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Charleston Library Conference

Preface and Acknowledgments

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Preface and Acknowledgments

"Too Much Is Not Enough!" was the theme of the 2013 Charleston Conference which took place in Charleston, South Carolina, on Wednesday, November 6 through Saturday, November 9, 2013, with over 1,500 participants. The far-ranging 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 and Leah Hinds who have worked long and hard to compile this volume. Thanks are due to Leah and Beth and to all the Charleston Conference Directors!

In 2013, the Charleston Conference included eight preconferences covering acquisitions for new librarians, using Excel, legal and licensing issues, negotiating with vendors, self-publishing, government information, serials resource management, and expanding workplace skills through improv comedy. Ten plenary sessions; several hundred concurrent sessions; and lively lunch discussions, PechaKucha-like shotgun "shorts," and poster sessions spiced up the offerings. In 2013, the Neapolitan format was introduced which allowed three plenary-level speakers to speak in large rooms during the same time slot. This innovation by the Conference Directors was very popular and will be continued in 2014. The Conference Directors also instituted Charleston Premiers during Saturday morning breakfast which were refereed and allowed companies to make 5-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, Dine Around dinners on Friday night at some of Charleston's well-known restaurants, a Gala Reception on Thursday evening, and a Leadership Award for one of the Conference Directors.

The 2014 lead keynote speech by Jenica Rogers, entitled "Librarians in the Postdigital Information Era: Reclaiming Our Rights and Responsibilities," caused a stir before and after her talk in which she took some publishers to task for what she termed as "abusive sales relationships." Other keynote speakers included Michael Levine-Clark, John McDonald, and Jason Price discussing a longitudinal study of the effect of discovery systems on online journal usage; Robert Kieft, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Brandon Nordin, and Steven Wheatley delved into scholarly societies, scholarly publishing, and the new information ecology; Meg White, Rick Anderson, Meredith Schwartz, and Lynn Sutton discussed MOOCs and where that leaves the library; Steven Bell wondered if collections are for collision; and David Parker and his panel discussed the future of the library as lines blur. James O'Donnell and a panel of provosts told us what they thought that librarians should know, and John Dove gave us a short PechaKucha-like session on lifelong learning.

Several of the Neapolitan talks are included in this volume as well as discussions from the Long Arm of the Law panel—always energizing on Saturday morning. The Hyde Park Corner Debate, also on Saturday, had the proposition "The Current System of Scholarly Publishing, Whereby Publishers Receive Content for Free and then Sell It Back to Libraries at a High Price, Must Fundamentally Change" and made for a spirited debate between Jean-Claude Guedon and Rick Anderson.

The Concurrent sessions, Lively Lunches, Poster sessions, and the like that were submitted and refereed by the editors are grouped into six categories in this volume: Collection Development, End Users, Management

and Administration, Patron-Driven Acquisitions and Interlibrary Loan, Scholarly Communication, and Techie Issues.

Many new ideas and innovations are implemented and shared at the Charleston Conferences! 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 web site. The city of Charleston was as beautiful and vibrant as always!

The next Charleston Conference will be held November 5–8, 2014, with the theme "The Importance of Being Earnest." There will be several new offerings.

A Digital Curation Seminar/Workshop will be sponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science and the Charleston Conference for a full day on Monday, November 3 and a half day Tuesday, November 4 just prior to the main Charleston Conference.

There will also be a luncheon/seminar on Saturday, November 8, 2014, from 12:15–3:00 PM. This session will bring together librarians from across the country to explore important changes within the industry that impact the way in which information is acquired and made available to library patrons. Information will be posted on the web site, and registration opened in early June 2014. For archives and further information, visit the Charleston Conference web site at http://www.katina.info/conference.

See you in Charleston in November!

Katina Strauch, Founder and Convener, Charleston Conference

Bruce Strauch, Owner, Charleston Conference