Preface and Acknowledgments

“Accentuate the Positive!” was the theme of the 2012 Charleston Conference Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition held November 7 (preconferences and vendor showcase) and November 8–10 (main conference) in historic Charleston, South Carolina. This was the 32nd Charleston Conference, and attendance was the largest ever (well over 1,500) despite the Frankenstorm, Hurricane Sandy, which devastated much of the northeast the week before.

The Conference began with eight preconferences covering collection development and acquisitions policies, negotiating with vendors, e-book programs, sustainability, and serials resource management. As well, there was a Mini Tools of Change (TOC) preconference and a COUNTER at its tenth anniversary preconference. The afternoon featured a Vendor Showcase, the only opportunity for exhibits during the Charleston Conference. Juried Product Development Forums, opportunities for vendors and publishers to provide focus-like groups for librarians on new and developing products, were held after the Vendor Showcase ended.

The main Charleston Conference began on Thursday morning at 8 a.m. with a keynote by Annette Thomas, the CEO of Macmillan, who joined Macmillan 19 years ago. A PhD in biochemistry and biophysics, Dr. Thomas took us through some of Macmillan’s history and new initiatives like ReadCube and 1DegreeBio. Accentuating the positive, she exhorted us all to take advantage of the opportunities that are out there for information professionals and publishers.

There were numerous plenary sessions many of which are enumerated below. Not all plenary sessions, however, were available for publication in this volume.

Anurag Acharya, founder and lead engineer for Google Scholar, described himself as a “lapsed academic” with the simple idea that “everybody must be able to find everything.” He took us through many of the steps necessary in discovery and access and encouraged us all to interact with him during the conference.

“Curating a New World of Publishing” was led by Mitchell Davis of Bibliolabs and included Mark Coker (Smashwords), Eric Hellman (Gluejar), and Rush Miller (University of Pittsburgh). Each panelist had a unique perspective on e-books and publishing in the future.

A discussion between Peter Binfield (PeerJ) and Timo Hannay (Digital Science) led by Greg Tananbaum (ScholarNext) dwelled on all types and opportunities for innovation and pointed to Clay Christiansen’s book The Innovator’s Dilemma.

Kristin Eschenfelder (University of Wisconsin-Madison) took us on a fascinating tour of trends and debates regarding e-journal licensing. She focused on perpetual access terms, scholarly sharing, e-reserves, and interlibrary loan.

A much-anticipated and quoted panel of Provosts telling librarians what they think we should know was led by James O’Donnell, Provost and University Professor, Georgetown University and included J. Bradley Creed, Provost and Executive Vice President, Samford University and Jose-Marie Griffiths, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Bryant University.
A look at the twenty-first-century university press which compared and contrasted the past and the future was the focus of a panel led by Leila Salisbury (University Press of Mississippi) which included Doug Armato (University of Minnesota Press) and Alison Muddit (University of California Press).

Conference attendees got a first-hand look at the just-developed Digital Public Library of American by Emily Gore, the newly-appointed director of Content, DPLA. Another small look was provided by Ann Okerson (CRL) about SCOAP³, an innovative model to achieve open access to peer-reviewed journals in High Energy Physics.

One of the most popular panels over the past several years has been Ann Okerson’s “Long Arm of the Law” panel which in 2012 included William Hannay, Partner, Schiff Hardin LLP; Winston Tabb, Dean of Libraries and Museums, The Johns Hopkins University; and Nancy E. Weiss, General Counsel, Institute of Museum and Library Services discussing some of the specific cases which have impacted the library field recently.

The main Charleston Conference ended with the “Hyde Park Debate” on the proposition “the traditional research library is dead” with Rick Anderson (University of Utah) speaking for and Derek Law (Strathclyde University) speaking against. A poll of the attendees was taken before and after the debate: the initial poll indicated that the majority of the audience was against the proposition, but the exit poll showed that they were swayed by the argument supporting the proposition.

Interlaced among the plenary talks were several hundred concurrent sessions, lively lunch presentations, poster sessions, shotgun sessions, and tech talks. These are divided into tracks including Collection Development, End Users, Management/Administration, Scholarly Communication, and Techie Issues. Many of the sessions are represented here. The Charleston Conference website continues to host many of the archives free of charge to all interested parties. The Charleston Conference is an intense immersion experience. However, we also immerse ourselves in food and fun including the Gala reception on Thursday night, in 2012 sponsored by Elsevier; the Friday night dine-around; and sight-seeing around Charleston.

Special thanks must be extended to Leah Hinds and Beth Bernhardt who lovingly put together this volume after much organization and hours of work; to Caroline Goldsmith who ably transcribed many of the plenary talks; and to Charles Watkinson and the Purdue University Press staff for their support and enthusiasm.

The 33rd Charleston Conference will be held November 6–9, 2013. The theme is “Too Much is Not Enough!” Come on down! The Charleston Conference website is www.katina.info/conference.

Katina Strauch, Charleston Conference Founder and Convener

Bruce Strauch, Owner and CEO, the Charleston Conference