Don’t Miss This!

The Charleston Advisor’s January 2020 issue (v.21, no.3) is now available in print and online at www.charlestonco.com. Included in the current issue are the following reviews:

- Academic Writer (American Psychological Association)
- American Historical Periodicals (GALE/Cengage)
- American Underworld: The Flash Press (Readex/Newsbank)
- Art Museum Image Gallery (EBSCO)
- Cold War Eastern Europe (Taylor & Francis Group)
- Disability in the Modern World: History of a Social Movement (Alexander Street/ProQuest)
- Ethnomusicology: Global Field Recordings (Adam Matthew Digital)
- Gale Business: DemographicsNow (GALE/Cengage)
- OASIS: Openly Available Sources Integrated Search (Milne Library/SUNY Geneseo)
- PropertyShark (PropertyShark, NY)
- Routledge Historical Resources: History of Economic Thought (Routledge)
- Shakespeare’s Globe Archive (Adam Matthew Digital)
- VoxGov Revisited (VoxGov, Inc.)

Don’t forget! Reviews from this issue as well as over 500 updated reviews from past issues are now available in the ccAdvisor database, a joint project of Choice and The Charleston Advisor now offered through EBSCO.

Learn more at https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/ccadvisor.

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Business Insights into the Library Market
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TCR Reports from the Field: Academic Publishing in Europe, Berlin, Germany, January 14-15, 2020

... Reported by Anthony Watkinson, Principal Consultant, CIBER Research, <anthony.watkinson@btinternet.com>

APE 2020 marked the 15th in this series of annual meetings which showcase current thinking about scholarly communication in Europe, not only among the larger STM publishers but other stakeholders too. Emphasis is mainly but not entirely on (international) journal publishing. This year’s programme can be found at https://www.ape2020.eu/full-program/program; session videos are also now up at https://www.ape2020.eu/video-recordings.

Of note, a view from the USA is provided by the Scholarly Kitchen chefs (in particular Roger Schonfeld of Ithaka S&R) in postings of 21st and 23rd January.

- In the first keynote on Open Science and Open Scholarship. Will Europe Lead the Change? Jean-Claude Burgelman (Advisor, Open Access Envoy, European Commission, Brussels) gave the latest thinking on Plan S and on open access/open science in general. Only through open science (he thinks) can Europe capitalise on the results of their top research.
- Professor Marc Schiltz (President of Science Europe) explained the mission of funders in this talk entitled Evaluator – Paymaster – Regulator – Driver of Change. As he sees it, funders mediate between the taxpayer and the scientists. Science should have impact. The mandates by funders have evolved taking this into account. Scientists are the new “customers” for publishers, presumably replacing librarians.
- There was a session on why Sustainable Development Goals are important for Innovation and Scholarly Communication. For many in the audience not familiar with SDGs — see https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/. What was particularly striking was a talk from Richard Horton the long-time editor of The Lancet. He felt that Schiltz had been too conservative and unlocking the societal nature of science was of paramount importance.
- Another keynote was from Kumsaal Bayazit (CEO of Elsevier) on The World of Research: its Evolving Needs, Challenges, and Diversity of Views. This followed on from her Charleston Conference presentation last November now to a different audience and after quite a bit of personal interaction with researchers. The company is committed to an open access future which involves pragmatically leveraging “quality research,” in collaboration with all stakeholders, for societal purposes. They understand that they have to regain the trust of the scholarly community.
- For those interested in open data there was an excellent session chaired by Dr. Eefke Smit (STM Technology and Standards Director). This is her initiative — Driving Research Data: Announcing 2020 as STM’s Research Data Year. There were three publishers with data availability policies: Wiley, SpringerNature and PLOS. Niamh O’Connor from PLOS explained that they have had a mandate since 2014 and it leads to more cites as well as more downloads.

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• A key part of the Plan S/Coalition S funders mandate will be that publishers have to explain APC charges. How publishers can demonstrate value transparently (a difficult task) has been the latest part of the project that consultants Information Power have been undertaking. Alicia Wise, who heads the project, admitted that there was no consensus among the publishers they have interrogated but nevertheless the Coalition has encouraged a suggested pilot — see https://www.informationpower.co.uk/final-report-price-transparency-project/.

• How Does Open Science Impact Librarians? Session 5 convened by Professor Andreas Degkwitz (Director of Humboldt University Library, Berlin) and Dr Rafael Ball (Director of ETH Libraries, Zurich) brought together a panel of senior academic librarians who mainly discussed open science as the new paradigm of representing knowledge and the related definitions and standards. There was agreement that there was an important role for librarians in the open environment.

• Michael Mabe, former CEO of STM (now Ladysmith Associates), provided his vision for the future in the final session. This was based on the concept that sociology dominates technology while acknowledging/explaining why the system is currently creaking. Open Access models will be dominant. His observation is that the money is there for conversion (see Burgelman) but it is in the wrong place. Again like others he sought collaboration — not a feature of Plan S.

• An extra presentation — not announced previously — was by LIN Peng (Board Chairman, Science Press, Beijing) on Opportunity and Cooperation, Science Publishing in China. Science Press is the biggest Chinese scholarly publisher. Of note, Roger Schonfeld in Scholarly Kitchen has comments on European and American publisher concerns about serious Chinese publishing competition but also the possibility of a separate Chinese infrastructure. Later in the programme strategist Ed Gerstner (Springer Nature) an experienced China hand was pleased that Science Press had attended as it seemed to give hope that the Chinese industry will become more embedded in the international publishing scene and in international research norms — for example over sharing cell lines with international researchers. Michael Mabe added some useful factoids in his final presentation, among them that Chinese Universities include more scientists in percentage as well as numerical terms than U.S. universities.

