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Serials & E-Resources News

"Time Flies…Exploring the Future for Serialists" 20th North Carolina Serials Conference, Chapel Hill, NC, March 10, 2011

Dianne Ford, Elon University

Rick Anderson, University of Utah, kicked off the one-day 20th North Carolina Serials Conference with his keynote address titled, "The Future (or Not) of Library Collections: The Serials Perspective." Anderson challenged us to question such sacred cows as approval plans, big deals, journal subscriptions, 'just in case' collecting, and title-level serial cataloging. Our collections are becoming more diffuse and acquisitions less selective due to bulk-purchasing options; local collection development policies are beginning to sound quaint. We can catch a glimpse of future collections in such places as the Scholarly Kitchen Blog (http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/); the OCLC article by Constance Malpas called, "Cloud-Sourcing Research Collections" (http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2011/2011-01.pdf); and through e-book collections that allow us to download records and only purchase when a book is used by a library patron. Anderson says, "this cannot be reiterated enough: the future of libraries will be defined by the behavior of our library patrons."

Scholarly communication discussions began with Bryna Coonin's research on authors' perspectives of open access in various disciplines. The unique culture of various disciplines will require a variety of open-access models. A panel discussed ways academic librarians can promote and be more immersed in campus scholarly communication issues. According to Kevin Smith, scholarly communications officer at Duke University, involvement in scholarly communication should be a mission for academic libraries, and can lead librarians more deeply into the research process.

Concurrent sessions covered timely serials topics such as: "Repurposing: New Activities for Established Staff," "The Future of the Catalog," "A Collective Approach to Electronic Resource Maintenance," "Enhanced E-Resources," and "Cross-Institutional Analysis of Cost-per-Use Data." For this librarian, Wake Forest's committee approach to maintaining and trouble-shooting e-resource access provided a useful model for involving more staff in our rapidly growing electronic collections. With a cost-per-use (CPU) project coming up in my library this summer, it was most helpful to consider the useful information available from cross-institutional CPU analysis, as well as the importance of discoverability for e-resources and marketing our high-cost resources.

A final general session introduced us to the brave new world of "Online Video Journals and Databases as a New Generation of Electronic Resources" (an example is JOVE at http://www.jove.com/). The afternoon closed with a spirited 20th anniversary flashback through previous North Carolina Serials conferences, and final wrap-up remarks reminded us why it's great to be a serialist. Once again, the incredibly valuable North Carolina Serials Conference creatively covered the pressing issues, challenges, and breaking news in the

serials world, and sent us forth equipped to be better librarians.