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If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain, kstrauch@comcast.net

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Against the Grain

“Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians”

ISSN: 1043-2094

Rightsizing Access to Journals and Databases

by **Robin Kinder** (Retired, George Washington University Libraries, 2130 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20052; Phone: 202-604-1171) <rckinder@gmail.com>

This special issue of *Against The Grain* examines the continuing challenges of managing library budgets in an environment of spiraling serials costs. Though serials review appears as a constant and ubiquitous theme in collections management, the work described here by the authors is anything but the usual familiar story. The authors provide important historical background, new and alternative approaches in their processes, and conclusions that reveal both surprising outcomes and critical questions still to be addressed.

Rather than outline each author’s approach to a seemingly annual ritual — serials cancellations — it is more pertinent to note their common themes and valuable insights. First, communication and engagement with faculty is essential to on-going deliberations on the library budget. Second, data is not only a critical component, but the essential means of communicating complex scenarios for cancellation. Third, librarians



are the essential bridge in communicating the library’s role in the research community. Each author provides critical intelligence into approaches taken.

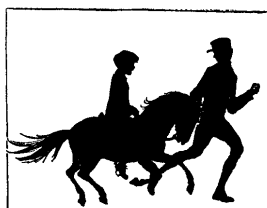
In communication, **Davis, Raschke** (*Data-Informed and Community Driven: Using Data and Feedback Loops to Manage a Journal Review and Cancellation Project*) and **Robertshaw, Hooper, Goergen-Doll** (*Finding the Silver Lining...in the Serials Budget Crisis*) outline intensive efforts to inform their campus communities of the current fiscal challenges impacting not only the library, but also the scholarly research environment. **North Carolina State University Libraries (NCSU)** provided multiple approaches to faculty engagement, including critical analytics undertaken several months prior to engagement, a timeline and strategies for communication, and multiple rounds for feedback. Elucidating the role of the library in faculty research and the role of faculty in the

publishing cycle — as authors, editors, peer reviewers and consumers — became the major focus of **Oregon State University Libraries (OSU)**, through multiple conversations with faculty; the six lessons learned by OSU are essential reading. **Gagnon** (*Journal Publisher’s Big Deals: Are They Worth It?*) and **Killian, Bezanson, Kinder** (*Divide and Analyze: GW’s Approach to Serials Cancellations*) address their communication efforts in conjunction with concomitant serials cancellation projects — the former addressing the issue of Big Deal pricing at the **Bibliothèques de l’Université de Montréal (UdeM)** and the latter addressing each category of the serials review — individual subscriptions, packages and databases. **Ziegler** (*Big Deal Whack-A-Mole*) describes **Florida State University Libraries (FSUL)** early insistence that the serials review process be faculty-driven with participation by the Facul-

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If Rumors Were Horses

In another life I was a medical nursing, reference, and audiovisual librarian at Duke University Medical Center. In my days as a reference librarian, I had to verify hundreds of interlibrary loan requests. *Science Citation Index* at that time was only in print (very small) and it was an excellent way to verify interlibrary loans — “quite a task, only persevering people would do it.” Yes! Really! That’s when I became acquainted with the name **Eugene Garfield**, the creator of citation indexes and the impact factor and many similar innovations. Read **Nancy Herther’s** remembrance on this incredibly humble and gentle giant of a man. This issue, p.66.



Moving right along to the innovative present, **Monika Sengul-Jones** has been appointed by **OCLC** as **Wikipedian-in-Residence** for their “Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together” project led by **OCLC’s WebJunction program**. **Sengul-Jones** is a communication and media studies scholar, educator, organizer, web developer and Wikipedian. Her passion for media literacy and community engagement guides her work with **Wikipedia**. **Sengul-Jones** has

a master’s degree in gender studies from the **Central European University** in Budapest,

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From Your (loving spring) Editor:

Spring and fall are the best times to come to Charleston. The weather is pretty perfect and the temperatures are generally good. We are renovating our place so we have been commuting more than we would like but the end is in sight.

Lots is going on. This issue of *ATG* is guest edited by the hard-working **Robin Kinder** who has taken the helm from the equally hard-working **Mike Olson**. The theme of this issue is “**Rightsizing Access to Journals and Databases.**” We have articles by **Hilary Davis** and **Gregory K. Raschke** (deep engagement with the campus community), **M. Brooke Robertshaw**, **Michaela Willi Hooper** and **Kerri Goergen-Doll** (finding the silver lining in a budget crisis), **Mark R. Watson** (serials management at the **University of Oregon**), **Stéphanie Gagnon** (are big deals worth it?), **David Killian**, **Debbie Bezanson** and **Robin**



Kinder (**George Washington University** and serial cancellations), **Roy Ziegler** (**FSU** and a big budget cut), and **Anthony Raymond** (availability in fulltext databases). Our interview is with **Charles Watkinson** of the **University of Michigan Press**, our **Op Ed** is by **Steve McKinzie** (the library of congress) and **Back Talk** by **Jim O'Donnell** (the call number sticker). We have quite a few people, library, and company profiles which provide good information.

Our legal issues section has **Lolly Gassaway's** informative copyright questions and answers and **Bill Hannay** takes on the Oxford Comma and the law, **Tom Gilson** and **Regina Gong** do some wonderful book reviews, while **Anne Doherty** is still collecting to the core, and let's not forget **Donna Jacobs** who continues with the Nobel Prize winners. **Elizabeth Leber** (a new addition

to *ATG*) has **Edward Iglesias** tell us about the OPAC, **Pat Sabosik** returns to blog with the librarians, while **Mark Herring** weighs in on our intellectual freedom, and **Ramune Kubilius** has provided more reports from the **2016 Charleston Conference**.

And even though we tried to find the space, we were unable to include the **2017 Charleston Conference Call For Papers** in this issue — so please be sure visit the conference website at www.charlestonlibraryconference.com for regularly updated conference news, dates you need to know, and upcoming deadlines. The Call for Papers form is now available at <http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/participate/call-for-papers/>.

Well I have to go approve kitchen cabinets and counter tops. More commuting is necessary. At least the weather is awesome! See you next time!

Love, Yr. Ed. 🌱

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: *Against the Grain*, Post Office Box 799, Sullivan's Island, SC 29482. You can also send a letter to the editor from the *ATG* Homepage at <http://www.against-the-grain.com>.

Dear Editor:

What a fantastic conference **Charleston 2016** was! I cannot wait until November for the next one! I have a question, we're supposed to get a subscription to *ATG* as part of our registration? I have not received any issues in a long time. Could I verify the mailing address?

Thank you.

Susan Martin

University of Chicago Library, Chicago, IL 60637
<smartin28@uchicago.edu>



Glad to hear your experience in Charleston was fabulous. And yes, your **Charleston Conference** registration fee included a 1-year subscription to *Against the Grain* that begins with the February issue. We have confirmed your mailing address. Our February 2017 issue (v.29#1) has been mailed and should arrive shortly. Thank you. — Yr. Ed. 🌱

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 29 — 2017-2018

2017 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
ALA Annual	June 2017	04/06/17	04/27/17
Reference Publishing	September 2017	06/15/17	07/06/17
Charleston Conference	November 2017	08/17/17	09/07/17
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 2017-Jan. 2018	11/09/17	11/24/17

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Toni Nix <justwrite@lowcountry.com>; Phone: 843-835-8604; Fax: 843-835-5892; USPS Address: P.O. Box 412, Cottageville, SC 29435; FedEx/UPS ship to: 398 Crab Apple Lane, Ridgeville, SC 29472. 🌱

Rumors

from page 1

Hungary, and in communication from **UC San Diego**, where she is currently completing her doctorate. The Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together project is a winner of the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation 2016 News Challenge**, for which OCLC received \$250,000 in funding. In October 2016, the **Wikimedia Foundation** awarded OCLC a \$70,000 project grant toward the Wikipedia-in-Residence position.

