
ASA NEWS

January 2010

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the January issue of ASA News. A belated but sincere happy New Year to all readers. This month's offering has plenty to report, so without further ado...

News From The ASA

Booking Continues for the 2010 ASA Conference – Final Programme Now Available!

The **final** programme and booking for the 2010 ASA Conference is available from [the ASA website](#). The 'early bird' discount is now finished but substantial discounts are still available to academic and other librarians within not-for-profit organisations. Despite the current economic climate, booking has been encouraging. The ASA would like to thank the following organisations who have generously sponsored the 2010 ASA Conference: Accucoms, Cambridge University Press, EBSCO, Emerald, Ex Libris, JISC Collections, John Wiley & Sons, Professional Engineering Publishing, Research Information, Sage and Swets.

ASA Statement on Gracing

The ASA has issued a [Statement on Gracing](#) which describes what ASA members believe to be appropriate activities and periods of time in the context of gracing for both online and print journals. Gracing is strongly supported by subscription agents and information intermediaries because it accommodates the imperfect nature of the acquisition process. Although the ASA and its members are not generally in favour of 'forcing' publishers into a particular standard gracing period, two months seems to be the consensus regarding what is reasonable, although this may need to be extended under certain circumstances. Please see the [ASA website](#) for full details.

News From ASA Members¹

EBSCO - Coming Soon to a Library near You

EBSCO has announced a series of dates for its 2010 Roadshow. The main theme of the roadshow is 'Helping to build libraries for the future'. Librarians and other information professionals are encouraged to check the [EBSCO website](#) for roadshow dates and to make their booking..

EBSCO Launches ERM Essentials™

(6/1/10) EBSCO has launched EBSCONET® ERM Essentials™, which offers key features that librarians need to simplify management of their e-resources. ERM Essentials is pre-populated for orders of e-journals and e-packages purchased through EBSCO with daily updates to ensure accuracy. In 2009, 25 library customers partnered with EBSCO to beta-test ERM Essentials in two phases with an initial round during the spring and a second phase which began in mid-October. EBSCO reports that feedback from beta testers has been positive as they discover a new way to manage their e-resources, eliminating the

¹ News is welcomed from all ASA members. Please contact [Sarah Durrant](#) to get your story included in ASA News.

challenge of maintaining multiple e-mail chains, paper files, spreadsheets and other decentralized information spread across multiple departments and staff ([full story](#)).

Industry News

American Institute of Physics Adopts DataSalon's MasterVision

(25/1/10) The American Institute of Physics (AIP) has adopted DataSalon's MasterVision service to create a complete profile of all subscribing institutions and new prospects. The system merges data from many different source systems, combining subscriptions, online usage, turnaways, alert signups, single article sales, author submissions, and marketing campaigns. It also incorporates Ringgold's *Identify* database that provides reference data for existing subscribers, and lists of potential new institutional prospects classified by location, size, interests, etc. All data is fully de-duplicated to create a clear summary page for each customer listing all known data in a single view ([full story](#))

Keeping arXiv Sustainable

(21/1/10) Cornell University Library has announced that it wants the top institutional users of arXiv.org to help pay for the online scientific repository. In a move to expand support for sustaining arXiv, Cornell is seeking to broaden its funding base. Nearly 600,000 e-prints - research articles published online in physics, mathematics, statistics, computer science and related disciplines - now reside in arXiv, which is an open information source for hundreds of thousands of scientific researchers. arXiv will remain free for readers and submitters, but the Library has established a voluntary, collaborative business model to engage institutions that benefit most from arXiv. An impressive number of international institutions have already pledged support with many viewing this as a test of whether multiple institutions can collaborate successfully to support critical scholarly resources. (Sources: [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#); [Cornell University Library](#)).

Scholarly Publishing Roundtable Releases Report

(12/1/10) A group of representatives from university administration, libraries, information science departments, and the publishing industry collectively released a report with recommendations on open access, specifically the public availability of peer-reviewed journal articles containing data and findings from federal research grants. The report's recommendations, endorsed by a majority of the 14 members of the group, called the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable, sought to "balance the need for increased access to scholarly articles with the need to preserve the essential functions of the scholarly publishing enterprise." One key recommendation is the establishment of specific embargo periods between publication and public access, allowing for some variation across fields of science. The report states: "an embargo period of between zero (for open access journals) and twelve months currently reflects such a balance for many science disciplines," but notes for "other fields a longer embargo period may be necessary." ([full details](#)). The STM Association has made a response to this report (see [below](#)). [Sources: [US House of Representatives Committee of Science & Technology](#); [Association of American Universities](#)].

Joined-up Services "Could Help Businesses Out of Recession"

(19/1/10) Sharing business information more effectively, particularly through colleges, universities and major reference libraries, could help recession-hit companies out of crisis and stimulate innovation, according to a JISC report undertaken by the British Library Research Service. Libraries may not be an obvious source for all start-ups and small businesses but the business information they hold can help organisations plan their growth and development, make funding applications, get hold of up-to-date statistics and legal advice, as well as research new developments – essentially key information to help them thrive. JISC and the British Library are calling for an integrated service model with universities, colleges and public libraries working in partnership to help businesses obtain the information and

knowledge they need. Entrepreneurs, business owners, leaders of community, cultural and charity organisations could all benefit if a more coordinated approach was adopted, for example through an online hub, to enable small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and others to access the full range of resources. Universities and colleges are ideally placed to help turn information into serviceable knowledge (full story [here](#)).

