

## Against the Grain

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# The Peripatetic Browser: Browsing on the Bayou

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## The Peripatetic Browser — Browsing on the Bayou

by **James N. R. Walser, LTC, EN** (U.S. Army) <[raymondwalser@gmail.com](mailto:raymondwalser@gmail.com)>

One Saturday morning, last October, I decided to travel to New Orleans to visit book stores. A quick Google search revealed a pleasing series of rose pins indicating numerous browsing locations. Quickly, I made the two-hour drive from Mobile and was in the French Quarter and my first book store by around 10:00. **Faulkner House Books**, <http://www.faulknerhouse.net/>, is a small bookstore of new and rare books. Situated in a quaint alley, I found it a pleasant and cozy boutique with a small selection focused on Southern writers. At this time, I was engrossed in a biography of **Percy Bysshe Shelley**, so my shopping list included many Romantic authors and I did not browse long.

My next stop was **Crescent City Books**, <http://www.crescentcitybooks.com/>, a comforting location with creaking wooden floors, ratty carpets, and high bookshelves. It contained a varied and well-displayed collection at slightly higher prices than other stores in the city. Around the front desk, there were shelves of old leather-bound volumes with almost unreadable spines. I asked the cashier about other bookstores in the area, and he helpfully provided me with a small New Orleans bookstore map. Before leaving, I flipped through a new copy of *The Book Lover's Guide to New Orleans* by **Susan Larson** displayed at the

counter. The book is available on Amazon for those interested in a more in-depth history of New Orleans and its writers.

Before entering **Beckham's Bookshop**, <http://www.beckhamsbookshop.com/antiquarian-and-rare-books.html/>, I waited as two teenagers admired the doors of the "bada\*\* old bookshop." They went in ahead of me and after rapidly riffling some volumes quickly departed in search of an iced latte. **Beckham's** was my favorite book store in the French Quarter, a completely eclectic and disorganized mix that provides the patient browser a wide and well-priced selection. While browsing, I listened to a circular conversation between the cashier and a customer searching for a specific CD. The cashier explained he knew very little about music and that the store had no system of cataloging its CDs so he could not tell her if they had the titles she wanted. She would just have to look.

The third floor, which reeked of cat litter, was a complete chaos of vinyl records at very low prices, most around two dollars, and made me want to buy a record player. On the way down, I paused to look at a black and white picture of a man seated pensively at his desk. As I made my purchases, I inquired about the identity of the man in the photo. The cashier had no idea but mentioned that people would often buy these types of photos and

place them in their houses to pretend they were old relatives. I made several purchases and was particularly pleased that I found a nice, inexpensive 1st Edition of **J.B. Priestley's** *Angel Pavement*, a book on my to-read list for some time. **Beckham's** also has a sister bookshop, **Librairie Books**, with a much smaller selection.

After returning to my car to drop off my purchases, I strolled up Conti Street to **Dauphine Street Books** (no Website). The store has a newer selection shelved in cramped quarters which could not fit two browsers back to back. I was surprised to see Shakespeare shelved in the general fiction area and when I asked the owner about his system for filing he stated that all the fiction was filed together and seemed surprised at the question. I did find a paperback copy of **William Godwin's**, *Caleb Williams*, which was on my to-buy list based on my reading of **Shelley's** biography.

After stopping for a muffuletta on Bourbon Street, I went over to **Arcadian Books** (no Website) which was almost impossible to browse. The owner was very friendly, but most of the books were placed with the spines facing down and the tops out or else covered behind rows of these books. It was difficult to look through anything without moving books, and I didn't have the energy after lunch. I did purchase a mammoth biography of **Joseph Conrad** by

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purchased through our regional consortium with discounted costs.

Since 2008, **Colorado State University Libraries** have seen less budget dollars and less staff. To make the library more sustainable and relevant to our patrons, we have moved to a patron-driven acquisitions model for our monographic titles in print and electronic format. We have drastically reduced the number of monographs purchased since 2008. Also, there has been a reduction in the number of staff. We have instituted wherever possible a “cradle to grave” process and cataloging-at-receipt. With less budget dollars, less staff, and efficient workflow, we are doing less with less. 🌳

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**Frederick Karl** from the small discount rack. However, after some of the reviews I have seen on Amazon, I am having second thoughts about actually reading this colossal tome.

I dropped in very quickly to **The Iron Rail Book Collective** (no Website) which is, as one might expect, a small store largely focused on counter-cultural subjects. The French Quarter tour largely complete, I visited some stores in the rest of the city. **Maple Street Used and Rare Books**, <http://www.maplestreetbookshop.com/>, is two buildings, one of new and one of used books. Unfortunately, the used section was closed on this day. Next was **Blue Cypress Books**, <http://bluecypressbooks.blogspot.com/>, with a fairly standard selection of more modern used books. Finally, there was **McKeown's Books** (no Website). I did not make any purchases, and by now it was time to start home.

