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Charleston Library Conference

Preface and Acknowledgments

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Katina Strauch and Bruce Strauch, "Preface and Acknowledgments" (2018). *Proceedings of the Charleston Library Conference*.

<http://dx.doi.org/https://doi.org/10.5703/1288284317076>

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Preface and Acknowledgments

“Oh, Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?” was the theme of the 2018 Charleston Conference, which took place in Charleston, South Carolina, on Monday, November 5 through Friday, November 9, 2018, with over 1,800 participants. The far-ranging and diverse program, which focuses on the purchase and leasing of information of all types and in all available formats, is curated by an able team of Charleston Conference directors, headed by Beth Bernhardt, Lars Meyer, and Leah Hinds, who have worked long and hard to compile this volume. Thanks are due to Leah and Beth, and Lars, and to all the Charleston Conference directors who helped in assuring timely and professionally peer-reviewed submissions. Thanks are also due to the Purdue University Press team: Justin Race, Katherine Purple, Bryan Shaffer, Nina Collins, and many others behind the scenes. Last but not least, many thanks to all the authors and presenters of this amazing group of papers in this volume.

In 2018, the Charleston Conference included eight preconferences covering marketing to libraries, an acquisitions bootcamp, all about the user experience: researcher perspectives, data curation tools and techniques, managing vendor relationships, “planting” local open educational resources, foundations of e-resource acquisitions, and negotiating with vendors.

Plenary and Neapolitan sessions; several hundred concurrent sessions; and lively lunch discussions, short stopwatch, and poster sessions spiced up the offerings. The popular Neapolitan format continues into future conferences, allowing three plenary-level speakers to present in large rooms during the same time slot. The conference directors also continued Charleston Premiers, moving it to Thursday morning. Trey Shelton from the University of Florida ran the Premiers, which were refereed and allowed companies to make five-minute presentations about new and emerging products.

The Charleston Conference has a plethora of additional offerings, including Juried Product Development Forums for publishers or vendors who want to get feedback from librarians about new or emerging products, Charleston Culinary tours, Ghost and Graveyard tours, the Dine Around dinners on

Thursday night at some of Charleston’s well-known restaurants, a Gala Reception on Wednesday evening at the Charleston Aquarium, the Vicky Speck ABC-CLIO Leadership Award, and the Cynthia Graham Hurd Memorial Scholarship Award. There was also a first-timers and up-and-comers reception on Tuesday night. The highly popular Vendor Showcase was held all of Tuesday to give attendees a chance to view new products and services and connect with vendors and publishers.

Since the Gaillard Center opening in 2015, the Conference has been able to schedule the use of the Performance Hall, ballrooms, and salons. The Gaillard can accommodate larger groups than our other venues, which gives a more formal feel to the Conference than in the past. The Conference continues to schedule sessions in the Francis Marion Hotel and the Courtyard by Marriott as well as the Embassy Suites. There also are associated offerings by vendors and publishers during the Conference. Poster sessions (some virtual) are an important networking opportunity.

The 2018 lead keynote presentation on Wednesday (The Future of Research Information: Open, Connected, Seamless) was by the awesome Annette Thomas (Clarivate Analytics). A short plenary about the open scholarship initiative by Scott Plutchak (UAB) followed and Ann Michael (DeltaThink), Ivy Anderson (California Digital Library), and Gwen Evans (Ohiolink) addressed mining data for effective decision making. The keynote presentation on Thursday was by the vivacious and inspiring Ruth Okediji (Harvard Law School) (Navigating Access to Knowledge: Copyright, Fake News, Fair Use and Libraries).

The half-day Friday closing session held in the Francis Marion Hotel included Ann Okerson’s popular “Long Arm of the Law” session with Bill Hannay (Schiff Hardin LLP) and Kenneth Crews (Gipson Hoffman & Pancione). Three concurrent Innovation sessions, which feature lightning round presentations on new and innovative projects and case studies rounded out the day.

As stated earlier, Neapolitans consist of three concurrent plenaries and are very popular with

the audience. Several important topics included: university presses “going it alone” with their eBook offerings, best practices for inheriting academic library collections budgets, a new model for specialized library and information education, sustainable open access approaches, library opportunities in affordable textbooks, and a candid conversation about negotiating.

As noted, the main Charleston Conference dates have changed from Thursday and Friday to Wednesday and Thursday. Fully 80 percent of our attendees like this change! And, of course, the city of Charleston was as beautiful and vibrant as ever!

The Concurrent sessions, Lively Lunches, Poster sessions, Stopwatch sessions, and others that were submitted and refereed by the editors are grouped into categories in this volume: Plenary Sessions, Analytics, Collection Development, Library Services, Management, Scholarly Communications, Technology and Trends, and Up and Coming.

Reports of many of the plenary sessions and concurrent sessions are included in this

volume, many transcribed ably by Caroline Goldsmith. Archives of many of the papers are also loaded online at the Conference website: www.charlestonlibraryconference.com.

Many new ideas and innovations are implemented and shared at the Charleston Conferences. The next Charleston Conference will be held November 4-8, 2019, with the theme inspired by Lewis Carroll, “The time has come . . . to talk of many things!”

There will be several new offerings, several pre-conferences, and Charleston Seminars as librarians, publishers, vendors, aggregators, and consultants from all over the world explore important changes within the industry that impact the way in which information is leased, acquired, made available, and accessed. Charleston Conference information will be updated regularly. For archives and further information, www.charlestonlibraryconference.com.

Katina Strauch, Founder and Convener, Charleston Conference

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