NISO/UKSG Release KBART Phase I Recommended Practice

(18/1/10) UKSG and NISO are pleased to announce the first report by the KBART (Knowledge Bases And Related Tools) Working Group, a joint initiative that is exploring data problems within the OpenURL supply chain. The *KBART Recommended Practice* (NISO RP-9-2010) contains practical recommendations for the timely exchange of accurate metadata between content providers and knowledge base developers which should lead to reduced user frustration, reduced administrative burden for libraries, and more traffic to publisher websites.

The *KBART Recommended Practice*, a report from Phase I of the KBART project, provides all parties in the information supply chain with straightforward guidance about the role of metadata within the OpenURL linking standard, and recommends data formatting and exchange guidelines for publishers, aggregators, agents, technology vendors, and librarians to adhere to when exchanging information about their respective content holdings. Further information and both PDF and HTML versions of the report are available at <http://www.uksg.org/kbart/s1/summary>. See Appendix A on this page for a practical example which shows what is required for KBART compliance.

Elsevier Foundation Announces \$600,000 in New Grants

(14/1/10) The Elsevier Foundation has announced the 2009 grant recipients, committing a total of \$600,000 to twelve institutions from around the world to support the work of libraries and scholars in science, technology and medicine. The grant recipients were selected from 250 applicants worldwide for their innovation and potential for impact in the developing world, academic workplace and nursing community ([full story](#)).

Taylor & Francis Selects Atypon

(12/1/10) Atypon Systems, Inc. has announced that the Taylor & Francis Group has chosen its software to power the next generation of the informaworld™ publishing platform. The Taylor & Francis Group, a division of Informa plc (LSE: INF) publishes more than 1,400 journals and 3,000 new books each year and maintains an e-book backlist of 25,000 titles and a print backlist of 50,000 titles. Atypon will host the next-generation informaworld™ platform, resulting in significant cost savings to Taylor & Francis, and the platform will be fully integrated with Taylor & Francis's internal systems, allowing for seamless identity and access management, commerce, and more ([full story](#)).

Cell Press Journals & the Article of the Future

(7/1/10) Elsevier has announced that all research articles in its flagship collection of [Cell Press journals](#) will be published online in the new 'Article of the Future' format. Previously released as a demonstration prototype for two sample articles, the "Article of the Future" is an ongoing collaboration with the scientific community to redefine how scientific articles are presented online. Successful ideas from this project are planned to be rolled-out across Elsevier's portfolio of 2,000 journals available on ScienceDirect, the world's largest scientific, technical and medical database.

ebrary Pursues Patron Driven Acquisition

(5/1/10) Due to the success of its initial Patron Driven Acquisition (PDA) pilot for academic libraries, ebrary® has announced it is extending the program through Spring 2010. The company intends to launch its finalized PDA product this summer. Additionally, ebrary is conducting a survey to better

understand libraries needs and challenges with regard to PDA models. The questionnaire is available throughout January at <http://tinyurl.com/ebrarypdasurvey>. Results will be available later this winter. For additional information about ebrary's PDA pilot email sales@ebrary.com

Ex Libris Add SFX and MetaLib to CAPES Portal

Ex Libris has announced that the Periodical Portal - a virtual library of scientific and technological information resources maintained by the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education ([CAPES](#)) - has gone live with the SFX® OpenURL link resolver and the MetaLib® gateway and metasearch solution. Users in over 300 institutions of higher education will use the portal to access the agency's vast collection of scholarly electronic resources. MetaLib streamlines the process of obtaining materials by presenting users with content from multiple information providers in a clear, familiar user interface. SFX offers features that go far beyond basic link resolver functionality, including a comprehensive KnowledgeBase, an A-Z list, and CitationLinker, Collection Analysis, and Statistics modules ([full story](#)).

Portico: Preservation Partner for BioMed Central

[Portico](#) has announced it will preserve BioMed Central's entire collection of 60,000 open access online articles and all newly published articles going forward. BioMed Central, a unit of Springer Science + Business Media, will participate in Portico under the journal archive license agreement already in place between Springer and Portico. Springer now furthers its digital preservation strategy, which already includes participation in Portico since 2007 on behalf of 824 journals and, since 2009, on behalf of 21,000 e-books ([full story](#)).

News from ICEDIS

Claims Project Making Progress

The ICEDIS Claims Project continues is gathering pace. Objectives and timescales have been agreed and the group is currently reviewing two complementary proposals for the content of new Claims and Claims Response messages. These new XML formats will again be based upon the ONIX for Serials standards developed by EDItEUR. The working group is planning to develop message documentation and an outline description of the XML schemas involved by the Spring. A phase of sample message generation and exchanges will follow, to road-test the new facilities.

