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And They Were There: Reports of Meetings -- IFLA World Library and Information Conference, and the 31st Annual Charleston Conference

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And They Were There

Reports of Meetings — IFLA World Library and Information Congress, and the 31st Annual Charleston Conference

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IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly — “Libraries beyond Libraries: Integration, Innovation, and Information for all.”
San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 13-18, 2011.

Reported by: **Frederick C. Lynden** (Retired, St. Petersburg, Russia) <flynden@alumni.stanford.edu>

The 2,593 visitors to **IFLA's 77th World Library and Information Congress** were greeted in August (August 13 to 18) by sunny skies, warm temperatures, ocean breezes, occasional showers (hurricane winds and showers came after IFLA) and lyrical Spanish accents. It was a festive occasion, but meetings on topics such as Copyright and Other Legal Matters, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Professional Development, Government Libraries, Preservation and Conservation, Digital Libraries, Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression, and a plethora of other issues were the business of the Conference. **IFLA** has five divisions: library collections, library services, library types, service to the Profession, and regional groups so that every kind of library and every issue is represented. This was the third conference in the past two decades in a Latin American country (Cuba 1994 and Argentina 2004) as **IFLA** is making an effort to hold meetings on library and information services in every area of the world. The next **IFLA** meeting will be in Helsinki, Finland (August 11-17) and it was announced at this conference that Singapore will be the site of the 79th Congress. These are two high-tech countries.

There were the traditional library exhibits and 150 poster sessions. The Conference Theme was **“Libraries beyond Libraries: Integration, Innovation, and Information for all.”** Clearly, there was a digital theme in 2011. Some highlights were:

- National Librarians discussed e-legal deposit at their meeting. They heard the results of a survey done by the **British Library** where 55 national libraries responded. The survey discovered that 58% will have legislation to harvest e-legal publications by June 2012, but that only 37% will actually be collecting eBooks and journals by June 2012. Currently only 23 of the 55 libraries collect eBooks and e-journals by legal or voluntary deposit, but government e-publications are being archived.
- **Winston Tabb** (U.S.) and the former Chair and longstanding voice of the **IFLA** Committee on Copyright and Other Legal Matters announced to over 300 U.S. delegates at the U.S. Caucus in Puerto Rico that **WIPO (the World Intellectual Property Organization)** has agreed (after significant campaigning by **IFLA** members) that **WIPO** will spend three days discussing libraries at their next meeting (to be held in November). **Tabb** believes that this is quite positive since it happened because librarians around the world pressed this issue, particularly the past **IFLA** President **Ellen Tise** of South Africa. **IFLA** is promoting a proposed Treaty on Copyright Exceptions and Limitations for Libraries” at **WIPO** which will allow libraries and library users to make “fair use” or “fair dealing” copies as is done in the U.S. and England.
- The Chair of **FAIFE**, **Kai Ekholm**, Director of the National Library of Finland, opened a program on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression, entitled: “How to Fix the World.” This program included stirring reports on **FAIFE** activities, recommended books on Electronic censorship, and offered two reports by Egyptian librarians on the recent revolution in Egypt and its meaning to them and the libraries of Egypt. **Ekholm** announced: “In 2009 every fourth citizen

in the world lived in a state of being censored from the Internet.” He suggested steps for librarians to fight these trends (through new studies, networking on **FAIFE** Facebook, buying a **FAIFE** T-shirt, and getting **Evgeny Morozov's** new book: *The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom*, about how dictatorships can use the net to suppress freedoms). He also recommended sending **FAIFE** spotlight topics to **FAIFE** when there are noticeable challenges to Freedom of Information and Expression. The two Egyptian librarians, **Dr. Shawky Salem** (Alexandria Centre for Multimedia and Libraries) and **Dr. Ismail Serageldin**, (Director of the Alexandrian Library) spoke about “The Egyptian Revolution from the Point of View of Freedom of Expression” (**Shawky**) and “In the Eye of the Storm: the Library of Alexandria and the Arab Spring.” **Shawky** showed a film on the recent Egyptian Revolution (<http://www.acml-egypt.com/video/rev.html>) and **Serageldin** spoke about the Library of Alexandria preventing any looting or destruction using citizens and staff linking hands, surrounding the Library to stop incursions against the Library.

