Editorial

The Future of Scholarship

One of my editorial themes over the last five years has been the need for librarians to change to meet the challenges of a significantly different future for scholarship and thus for library service. Last May, the Research Libraries Group sponsored a small symposium entitled "Scholarship in the New Information Environment" at Harvard Law School. The speakers at this conference inspired me to comment again about the new environment for scholarship.

Scholarly information: Stanley Chodorow, provost of the University of Pennsylvania, predicted the continuation of print for a long, long time, but the end of an era when scholarly text was fixed. He believes that multiple versions of scholarly works with annotations of different scholars will exist simultaneously. Scholars, with the help of specialist librarians, will have to select among them. Toni Carbo Bearman, dean of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, also envisioned a hypertextual form where fixity no longer operates. She thinks that the idea of literacy will have to be replaced by mediacy, an understanding of thought through media other than the printed page. Hal Varian, Reuben Kempf professor of economics at the University of Michigan, outlined the advantages of price discrimination in valuing information; he predicted that scholars will pay for information but that the costs for text will be negligible. Douglas Greenberg, president of the Chicago Historical Society, predicted a continuing expansion of scholarly interest with an increasing range of methodological approaches. Supporting all these new methodologies challenges libraries and societies that store source materials. More and more institutions will begin to charge for the use of their unique resources.

Library roles: As the library presents itself on each scholar's desk top, its need for a central geographical place on campus vanishes. Chodorow thinks materials not converted to electronic form can be stored anywhere and made available only as needed. Ross Atkinson, associate university librarian for collection development, technical services, and preservation at Cornell University, described the paper library as a drought with librarians as children of the drought in comparison with the electronic library which will provide a flood of unmanaged information. He reconceptualizes the library as an institution that identifies materials along a source/needs continuum. The library will ensure access to all materials, but the speed of delivery to the patron will vary. The library will add value to certain materials by creating a control zone in which some materials are available locally, some are quickly produced for less frequent use, and others take even longer to access.

Librarian roles: Chodorow believes that librarians will be recognized as information specialists; they will be jointly trained in information retrieval and in a subject discipline to navigate through the broad electronic information landscape. Atkinson reiterated his idea that the library should become a scholarly publisher for nontrade monographs, and Csewlaw J. Grycz, executive director of the Władysław Poniecki Charitable Foundation, noted the need to add value, rather than just cost, in both the editing and review process and in the storage and
retrieval process. Bearman and Atkinson both discussed the continuing need for filtering and quality control. Varian viewed the librarian as the person making the decisions about how to maximize the amount of quality information that could be purchased with the materials budget.

Library cooperation: Atkinson allowed his Doppelgänger to speak to the less idealized explanations for the failure of efforts at cooperation. Head librarians flourish by maximizing the libraries’ share of the academic institution’s budget, and collection managers measure success through maximization of local holdings, which has been a key determinant of large library rankings. In this environment, spending local monies to meet national needs is virtually impossible. Similarly, the university sells itself on the reputation of its faculty, who are often more concerned with their own prestige than with dissemination of information. The current system supports all these agendas excellently. In this environment, talk about cooperation is far more effective than real cooperation. Atkinson noted that the Association of Research Libraries’ directors could end the serials cost crisis by each requesting a thirty percent reduction in materials budget and five years of flat funding. The faculty would be in an uproar because of the potential damage to their reputations, and all the directors would be fired.

Other realistic observations: Chodorow, a scholar of medieval canon law, spoke about writing books for nine or ten or perhaps only six colleagues. Such works, which have always been subsidized by library purchases, should not be produced in the same way as the works of Danielle Steele. Grycz and others noted the probable triumph of the entertainment industry in determining the intellectual property laws of the United States and hoped for some special provisions for the scholarly communications system. In response to Paul Mosher’s question about the continued viability of the Chautauqua model (lifelong learning for the common person), the panel questioned whether states are willing to fund a first-class educational institution. As education competes with prisons and health care, support is eroding.

