Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference Report
Austin, TX
March 2011

I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to check in on the Electronic Resources and Libraries Conference in Austin this year. As an increasing part of my job is working with electronic resources and dealing with our library website, this was a necessary chance to see what new developments and issues that the field is facing. Hot topics included Web Scale Discovery, ebook standards, and, as always, library workflow and staffing issues. This report will summarize the highlights of the conference.

Amy Sample Ward opened the conference with a discussion of Web 2.0 resources, as well as the need to put the community in charge of suggesting new avenues and approaches in the library. She'd also like us to be more receptive as a discipline to being willing to meet community needs.

The second presentation was exciting: Kyrille Goldbeck and Sony Vijay of Virginia Tech presented the features of LibX 2.0, browser extension for Chrome and Firefox. When it is released, it will offer library research searching, Google Books options, and (most excitingly) the ability to embed tutorials directly on database search screens, to help students at point-of-need. I'll be excited to explore more when LibX 2.0 is released, which should be soon.

Another informative session I attended focused on promoting electronic resources at the points of need. It was given by Teri Galloway at Loyola University in New Orleans. She discussed working with faculty to promote resources, embedding database links in Blackboard, and other solutions (such as cataloging Jstor, so that students who began searching in the catalog could find the resource, or a campus "Meet Your Librarian" day.)

Amanda French kicked off the second day with a discussion of the Korean National Digital Library, and efforts to build an American Digital Library. The talk was fascinating, especially as she highlighted the steps Korea took to build the (physical) library for use of digital material, including reading rooms, mascots, and new copyright laws. She also discussed how to find more information about our own efforts to build a library, spearheaded by Robert Darnton of Harvard and several other leaders.

John McDonald of Claremont Colleges Library presented on reorganizing the library to deal with e-resources in a session titled "Tipping the Cow." Despite the fact that McDonald directs 85 librarians, some of the information he presented was useful even for our smaller library, including the idea of some of the work he had his librarians stop doing in order to spend more time making e-resources accessible and promoted: serials check-in, and binding.

I attended two back-to-back sessions on Web-Scale Discovery that were quite different. The first, by Athena Hoeppner of the University of Central Florida, compared Summon,

EBSCO Discover, Primo, and two other resources on every feasible topic: customization? scope? user-experience? It was helpful, if overwhelming. The second, given by the librarians of Montana State University, discussed their consortium's purchase, implementation, and troubleshooting of Summon. Their tips were much appreciated.

As always, thanks to LIBRAS and North Park University for funding this travel; I look forward to exploring the ideas I began to develop during the conference.

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