- Another program which aroused emotion was the presentation by representatives of libraries recently hit by earthquakes in Japan, Chile, and New Zealand explaining how they coped with the situations and how much they appreciated international aid which assisted them in beginning efforts to recover. **Taro Miura** gave a very graphic account of the suffering of Japanese people and libraries. He spoke about how services by Japanese libraries were provided to children who had suffered and how the Japanese National Library assisted in restoring library services.
- The **Gates Foundation** traditionally announces its one million dollar award for Access to Learning at the **IFLA** meeting. This year, as usual, an announcement was made about the grant. The grant went to an African Library network, the **Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)**, and **James Nguo** from Africa was in Puerto Rico to accept the award. Based in Kenya, **ALIN** promotes local-level networking in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- A program on electronic books, with Director **Kenneth Crews**, **Columbia University** Copyright Advisory Office and longtime copyright expert moderating, talked about a number of issues such as publishers limiting circulations, the possible demise of print books, reinventing the experience between authors and readers, and the rapid explosion of eBooks in the United States.
- Finally, in a keynote address to the **IFLA** conference at the Opening program, the renowned Puerto Rican author, **Fernando Pico**, Historian and Professor at the **University of Puerto Rico**, said that by digitizing publications the “paradise of text becomes greater, but the hell comes faster,” but added that, thanks to digitization, unused texts may get used again.

At times, the Conference used at least four or five or more of the official seven **IFLA** languages: English, Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Arabic, and Russian in translation, and the **IFLA** Express came out again in special language editions.

Next year's (2012) **IFLA** in Helsinki promises to be an exciting one. The organizers have already promised to offer free public transportation in the city. Many Finnish Libraries will offer tours. Plus the proximity to St. Petersburg, Russia and Tallinn, Estonia gives conference goers opportunities to travel to libraries in these and cities and countries such as Lithuania, Poland, and Latvia where satellite conferences will be held. The Helsinki Conference theme is “Libraries Now! Inspiring, Surprising, and Empowering.” 🐼

And They Were There

Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition, “Something’s Gotta Give!,” Francis Marion Hotel, Embassy Suites Historic District, Courtyard Marriott Historic District, and Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, November 2-5, 2011

Charleston Conference Reports compiled by: **Ramune K. Kubilius** (Northwestern University, Galter Health Sciences Library) <r-kubilius@northwestern.edu>

Column Editor’s Note: Thank you to all of the Charleston Conference attendees who agreed to write short reports that highlight sessions they attended at the 2011 conference. All attempts were made to provide a broad coverage of sessions, and notes are included in the reports to reflect known changes in the session titles or presenters that were not printed in the conference’s final program. Please visit the Conference Website for archival information where a link to many presentations can be found on the 2011 Charleston Conference SlideShare Group Page. Permission was received from all of the plenary speakers to post their recorded sessions online, so they are added to the Video page on the Conference Website. The 2011 Charleston Conference Proceedings will be published in partnership with Purdue University Press in 2012. — RKK

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2011 PRECONFERENCES

NOTE: Pre-conference sessions required advance registration and involved extra fees.

Shared Print Archiving: Building the Collective Collection, and a Print Safety Net! — Convened by **Sam Demas** (College Librarian, Carleton College); **Bob Kieft** (College Librarian, Occidental College); **Rick Lugg** (R2 Consulting);

Lightning Round participants: **Rachel Frick, Kathryn Harnish, Clem Guthro, Michael Levine-Clark, John McDonald, Lizanne Payne, Judith Russell, Emily Stambaugh**

Reported by: **Fred Moody** (National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE)) <fmoody@nitle.org>

In what was arguably the most exciting (and certainly the fastest-paced) session in Charleston, the Shared Print Archiving panel rendered an impressive overview of the vast landscape of trends, solutions, ideas, and controversies covering the troubled topic of library storage of print materials in an increasingly digital age. Among the issues covered were various individual library initiatives involving weeding, high-density shelving, off-site storage, deselection, cooperative multi-library storage sites, faculty and publisher resistance to the downsizing of on-campus, open-stack libraries, and the daunting statistics driving the effort: a 37 percent decline in library circulation from 2002 to 2008, the current number of books purchased and never checked out so high that one audience member asked, “Do you ever purchase a book and send it directly to off-site storage?”

