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And They Were There: Reports of Meetings — 30th Annual Charleston Conference. Patron-Driven Acquisition of Monographs: Results and Implications

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Working Well with Wikipedia — Presented by Phoebe Ayers  
(Wikimedia Foundation / University of California at Davis)  
Reported by: Wendy West (SUNY Albany) <wwwest@uamail.albany.edu>

Ayer provided an overview of the history, intended scope, editing, and principles that govern the construction and management of Wikipedia. The presentation was divided into three parts. In the first part, the speaker provided details about the history of Wikipedia and the current contents. The second part of the presentation was called “Editing in 90 seconds.” The presenter discussed the process of editing articles and guiding principles for the construction and editing. The last part of the presentation focused some of the ongoing projects, including those by universities and academics, and the opportunities for librarians to become involved in the creation and editing of articles, using their expertise to fill in gaps. Librarians should consider the “Citation Needed” tag as an invitation to edit. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Semantic Technology: Getting Up to Speed to Better Serve Your User Community — Presented by Darrell W. Gunter (Elsevier/Collexis); Thane Kerner (Silver Chair); Adam Marshall (Portland Press); Jignesh Bhate (Molecular Connections); Rafael Sidi (Elsevier)  
Note: Jignesh Bhate did not participate in the panel and moderator Darrell Gunter presented in place of Rafael Sidi.

Reported by: Kristina DeShazo (Oregon Health & Science University) <deshazo@ohsu.edu>

This session deviated slightly from the program description, and the absence of two of the presenters may have altered the content. The result however proved to be informative. Gunter acted both as panel moderator and panelist, filling in for the absent Sidi. Bhate was also absent. Five questions were provided to panelists in advance of the conference. The questions addressed what drove the panelist into the area of semantic technology, what are key advantages of using semantic technology and how has it helped enhance user’s experience, what problems have been solved or new enhancements were created by the implementation of semantic technology, what were key lessons learned in getting started, and what are the next steps in developing semantic applications. Gunter, Kerner, and Marshall each presented their answers which were then followed by a Q&A segment with questions from the audience and Gunter as moderator. Although each speaker’s response to the questions provided insight into the current state of semantic technology, perhaps the most compelling tidbit from this presentation was the answer to the Q&A question as to why it is important for librarians to know or understand semantic technologies. Kerner asserts that this will suffice all information platforms and offers an opportunity to get in on the beginning of implementation into platforms.

Patron-Driven Acquisition of Monographs: Results and Implications — Presented by Michael Levine-Clark (University of Denver); Becky Clark (Johns Hopkins University Press); Matt Nauman (YBP Library Services); David Swords (EBL)  
Reported by: Andree Rathemacher (University of Rhode Island, University Libraries) <andree@uri.edu>

Swords presented data from a study of twenty-nine libraries engaged in patron-driven acquisitions (PDA) of eBooks. The data show that when libraries offer short-term loans of eBooks, the price per transaction is less than if the books were purchased. The number of transactions is higher, leading to greater customer satisfaction.

Levine-Clark discussed cost-savings that resulted from the University of Denver’s six-month PDA pilot with EBL. He suggested that library collections be redefined as materials potentially available for purchase, as opposed to materials owned or leased. Collection management becomes risk management as titles are added and removed from the catalog based on multiple decision rules.

Clark presented the results of an online survey of members of the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) about PDA. Almost all university presses responding were concerned that PDA will have a negative impact on sales or at least make forecasting sales more difficult. Most respondents have not yet opted into PDA options by eBook vendors and are taking a wait-and-see attitude.

Nauman examined the impact of PDA on traditional book vendors. He pointed to the need for a new business model whereby the vendor presents a universe of content that is discoverable and attainable by patrons in different ways. The vendor will provide discovery tools and infrastructure for new work flows. This might require annual subscription fees for database maintenance as well as transaction fees.

We’ve Come So Far, Who Knew! One Librarian’s Experience With E-Books and Beyond — Presented by James Mouw (University of Chicago)  
Reported by: LouAnn Blocker (Augusta State University, Reese Library) <lblockel@aug.edu>

At the University of Chicago, they are still uncertain about patron acceptance of eBooks (many faculty still prefer print.) But a recent survey they conducted of graduate and professional students indicated that this group would like more eBooks. Mouw shared statistics of eBook collections compared with their print counterparts in NetLibrary and Oxford Scholarship Online, which gave good ideas on analyzing collection use. Many hits to eBooks come from MARC records, highlighting the importance of having those collections in the library catalog. He stressed the future importance of having library holdings hooked to Google searches. They have added Hathitrust titles to their catalog.

They have a pilot PDA program where any patron can initiate a request, with payment through subject selectors’ discretionary funds. He sees the issue with PDA as a balance between building collections and spending money wisely.

Issues in eBook acquisition mentioned were: you aren’t always notified at the same time when print and an e-versions of books are available; ILL is still a big question; e-readers are still “consumer models,” not “library models;” and buying versus leasing content. The session was succinct and gave all the content advertised.

Open Researcher and Contributor Identification (ORCID) — Presented by David Kochalko (ORCID/Thomson Reuters)  
Note: See interview with this speaker, on the topic of ORCID, in Against the Grain, v.22#5, Nov. 2010 issue.

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

Will the non-profit ORCID initiative (www.orcid.org) lead to an author disambiguation solution? About two dozen attendees listened to (and later questioned) Kochalko as he presented steps taken so far. ORCID has members in 25 countries and a board of directors, both representing various stakeholder sectors; others can engage, too. Communication is underway with NISO and other id registry initiatives. Evident needs: Profiles and communities; research impact studies; refinement in collection development; bibliometric research. Challenges: variant names; unique “common name” problems in each country; and language conversion issues (e.g., from Chinese to English, not converting easily back to Chinese). Questions to be resolved: Will ORCID be a vehicle or a storage mechanism? What is the overlap between user and third party uploaded data? What will be the provenance, controls?