<http://www.oclc.org/en/news/releases/2017/201706dublin.html>

I was excited to see that the awesome **Adam Chesler** has been promoted to Director, Global Sales, **AIP Publishing**. **Adam** will lead the Global Sales and Sales Support teams with a keen focus on driving sales activity to academic, government, and corporate libraries around the world. **Adam** has been with **AIP Publishing** for a year and a half and has made some significant contributions to the organization as a Senior Sales Manager. In addition to his contributions, **Adam** is a conference director for the **Charleston Conference**. When he is not working, **Adam** can be found eating ice cream, watching baseball, and volunteering at his public library (and on rare occasions all three at once).

Michael Duffy has been appointed **Director of Library Sales**, **SAGE Publishing**. He will oversee **SAGE's** North American Library Sales Team. **Michael** joined **SAGE Publishing** as Library Sales Manager in 2011 and quickly moved from Senior Library Sales Manager to District Library Sales Manager to his current role as Director. Previously, he worked in sales at **Thomson Reuters** and in editorial capacities at **Oxford University Press** and

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Rightsizing Access to Journals ... from page 1

ty Senate Library Committee, Vice President for Research, and academic faculty recruited to join the Library Materials Budget Task Force. Each author in the issue — whether as a primary focus or as a critical component of success — stresses communication with the campus community.

Data and analysis provide the second common theme to approaching serials review as a process of informing and raising awareness of stakeholders, including faculty, administrators and librarians. NCSU's approach to communicating includes data on high impact research and interdisciplinary journals, most downloaded journals, peer comparisons of collections expenditures, providing infographics and, for the campus community and readers of this issue, website access to the efforts undertaken. **Gagnon** outlines the process of data gathering to address the issue of Big Deals with feedback from faculty on essential journals, downloads and citations of periodicals across major fields and final analysis of titles in large bundles. **George Washington University (GWU)** employed usage and cost per usage in determining possible cancellations scenarios in its review. Three of the authors provide differing conclusions on the efficacy of bundled journals, including **UdeM**, **GWU** and **FSU**. **Raymond** (*Canceling Serials Based on Their Availability in Aggregated Full-Text Databases*) outlines early efforts to evaluate and address the issue of cancelling individual subscriptions when access via AFTDs is available in the **Santa**

Clara University Library (SCU) experience. With business and economics as the test case, **Raymond** outlines the issues of overlap and embargoes and cost savings achieved by reducing journal subscriptions with AFTD overlap, as well as the obstacles in doing so.

None of the work and effort undertaken by libraries is insular and hermetic, but librarians play the pivotal role in each project outlined in the articles. In serving on permanent or ad hoc task forces, talking and listening to faculty, and gathering and evaluating data, librarians are adopting new roles in their efforts to create alternative dimensions to stale serials reviews. **Watson** (*Taking New Aim at an Old Problem: Serials Management at the University of Oregon Libraries*) discusses the enhanced role subject librarians play in serials management with a changed budget model requiring continual evaluation and assessment of serials rather than acquiescing to a boom-or-bust cycle of serials review. Indeed, what is most striking is the unison in which the authors address the need for librarians to provide consistent and on-going communication with faculty, building relationships across their campus communities, and intensifying expertise in analytics and serials management. In each article, despite multiple serials review projects over years, libraries face still declining budgets, and the need to render serials reviews less reactive is emphasized. To keep this introduction to a minimum is to elicit interest where it belongs - in these seven articles. Each author affirms the necessity of creating a serials review process that withstands the annual budget allocation, exhibiting creativity and advocacy in their efforts and critical intelligence to libraries in similar and familiar settings. 🐼

Rumors from page 6

Wolters Kluwer, among other organizations. **Michael** holds a Master of Science degree in Publishing from **Pace University**...

Two librarians in the big news recently! Not CNN but even better! Our Librarian of Congress, **Dr. Carla Hayden** was recently profiled in the *New Yorker*, February 19, 2017 by **Sarah Larson**. It is inspirational to see what **Dr. Hayden** has accomplished and we are sure that there is much more greatness to come! <http://www.newyorker.com/culture/sarah-larson/the-librarian-of-congress-and-the-greatness-of-humility>
www.against-the-grain.com/

Another Librarian in the news! Our 2016 keynote speaker and the president elect of ALA, had an op ed in *The Hill* about fair use, entitled "Balance is Everything." <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/judicial/320390-balance-is-everything>

There is a series of **Penthouse interview Podcasts** on the **Against the Grain NewsChannel** and one of them is with **Jim Neal**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUPH-k4HMeBE&feature=youtu.be>

I was fascinated by the **podcast interview** with **Anja Smit**, Library Director, **Utrecht University**, The Netherlands. **Anja** was interviewed by **Erin Gallagher** and **Matthew Ismail**. There was discussion about whether or not we need library collections or library catalogs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI-jKIQ7YRDM>

I was very sad to learn that the wonderful **John Riddick**, retired Head of Technical Services at **Central Michigan University**, passed away on March 13th at the age of 75. **John** attended the **Charleston Conference** many times and I believe that he and his group hatched the idea of **NASIG at Charleston!** **Tina Feick** reminds us that **John** was the co-Chair (with **Becky Lenzi**) of the initial **NASIG Study Group** and the first **NASIG President**. Without **John's** leadership and determination, **NASIG** would not exist. **John** made it happen. As part of the **NASIG Study Group**, **Tina** says that **John** selected the members of this committee ensuring that there were representatives from all parts of the information chain. **John** was a quiet powerhouse and a great motivator and very important to the **NASIG** organization. May he rest in peace.

<http://www.charleslux.com/obituaries/John-F-Riddick?obId=1437431#obituaryInfo>

"**Doomsday Library** opens in Norway where the world's most precious BOOKS will be stored in digital form to protect them from the apocalypse." This was the headline that caught my eye. Reportedly, a second **World Arctic Archive** has opened in Svalband, Norway. Representatives from Brazil, Mexico and Norway will be the first to save files. A firm

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Taking New Aim at an Old Problem ... from page 19

year to year, the library seemed no worse off (save for those pesky cancellation projects every five years)? Why should they take individual responsibility for dealing with this problem if their colleagues were able to blissfully carry on? Well, things have changed at the **UO** and the budgeting and allocation process on campus no longer sanctions large carryforwards. The library has gone from having several hundred thousand dollars with which to smooth over increases to a projected carryforward of only \$30,000 this fiscal year.