It was clear from the overall tenor of the discussion that the traditional print-centric library no longer serves its parent institution or its student clientele particularly well. It is based instead on an economic model solely benefiting traditional publishers. Or, as one audience member put it succinctly, “If we change our purchasing model, we’ll put all the publishers out of business. The publishing industry relies on libraries to buy material nobody uses.”

Developing a Weighted Library Allocation Formula — Presented by **Jeff Bailey** (Arkansas State University) and **Linda Creibaum** (Arkansas State University)

Reported by: **Kyle McCarrell** (Augusta State University) <kmccarre@aug.edu>

Managing resources in today’s budgetary environment can be challenging at best. In this preconference workshop, **Bailey** and **Creibaum** discussed

how they developed and now use a collection development allocation formula that flexes to balance as many factors as desired. The first half of their presentation discussed what types of data could be incorporated and the process used to weight each category. Using audience participation, the attendees gave examples like number of students per degree program and the average cost of books and journals in a discipline as factors that could be included in an allocation formula. Once the data for the factors is collected, it is necessary to weight each of these factors to indicate the value of that category. The second half of the presentation focused on demonstrating the formula and showing how small modifications can make big changes to the overall result. Attendees were able to gain real-time experience with the formula through the use of pre-loaded flash drives given to attendees. After a lively question and answer time, **Bailey** and **Creibaum** summed up their session by stating the need to document where and how you receive your data and to modify the formula to work for each individual institution.

Negotiating with Vendors — Presented by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel); **Buzzy Basch** (Basch Subscriptions); **Adam Chesler** (Business Expert Press); **Jill Grogg** (The University of Alabama Libraries); **James Wisner** (SCELC); **Chuck Hamaker** (UNC Charlotte)

Reported by: **Julie Blake** (OhioLINK) <Julie@ohiolink.edu>

Strauch, an attorney, gave some specific items to clarify in licenses, while **Basch** recommended knowing what you want going into a negotiation, and thinking about what both sides need. **Chesler** gave an overview of useful preparations for negotiations, and really should have been first in the presentation to give some context for the others. **Grogg** gave an interesting review of women and negotiation and the differences that gender plays, noting that cooperation, a perceived female strength, often leads to better long-term results. **Wisner** advised separating the people from the problem; negotiations should not be personal. When at an impasse, ask each party to list their fears; they may not be mutually exclusive. **Hamaker** ended with a specific example of using cost-per-use for only current-year content, since previous years have already been paid for, to discuss with a vendor what a “reasonable” cost should be. On the whole, a useful basic overview of negotiation.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011 MORNING PLENARY SESSIONS

The Semantic Web for Publishers and Libraries — Presented by **Michael Keller** (University Librarian, Director of Academic Information Resources, Founder/Publisher HighWire Press, Publisher Stanford University Press, Stanford University)

Reported by: **Fred Moody** (National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE)) <fmoody@nitle.org>

Stanford University Librarian Keller delivered a rousing call for librarians to blow up their information silos and make all catalog information accessible and decipherable to the world of users outside their individual institutions. There currently are “too many search engines, terms, cataloging systems, interfaces, and tools,” he declared. “No single tool is comprehensive.” By moving from the classic MARC data record to a new Linked Data approach, librarians can make records accessible to the world rather than to the tiny intramural community using their library’s search interface. Linked Data cataloging is a way of “capturing the underlying meaning in machine-readable form,” making “the web of data readable and

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interpretable.” Using Resource Descriptive Framework (RDF) protocols, and Universal Resource Identifiers (URIs) help build “semantic web meta-data: open, interactive, responsive, leading to other queries and views.”

Demonstrating how Linked Data can work, Keller showed a series of slides depicting a search on Victor Hugo, bringing up a list of “his works, his pseudonyms, locations of his various editions, translations, derivations, anthologies,” and a host of other citations that ordinarily would remain invisible to the researcher. “It is time,” Keller perorated, “for libraries to release their data into the wild.”