2020 Charleston Conference Preview

The Charleston Conference is happy to announce the theme for 2020: “Quo vadis? – Where are we going?” The Conference will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year! The event will be held November 2-5 in the Performance Hall of the Charleston Gaillard Center as well as in numerous adjoining hotels in downtown Charleston. Here are some upcoming dates and deadlines:

• March 9 — Call for Preconferences Opens
• April 15 — Call for Papers Opens
• April 30 — Call for Preconference Deadline
• June 8 — Vendor Showcase Registration Opens
• June 15 — Conference Early Bird Registration and Hotel Room Blocks Open
• July 8 — Call for Papers Deadline
• August 14 — Juried Product Development Forum Deadline
• August 21 — Charleston Premiers Deadline
• September 11 — Early Bird Registration Deadline
• October 2 — Up and Comer Award Nomination Deadline
• October 9 — Regular Registration Deadline
• October 23 — Online Registration Closes
• November 2-3 — Preconferences/Seminars
• Tuesday, November 3 — Vendor Showcase (As always, One Day Only!)
• November 4-6 — Main Conference

Be sure to stay tuned at www.charlestonlibraryconference.com.
ATG Caught My Eye:
Reports from ALA Midwinter, Philadelphia, January 24 – 28, 2020

...With thanks to Tom Gilson, <GilsonT@cofc.edu>

The City of Brotherly Love welcomed librarians, vendors and other library supporters with a few rain showers but relatively mild temperatures as they convened for the annual ALA Midwinter Conference. Unfortunately, attendance appears to have been a big disappointment — but that was no surprise given the uncertainty about Midwinter’s future. The Philadelphia Midwinter saw a grand total of 8,089 attendees, which was a 12% drop from the 9,211 attendees in Seattle, thought by many as a comeback for Midwinter. And those figures are even more sobering when compared with the nearly 12,000 attendees who came to Philadelphia the last time Midwinter was in town.

Regardless there were plenty of programs, meetings, and events focused on the key concerns and interests of the library community. So, as we have done in the past, we are providing readers a sense of this year’s ALA Midwinter by listing some relevant and interesting reports from a variety of perspectives.

#alamw20 — https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/tag/alamw20/ — Once again American Libraries captures another ALA Midwinter Conference in their extensive blog coverage. As usual, there is some serious scrolling involved in getting a full sense of what happened but it’s well worth the effort. Reports include those on the celebrity keynote addresses as well as others on sessions covering topics ranging from virtual reality to privacy and from sustainability to free speech. And of course, there are reports on numerous award presentations, not to mention, the daily “Top Ten Tweets” and coverage of ALA’s three Council meetings.

2020 Midwinter Wrap-Up - Social justice and privacy issues dominated discussion in Philadelphia — https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2020/02/06/2020-midwinter-wrap-up/ — is American Libraries’ overview post covering key elements of the conference. In addition to the featured speakers, this post discusses the key themes running through the conference ranging from privacy to ebooks, and new technology to children and teen services. It also reports on various award winners and ALA Council matters.


Topping the list was “how and why a shortfall of approximately two million dollars in operating funds occurred.” Not far behind was Council’s decision to delay the long-planned major revamp of the association’s internal structure. The first vote on the so-called “Forward Together” recommendations has been postponed until at least January 2021.

2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits offering visions of hope — http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2020/02/02/2020-ala-midwinter-meeting-exhibits-offering-visions-hope — is a press release from ALA News that besides noting a number of the featured speakers, discusses the Symposium on the Future of Libraries (https://2020.alamidwinter.org/symposium-schedule) with its various sessions “exploring the near-term trends already inspiring innovation in libraries and the longer-term trends that will help libraries adapt to the needs of their communities...”

Top Tech Trends Focus on Privacy — https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/top-tech-trends-focus-privacy/ — reports on LITA’s popular annual Top Tech Trends session. However, for the first time the session had a theme: technology and patron privacy. Joining moderator Ida Joiner were panelists representing four different perspectives: Victoria Blackmer, from the Robert R. Jones Public Library in Coal Valley, Illinois; Marshall Breeding, independent library consultant; Elisandro Cabada, medical and bioengineering librarian at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and Alison Macrina, founder and executive director of the Library Freedom Project.


Ed Note: Be sure to watch for Tom’s full “Caught My Eye” on the ATG website. www.against-the-grain.com/
Did You Know? Charleston Conference Webcasts

The Charleston Conference is in our 3rd year of offering a series of free webcasts on topics of importance to libraries, publishers, and vendors in the information industry. See our website for recordings of previous sessions and updates on upcoming events: www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/video/webinars/.

Mark Your Calendars!

Registration is now Open for the 35th Annual NASIG Conference to be held June 8-12, 2020 in Spokane, WA. Preconferences include sessions on Licenses 101 and 102, Conquering the Challenges of Linked Data, Resource Management in an OA World and an Introduction to Serials Cataloguing using RDA. Details at https://nasig.org/event-3568014.

Last Call for Athens 2020

Only a few spots remain for the upcoming 22nd Annual Fiesole Retreat to be held from April 7-9 in Athens. Program, registration and hotel information are now available at https://www.casalini.it/retreat/retreat_2020.asp.

This year's theme is “Tradition Meets Innovation”. Sessions will examine Innovation in Greece, Cultural Heritage: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities, Copyright: Examining Approaches and the EU, as well as Open Access Monographs, Digital Humanities and Research Outputs in the Digital World.

Many thanks to our hosts at the beautiful new National Library of Greece, housed in the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center — https://www.snfcc.org/en/national-library-greece. Be sure to register soon if you plan to join this exciting conference!

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