

New Directions for Libraries, Scholars, and Partnerships: an International Symposium Report
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I found attending New Directions for Libraries, Scholars, and Partnerships: an International Symposium to be professionally rewarding and stimulating. I took away a broader understanding of current and emerging trends in collection development and user services, one that looks beyond the US to Europe and Latin America. Several themes recurred throughout the day: how libraries are transitioning from print to digital; how libraries are providing high levels of service in an online environment; how libraries gauge user needs, especially if these users are not physically in our spaces and entering via an online portal; how libraries are meeting the challenges of reduced funding; and how are collaborations answering our most pressing needs.

I especially benefitted from the first three talks in the morning session Engaging Scholars and Students because they provided insight into German and French library practices and services, including how these libraries go about assessing their services. Dr. Dorethea Sommer gave a valuable overview of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft) that helped me to better understand German library funding and its recent trend to fund services rather than collections. This is a dramatic shift and one that US libraries, as far as I know, have yet to make. My own institution continues to focus its funding on collections, often to the detriment of services (that is, of hiring a subject specialist to oversee the collection development and process materials). I was also surprised to learn of the growing interest in digital over print materials. Of particular interest is the German National Bibliography (historicom.net), which I will share with my colleagues in German studies. Dr. Doris Grüter's presentation on Specialized Information Service for Romance Studies at the Bonn University and State Library introduced me to a wealth of materials of which I was completely unfamiliar and which in future I will list on my library guides for French studies. Emmanuelle Bermès' summary of new corpora at the Bibliothèque nationale de France was both fascinating and timely; researchers no longer want just traditional library materials (books and articles) but raw data as well. But how to provide data? Ms. Bermès outlined beautifully the problems of making such materials available, even at a national deposit library, and provided a sort of roadmap for a library considering such an undertaking. I spoke with her afterward about addressing the needs of linguists, a group I often hear from about online corpora. Unfortunately at present the BnF's corpora are not available to the general public.

The session Strategies for Collections and Partnerships gave insight into the recent trend of collaborative collecting in libraries response to dwindling resources and space. Michele Casalini opened the session with a general overview of the current downward trend in the publishing and purchasing of humanities and social science research (fewer libraries are now buying much outside of STEM) and suggested that one way to make sure these materials are available to researchers and students is through cooperative purchasing and dissemination such as CARDIST in France and MARLI (NYU, NYPL and Columbia). Kizer Walker's talk on the partnership between Cornell and Columbia (2CUL) and Claude Pott's on CIFNAL were excellent case studies on library responses to the evolving publishing landscape laid out by Michele Casalini. It was wonderful to have history of CIFNAL as part of a CIFNAL-sponsored event. A highlight of the day for me was Dr. Lidia Uziel's presentation on Harvard University's *Charlie Hebdo* archive and how she and her colleagues were able to create this rich online archive through networking

and a great deal of hard work: the archive will be a model for future responses by libraries to current events.

A main theme of the symposium was how libraries are connecting with patrons in the new digital environment, an idea that was at the forefront of the papers in the session 21st Scholarship: Mining the Past. Valérie Beaudoin presented the findings of a user assessment of the BnF's Gallica. Jennifer Thom Dalzin (Newberry Library) and Dr. Vera Faßhauer (Goethe University of Frankfurt) contextualized how their libraries are making available online rare materials in order to provide better access and expand their patron base. They also spoke of the issues around such projects. For instance, how to make untranscribed manuscript material searchable. In the case of the Goethe University's Senckenberg journals they have created a special software to read the author's handwriting.

More case studies were presented in the final session 21st Century Scholarship: Forging the Future. Our horizons were broadened with Silvia Gutiérrez de la Torre's overview of the present state of Digital Humanities in Latin America. While Latin America has embraced online access for library and government information, institutions have few resources to hire digital humanities experts and many DH librarians find themselves working alone with little support, a situation quite different in wealthier countries like the US, France and Germany. Ariane Bouchard and Robert Murdoch ended the presentation portion of the symposium with case studies, one at the BnF, the other at Brigham Young University (Sophie).