemistry is traditionally the highest in the group labeled Scientific Disciplines. The lowest price can be claimed by Agriculture, at $1,687. For much more information, read the full report at http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/04/publishing/fracking-the-ecosystem-periodicals-price-survey-2016/#.

<50%... The number of journals available open access after 20 years of effort, according to Toby Green of OECD who began his talk with this figure at the 2016 Fiesole Retreat. Slides available at http://libraries.casalini.it/retreat/retreat_2016.html.

1.4%... The projected increase for overall library budgets worldwide this year, according to PCG’s Annual Library Budget Survey. Projections varied by region, with North American at only 1%, South America at 2.1%, Asia Pacific at 2.8% and Africa at 4.2%, the highest reported. European libraries reported an anticipated decrease of 0.1%. Complete report available via PDF download at http://www.ingenta.com/news-article/institutional-library-budgets-set-increase-global-study-concludes/.

Mark Your Calendars

Registration Is Now Open for the 36th Annual Charleston Library Conference, October 31–November 5, 2016

“The Charleston Library Conference continues to place an emphasis on giving a platform to fresh ideas and equally valuing the input from all sides of the information and scholarly communications industry,” says Conference Founder and Convener Katina Strach. “If you have challenges, solutions, or information to share then we’d love to hear from you. After all, ideas are only amplified and improved by others who are also interested!”

Preconference sessions are scheduled for Monday, October 31 through Wednesday, November 2. Sessions include: Introduction to Data Curation, Acquisitions Bootcamp, Data Visualization from Scratch, Understanding the Library Market, Predators, “Pirates” and Privacy: Educating Researchers on New Challenges in Publishing, and more. Session descriptions and schedules are online at http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/preconferences/.

Main Conference confirmed speakers include Judith C. Russell, Dean of University Libraries, University of Florida; Anja Smit, Library Director at the University of Utrecht; James G. Neal, University Librarian Emeritus, Columbia University, and 2017-2018 President-Elect of the American Library Association; Kalev Leetaru, Senior Fellow, Center for Cyber & Homeland Security, the George Washington University; a return of our “Predators, ‘Pirates’ and Privacy: Educating Researchers on New Challenges in Publishing” session, and a return of Dean Russell, and a return of Kalev Leetaru. Slides available at http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/preconferences/.

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Begun in 1980, the Charleston Conference has grown from 20 participants in 1980 to over 1,700 in 2015. Be sure to register soon at www.charlestonlibraryconference.com.
TCR Reports from the Field: 18th Fiesole Retreat, Fiesole, Italy, April 6-8, 2016

... with thanks to Anthony Watkinson, CIBER Research, <anthony.watkinson@btinternet.com>

The Charleston Company is a founding sponsor, along with Casalini Libri and Against the Grain, of the annual Fiesole collection development series which every few years comes home to the hills above Florence where the weather this time was excellent and the food as always was wonderful. The philosophy animating these occasions is rather similar to the Charleston Conference — discussion between librarians, publishers, and various sorts of intermediaries — all on an equal footing. Casalini provides a repository for the series where almost all the presentations are housed: http://libraries.casalini.it/retreat/.

The theme for 2016 was (as usual) somewhat general — information strategies. The sessions covered eBooks, discovery, reputation and business models, but the discussions ranged much more widely.

The first day is a pre-conference of particular interest to academic librarians including local librarians. This year Ann Okerson (CRL) put together some impressive speakers representing a full range of stakeholders under the title of “The E-book Elephant” with reference to the parable of the blind men who built their own mental picture of that animal depending on which part they touched. Here are some of the different perceptions:

• The user was very unhappy with the product not just with lack of simultaneous user deals and proprietary formats but with poor print from digital files. As this user was Jim O’Donnell (University Librarian at Arizona State), this was not the complaint of a Luddite.
• Gardiner and Musto (Publishers, Italica Press, Inc.) who provided decades of experience from running the ALCS series now argued for transformation using the functionality of the web to enable multimedia.
• Sven Fund (fulstillstop GmbH) the entrepreneur who was until recently CEO of de Gruyter, offered the business angle which involved moving beyond the digitisation of the past to the digitality of the future — see his detailed presentation if you do not know what this means.
• The Viennese librarian Wolfgang Mayer (Head, eResource Management at Vienna University Library) surprised some by his assertion that bundles are as good for books as for journals. He buys either print or digital but not both.
• The Californian lawyer Lauren Schoenthaler (Stanford University) also surprised. It was her view that librarians and publishers would save a lot of money by not litigating on such basics as fair use but talking to each other a little.