Despatch Dates Initiative

ICEDIS publishers and agents, many of the latter also members of ASA, are returning to the topic of publication schedules and actual dates, whether for the despatch of print journals or releases of online products. Some of this renewed interest stems from the ICEDIS Claims Project. Other participants are looking either to encourage the sharing of such information for improved customer service or to update their systems to carry enhanced XML messages instead of earlier and more restricted standards. Leading the way in this area are Elsevier and their software provider, [Publishing Technology](#). The chosen vehicle is the ONIX for Serials SRN (serial release notification) format and sample messages have already been produced. Later this year, Elsevier propose to introduce this facility more widely, and ASA members [Harrassowitz](#) and [LM Information Delivery](#) are amongst those keen to accept the new information feed.

Coordinating Implementation Efforts

Organisations involved in standards work need to have confidence that business partners are working to similar timescales and in the same direction, in order to justify the business and IT resources involved. Recognising this situation, ICEDIS is deliberately promoting cooperation and transparency around efforts to improve the serials supply chain. During pilot phases and supported by EDItEUR, subscription agencies have been pairing up with serials publishers to draft and refine new message formats for Pricing and for Claims. This initial work is then shared and ratified by the wider ICEDIS membership via a

dedicated implementation Yahoo group and a rolling series of monthly phone conferences. And to situate the necessary development against a wider picture, ICEDIS members are now in the process of sharing their own standards implementation plans for 2010 and beyond – making it possible for all parties to plan with greater confidence and to accelerate the introduction of the new messages. For more information on EDItEUR and the range of ICEDIS projects, contact Tim Devenport (timdevenportconsulting@googlemail.com).

News from STM

STM Responds to U. S. Scholarly Publishing Roundtable Report and Recommendations

(15/11/10) STM applauds the efforts of the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable set up in 2009 by the U. S. House of Representatives. It has been collaborating with the White House Office of Science and Technology (OSTP) to examine the current state of scholarly publishing and develop consensus recommendations for expanding public access to the journal articles arising from research funded by agencies of the U. S. government. STM supports the general principles that the Roundtable has generated, but takes issue with some recommendations and goals expressed in the Report (for the full story, click [here](#))

News from UKSG

Call for Expressions of Interest - Co-Editors, Serials

[UKSG](#) is looking for two Co-Editors of Serials (one with current or recent experience in libraries, one with current or recent experience in the vendor industry) to take over this exciting publication on the expiry of the current Co-Editors' term of office. Serials (ISSN 0953-0460) is published three times a year by UKSG and contains topical articles written by key librarians, publishers, vendors and other industry experts, along with editorial comment and updates on people in the global information community. The Co-Editors of Serials, Helen Henderson and Hazel Woodward, finish their term of office at the end of 2010 (Volume 23). UKSG is now seeking two successors for these honorary positions and applications are invited from those who have a wide knowledge of the scholarly communications field. The closing date is 12/2/10. For more information contact Alison Whitehorn, UKSG Business Manager (alison@uksg.org).

Web-Watch

What's Going On

Peter has alerted me to this website <<http://library2.usask.ca/~dworacze/CONF.HTM>> which lists a huge number of conferences and events, earthbound and virtual, all of them relevant to librarians, information professionals and others in our sector.

Google To Curb Search Censorship in China?

Google reportedly plans to curb its controversial practice of censoring search results in China after uncovering a "highly sophisticated and targeted attack" designed to steal information about human rights activists from its Gmail service and at least 20 other large companies. The attack, which hit Google in mid-December, originated in China and was aimed at accessing the Gmail accounts of human rights activists. Although only two email accounts appear to have been breached, "accounts of dozens of US-, China- and Europe-based Gmail users who are advocates of human rights in China" have been routinely breached, most likely as a result of phishing or malware attacks, the company said. Google has faced increasingly restrictions from the Chinese government over the past one year. In June 2009, the government forced the company to stop a function that lets the search engine suggest terms. The government had earlier blocked nationwide access to its main search engine and other services like Gmail. (Sources: [The Register](#); [Google blog](#);).

Thinking Allowed

The Death of Privacy?

In the interests of gaining a fully rounded view of our friends at Google (see immediately above), readers may wish to take a look at a typically well-argued and thoughtful piece from Kent Anderson ([Is Privacy Dead?](#)) on my current favourite professional blog, *The Scholarly Kitchen*. I defy you to watch the associated YouTube clip of Google CEO Eric Schmidt and not think of 1984...

Key Forthcoming Meetings Winter/Spring

- **ASA Conference 2010**
22nd-23rd February, Royal College of Nursing, London ([details](#))
- **UKSG 2010**
12th-14th April, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh, UK ([details](#))
- **STM Spring Conference**
Tue 27th to Thu 29th April 2010, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S. ([details](#))

Training/Continuous Professional Development

- **ALPSP**
The full schedule of ALPSP training and events can be found [here](#)
- **Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP)**
A schedule of SSP meetings and events is maintained [here](#).
- **STM**
Keep up with STM courses and events [here](#).
- **UKSG**
A full schedule of UKSG training and events can be found [here](#).

As always, please get in touch if you have items you would like included in a future edition of ASA News.
Best wishes

Sarah

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