Now, back to the thread of addressing high inflating titles on a case-by-case basis. Collection Managers are developing a methodology to provide subject specialists with timely provision of the data that they need to make retention decisions throughout the fiscal year. As SJ&Ds come up for renewal, price increases will be noted and any SJ&Ds that are seen to be inflating over projections will be flagged for review. Subject specialists will need to decide whether to cover the amount over the projections in one of two ways:

- Cancel to cover the additional cost
- Transfer discretionary funds to cover the additional cost

The review and evaluation is expected to trigger dialogue with **UO** faculty that will provide more understanding about the costs of resources in a given discipline and make transparent the dilemma that the library faces in managing monetary resources within its budget. By taking new aim at the problem of excessive inflation at a more granular level, it is hoped that librarians and faculty can work together to confront the SJ&D crisis, moving away from the pattern of the last fifty-six years where the library hides the problem as long as possible only to “surprise” the campus with the periodic, disruptive and distasteful prospect of a time consuming cancellation project.

How Does This Work?

So, that’s the idea: subject specialists will manage serials subscriptions in real time within a fixed budget. The days of focusing solely on spending out discretionary funds and paying little heed to how much the cost of serials are going up are over ... probably forever. But, how do we make this work?

The **UO** implemented the first step in this process during the past fiscal year. In the past, Subject Specialists managed fund lines in the structure that I’m calling “Old Method”:

- 1-line: Monographs
- 2-line: Subscriptions: serials/databases
- 3-line: New serials
- 4-line: Standing Orders
- 5-line: Approval plan, if applicable

Going forward, the fund line structure will use a “New Method”:

- 1-line: Discretionary
- 2-line: Recurring obligations
- 4-line: Standing Orders
- 5-line: Approval plan, if applicable

You can see that the 1- and 3-lines have been combined to create a single discretionary fund line. The 2-line contains no discretionary money and is entirely devoted to subscriptions. The big change for Subject Specialists is that the distinction between a separate pot of money to purchase books and a separate pot of money to buy new serials has been dissolved. All new resources of any type must be purchased from the discretionary 1-line. If the purchase involves a recurring commitment, then money will be transferred from the 1-line to the 2-line to cover the expense.

Under this new arrangement, if a 2-line resource is cancelled, the amount that the library last paid for the resource will be credited to the 1-line, unless the cancellation is to be applied to cover the cost of inflation. This means that 1-line allocations will fluctuate from year to year instead of remaining consistent. In the past, everyone spent out the 1-lines and received an identical allocation for monograph purchases

at the start of the subsequent fiscal year. Acquisitions will use an internal spreadsheet to track transfers back and forth between fund lines, and this information will be used to set the budget allocations for the next fiscal year.

To Summarize

- Subject specialists assume responsibility for managing inflationary increases
- Inflationary increases over the amount given to the library for covering general inflation will be covered through cancellation or moving 1-line funds; this will be a choice left to the Subject Specialist
- Inflation on titles locked into package deals (bundled titles from a publisher with a multi-year provision and known inflation rates) will be covered centrally as the amount should be known ahead of time

A Few Concluding Thoughts

In years, when the **UO Libraries** actually receives any augments to its collections budget, the infusion will be spread across the fund lines in the form of a percentage increase and Subject Specialists will only need to cover the difference if a publisher charges more than that percentage. For FY 17, the library was given no money to cover inflation, so any increase, no matter how big or small will need to be taken into account — a worst case scenario.

Years like the one we will be heading into have the potential to drain all the discretionary money. So, what happens then? It seems likely that we will need to take a very hard look at the large packages where we are locked into multi-year contracts. At what point does holding titles in these big deals, where we admittedly can lock in lower inflationary increases, become false economy?

Will this new level of accountability and management work to stave off disruptive cancellation projects? The end of the story has yet to be written. 🌸

Data Informed and ... from page 15

budgets is clear. As a result, the need for ongoing collections analytics to maximize the efficiency of collections expenditures and periodic large-scale reviews along the lines of that described in this article will continue. Creative budgeting and advanced collections analytics only serve to mitigate the problem while multiple communities in the scholarly communication ecosystem search for systemic solutions. Solutions that support creating a more elastic market, where price per unit and publication volume are both contained, offer long-term relief from the need for

periodic reviews. While hopeful that such long-term solutions can develop, we support medium-term efforts, such as evidence-based pricing and the **Pay It Forward Project**,¹ to create more responsive pricing models. We also intend to sustain investments in leading-edge collections analytics to position the **NCSU Libraries** to leverage emerging pricing models and prepare for future reviews. 🌸

Endnotes

1. “Findings and Other News from the Pay-It-Forward Project,” http://icis.ucdavis.edu/?page_id=713. Last viewed January 18, 2017.

Rumors from page 8

called **PIQL** will save the data as film. **PIQL** believes that they can store the data inside a deep mine that is frozen permafrost. This vault sits alongside the Global Seed Vault, a collection of seeds that would allow humanity to survive should food supplies be wiped out. So far the UK and US have not opted to store any national archives in the vault but they may choose to join Mexico and Brazil at a later time.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-4357644/Doomsday-Vault-opens-precious-books-stored.html#ixzz4c-jxZNMZR>

Speaking of old, **Merriam Webster** is the oldest dictionary publisher in America. Did you know that **MW** has turned itself into a social media powerhouse over the past few years? Editors star in online videos on hot button topics like the serial comma.

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the long tail of usage we would be able to get if we purchased titles separately outside the package and calculating the cost of interlibrary loan for those downloads that would be lost if we cancelled the package

- Calculating the true cost for each title by taking the overall cost/download and applying it to the number of downloads per title. This last analysis was helpful in looking at titles which have low use since it can easily be seen they are not costing much in terms of the overall package

In the end, we cancelled only one package deal. Several issues to be wary of in conducting these reviews included ensuring that the titles reflected in the usage data matched the titles paid for in the package. In several cases we discovered that titles on the platform were not part of the package and were being paid for separately, either by us, or by other entities on campus.

Database Reviews

This review was more complex, as simple cost/use analysis could not form a significant basis for review. Because we had gone through the cancellation process several times before, **GW** did not find enough individual journals or packages to cancel to meet our financial cancellation target. But because databases cannot be replaced via interlibrary loan, this was a review with some of the trickiest decisions. Rather than cost per use, we focused on low usage overall, overlapping or redundant content, and whether or not the database provided unique full-text content or bibliographic indexing only. Our primary concern, in support of doing the least harm, was to continue to provide access to as much content as we could. We were aware that the primary alternatives to any cancelled databases would be alternative databases (where there was overlap) or travel to other area libraries with subscriptions to the databases.

Similar to journal subscriptions analysis, our process utilized our ILS (**Voyager**) cost data, **Intota** for overlap analysis of full-text databases, vendor sites for additional usage data and titles lists, and communication with vendors for questions and details about usage data.

Overlap analysis focused on the obvious — where major databases would likely have the same content — and provided alternative scenarios of access and of content lost, including lists of journal titles. Overlap analysis is imperfect as ISSNs are not always present; comparisons can become questionable. Overlap analysis did not consider dates of coverage due to time constraints and shifting content. For a few bibliographic databases, where overlap could not be run, ISSN's were compared in Excel.

For usage data we employed both **Intota** and vendor sites to be certain of search and session usage, often running usage reports multiple times on databases where low use/high cost

could mean automatic cancellation. It is worth noting that usage data was not a justification for major databases with redundant content; all had high usage so the content overlap was the major consideration. Some non-academic databases — such as in business — do not utilize **Counter** statistics and provided unique content; they can also carry the highest cost and vary in usage; retention decisions became more difficult. Other unique databases with high cost and low use were cancelled.

Communication

At **GW**, we started our more formal communication process through several modes. First we held a campus-wide town hall/faculty meeting publicized to all faculty to alert them to the need for the five-year project and to solicit their feedback. At the same time, we created information on our website, created an easy to understand infographic, and highlighted the project in our **GW Library** magazine *Visions*.