The second day began, as is customary, with a keynote from a big player from outside the space inhabited by most of those present. This year it was Roly Keating, the Chief Executive of the British Library. His presentation was all about the corporate vision and, as the slides on the Casalini repository show, it combined mission statements with actuals. Openness and transparency were the guidelines and there was an emphasis on new forms of research and unlocking digital scholarship. The claim is that BL staff has bought into what is proposed.

The second session was as much about standards as it was about discovery tools.

• Graham Stone of the University of Huddersfield in the UK has been into web scale discovery from 2009. He saw it as a big improvement, a contention all would agree to, but rather dodged questions suggesting that no discovery tool might work as well.
• Todd Carpenter, Executive Director of NISO, evangelised on behalf of standards — “without standards nothing else will work.” His final point was that managing identifiers and metadata well is going to be expensive but managing badly is likely to be more expensive in ways you cannot track.
• Dr. Gaelle Bequet, who runs the ISSN International Centre in Paris, demonstrated how standards have to continually adapt to remain useful to users. ISSNs are now given to scientific blogs.

The third session explained why reputation is important:

• Andrea Bonaccorsi of the University of Pisa works on the value produced by research using books not journals. This is not citations. He argued that scholarly discourse in the humanities is valid and exactly how and how it should be measured demands more work.
• Lorraine Estelle from Jisc Collections now runs COUNTER and has to look at whether counting usage really matters in an increasingly open access world. She explained that she knows she has a lot to do — watch this space.
• Charlie Rapple of Kudos revealed recent research with special reference to early career researchers. For them publication, speaking, collaboration and reviewing contribute most to reputation.
• Sarah Rouhi of Altmetric.com answered the question — how do we recognize, assess, trace, and reward all the data associated with “non-traditional” research outputs? Clearly there was a role for her company here.

The final session was on building blocks for new business models: the speakers were asked to talk about what they knew but apply it widely

• Stephen Rhind-Tutt, Founder and President of Alexander Street Press, anatomised models as he has done before. One big point was that sales and marketing costs are an increasingly significant part of overall publishing costs in the digital world and can be higher or lower depending on the business model — open business models means lower marketing costs.
• Dr. Frances Pinter of Knowledge Unlatched unrolled some new plans for expansion of what has proved to be a sustainable model for open access eBooks. She rightly pointed out that her model has gained trust from both publishers and librarians.

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TCR Reports from the Field: Fiesole Retreat — from page 3

- Mimi Calter of Stanford University Libraries highlighted ongoing research with special reference to the SU Press Digital Publishing Initiative which inter alia is concerned with providing a publishing methodology for interactive scholarly works.

- Toby Green of OECD explained why the future must be freemium. He has demonstrated this in his own publishing kingdom but can his success be translated?

- The final presentation was from Daniel Schiff of Thieme. He has started a new surgical journal. He has asked authors to submit how you want and pay what seems reasonable. Back in April it seemed as if this brave move might be sustainable.

As often at Fiesole Retreats the super-consultant David Worlock summed up. He provided six new thoughts:

- It is the age of data and we do not discuss the challenge of tools.
- We always think about change in others. We try to express continuity ourselves.
- Reputation needs trust and authority.
- Networks are what users do. They find out what they should not do untrammelled.
- Publisher is just a self-declaration. There are no barriers to becoming a publisher.
- Some words get in the way. “Books” is one of them. We need to find descriptions of what we do and not what we want or what we used to do.

TCR Quotes: Overheard at the 18th Fiesole Retreat

Innovation is hard to bring about in an organization.

The APC is a great cost and is unsustainable.

The economic future of the publisher is to make content available in new formats.

The expansion of direct sales forces consolidation.

Digital files degrade much faster than print files.

Continuities are as important as change.

How to be a library in the age of algorithm?

Discovery systems are not content neutral.

Author identification is key for linked data and discovery.

The visualization of digital content is built on the interoperability of metadata.

Don’t do stuff small. Make it relevant across the brand.

Government expands but complicates the sustainability question.

There are no plans to take print off the market.

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