Data Papers in the Network Era — Presented by MacKenzie Smith (MIT Libraries)

Reported by: **Robin Sofge** (MLIS Student, University of South Carolina) <sofge@email.sc.edu>

A strong proponent of data papers, Smith brought her message to the masses as advertised in the program. She explained that data papers are like traditional papers. They are also formally reviewed and cited. However, instead of focusing on the research they are about the data.

She explained that data sharing is important because agencies such as the National Science Foundation have mandates requiring investigators to share information. For the researcher, data sharing can also mean the best possible science. For example, some data sets cannot be repeated because time has passed. Or, researchers may not be able to get a new sample. But she admits data sharing is not always easy. Smith explained that sometimes data can be specific to a certain discipline. Data often also requires software. She said that typically without software the data is useless.



Smith said it is important that reusable data is structured, well-documented, formatted for long-term access, archived, findable, and legally able to be combined with other data. Smith also explained the importance of Web data standards.

“Everything We See Hides Another:” Coping with Hidden Collections in the 21st-Century Research Library — Presented by Mark Dimunation (Chief, Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress)

Reported by: **Ramune K. Kubilius** (Northwestern University, Galter Health Sciences Library) <r-kubilius@northwestern.edu>

Hidden collections, at LC and nationwide, have high scholarly value (“user demand is insatiable”), yet repeated surveys indicate they are all too often under-collected, under-managed, under-processed, and unfindable. They are “unfinished business from the 20th century.” There is a need to move away from “boutique” systems and “as needed” project solutions to system-wide solutions. Dimunation highlighted findings of an ARL Task Force white paper that painted a somewhat bleak picture about front-cataloging backlogs. There is a tension between acquisitions and cataloging (one of the points from a 2003 summit at LC), but an effort needs to be made to inventory and report, to have standards, to create a “core core.” Description should be a continuum from arrival at the library, and attempts should be made to increase the fact that (only) half of archival materials have an online presence. Groups and reports mentioned included: the 2001 Special Collections Task Force, the survey of ARL libraries, and the OCLC report, “Future of the Bibliographic Record.” During the question-and-answer period, one audience member was intrigued by the concept “digitization before description,” and Dimunation indicated that this was just starting to be discussed.

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The Digital Public Library of America: The Idea and Its Implementation — Presented by **Robert Darnton** (Carl H. Pforzheimer University and Harvard University Library); **Rachel Frick** (Digital Library Federation); **Sanford Thatcher**, Moderator (The Pennsylvania State University Press)

Reported by: **Fred Moody** (National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE)) <fmoody@nitle.org>

Harvard University Librarian Darnton and Digital Library Federation Director Frick delivered an update on the **DPLA** effort. “We can now see what the **DPLA** is beginning to look like,” said **Darnton**.

The basic idea is to build a “coalition of foundations for funding, and a coalition of libraries to provide books.” There would be no single facility called the **Digital Public Library of America**; rather, it would be a virtual facility, combining digital resources from various collections including the **HathiTrust** and the **Internet Archive**. The early instantiation of the **DPLA** will “be primarily books in the public domain, research library scans of special collections material, government sources, and newspaper archives aggregated in the **Library of Congress**.”

Current plans call for an April 2013 launch of a **DPLA** with “several million holdings, growing incrementally on an annual budget of \$5 million to \$10 million.” There is no end to the complicated issues confronting the effort, including copyright law, publishers’ concerns, and issues of governance, but **Darnton** and **Frick** believe that none of them will prove insurmountable obstacles to “this feasible, affordable project and means to provide the nation enlightenment as a ‘public good,’ as envisioned by **Thomas Jefferson**.”

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011
LIVELY LUNCH DISCUSSIONS

Large-Scale Digital Archives: Publisher and Library Case Studies — Presented by **Thijs Willems** (Project Manager, Online Archives, Springer); **Jasper Faase** (Project Manager, Newspaper Digitization Project, National Library of the Netherlands)
NOTE: This sponsored Lively Lunch required advance registration.