Internal communication was facilitated by having our selectors work in four cross-disciplinary teams. This was especially critical to support broader perspectives for interdisciplinary work, and when focusing on databases. Individual selectors communicated with their specific departments to provide direct personal communication about how the project would affect researchers in each department.

Lessons Learned/Assessment

How would we assess the outcomes of the first year of a five-year project? Did we meet our objectives?

- Did we meet our financial savings goal? We did on paper. We're still working on the actual final renewals, with some titles coming in more expensively than we'd projected, so the final answer is still out there.
- Did our work make sense in the long term? We have new strategies. We were able to include titles and categories of titles that weren't included before. Our work on continuing resource/monograph balance will continue. Another area we're focusing on building is consortial ebook purchases which again affects the monograph side.
- We involved more people, both internally and externally. When it comes to prioritizing across faculty and across departments, we learned that we need to communicate at the Dean level. Individual faculty and even individual departments have a hard time putting aside their specific needs and interests to see the needs of the entire university. Moving up to the School level can help get a broader view. Three critical components moving forward are strong liaison relationships, library leadership in communication, and continual evaluation of resources.
- In terms of doing the least harm, we've been able to stick to fiscally sound principles for making our cuts. We aren't cutting off access to jour-

nals, just supplying them via ILL or document delivery when that is more cost effective. If the library budget becomes unable to sustain ILL costs, charging for ILL and copyright fees may have to be considered. We hope any cancelled database gap can be filled with alternative overlapping databases, and/or by travelling to another area library. But both result in more time spent completing research steps for our patrons, and, in some cases, the journal article or database will not be used.

- Our ILL statistics will probably continue to increase, but more faculty and students are talking about getting articles from friends in other schools, or going to the alternate, but potentially legally questionable sources.
- Monographs have been more protected in our institution, so we may have a chance to balance our monograph to serial allocations. Working within our strong consortial relationships, we're hoping we can form some win-win arrangements with publishers.
- With our databases, we need to allow extra time for price negotiations. After we decided on some cancellations, some publishers negotiated lower prices, making it difficult to return to the drawing board to find the extra money to take advantage of the lower price. 🐼

**Acknowledgements: Thank you to Mike Olson, formerly of Western Washington University Library, with whom we worked in the presentation of our ideas at the Charleston Conference in November 2016. He provided the clearly worded framework for the definition of success which we continue to use in this article.*

Endnotes

1. **Bosch, S. and Henderson, K.** (2016). Fracking the ecosystem. *Library Journal*, 141(7), 32-38. http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/04/publishing/fracking-the-ecosystem-periodicals-price-survey-2016/#_

Rumors

from page 20

Kory Stamper is a lexicographer who writes witty "ask the editor" posts on her blog. (What's the plural of octopus?) But do not worry, **MW** is still very much a brick and mortar operation based in a small New England town where the **Merriam** brothers bought the rights to **Noah Webster's** dictionary in the 1840s. Looking forward to the release of **Ms. Stamper's** new book, *Word by Word: the Secret Life of Dictionaries*.

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Canceling Serials Based on ... from page 31

using the Library's article delivery service but this is unlikely because **LSB** faculty place a premium on immediate access to articles and had the embargoed journals caused significant delays to access, it would certainly have been brought to the attention of the Library.

It is probable that the sample sizes in the **University of Colorado** studies and in the **SCU** experience, 79 and 75 titles respectively, are too small to be generalizable, and no definitive judgement can be made based on either case. This may mean that it is far less risky to cancel serials based on availability in AFTDs than assumed in the **University of Colorado** studies. Institutional and disciplinary circumstances may render deficiencies in AFTD content less significant in practice than they appear to be in theory. Of course, there are common sense considerations that should be taken into consideration but experienced subject specialists should be able to make many non-renewal decisions without having to consult faculty, with the caveat that it is always wise to consult faculty when in doubt about a particular journal. Careful consideration of whether to cancel a journal whose content is embargoed in an AFTD is very important because, in most cases, this will result in an unacceptable loss of content. At **SCU**, if there is any doubt that an embargoed serial is of only marginal value, it is not cancelled.

Depending on the discipline and the local characteristics of the research community, other factors may also be critical to the success of employing this option. For example, in the case where high quality reproductions of works of art are critical to the reader, unless the quality of the reproductions in the AFTD are known to be of sufficiently good quality, then canceling the journal would be unwise even if it were otherwise sufficiently available. Similarly, for some journals in the sciences and engineering, missing data tables, charts, etc., from AFTD content would be unacceptable to researchers and exercising extreme caution in canceling

these journals is called for. In such cases, the AFTD content must be examined carefully to see that it faithfully reproduces the contents of the print or electronic journal it is going to replace. Today, most academic libraries are transitioning away from print and many print journals have already been replaced with online only subscriptions. For example, **SCU Library** no longer receives print journals in the subject areas of business and economics. However, the fact that an individual subscription is for an e-journal, rather than its print version, does not exempt it from being cancelled if it is sufficiently available in an AFTD.

Conclusion

Considering the significant immediate and long-term cost-savings academic libraries can achieve, it seems a matter of fiscal responsibility that this option be given serious consideration, not only as a response to a budget shortfall, but simply because the money saved can be put to better use. In the worst-case scenario of faculty demanding that an individual journal be re-subscribed to, this can be done easily enough. Large numbers of academic libraries canceling large numbers of individual serials subscriptions, print or electronic, based on their availability in an AFTD would, because of the enormous loss of revenue, surely provoke a response from publishers. If canceling just 75 subscriptions in the subject areas of business and economics saved **SCU Library** tens of thousands of dollars in the short term, and hundreds of thousands of dollars over the long term, how much more might be saved (and journal publishers lose) if this option was adopted for all subject areas? Multiply this by hundreds, or thousands, of academic libraries across the United States and it is clear that the loss of revenue would be far too significant to ignore. How would journal publishers respond to the mass cancellation of individual serial subscriptions because they are sufficiently available in AFTDs? The obvious option would be for journal publishers to impose long embargoes on AFTD content. After all, the purpose of embargoes is precisely to prevent libraries from canceling individual

journal subscriptions. In fact, this is why some academic librarians are reluctant to even discuss this option in public. However, perhaps it is time that academic librarians disrupted the current business and distribution models in the best interests of the research communities we represent. We know that our parent institutions cannot indefinitely continue annual library budget increases that keep pace with the annual cost increases imposed by journal publishers — increases that are routinely three, four or five times greater than the average annual rate of inflation. Nor can we continue to pay for access to AFTDs that publishers claim should be considered only as indexing and abstracting tools and should not be used to replace individual journal subscriptions. It is time for publishers to reexamine the current business and distribution model that forces academic libraries to maintain current individual serial subscriptions while at the same time forcing them to subscribe to very expensive AFTDs with overlapping content. Perhaps there is a better solution, one that is financially sustainable and better meets the requirements of the academic research communities in the 21st century.

