

Bookshelf

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Making Waves: New Serials Landscapes in a Sea of Change

Proceedings of the North American Serials Interest Group, Inc., 15th Annual Conference, June 22-25, 2000, University of California San Diego, San Diego, California

Edited by Joseph C. Harmon and P. Michelle Fiander; Lynne F. Griffin, webpage edition editor.

New York, The Haworth Press, Inc., 2001. 472 pp. ISBN 0-7890-1399-1 Casebound US\$79.95, paperback US\$44.95. Co-published simultaneously as The Serials Librarian volume 40, nos.1/2 and 3/4, 2001. Some individual articles are also available for a fee from <http://www.HaworthPress.com>

This volume is daunting at first sight, with reports on three pre-conference programmes, three plenary sessions, nine concurrent sessions and 29 workshops. The reports are, however, both topical and eminently readable, and the necessary brevity of each paper can give a concise summary of the state of play. For those who like to count contents pages, three of the workshop write-ups are on one in-depth workshop: definite value for money!

The pre-conference programmes cover MARC Format for Holdings Data (MFHD), disaster planning and e-journals. The overview of MFHD is excellent, with a useful checklist for assessing

library management systems and a helpful list of references. The topic is later taken up in one of the workshops (*Implementing and appreciating the MARC holdings format*, pp.343-348), pointing to the staffing implications and asking whether we are coding for the sake of coding or coding to be able to display the data rationally. The disaster planning program includes an interesting role-playing scenario and some practical information. The session on e-journals covers much ground in five pages and then takes a look at likely future developments.

The plenary sessions look at the future and are both entertaining and educational. Eugenie Prime encourages the delegate/reader to "dream the unthinkable" in responding to the challenge of the Internet, making comparisons with businesses and emphasising the need to be proactive at a time of extreme change. She stresses the importance of recognising the next significant technological move, pointing to an intriguing list of failures on the part of technological innovators in the past. She has valuable points to make on ownership and access, Web functionality, and the move to licences just at the moment when delivery possibilities are enormous. Eugenie Prime suggests models for the future, but is primarily seeking to stimulate discussion and action on vital issues. This is followed by the account of Bob Cringely – and the trashcan icon episode is not to be missed! It is slightly perplexing that the volume spells his name

“Cringley” throughout, apart from the reference to his Website and the participants’ list: a glance at the NASIG Website also reveals a conflict. Cringley makes the point that new information technologies tend to take about 30 years to determine their own function, citing the telephone and the television as examples. Like Prime, who sees libraries as possibly providing the branding and the “wrapper” of the future, Cringley sees a role for librarians in separating the wheat from the chaff during the transition from preserving materials to managing information. The final plenary session takes the form of an open forum, from which highlights are recorded and well presented.

The concurrent sessions cover specific projects and initiatives (BioOne, SPARC, OhioLINK, the Open Archives project and PubMed Central) and also the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the impact of publisher mergers on journal prices, and serials cataloguing. John Cox addresses *Globalization, consolidation and the growth of the giants: scholarly communication, the individual and the internet* (pp. 105-116). He brings together some major examples of publisher consolidation and makes clear points on professional and scholarly publishing, pricing issues, and future roles of publishers and librarians. We also learn that the “entire worldwide STM information industry is smaller than the UK market for chocolate” (pp.116), which is certainly thought-provoking! Mark McCabe gives an economist’s view of market developments in his paper, *The impact of publisher mergers on journal prices* (p.157-166), which is well worth reading. Deborah Seys’ *Speaking a serials cataloguing tongue: Lingua franca for the Web* (pp.167-172) is a neat but slightly laboured linguistic exercise on the differences in cataloguing Internet materials.

The workshops are wide-ranging. Many cataloguing issues are covered, from historical journals to e-journal conundrums. There are practical tips for the office, from reorganising your work space to technical services Webpages. There are contributions on ISSN, DOI, NISO Z39.71, EDI, data warehousing, evaluation of print and electronic journals, and archive models.

