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Charleston Library Conference

Preface and Acknowledgments

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Preface and Acknowledgments

“Where Do We Go From Here?” was the theme of the 2015 Charleston Conference, which took place in Charleston, South Carolina, on Wednesday, November 4 through Saturday, November 7, 2015, with over 1,700 participants. The far-ranging and diverse program, which focuses on the purchase and lease 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 who helped in assuring timely and professionally peer-reviewed submissions. Thanks are also due to the Purdue University Press team: Dianna Gilroy, Production Editor; Liza Hagerman, Assistant Production Editor; Katherine Purple, Managing Editor; Bryan Shaffer, Sales and Marketing Manager; 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 2015, the Charleston Conference included fourteen preconference sessions, covering the following: introduction to library research data, an acquisitions bootcamp, understanding the library market, legal issues in libraries, citation analysis, assessment of academic library value, defining discovery for your library, developing a collection development allocation formula, e-resource management, streaming video in the academy, KBART, an Ithaka S+R workshop, visualizing usage data, and negotiating with vendors. Fourteen plenary and Neapolitan sessions; several hundred concurrent sessions; and lively lunch discussions, PechaKucha-like shotgun “shorts,” and poster sessions spiced up the offerings. The popular Neapolitan format was continued from 2014, allowing three plenary-level speakers to speak in large rooms during the same time slot. The conference directors also continued Charleston Premiers during Saturday morning breakfast 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, dine around dinners on Friday night at some of Charleston’s well-known restaurants, a gala reception on Thursday evening at the Charleston Aquarium, and the Vicky Speck ABC-CLIO Leadership Award for someone connected with the Conference.

In 2015, the Conference was able to use the newly renovated Gaillard Center that had just opened. The Gaillard is able to accommodate larger groups than our other venues, which gave a more formal feel to the Conference than in the past. There were several “newness” glitches, but they have hopefully been rectified for 2016. The 2015 lead keynote presentation (“Star Wars in the Library”) by Jim O’Donnell of Arizona State University energized the attendees. Courtney Young of Pennsylvania State University spoke about the “Value of Libraries.” The Friday keynote was Katherine Skinner (Educopia Institute), who talked about making an impact through collaboration. Neapolitans included the following topics: think like a start up; the secret life of articles; and real-life examples of industry consolidation, innovation in open access monographs, text and data mining contracts, and shared print in Orbis Cascade, the library-publishing landscape, and change management with metrics.

There were breaks in the plenary and Neapolitan talks when a lively Oxford-style debate ensued between Maria Bonn (University of Illinois) and Derek Law (University of Strathclyde) on the proposition that “Altmetrics are Overrated.”

The Saturday sessions were equally stimulating. Beginning with Premier five-minute refereed presentations by new companies and products, the next plenary and Neapolitan talks dealt with studying satisfaction with book collections, comparing search engines and discovery services, and much more.

The concurrent sessions, lively lunches, poster sessions, shotgun 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 numerous 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: docs.lib.purdue.edu/charleston/

And, of course, the city of Charleston was as beautiful and vibrant as ever!

The next Charleston Conference will be held November 2–5, 2016, with the theme “Roll With the Times or the Times Roll Over You!” There will be several new offerings; several preconference sessions; 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, and made available. Charleston Conference information will be updated regularly. For archives and further information, visit:

<http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/>

See you in Charleston in November!

Katina Strauch, Founder and Convener, Charleston Conference

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