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Rumors from page 26

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/03/22/books/merriam-webster-dictionary-kory-stamper.html?referer=>

Saw an article the other day titled "When Couples Fight Over Books." Each of them (**Amber** and **John Fallon**) are book collectors but they seem to differ on what to keep, whether or not to keep it at all, in what format, to keep duplicates or not, to discard or not, I could go on and on. They both point out that books are highly personal possessions. When **Paul Theroux** saw one of his autographed books to **VS Naipal** at an auction, the two men did not talk for years. That's taking discarding and weeding very seriously. A woman who is now in her 80s was upset when her current husband

tried to discard a **Merriam Webster** dictionary inscribed to her by her father on her 13th birthday. As a librarian, I love these stories of people loving books. We need to cherish these stories! Books help keep our identity intact. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/when-couples-fight-over-books-1484395201>

Do y'all know about the **Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden** in Grant Park of Portland, Oregon? There are statues of **Ramona Quimby**, **Henry Huggins**, and **Ribsy** the dog in the park where their adventures "really happened." The *Ramona Books* are by **Beverly Cleary** who grew up in the Hollywood neighborhood of Portland and based the setting of her novels on her own childhood experiences. We used to love to read these books to kids! I wonder if **Erin Gallagher** has been to Grant Park? Have you, **Erin**?

http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/beverly-cleary-sculpture-garden-grant-park?utm_source=Atlas+Obscura+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=1a59f78326-Newsletter_4_4_2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f36db9c480-1a59f78326-65802865&ct=t

Do y'all pay attention to the "Oxford comma" which is the comma used after the penultimate item in a list of three or more items, before "and" or "or"? I have always been an Oxford comma fan even though many of my colleagues are not. So — when I saw a COURT CASE that involved the Oxford comma, I was interested. Sent to **Bill Hannay** who has written a **Cases of Note** on that court case in the April issue of **ATG!** Look for it! You heard it here! See this issue, p.39. www.against-the-grain.com/

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Op Ed — Carla Hayden, the American Library Association and Where We Go from Here

by **Steve McKinzie** (Library Director, Catawba College, 2300 W. Innes Street, Salisbury, NC 28144; Phone: 704-637-4449) <smckinzi@catawba.edu>

Whatever may be your thinking about **Carla Hayden** as the new Librarian of Congress, one has to admire her achievement. She became the first woman, the first professional librarian, and the first African-American to hold the office. She was also the first former President of the **American Librarian Association** to be appointed Librarian of Congress. **Carla Hayden** is remarkable, and she deserves credit as a trail blazer and a solid leader.

But with all that being said, her appointment causes me a good many misgivings. No, I don't mean about **Hayden** per se. I suspect she will do a superb job. What bothers me about her appointment, however, is that her selection as the Librarian of Congress could establish an especially dangerous precedent. I frankly fear that after **Hayden's** tenure (which is due to span ten years), a good many of us in the professional library world will begin to insist that only an **ALA**-accredited librarian has the prerequisite credentials and consummate expertise to manage the complexities of the nation's most important library.

Of course, such a contention from among us would be altogether self-serving, but it would also be wrong. To be sure, the Librarian of Congress must have consummate management skills, a large measure of integrity, and the ability to deal wisely with a host of digital, copyright and intellectual property issues. But, the Librarian of Congress doesn't have to hold **ALA**-accredited librarian degrees any more than we require that our country's President hold a law degree or that a company's CEO has to have a doctorate in economics. Such credentials can in some instances be helpful, but they are never prerequisites. In fact, several of our most outstanding Librarians of Congress never held library degrees.

From the beginning of the twentieth century and just prior to **Carla Hayden's** confirmation, six people have held the position — an interesting, accomplished, and diverse lot to be sure. Two, **Herbert Putnam** (1899-1939), one of the longest serving, and **Quincy Mumford** (1954-1974) were both librarians in the technical sense and served as public librarians prior to their appointment. **Archibald MacLeish** (1939-1944), of course, was a gifted poet, literary figure and famous expatriate. The other three, who despite their differences came to their appointment as outstanding scholars and accomplished academics:

Luther Evans (Librarian of Congress from 1945-1953) earned a doctorate from **Stanford** in 1927, taught at the university level and became part of **Franklin Roosevelt's** "Brain Trust," in the mid-thirties. **Daniel Boorstin** (Librarian of Congress from 1975-1987) was an outstanding American historian and writer. **James Billington** (Librarian of Congress from 1987-2015) had an **Oxford** PhD and taught at both **Harvard** and **Princeton**, prior to his tenure as the Librarian of Congress.

It should also be noted that these latter three, whom were both writers and researchers, brought an interesting dimension to their appointment. As an old colleague of mine with a **Vanderbilt** PhD in history and a published scholar himself recently remarked about the three former scholar Librarians of Congress, "all three had actually used libraries — and used them extensively — in their work as professional academics." He contended that, as active library researchers and serious patrons of the collections, such individuals would bring the insights and perspective of the user to their position as the Librarian of Congress. They wouldn't be wearing those professional blinders that so many of us as librarians obtain in the course of our training. On the contrary, they would be approaching their work outside the normal framework of public or technical services. They would be thinking outside of the box. Intuitively, they would understand the frustrations of the normal library patron — the challenges of the regular researcher, and the trials of the average scholar.

Also all three of these scholar Librarians of Congress had little or no managerial training, nor had they labored extensively as librarians prior to their appointment. Yet within their various tenures, they all achieved an extraordinary level of success. They exemplified, I suspect, to an amazing degree the **Peter Drucker** principal that "Management is doing things right. Leadership is doing the right things." Somehow they were leaders who did the right things.

Also, as librarians, we need to remind ourselves that such leadership doesn't always emerge from the ranks of the places one might expect. In the world outside of libraries, you don't necessarily choose your best surgeon to run the hospital, the finest teacher to direct the university or

your most skilled craftsmen to manage the trade union. One can never bestow leadership by special training or specific accreditation.

Consequently, I applaud **Carla Hayden's** current appointment as the new Librarian of Congress, and

I commend her career as a librarian. But all of us who share her professional expertise — all of us who carry with us the essential **ALA**-accredited **MLS** union card — need to jettison the notion that may follow her tenure — the predictable contention that henceforth only a professional **ALA**-accredited Librarian should serve as Librarians of Congress. That idea has to go. Whenever **Dr. Hayden** completes her tenure and steps down from her position, we need to get the best person for the job — whoever that may be and with whatever credentials they have. 🍀



Rumors from page 32

The awesomely energetic **Roger Schonfeld** and **Ithaca S+R** have just released the 2016 **Ithaca S+R US Library Survey**. I have to wonder if **Roger** ever sleeps! At last count, he had three kids and a wife and an incredibly demanding travel schedule. Plus he takes time out for Twitter! **Ithaca S+R's** 2016 library survey queries library deans and directors about strategy and leadership issues. There is evidence across the survey that library directors feel increasingly less

valued by, involved with, and aligned strategically with their supervisors and other senior academic leadership. Compared with the previous survey cycle in 2013, fewer library directors perceive that they are a part of their institution's senior academic leadership and that they share the same vision for the library with their direct supervisor. Only about 20% of respondents agreed that the budget allocations they receive from their institution demonstrates recognition of the value of the library. The entire report must be read and digested! DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18665/sr.303066>

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Questions & Answers from page 39

government authors from publishing in many outlets such as many scholarly journals and university press publications since there can be no copyright in these government works. Authors or agencies that cannot own copyright cannot transfer nonexistent rights to a publisher in order to have the work published.

The recommendation of the Chair is to amend the *Copyright Act* to allow publishing of official works outside of the Government Printing Office to facilitate the recruitment of highly qualified faculty members. Safeguards could be in place to prevent individual authors from profiting financially from their works. The recommendation goes on to suggest that the Secretary of Defense develop regulations to specify which type of scholarly works would qualify for copyright protection.