Libraries and librarians are part of a system designed to serve a lifelong learning model for higher education. The ideal behind that model was a democratization of learning; knowledge was a public good that should be made freely available to all. Now that whole system and its underlying ideal are being challenged. Librarians must make a stronger commitment to their role in the creation of scholarship—as scholarly publishers, organizers, indexers, and information specialists. Further, students are accustomed to doing research in a collection that has been screened. As these students begin to use resources on the Internet and to work with multiple versions rather than with a fixed text, the library’s instructional responsibilities intensify and proliferate. The digital library may cede its place in the geographical center of campus but specialist librarians should not cede their place at the center of the production and interpretation of scholarly information.

GLORIANA ST. CLAIR
You could buy a collection of CDs in these areas...  ...and still not match the coverage found in Biological Abstracts® on Compact Disc.

Why purchase several compact discs when you can rely on a single source for access to the widest range of life science journal literature: Biological Abstracts on CD.

Comprehensive Journal and Subject Coverage
Nearly 6,500 international journals are monitored for Biological Abstracts on CD, so researchers can pinpoint relevant references quickly and easily. Biological Abstracts on CD's extensive multidisciplinary life science coverage enables you to direct a variety of researchers to this single, convenient source.

A Smart Investment
Biological Abstracts on CD eliminates the need to purchase costly single-subject publications that offer limited coverage. Plus, Biological Abstracts on CD employs SilverPlatter's user-friendly software, so even novice searchers achieve optimum results.

Call Now for a 30-Day Free Trial Disc!
1-800-523-4806  (215) 587-4847
(USA and Canada)  (Worldwide)

Yes! I am interested in the following:
☐ Applying for a 30-Day trial disc for Biological Abstracts on CD
☐ Brochure and prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Postal Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return this coupon to BIOSIS, Inquiry Fulfillment, CRL 1108BCD, 2100 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1399 USA or to the Official Representative or Authorized Distributor in your area. Fax (215) 587-2016, Internet e-mail: info@mail.biosis.org
World Wide Web URL: http://www.biosis.org

BIOSIS®
Information for Today's Decisions and Discoveries
BIOSIS is a registered trademark of Biological Abstracts.
There's no question that the buyer gets his/her money's worth... Money, shelf space, and time are saved...” - Book News

SciTech Reference Plus

The scientific and technical communities of the U.S. and Canada — at your fingertips — with SciTech Reference PLUS! Access every corner of the scientific community.

28 search criteria, 16 browsable indexes, and database cross-searching give you fast access to detailed profiles of 124,000 U.S. and Canadian scientists and engineers from American Men and Women of Science... 8,000 research facilities and independent labs active in commercial or applied research from the Directory of American Research and Technology, ... 25,000 leading U.S. and international technology firms from the Directory of Corporate Affiliations ... 314,000 books covering every aspect of the sci-tech and medical fields from Books in Print... and 63,000 sci-tech and medical serials from Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory.

Whether you’re a librarian or researcher, marketing professional or student, you can...

• Locate experts in all the physical, biological and related sciences. Consult SciTech Reference PLUS’s detailed profiles to find and contact expert witnesses, subjects for articles, and speakers for conferences.

• Discover who owns which research facilities and determine their mission. Identify candidates for cooperative research ventures.

• Develop mailing lists. Get the names and addresses of vital decision makers to market new products or take advantage of employment opportunities.

• Find virtually every sci-tech and medical publication published or distributed in the U.S. Update your collection by easily accessing and ordering the most current materials in hot fields such as plastics or genetic engineering, or quickly print bibliographies for patrons.

So when you want to research the people and companies making today's technological advances — without wasting time and effort — you need an advanced research tool — SciTech Reference PLUS! Call today to order or for more information!

• Bowker • Reed Reference Electronic Publishing
121 Chanlon Road, New Providence, NJ 07974

Dial toll free 1-800-323-3288, and press 2
FAX 908-665-3528
email: info@bowker.com
www site: http://www.reedref.com

SciTech Reference PLUS

SciTech Reference PLUS

SciTech Reference PLUS