Travels to Arles

by Charlene Kellsey, Interim Head of Acquisitions, University of Colorado at Boulder

It started with a letter I found in great 19th century edition of Latin documents, the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*, while I was working on my thesis for an M.A. in history. Sometime in the 530s C.E., Abbess Caesaria of the women’s monastery in Arles sent a letter of advice on the monastic life to Queen Radegund, wife of Clothar, who was founding a monastery of her own in Poitiers. I was curious about Caesaria and her monastery, for whom this letter and a brief mention in the *Vita* of her uncle, Bishop Caesarius, are the only contemporary sources. What was the monastery like, who lived in it, and what happened to it? I was intrigued to learn that the monastery had existed all through the Middle Ages, but was completely destroyed during the French Revolution. After the Revolution, however, public libraries were established in many of the towns of France with collections of books and manuscripts that had been confiscated from monastic and other religious institutions. Discovering what kinds of sources for local monastic history could be found in the library in Arles and how scholars could be made aware of them became the subject of my application for the Coutts-Nijhoff travel grant.

The first step was to consult a census of manuscripts in the libraries outside Paris, the *Catalogue général des manuscrits des bibliothèques publiques de France*. *Départements*, that has been compiled since 1886. The entries for each manuscript list the title on the document or a constructed title indicating the contents for items without a title. Many of the documents at the library in Arles (now called the *Mediatheque d’Arles*) consist of a number of manuscript items that were bound together in one or more volumes; in these cases a listing of the titles of the individual manuscripts and how many pages they comprise is also included, as well as a date, or at least a century. These listings allow the scholar to discover in advance what manuscripts might be useful to look at before traveling to the library. The titles can be fairly brief and cryptic, however, obscuring a document that turns out to be more significant than the listing would initially lead one to believe. For example, one of the documents is listed as a miscellaneous collection and has the vague title “Relations of several curious events that happened at Arles in Provence” and dated to the 17th and 18th centuries. Within this collection, one of the manuscripts has the title “Recital of what happened at the Monastery of St. Césaire of Arles the 10 January 1519 and the following days.” This is still not very helpful, although it is now apparent that the events being described are from the 16th, not the 17th or 18th centuries.

The document actually contains a fascinating narration of a conflict that occurred when an abess died. Her successor was elected by the community as usual, but the king chose to appoint someone from outside the community and sent one of his councillors to enforce her installation as abbess. Several armed men, including (presumably) the brother or father of the woman originally elected, entered the monastery to defend it and were arrested. The councillor and his supporters ended up breaking down the door to the abbess’ room with a hatchet and the elected woman left the monastery for her family’s house. There then follows an inventory of the important and valuable relics of the monastery which the Commissaire of the Parlement, who had been sent to adjudicate the issue, ordered written to make sure that the woman had not taken any of the relics with her. So not only does this document contain an interesting incident in the history of the monastery and its struggle with the king over the appointment of abbesses, it also includes an inventory of relics and reliquaries (mostly of silver), of which there is no hint in the listing for this manuscript.

This is just one example of the fascinating documents I found during my two weeks in Arles. Others included a manuscript volume that had assets, rents and other information for each of the monastic houses in Arles from before the Revolution and then what happened to them during the Revolution. This is where I discovered that the buildings of Caesaria’s monastery had been sold to an Arlesien citizen, who resold the building materials to workmen: they tore the monastery down stone by stone. There were land records of the holdings of the monasteries, letters from the abbesses to popes and emperors, and documents they sent in reply. Using the documents was much easier than in large national libraries; I merely signed a register for the document I wanted and it was paged for me in a matter of minutes. The (Continued on page 15)

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Please visit the online edition for an article on New Orleans by Rebecca Malek-Wiley.
The WESS Newsletter is issued twice a year (Spring and Fall) by the Western European Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, and is sent to individuals and institutions whose names appear on the Section’s membership list. The Newsletter welcomes contributions from readers in all relevant subjects. Articles, items of news, and correspondence pertaining to the Newsletter should be sent to the editor and to the appropriate column editor, preferably in electronic format.

Publication and distribution of this issue of the WESS Newsletter have been made possible by much appreciated support from the Association of College and Research Libraries (Camila A. Alire, President; Mary Ellen Davis, Executive Director).

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—Helene Baumann, WESS Chair

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Membership in WESS is available to those who join the American Library Association and its division, the Association of College and Research Libraries. A membership form can be found at http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlmembership/personalmembership.htm

WESS welcomes new members and encourages all members to become involved in its activities. The WESS committee volunteer form is located at http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/WESSvolunteerform.pdf

The editor wishes to thank Harvard College Library for supporting the publication of this newsletter.