QUESTION: *A public librarian notes that the Metropolitan Museum of Art has recently announced that a huge number of its images are now available for free access and use. Is this true?*

ANSWER: Yes, it is true. The Met has a policy called Open Access that allows one to access and use 375,000 of its images for either noncommercial or commercial purposes. According to the Met, it has worked in collaboration with the Creative Commons (CC) to promote the sharing of these images via the CC's model licenses. The images may be accessed through the Met's website. When searching, click on "Public Domain Artworks" under "Show Only." One may also browse the images on the CC website under "Metropolitan Museum of Art." For a helpful FAQ about the use of the Met's images, see <http://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/policies-and-documents/image-resources/frequently-asked-questions>.

QUESTION: *A school librarian asks whether a student may use a portion of a movie or a music recording for a class project such as a website, a video or to incorporate into a PowerPoint presentation.*

Rumors from page 34

The Ithaka survey was mentioned recently in the **ACI Scholarly Blog** index, curated by a great team of experts led by the awesome **Pat Sabosik**. Check it out!

http://scholar.aci.info/?utm_swu=5857&utm_campaign=List%20Subscription%20Email&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendwithus

Here's another recent survey courtesy of **Charlie Rapple of Kudos!** This one is a survey of authors' current sharing behaviors, and



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ANSWER: The simple answer is yes. Section 110(1) of the *Copyright Act* permits the performance of portions copyrighted works in a nonprofit educational institution. The *Act* envisions that the performance will occur in a classroom or similar place that instruction occurs. Logically, in this digital age, those portions must be reproduced to place them on a website, on a slide or in a video, in order to facilitate the performance.

Any difficulty occurs when the student then posts the presentation containing the portions of copyrighted works on the web so that others may access it and enjoy the performance. At that point, the student has published the work and, depending on the type of work, the amount and substantiality of the work that is used, the effect on the market for the work (the fair use factors), the student may need permission from the copyright owner. If the work is made available only on Blackboard or other password-protected course management system or site, there is less problem than if the work is simply posted on the web.

QUESTION: *An academic librarian asks about the closing of Tate Publishing Company and what happens to the copyrighted works of the 40,000 authors in their portfolio.*

ANSWER: Tate operated as a Christian vanity press, with authors paying about \$4,000 for the publication of their books. The publisher indicated that if there were sufficient sales of a work, about 2,500 copies, the publishing costs would be refunded to the author. On January 17, 2017, Oklahoma-based Tate Publishing announced that it was closing. Prior to the closing, there had been many complaints against the company with more than 150 complaints filed with the Oklahoma Attorney General and about 95 filed with the Better Business Bureau over the past three years. Several months before it closed, **Lightning Source** and **Xerox**, which leased printing equipment to Tate, sued Tate for \$1.7 million. There were also additional suits against the company and a pending U.S. Department of Labor investigation. For additional information, see <http://www.victoriastrauss.com/2016/06/16/tate-publishing-enterprises-slapped-with-1-7-million-lawsuit/>.

When Tate closed, its website was changed to add additional information aimed at assisting its authors. Its website contains the following statement: "Our primary commitment at this time is to find a new home for all authors and artists we represent, and ensure that each one has the best possible opportunity for success." Authors were given an option to terminate existing contracts for books not yet released. The website contains an option that will release to the author the digital files of that author's work for a \$50 fee. Several other publishers have offered to help Tate authors.

Critics of the publishing industry point out that pay-to-publish publishers are also being negatively impacted by changes in the industry itself such as direct online publishing.

Authors are becoming more perceptive, and they are less likely to sign up for expensive package deals to publish, market and service their works. This trend affected Tate's bottom line since its income was not based on the sales of authors' works but on payments from authors.

QUESTION: *A college faculty member asks when he obtains permission to publish something on the web once, what further rights does he have?*

ANSWER: When one seeks permission to reproduce or perform a copyrighted work, the permission is limited by what was actually requested. For example, if the faculty member asks only to publish the work on the web, that is exactly what is granted. If there was no date restriction, then it may remain on the web. Typically, permission might be restricted to making the work available on password-protected sites so that the faculty member's students and colleagues have access to the work, but not others. In this question, it appears that there were no restrictions on posting the work on the web.

For example, such permission would not include the right to set the work to music, to produce a motion picture script based on the work, to sell copies, publish an edited version of the work, etc.

QUESTION: *A university librarian asks about distributing copies of an article to workshop participants. Many of the participants are not authorized users for campus resources. What type of authorization is needed in order to distribute the article to participants?*

ANSWER: It is possible that this distribution is a fair use. If the workshop is offered by an educational institution or by a professional librarians or faculty group, the reproduction and distribution may well be a fair use. There are other options, however.

(1) The librarian may seek permission to distribute copies of the article and pay royalties through the **Copyright Clearance Center**. (2) The librarian may contact the publisher directly for permission and pay royalties if requested. (3) In lieu of distributing the article, the presenter could send the bibliographic information to participants and ask them to read the article in advance and/or bring a copy with them. (4) Lastly, the librarian could simply provide the URL to participants who would then make their own copies under their own institutional licenses.

QUESTION: *A public librarian asks whether permission is needed to use Google Map images.*

ANSWER: Use how? This question does not contain enough information to provide a complete answer. A person, who accesses and copies a map online for an upcoming trip, is using the map as it was intended. Projecting the map to a class in a nonprofit educational institution would not require permission. Reproducing the map and distributing it to the members of a class for use likewise would require no permission. It is not clear what other uses the librarian might envision. 🌳

Book Reviews from page 43

librarians/archivists and collectors/donors. That sentiment is a unifying theme expressed throughout the collected essays as well.

The first of three sections, Part I consists of six essays on the changing roles of special collections professionals from the varied perspectives of collectors, donors, librarians and archivists. A practical essay by **Jim Kuhn (University of Rochester, River Campus Libraries)**, for example, discusses best practices related to acquisitions, particularly of gifts-in-kind, such as the value of posted collection policy statements *not* limited to building upon existing strengths and of collaboration with neighboring and regional institutions. **Melissa A. Hubbard's** essay on community-based collections is a case study of the **Cleveland Play House** archives gifted to **Case Western Reserve** in 2012. It offers valuable insights into the ways in which special collections professionals can not only provide institutional researchers with access to community history, but also build on-going relationships with the communities that originally collected the materials and that continue to make use of them.

The seven essays in Part II focus on ways in which digitization and digital scholarship influence collections and use of physical materials. Scholar and bibliophile **Paul Ruxin** makes an impassioned plea for the special collections library to be "the center for the underutilized, underappreciated, understudied, but profoundly learned discipline of descriptive bibliography," (p. 70) that is, the close physical description

of a book or other printed material as object, including details of typography, binding, paper, etc. He argues that the practice of descriptive bibliography integrates the book as text and the book as object, providing information that cannot be discerned from a digital surrogate and that immeasurably benefits users of special collections materials. On the other hand, **Alice Schreyer (Newberry Library)** writes that when a large collection of historic Homer editions was donated to the **University of Chicago** (where she was then Associate University Librarian for Area Studies and Special Collections) in 2007, a decision was taken to publish a scholarly catalog of the collection highlighting copy-specific information and studying translation history and the transmission of the text through editions. Her essay goes on to relate how several bibliographical puzzles that emerged in the course of working with the donation were solved, in one case with crowd sourcing and digital corpora. **Stephen Enniss** (Harry Ransom Center, **University of Texas**) explores the challenges posed by born-digital materials that are appearing in author archives in an engaging essay that concludes the section.