Overall New Orleans is a great city for book lovers. I highly recommend to anyone visiting that you request the book store map at the first store you visit. If you plan to do all the French Quarter stores in a day put on your walking shoes and have a rally point to drop books in case you get too ambitious in your purchases. Also stay focused. Depending on the time, there will be plenty of distractions in the way of Cajun food and cold beer that could prevent you from achieving your goal. If you have more than one day, well...Enjoy! 🌳

### Book Reviews from page 36

archiving projects. This chapter effectively illustrates the advances being made in the field of personal digital archiving.

In the final chapter – “The Future of Personal Digital Archiving: Defining the Research Agendas” – **Clifford Lynch** of the **Coalition for Networked Information** brings the perspective of three decades of “trying to understand the ways in which information technology and ubiquitous computer communications networks are reshaping the scholarly and cultural record of our civilization.” He explores a dizzying assortment of possibilities for the future of personal digital archiving. 🌳

*Against the Grain / February 2014*

## Don's Conference Notes

by **Donald T. Hawkins** <dthawkins@verizon.net>

### Open Access To Published Research: Current Status and Future Directions: An NFAIS Workshop

Although many naysayers of open access (OA) exist, it is still important, and new directions are emerging. A workshop held by **NFAIS**, the **National Federation of Advanced Information Services**, in Philadelphia on November 22, 2013 entitled “Open Access to Published Research: Current Status and Future Directions” was very timely and appropriate. It drew an audience of 25 onsite and over 40 remote attendees.

#### Today's OA Landscape



*Richard Huffine — Photo courtesy of Donald T. Hawkins.*

**Richard Huffine**, Sr. Director, Federal Government Market, **ProQuest**, opened the workshop with a review of today's OA landscape. He began his presentation with a definition of OA from **Peter Suber**, co-founder of the Open Access Directory<sup>1</sup>: “literature that is digital, online, and free-of-charge and most copyright and licensing restrictions.” This tag cloud shows some of the terms most frequently encountered in OA discussions.



**Huffine** reviewed the three generally accepted types of OA:

**Gold:** The cost barrier has been removed by journals with permission of the copyright holder. Gold OA includes journals dedicated to being open, articles in subscription journals, and supplemental data posted to an author-controlled site. Many gold publications are supported by Author Page Charges (APCs).

**Green:** The content is hosted on an institutional repository or is made available through “self-archiving” by the author or copyright holder. Publishers' agreements govern what the author may do and what can be deposited in a repository.

**Clear (Libre):** Public domain content where the cost and usage restrictions have been removed. The main rights management

model is a **Creative Commons (CC)** license. Because data cannot be copyrighted, but a collection of it can, there will continue to be grey areas around derivative works derived from data, and many policies are not clear.

Mandates — policies requiring researchers to make their results freely available — are a recent OA trend. The U.S. Government has tried to legislate OA with little success; many of its proposals have been viewed as efforts to protect publishers' investments. A recent memo from the **Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)** directs agencies to develop plans supporting increased public access to research funded by the Federal government and requiring access to both the data and the publications.<sup>2</sup> Agencies were required to submit draft plans by August 2013 and begin collecting public input shortly thereafter, but the recent government shutdown severely delayed implementation of this mandate.

**Huffine** concluded that the ultimate outcome of today's OA issues may result in a variety of strategies depending on the research discipline and the willingness of researchers, institutional repositories, funders, and publishers to work together.

#### The Researcher's Perspective on OA

According to **Jean-Claude Bradley**, Associate Professor of Chemistry, **Drexel University**, openness in science is very field-specific because the amount of data to be shared varies significantly. The current research environment has created a selective bias towards which experiments are attempted because ambiguous or negative results are rarely reported in the literature. **Bradley** has created a “Chemical Rediscovery Survey”<sup>3</sup> by doing a wide variety of experiments and making the data openly available for analysis. He has also assembled a database of data on over 20,000 chemical compounds, much of it donated by chemical companies.<sup>4</sup> By making data openly available, many challenging chemistry questions can be answered more efficiently. **Bradley** was the first of several speakers who suggested that raw data should be made available before publication of a journal article, not afterwards as is now the case.

#### Government Responses to Researchers' Needs

The **National Science Foundation (NSF)** funds basic research in a wide range of disciplines with a mission to protect our ability to educate the next generation of scientists. Researchers funded by **NSF** publish their results in a wide variety of journals and are encouraged to make their data available through OA. The **OSTP** memo is aligned with the goals of **NSF**, but trust is important to sustain agency policies. **NSF** has a history of data sharing and fosters Gold OA by permitting researchers to include the APCs in their grant applications.

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