The summaries make it easy to select papers of interest, and the bibliographies (extensive in places) and useful URLs mean that this volume can be used as a starting point to look into most

current topics. There are notes on contributors and, at the end, a list of conference registrants and a carefully prepared index. It is the first volume of NASIG proceedings to include the poster sessions – represented by the proposal abstracts – and this provides an interesting snapshot. The nautical theme is overdone in places, but that is the cumulative effect of putting all the papers in one volume. Clearly the solution is to attend NASIG conferences in future, but for those who cannot, the editors are to be congratulated on a really useful and inspiring volume.

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The Library Association Yearbook 2001-2002

Edited by Kathryn Beecroft

London: Library Association Publishing, 2001. 527 pp. ISBN 1 85604 401 7. ISSN 0075 9066. £37.50.

The Library Association Yearbook is an invaluable reference source for LIS professionals. It is a complete guide to the Association and provides a wealth of practical information about the association and its membership. It is clearly designed as an easy-to-use handbook and as such the information is clearly laid out in three distinct parts, which are then further subdivided into sections. The contents listing at the front is very useful and is in sufficient detail to enable the reader to turn to the appropriate section straight away.

The first part of the book gives details of the workings of the Association. The second is concerned with the way in which the Association is governed and its regulations. The third part contains an alphabetical list of members of the Association. Each part is then further subdivided into separate sections.

Part one provides useful details about the facilities available at Library Association (LA) Headquarters and how members can obtain information and advice. There are also details about the Council, which is the LA’s governing body. This includes membership listings for the

various Standing Committees. There is information about the branches of the LA and about the numerous special interest groups. An index to the publications of the various branches and groups is included, which is particularly useful. There is a section on organisations that have formal links with the LA, which includes details of organisations dealing with specific aspects of librarianship.

Part two reproduces in full the text of the Royal Charter, which the Library Association received in 1898. There is also information about powers and conditions for committees of council and rules of procedure to be followed at meetings, and details of codes of practice including the Code of Professional Conduct.

Part three lists the current membership of the Association. It includes personal members, institutional members and overseas institutional members. The list is alphabetical and for personal members includes details of current post, date he or she joined the Association and the date he or she became an Associate or Fellow.

As the Library Association merged with the Institute of Information Scientists in April 2002, this edition of the LA Yearbook is likely to be the last one produced. It is to be hoped that a similarly informative and easy to use handbook will be produced to provide information about the new organisation, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

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Libraries in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland 2002 – 28th Edition

London, Library Association Publishing, 455pp. ISBN 1-85604-400-9; paperback; £37.50

The information in this directory is straight from the horse's mouth, as it is compiled annually from returned questionnaires completed by the institutions included in the volume. As there is a 100% return rate, information should be accurate and approved by the almost 3000 institutions themselves. Great pains are taken to ensure that all information is current, as the editor

proactively requests updated information throughout the year, not least to ensure that the additional service of receiving the directory in the form of continually updated mailing labels is efficient.

The essential information is easily accessed, clearly organised, and the typesetting is especially easy to read (8/10pt Switzerland). The preface outlines the organisation of the material, which is divided into four categories: Public library authorities; Academic libraries; Selected government, national and special libraries in the UK and Republic of Ireland; Schools and departments of information and library studies. There is also a new section: Key library agencies and other relevant organisations. There are also name and subject indexes.

The four main categories are subdivided. Public libraries are listed by England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Crown Dependencies, with a separate chapter for the Republic of Ireland; the same format is used for children's, youth and schools library services. These chapters include all public library authorities, arranged by home county, though the listings are not exhaustive and do not delve beyond central and head libraries and main branch ones (or for one service which dares to be different, portal clusters). The remaining subjects have a chapter each. The academic libraries are arranged by name of institution, and include all major department and site libraries, Scottish central institutions, equivalents in the Republic of Ireland, and other UK degree-awarding institutions. The government, national and special Libraries in the UK and academic, national and special libraries and the Republic of Ireland are "selected", essentially including the main library of the department, specialist libraries within, and main specialist libraries are included if they are leaders in their respective fields.

So what's actually in it? Each entry consists of the headquarters address, all available contact details, (phone, fax, e-mail, website), main personnel (with contacts), followed by the central library with its address/contacts/main personnel, and finally any main subsidiary libraries with the same information.