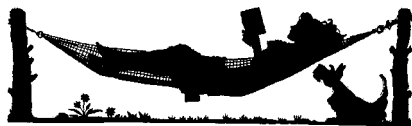
The four essays that make up Part III focus on the new, front and center role of special collections in the academic library landscape. Provost Professor of English **Christoph Irmischer (Indiana University-Bloomington)**, for example, shares details of a special collections-based capstone course he taught using the resources of the **Lilly Library**, including descriptions of fascinating student projects. **Irmischer's** essay, like many in this volume, will inspire special collections librarians and archivists as well as librarians with subject expertise or technical knowledge that are interested in collaborating with them. 🐾

Booklover — Burnt by the Sun

Column Editor: **Donna Jacobs** (Retired, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC 29425)
<donna.jacobs55@gmail.com>

The 1994 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film was awarded to a Russian film entitled "Burnt by the Sun." I attended a showing of this film in Charleston at one of the small indie theaters that functioned in Charleston during the 1990s. I had the privilege of being in the company of Russian speaking friends who immediately gave me a perspective of the meaning of the film's title. Stand too close to an idea, philosophy, concept, dogma, or teaching and you can be "burnt." The critics of the film describe the sun as **Stalin** and "burnt" as losing oneself inside a totalitarian regime. Seeing **Ivan Bunin's** short story entitled "Sunstroke" in "Great Stories by Nobel Prize Winners" reopened my memory of this film. I was "burnt" by this movie and "Sunstroke" was drawing me into the sun again.

Ivan Alekseyevich Bunin won the 1933 **Nobel Prize in Literature** "for the strict artistry with which he has carried on the classical Russian traditions in prose writing." He had the distinction of being the first Russian writer to be honored with the prize



and the Parisian community celebrated with accounts in the newspaper: "You see, up until then we, émigrés, felt like the bottom stuff there. Then all of a sudden our writer was being given an internationally acknowledged prize! And not for some political scribbblings, but for real prose!" Oddly, the date is mistakenly noted as 1931 in "Great Stories by Nobel Prize Winners" which speaks to the strict necessity of proofreaders and vetting. But I digress. **Bunin** was born in the province of Voronezh, Russia in 1870. According to his autobiography, he was from an "old and noble" house that produced politicians, artists, and poets. Rural life experiences were dominant in his writing. His travels through the Ukraine enhanced the introduction to folklore given to him by his mother. However, it was **Tolstoy**, one of **Bunin's** influencers and inspirers, who cautioned him from "total peasantification." **Bunin** died "stateless" in Paris, France in 1953.

He self professed the difficulty of living in "the new world" of post — Bolshevik Russia.

In the short paragraph introduction to "Sunstroke," **Somerset Maugham** describes this little piece of prose as one of the world's best stories. How can you not be intrigued? The story opens:

"They had had their dinner, and they left the brilliantly lighted dining room and went on deck, where they paused by the rail. She closed her eyes and, palm turned outward, pressing her hand to her cheek, laughed with unaffected charm. Everything was charming about this little woman." The lieutenant fascinated with this "little woman" with her sunburn smell suggested exiting the boat once it docked for an interlude. His desire for her to stay afterwards and her desire to continue her cruise without him was punctuated with the thought — "Please believe me, I'm not at all the sort of woman I may have led you to think. All that happened here never happened before and never will again. It's as if I suffered an eclipse...Or, to be more precise, it's as if we both experienced something in the nature of a sunstroke."

I am grateful to my Russian-speaking friends who gave me not only the translation to the film's title "Burnt by the Sun" — "Утомленные солнцем" (*Utomlyonnye solntsem*, literally "wearyed by the sun"), but also the perspective of its meaning. On occasion, I have been "burnt" by amazing prose that made me pause. Cure for a sunburn, sunstroke, or too much sun? Continued diversity of my reading material. Thank you Nobel laureates. 🐾

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the survey was carried out in partnership with 10 publishers including **Cambridge University Press**, **The IET**, **De Gruyter** and **SAGE Publishing**. The survey, which had over 7,500

researcher respondents, shows that usage of scholarly collaboration networks (SCNs, such as ResearchGate and Academia.edu), for uploading articles is widespread, and that accessing full text content is the primary reason, ahead of finding and connecting with other researchers.

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ity of monographs in the out-of-print market has made purchase more feasible and often at an acceptable cost. A second very specific limitation for modern literature researchers is that some materials may be available only from libraries in foreign countries. ILL may not be possible or may have additional restrictions or higher costs. Finally, some libraries may favor faculty requests and discourage doctoral candidates who wish to have access to large quantities of materials.

The Library Collection

Serials — Modern language collections may fare the best in this category because collection development strategies have changed less. Even if “big deals” have taken an increasing amount of funding away from individual serial selection and do not include many serials in support of foreign literature research, reductions across the board most frequently give similar targets to all areas. The modern language area will lose subscriptions but will likely still retain an essential core. Any cuts will generally follow the same guidelines as applied in other subject areas with an attempt to keep the titles most important for teaching and research. One difference may be the decision to eliminate or reduce popular publications that would provide information about events at home for foreign students, general cultural awareness for faculty, and more accessible texts for undergraduates. Internet resources would most likely provide acceptable substitutes in these areas.

Monograph Resources — The major shift in collection development budgets over the last fifty years has been from monographs to serials and databases. The old budget rule, 60% for serials and 40% for monographs, is no longer valid as funding for monographs has often shrunk to 10% or less of the collection development budget. For disciplines like modern language literatures, this shift has drastically reduced the availability of resources. In addition to resource sharing as described above, libraries have replaced the principle of anticipating monographs needed by their users (just-in-case) with the new model of “just-in-time.” I do not disagree in principle with this model. Much research supports higher circulation of monographs purchased this way. My own personal experience was a quick and dirty examination of a very reputable but also very expensive monographic series where only about 20% of the volumes had ever circulated. The older model, however, allowed researchers to browse the area in the stacks where they were most likely able to find needed materials, though the effectiveness of this strategy depends upon the library classification scheme and collection development experts have often questioned the usefulness of browsing. The increased importance of eBooks has made browsing much less effective even if the eBooks in the collection can be arranged in a call number sort.

Implementing the “just-in-time” model depends upon promising to honor purchase requests quickly and perhaps ordering some

ILL submissions as indicated above. The other major strategy is to add eBooks records to the catalog for items that the library does not own. Authorized users can have immediate access to these items at which point the library pays a loan fee or purchases the item from the vendor. The obvious advantage of this strategy is that the library offers a much larger pool of access that is in some ways similar to the “just-in-case” model but at a lower cost. Unfortunately, the items available via this model are usually almost exclusively in English. While modern literature faculty and doctoral students will find useful items in English, most often from university presses, they will not come across materials in their foreign languages. Once again, eBook collections in foreign languages are available, at least for the major languages; but it is again hard for the library to justify making them available for such a small number of faculty and doctoral students.