Reported by: **Tony Horava** (Associate University Librarian, Collections, University of Ottawa) <thorava@uottawa.ca>

Springer is in the process of digitizing all of their books dating back to the 1840s – there are about 100,000 books representing 35 million pages. The **National Library of the Netherlands** has digitized 102 newspapers covering 1618-1995. These will be freely available. Long-term preservation and access were important goals for both projects. A few key lessons were learned in both projects – finding the titles can be a challenge (especially for books); negotiating rights with copyright holders is very time-consuming; developing appropriate standards and workflows, and a functional design; and the server storage required will likely be much higher than anticipated. Both speakers pointed to the need for detailed project planning for infrastructure costs, staff, technical specifications, and rights clearance. The audience raises numerous questions, especially for **Springer**, relating to interlibrary lending and format decisions; purchase options; language of the books; and the challenges of outsourcing the scanning to third-parties (e.g., regular deliveries and communication, and carefully-worded contracts). This session was a great opportunity to learn about the complexities and challenges for large-scale digitization in a European context for newspapers and books in the private sector, as well as the public sector. The benefits are huge, but such projects are not to be undertaken lightly. Funding for the project at the **National Library of the Netherlands** is a public/private partnership, whereas **Springer**, as a private company, has its own funding. The session offered a meaningful comparison and contrast between these two distinct projects.



Usage and Discovery: A Powerful Combination — Presented by **Kittie Henderson**, Moderator (EBSCO Information Services); **Gracemary Smulewitz** (Rutgers University); **Elizabeth Kocovar-Weidinger** (Longwood University); **Oliver Pesch** (EBSCO Information Services); **Michael Gorrell** (EBSCO Publishing)
NOTE: This sponsored Lively Lunch required advance registration and was held at an off-site restaurant.

Reported by: **Alison M. Armstrong** (McConnell Library, Radford University) <amarmstro@radford.edu>

This Lively Lunch had a panel of people from **EBSCO**, **Rutgers University**, and **Longwood University**. They talked about using usage statistics to make collection development decisions. A librarian from each university presented their experiences and findings using **EBSCO** Discovery Services and **EBSCO** tools to gather and analyze usage.

In the presentation, they talked about factors that go into making collection decisions, such as value, prestige, curriculum, accreditation, use restrictions, requests, use, cost-per-use, impact factor, and subject analysis. **EBSCO**’s philosophy on usage data is that, to be useful, it shouldn’t be complicated. It should be simple, affordable, and available at your point of need.

Smulewitz said they were able to run a report of titles that were encumbered but not paid. They came up with 3,000 titles. They found they had two or more orders for the same title; some in print and some electronic. They were able to release the funds.

Kocovar-Weidinger talked about access and “the last in line/last name factor,” in which titles later in the alphabet don’t get used as much because people don’t scroll down to them. They found that the 80/20 rule is still applicable 40 years later.

Let’s Get the Dialog Started: Keeping eBooks Current — Presented by **Tamara Remhof** (Texas A&M University-Commerce Libraries); **Gail Johnston** (Texas A&M University-Commerce Libraries); **Ken Breen** (EBSCO); **Matt Barnes** (ebrary)
NOTE: Kari Paulson (EBL) joined the panel (not listed in the program).

Reported by: **Alexis Linoski** (United States Naval Academy) <adlinoski0812@yahoo.com>

The focus of this Lively Lunch was weeding and maintenance of eBook collections. It was a panel discussion with two librarians and three vendor representatives. Questions brought up by **Remhof** and **Johnston** (the librarians) were:

- While it’s easy to withdraw outdated eBooks (such as medical texts) from your own collection, what about shared collections? Titles will still be available via the consortial collection, even if withdrawn at the institutional level.
- Who is responsible for the weeding of eBooks — the vendor or the library? Here the focus was on subscription based collections.

The vendors agreed there was a dilemma. Many users annotate eBooks, so what happens if it just goes away? What followed was a discussion between the panel and the audience on what librarians would like to see in eBook products for managing their collections, including the option to weed books and/or point users to newer editions if older editions have been bookmarked.

*That’s all the reports we have room for in this issue. Watch for more reports from the 2011 Charleston Conference in upcoming issues of **Against the Grain**. Presentation material (PowerPoint slides, handouts) and taped session links from many of the 2011 sessions are available online. Visit the **Conference Website** at www.katina.info/conference. — KS*