Hot Topics from the 21st Annual Charleston Conference: The Trends They Are A'Changing

...first impressions by Conference Founder Katina Strauch

After no discussion of archiving last year, it was heartening to see lots of discussion of archiving initiatives, specifically, discussions of the Mellon grants to Harvard and John Wiley (among others) and Stanford’s LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) project. In light of the bankruptcy of netLibrary (announced two weeks before the conference), this seemed especially necessary.

The death of the scholarly monograph was not supported by data from a test group at CalTech. Citation analysis shows that faculty are still publishing books and are still citing books in their research.

There was much talk about full text databases and print journal subscriptions. It is clear that libraries are canceling print to purchase electronic products. Some libraries are even discarding print. This trend will continue. Conversely, Nick Bashanes (A Gentle Madness. Patience & Fortitude) extolled the book as artifact and clearly captivated the audience.

Many libraries are moving to use bibliographic utility databases (like OCLC WorldCat and RLN) instead of their own online public access catalogs (OPACs). The reasoning is that the library user should not be limited to what is housed in his or her local library. This raises questions for the future of the OPAC from integrated library system vendors.

Integration of information resources is a clear collection development strategy. eBooks were very much under discussion. Librarians have moved beyond netLibrary and look toward the new iteration of the eBook. In evidence was Oxford University Press’ Scholarship Online and John Wiley’s Online Books (announced November 14, 2001), two projects in which the book, like the journal, is now being taken apart for individual article, chapter, or document delivery.

The quote heard most often: “I don’t know what I’m doing anymore.” Libraries have a long way to go to promote their expertise and what they have available.

How can we recreate browsing the shelf and the serendipity of finding information we didn’t know existed? This need was mentioned by several speakers and reactors as missing in the current highly computerized information environment.

Is this the sequence? Ken Frazier, University of Wisconsin, commented in reaction to “the BIG DEALS” now being negotiated by mega-consortia that collection developers and librarians have moved from “just in case” to “just in time” to “just for you” to “just pay the bill.”

The core activity for collection developers remains how to evaluate resources and decide which resources fit user needs and to promote effective use of information.

Finally, one speaker (David Levy, University of Washington) reminded us that documents are symbols of human loss and renewal. They play a role in stability and continuity. They are mirrors of who we are—a particularly poignant observation given the sobering events of September 11.

Did You Know?

The School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at UNC-Chapel Hill is offering a 10-week online, distance education program on “Consumer Health Information,” from February 1- April 12, 2002. The registration fee for the course is $250. Interested parties can register online at http://ils.unc.edu/ils/continuing_ed/chi/.
Short Takes

IFLA (the International Federation of Library Associations) and IPA (the International Publishers’ Association) have created a joint steering group to address matters of common interest. A goal of the group is to improve library/publisher relations worldwide through cooperative initiatives, ongoing dialog, and communication. Chairing the group are Ingrid Parent of the National Library of Canada and Herman Spruijt, an IPA executive committee member and former CEO of Elsevier Science. Library Hotline, September 10, 2001.

Taylor & Francis Group plc, has announced the launch of the Taylor & Francis eBookstore. Users can browse, select, and download from an initial list of over 400 of the company’s most popular titles. The site is expected to offer more than 2,500 titles by the end of the year. Three eBook formats are supported: Microsoft Reader (for PC and Pocket PC use only), Adobe eBook Reader (for use on PC and Mac), and Mobipocket (for use on Palm Pilot, Psion, and PC). Learn more at http://www.ebookstore.tandf.co.uk.

Peter Suber, Professor of Philosophy at Earlham College, has created “The Free Online Scholarship Newsletter: How the Internet is Transforming Scholarly Research and Publication.” The stated purpose of the newsletter is to share news and discussion on the migration of print scholarship to the Internet and efforts to make it available to readers free of charge. Suber says the site is aimed at scholars, researchers, scientists, teachers, students, librarians, editors, and publishers. Interested parties can sign up at http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/index.htm.

TCR Quotes: Tidbits from the Charleston Conference

“Publishers are committed to authors and readers, not libraries.” Danny Jones, Director of Research and Development, Harassowitz, in a comment at the microphone at this year’s Charleston Conference, November 1-3, 2001.

“Six clicks and you’re out.” Infotrieve’s guide to developing systems for end users, according to Tom Ryan, VP for Business Development, who made this comment as part of “The Article Economy” session.

By the Numbers...

3.1 million...public Web sites have been documented by OCLC in its 2001 annual survey of the World Wide Web, an increase of 200,000 sites from 2000. Public Web sites make up 36% of the Web and allow unrestricted public access to content. Nearly 9 million total Web sites have been identified by OCLC; however, the rate of growth in sites was slower this past year than in previous surveys. OCLC Press Release, October 4, 2001, http://www.oclc.org/


5,100...is the current number of CrossRef-enabled journals, representing more than 3.5 million articles. CrossRef includes 83 publisher members, as well as 23 affiliates from the library and information community. CrossRef Press Release, October 10, 2001, www.crossref.org.