Does this work? All entries do have the same format, which is clear and logical in presentation,

though with varying degrees of consistency regarding the depth of content. For example: York lists its headquarters alone, Bristol lists headquarters and Central Library; Brent lists headquarters, twelve branch libraries and an outreach service; Glasgow lists thirty-three branch libraries. From whence the discrepancy arises I cannot see. Are we to believe that Bristol, with a larger population than Brent (by about 100,000), does not provide an equally comprehensive public library service? The York entry does contain its Website address, obviously very useful information, but somewhat missing the point of a paper directory. The directory is obviously to a large extent at the mercy of its contributors, who therefore can choose how they wish to be represented within the volume. Consequently the editing appears to be scrupulous, but by necessity inconsistent. The same problem afflicts the academic sections: for example, the specialist Law Library at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, is afforded a separate entry from the main library, though actually housed within it, whereas the Eldon Library, a small but specialist visual resources collection at the University of Portsmouth, is not listed at all, though geographically independent (information gleaned from the University Website, where the library and its services are comprehensively outlined). In such cases, who draws the line?

Governmental, national and special libraries are more consistent, though there are some anomalies. English Heritage, a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), is listed, as is the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, which sponsors it. DEFRA is listed, but not its NDPB, the Environment Agency. Once again, who decided what was to be included, the libraries or the editors?

There is a useful chapter of Schools and departments of information and library studies, listed alphabetically by location, followed by one of Key library agencies and other relevant organizations. Acronyms are used, without following the full name of the organisation, and both are included in the name index, which is eminently sensible. There is also a subject index of known specialist libraries, also very sensible in providing multiple entries for any library that falls under different subject headings, e.g. the

FSA appears under both Agriculture, Horticulture and Botany, and Health and Safety. Another plus is the indexing of specialist subject collections otherwise lost within the academic listings, e.g. the subject "Engineering" points to the entries for seven universities that have specialist collections that would otherwise be missed.

The directory is a highly valuable and useful volume, well-arranged and easy to use and to read. The editors have a Sisyphean task: despite obviously stringent editorial control the information provided is uneven in its depth, so the entries can veer from highly detailed to very brief. Some contributors have supplied the bare minimum. Otherwise an excellent volume.

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PUBLICATIONS NOTED:

The Audiovisual Cataloguing Current. Edited by Sandra K. Roe, New York, The Haworth Information Press Inc., 2001, 370 pp, ISBN 0-7890-1404-1, paperback (Also co-published as *Cataloguing & Classification Quarterly*, Volume 31, Numbers 2 and 3/4, 2001)

Digital Developments in Higher Education: Theory and Practice. Edited by Peter Roberts and Mark Chambers, Cambridge, Taylor Graham Publishing, 2001, 189 pp, ISBN 0 947568 78 6, paperback, £30/US\$55

Diversity Now: People, Collections and Services in Academic Libraries. Edited by Teresa Y. Neely and Kuang-Hwei (Janet) Lee-Smeltzer. New York, The Haworth Information Press Inc., 2001, ISBN 0-7890-1697-4, paperback (Also co-published as *Journal of Library Administration*, Volume 33, Numbers 1/2 and 3/4, 2001)

Effective Knowledge Management: A Best Practice Blueprint, by Sultan Kermally, Chichester, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 194 pp, ISBN 0-470-84449-3, paperback, £14.99

Evolution in Reference and Information Services: The Impact of the Internet. Edited by Di Su, New York, The Haworth Information Press

Inc., 2001, 230 pp, ISBN 0-7890-1723-7, paperback
(Also co-published as *The Reference Librarian*,
Number 74, 2001)

**Information Management for the Intelligent
Organisation: The Art of Scanning the
Environment.** Edited by Chun Wei Choo, Third
Edition, Medford, New Jersey, USA, Information
Today Inc., 2002, 325 pp, ISBN 1-57387-125-7,
casebound, US\$39.50

**The Information Professional's Guide to Career
Development Online**, by Sarah L. Nesbeitt and
Rachel Singer Gordon, Medford, New Jersey,

USA, Information Today Inc., 2002, 401 pp, ISBN
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Journals of the Century. Edited by Tony Stankus,
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**Super Searchers Make it on Their Own: Top
Independent Information Professionals Share
Their Secrets for Starting and Running a
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and edited by Reva Basch, Medford, New Jersey,
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0-910965-59-5, paperback, US\$24.95, Canada\$37.95