Final Comments and Suggestions

Somehow, despite the challenges discussed above, language faculty manage to produce research sufficient to gain tenure, promotion, and merit increments. Doctoral students also find ways to complete their dissertations. First, some of the larger universities still provide adequate support for foreign literature studies though there is evidence that even the largest libraries do not provide the comprehensive coverage that they did fifty years ago. I suspect that more libraries honor faculty requests than doctoral student suggestions. Second, faculty and doctoral students are creative. One key decision is to evaluate available library resources to discover areas where research is better supported. Major authors and genres are more likely to have materials available than is the case for secondary authors and niche subjects. As stated above, ILL works better for journal articles than for monographs so that “hot topics” in the journal literature should be more easily available. Faculty and doctoral students can also choose to live closer to a major library, travel to visit such libraries, and perhaps spend their summers in countries where the language is that of the literature that they study. Finally, they may decide to purchase the key monographs for their research. Humanities primary and secondary texts tend to be less expensive than those in other disciplines.

On the other hand, I still contend that these researchers are getting the short end of the stick

from their libraries. The support taken away from the monograph purchases that they need in their language of study are funding data bases, serials packages, and “just-in-time” eBook collections that don’t contain much of what they require in any language other than English. I will allow that discovery tools are much more comprehensive and easier to use, a fact that has a positive effect on their research. Less time spent on discovery provides more time for researchers to obtain the needed texts.

For mid-size libraries without many doctoral students, I have a few suggestions. The “just-in-time” library still needs to collect major primary sources including new scholarly editions of the most important authors. The *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade* is an example of a key resource for French. Perhaps the library should also acquire a few of the most important monographic series; or, at least, the subject specialist should monitor them for important contributions. The library should also commit resources to supporting faculty research by purchasing needed monographs for their research within fairly wide boundaries even if the faculty member is the only person who will ever use them. To the extent possible, these requests should be honored throughout the calendar year so as not to impede research efforts. I recommend that doctoral students be given a small allocation, perhaps \$500-1,000, to purchase key works for dissertation research. If the university can spend vast sums of money for laboratories and expensive serials in STEM areas, such support is pocket change or a rounding error. Finally, the library’s ILL system needs efficiently to deliver needed research materials.

I hope that what I have said in this column makes sense. I would welcome a study that asks foreign literature faculty and doctoral students about their use of libraries. Perhaps they don’t share my sense that library support for them has diminished. Perhaps they have found effective ways to cope. Perhaps they aren’t missing what they never had. In my reasonably extensive readings in both library and higher education literature, I haven’t encountered many complaints. In fact, I actually hope that I’m wrong and that recent library decisions haven’t critically hindered their ability to complete and publish their research. If, however, their research efforts are compromised, the library should take greater responsibility to support this overlooked group that has been penalized, perhaps inadvertently, by recent trends in collection development. 🐷

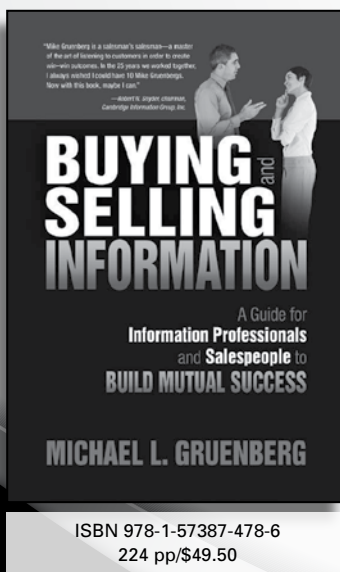
Rumors

from page 44

The survey results help to quantify the extent to which researchers are moving beyond the traditional dissemination ecosystem provided by publishers and libraries, and expanding their use of SCNs. It emphasizes the need for publishers to make it easier for authors to maximize the audience for their work, while protecting copyright and ensuring that the total usage of a work can be counted when reporting to institutions and funders.

After all this survey seriousness, I was hungry! How about a pocket-sized snack? In 2008, the European Union gave **Melton Mowbray’s pork pies “protected geographical indication” (PGI)** — the same elite status as Champagne. The **Melton Carnegie Museum** explains how the pies from this Norman market town developed such fame: pigs in particular had a taste for the whey left over from making the equally-renowned local Stilton cheese, leading to many local farmers keeping — and eating — the animals. This resulted in the chopped pork which was put

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Future Through the Past from page 52

Library Staffing Pattern: Our QEP began with the primary involvement of Library staff a) Director of Library Services **Donald Beagle** (ft); b) Reference Librarian **Sandra Williams** (ft); c) Research Specialist **William Spivey** (ht); and d) Evening Librarian **Christine Pasour** (ht). For a number of organizational reasons, the Reference Librarian’s role in QEP-related instruction was steadily reduced, especially in 2013-14, and replaced by a) more focused commitment by the Research Specialist; and b) the expansion of duties by our MLS-degreed Acquisitions Specialist **Heather Pierce Smith**, whose prior experience on other campuses had included IL instruction, and who voluntarily requested greater involvement in our QEP. With the retirement of former Reference Librarian **Sandra Williams** in late Fall 2014, we saw the opportunity to redefine that position to more closely align its duties and responsibilities with the goals of the QEP. This led to a rewrite of the position description, and the new title of “Learning Technology & Information Fluency Librarian.” This position was filled by promoting **Heather Pierce Smith** on January 5, 2015. The Acquisition Specialist position vacated by **Smith** was then also retitled as “Instructional / Administrative Librarian,” and filled by **Sharon Bolger** — a Belmont Abbey College alum who had recently completed her MSLS.

Impact of ACRL Exploration of IL Framework Revision from February 2014 through August 2014

Early in 2014, ACRL released early drafts of its proposed major revision to its approach to IL, including a possible migration from the IL Competency Standards of 2000 to a “Framework for IL” based on the new set of “threshold concepts.” An announcement of the first draft of the proposed Framework was released for comment and feedback on February 20, 2014. Library Director **Donald Beagle** monitored the feedback and discussion within ACRL from Draft 1 in February through Draft 2 in June, which included the recommendation (#2): “The Task Force recommends that the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education

be sunsetted one year after the approval of the new Framework.” Because the proposed revisions were far-reaching, and because the “sunsetting” of the 2000 standards would have fallen at the midpoint of our QEP, **Mr. Beagle** recommended that there be a temporary one year hiatus from freshman SAILS testing to see whether or not the new Framework would be formally adopted before the end of 2014. By March 2015, however, it was clear that the IL Competency Standards would not be subjected to “sunsetting” before our Interim Report to SACS would be due in September 2015. Our QEP plan, therefore, temporarily retained its focus on the IL Competency Standards of 2000 through that report’s submission, with longitudinal assessment based on the SAILS exam still structured around those same competency standards. In a follow-up column, I will summarize the interesting assessment results that flowed from our PILOT project, and its dual-focus structure organized around both Information Literacy and the development of our Learning Commons. 🌿

Endnotes

1. **Jackson, C.** (2013). “Confidence as an indicator of research students’ abilities in information literacy: A mismatch.” *Journal of Information Literacy*, 7(2). pp. 149-152.

Rumors from page 51

into the pie, cooked and then eaten cold. These tiny pies have been a favorite food in Britain since the Middle Ages — and have changed the English language with idioms, nursery rhyme verses, even a mention by **Shakespeare**. You know what? Now I am even hungrier! Wonder where I can get a **Melton Mowbray pork pie**? <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20170322-how-a-pocket-sized-snack-changed-the-english-language>

We are putting some Rumors on Podcasts. Are y’all listening? 🌿