709...of 825 seats at the newly renovated Toledo-Lucas County Public Library are equipped with T1 modem access capabilities, creating one of the highest Internet access ratios in the U.S. Of the total, 155 stations are equipped with public access computers and 534 with access ports. News Release, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, October 9, 2001.

90%...of IDEAL’s Academic Press journal content goes live at the article level via IDEALFirst in advance of becoming available in print. IDEALWorld newsletter, Issue 4, 2001.

19...hours is the average monthly time spent online by Internet users, according to Nielsen/NetRatings. Internet usage reached a new high in October 2001, with 115.2 million people logging on at least once during the month. By comparison, 100.3 million logged on in October 2000, with an average monthly time spent online of 17.5 hours. New York Times, November 19, 2001.

7%...of 1,332 publishing professionals surveyed by Seybold Seminars and Publications are currently using digital rights management (DRM) tools. Fewer than one in five had plans to implement such a system within the next 18 months. IFRA Trend Report, no. 119, November 7, 2001.

e-Books:

What’s Out There?

And, who’s got them? Rick Lugg, Founding Partner of R2 Consulting, offered the following numbers as a part of his presentation in the “Open Forum: The Future of eBooks” panel on Thursday, November 1, 2001, at the Charleston Conference.

E-Books available as of August 2001, listed in descending order:

- Questia 40,000
- BN.com 7,375
- netLibrary 37,885
- Pirated ebooks 7,300
- Amazon 10,365
- Gemstar 4,000
- eBrary 8,000
- UVA Etext Center 1,600

To learn more about R2 Consulting, e-Book specialists, logon to www.ebookmap.net.
Banned Books List Celebrates 20th Birthday

September 22-29, 2001, was Banned Books Week in the U.S. The week is sponsored by the American Booksellers Association (ABA), the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the American Library Association (ALA), the American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA), and the Association of American Publishers (AAP) to remind us that books are continually targeted for censorship. In 2000, the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom received a total of 646 challenges to books, up from 472 in 1999. Following are the Top 10 Most Challenged Books:

- Harry Potter series, by J. K. Rowling, for occult/Satanism and anti-family themes.
- “The Chocolate War,” by Robert Cormier, for violence, offensive language.
- The Alice series, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, for sexual content.
- “Killing Mr. Griffin,” by Lois Duncan, for violence and sexual content.
- “Of Mice and Men,” by John Steinbeck, for offensive language, racism, and violence.
- “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” by Maya Angelou, for sexual content, racism, offensive language, and violence.
- “Fallen Angels,” by Walter Dean Myers, for offensive language, racism, and violence.
- Scary Stories series, by Alvin Schwartz, for violence and occult themes.
- “The Terrorist,” by Caroline Cooney, for violence and occult themes.
- “The Giver,” by Lois Lowry, for sexually explicit content, occult themes, and violence.

Digital Reference Offers Third Conference

The Virtual Reference Desk (VRD) held its third annual VRD Digital Reference conference on the theme “Setting Standards and Making it Real,” in Orlando, Florida, on November 12-13, 2001. Keynote speakers included Clifford Lynch of the Coalition of Networked Information (CNI), Susan McGlamery of the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System (MCLS) in Southern California, and Nancy O’Neill of the Santa Monica Public Library. Sessions offered how-to and real-life examples of the use of virtual reference services in libraries of all types. Digital reference, or “Ask a Librarian,” services are Internet-based question-and-answer services that connect users with experts who have subject expertise. VRD is sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education. For more information, logon to www.vrd.org.

Mark Your Calendars

The Charleston Advisor is sponsoring a user breakfast and program on “Reference Linking and the DOI” at the upcoming ALA Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans. Speakers include Judy Luther of Informed Strategies, Jim Mow from the University of Chicago, Jenny Walker from ExLibris, and Amy Brand from CrossRef

WHEN: Sunday, January 20, 2002
WHERE: Hotel Intercontinental, 444 St. Charles Ave. (Poydras and Charles)
TIME: 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (light breakfast provided, courtesy ExLibris and CrossRef)

Be sure to join us! RSVP to rlenzini@charlestonco.com. There is no cost to attend; however, space will be limited.

Results from JSTOR’s Bound Volume Survey

JSTOR is the highly successful Journal STORage project originally funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The project was created to provide a solution to the problem of inadequate stack space for long runs of backfiles of scholarly journals in academic and other libraries. JSTOR focuses on digitizing full runs of journals, from v.1, no.1, and hopes not only to solve storage problems but to increase access to backfiles at the same time. The project is widely seen as a major success; a recent survey of libraries shows the impact the service is already having.

On remote storage:
- 42 institutions (20% of 214 respondents) have moved JSTOR journals to remote storage
- 52 institutions (24%) have plans to move JSTOR journals to remote storage
- 84 institutions (39%) have moved or plan to move JSTOR journals to remote storage

On discarding:
- 28 institutions (13%) have discarded titles
- 54 institutions (25%) have plans to discard titles
- 67 institutions (31%) have or will discard titles
- 138 institutions (64%) have no plans to discard titles

On binding:
- 30 institutions (14%) have stopped binding recent issues
- 21 institutions (10%) have plans to stop binding recent issues
- 151 institutions (70%) have no plans to stop binding recent issues

For more information, logon to www.jstor.org/about/bvs.html.

Don’t Miss This!

Printed proceedings of the 2000 Charleston Conference, “Is Bigger Better?” are now available from Against the Grain Press. Edited by Rosann Bazirjian (Penn. State) and Vicky Speck (ABC-CLIO), and printed and bound by EBSCO Media, this 285 page work is a must-have for all TCR readers. Be sure to order your copy via email to <strauchk@earthlink.net>. Cost is $19.95.
**TCR Mini Profiles: Houston Public Library's Master Plan**

In October, the Houston City Council approved "Standards for Excellence" for the Houston Public Library's 10-year Master Plan. Among the goals are to:

- Enhance and refresh collections to reach three items/capita
- Increase information technologies to provide one computer/2,000 people
- Establish student learning services in all branch libraries
- Emphasize outreach to under-served communities
- Increase the minimum size for new neighborhood libraries to 22,000 square feet
- Establish regional libraries within 5 miles of 75% of residents served
- Increase space at the Central Library by 25%

Houston Public Library's vision is to be a "World Class Library." To that end voters approved in November a bond issue to provide $40 million in capital investments for the implementation of the Master Plan. To learn more, logon to [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org).

**TCR Trends: Public Library Branches Expand Role**

*Governing* magazine has chosen to profile several major cities and their expansion of library branches in a recent article entitled "Branching Out," by Anne Jordan, featured in the October 2001 issue. The article quotes Library Journal as estimating that, between 1994 and 2000, roughly 1,200 new libraries were built or expanded in the U.S., at a cost of $3 billion. While many predicted that libraries would be unnecessary in this era of electronic information and mega-bookstores, the author notes that branch libraries have found themselves becoming more necessary than ever.

Public library branches today are characterized as "hybrid" institutions that not only offer books and information but serve as community centers fostering social, cultural, and economic benefits to neighborhoods. The libraries are seen as anchoring many neighborhoods and serving new needs, including those of the huge influx of immigrants. One of the most popular features of new and renovated branches is the free meeting space provided to groups including local chambers of commerce, neighborhood associations, and other civic groups. In addition, many branches have made themselves more inviting and comfortable with coffee shops, TVs, overstuffed chairs and even fireplaces.

Among the cities noted in the article as making major investments in branch libraries are Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Seattle. In contrast, Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Library is profiled for having closed five branches, due to budget constraints.

*Ed. Note: Seattle City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs was chosen as one of Governing's "Public Officials of the Year for 2001" in its November 2001 issue, the first librarian to ever receive the honor. Jacobs' efforts to connect with Seattle neighborhoods and raise funds for Seattle's libraries are profiled in detail in the article summarized above which appears in the October 2001 issue (www.governing.com).*

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**Managing Electronic Resources at Yale University Library**

Many libraries talk about the complexities of managing electronic resources on their campuses. To get a glimpse of reality, TCR readers should look at the site created by Kimberly Parker of Yale University to assist in their management of an increasingly complex environment. Among the topics addressed are:

- Checklists for evaluation — Guides to be used by selectors.
- Considering CDs — A memo to selectors about the pitfalls of acquiring CDs.
- Archive statement — The library's expectations with regard to perpetual access to networked information resources accessed from remote locations.
- Best practices statement on vendor performance — The performance standard Yale wants e-resource vendors to live up to.
- Interface grades — How to rate interfaces on five criteria: General Aspects, Searching, Retrieved Records, Help and Other Issues, and Technical Points.
- E-journal publisher status pages — Lists the license negotiation status of various e-journal publishers in use at Yale.
- IP lists — Used by local staff for authentication purposes when licensing electronic resources.
- Licensing Instructions: Specific instructions for designated license reviewers and negotiators at the university.
- Online catalog URL report — Used by catalogers to check links in Orbis (Yale's local catalog) and to update and correct links if they have broken.
- Usage statistics.

In addition, the site provides lists of databases, e-journals, and e-publishing projects now available at Yale. Be sure to check out this very useful site at [www.library.yale.edu/ecollections/eresmanage.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/ecollections/eresmanage.html).

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**In the News**

Several companies familiar to TCR readers made headlines in recent weeks. In the November 20, 2001 *Wired*, M.J. Rose brought readers up to date with short summaries on the recent expansion of ebrary, the failure of netLibrary, and the merger of Bookspan and BooksOnline: [http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,48480,00.html](http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,48480,00.html).


**Coming in Future Issues**

— ALA Midwinter Hot Topics
— Update on Library Budgets
— Eliminating Journal Check-In
— More News on Consortial Purchasing