Editor’s note: The online version of the Newsletter is the copy of record. Due to space considerations, some parts of the printed copy have been shortened. The online edition also contains significant amounts of material not present in the printed version at all. It is available on WESSWeb at:


Come to New Orleans for the ALA Annual meeting June 22 to 28! As Michael Gorman, the ALA President, was quoted as saying in the October 22, 2005 issue of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, ALA hopes to “help provide jobs and tax revenues needed if residents are to re-establish their lives and for the city to fully restore services, including library services.” We will be the first major convention held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Our colleagues at Tulane tell us that the city is very excited that we are coming! The French Quarter, where many of the ALA hotels are located, sustained relatively little flood damage, so I think it is perfectly safe to go to New Orleans and a great way to support the city as it works hard to regain its economic stability.

One of the highlights for WESS members and their friends will be the traditional WESS Cruise on the John James Audubon. Please check out http://www.library.uiuc.edu/mdx/WESSCruise/wesscruise.htm and the information elsewhere in this newsletter for the enticing menu, the jazz band, and other details. Our WESS Cruise is not only fun for all participants, but also a great networking opportunity for new and more established librarians, vendors and publishers alike. Bring your friends and families! Some of us may remember that the cruise at Annual 1999 in New Orleans kicked off this particular WESS tradition! Who would ever forget that sultry night?

The other highlight is the WESS Program with three New Orleans based panelists, two historians and one archivist, who will talk about Immigrations, Ethnicities and Historical Research on Monday morning. The committee is also working towards organizing tours of the Historic New Orleans Collection. We already have a very informative program website to get you in the mood at http://www.lib.byu.edu/estu/wess/2006program.html.

Of course we will also have the usual array of useful, fruitful and sometimes even fascinating committee and discussion group meetings during the weekend. The exact schedule, including the GNARP and CIFINAL meetings, will soon be posted on WESSWeb.

Our newest committee, established last fall, is the Fundraising Committee. Its task, as the name implies, is to raise money needed to publish our newsletter, help with the funding of the annual WESS Cruise, and provide stipends for librarians to travel to European book fairs and other activities. The committee is chaired by Emily Stambaugh, who is helped by dedicated fundraisers Tom Izbicki, Gordon Anderson and Gerald Heverly. Maybe you would like to join them? See our impressive list of current sponsors in this newsletter. If you would like to get more information about the fundraising committee, please see its website at: http://lib.ucr.edu/staff/estambaugh/WESS/fundraising/index.html

We have also begun to talk about the next WESS International Conference to be held somewhere in Europe, sometime in the next few years. Stay tuned!

See you in New Orleans!

Visit the WESS Newsletter online for a further article of interest

New Orleans in Post-Katrina February--and Looking forward to June
by Rebecca Malek-Wiley
Tulane University
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~wessweb/nl/index.html

Still Available!

Migrations in Society, Culture, and the Library
Proceedings of the WESS European Conference

Tom Kilton and Ceres Birkhead, editors
$35.00
http://www.acrl.org/publications

Winter 2006
Since re-opening, after reconnecting and exchanging tales, we have been trying to cram five months worth of selecting, ordering, cataloguing, faculty liaison and in-house committee work, etc., etc., into one month, all with a staff depleted by a combination of layoffs and voluntary resignations. The Reference Services Department has lost almost half of its members, including all support staff, while about a third of the Bibliographic Services Department is gone. Many of those remaining are still coping with the losses of their homes and belongings, while all of us feel the stress of the city’s uncertain future.

Nevertheless, whatever the inconveniences of life in the library, we are generally relieved to be back. The great majority of faculty and staff continue at Tulane, the largest employer in New Orleans, while almost 90% of the students (outside of the still-closed Medical School) have returned. The students, in particular, have brought in a new wave of youthful energy and stamina, as well as a welcome boost to area businesses. Tulane’s re-opening has made a definite contribution to the local population and economy."

Effective (or rather: ineffective) September 1, 2006, Tom Kilton will be retiring from his perch atop the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. This is one gargoyl who will be missed. No longer to saunter within the walls of WESS, to traipse amongst the ivies of Illinois, nor to stand as a sentinel of CIFNAL, which he almost double-handedly called to life, Tom can now enjoy many hours and years of reflection and relaxation in his home in Urbana with his partner and – as often as possible – in his beloved Berlin. Above all, Tom reports that he will sorely miss the intellection, the wonderful wit, the humor of so many WESS colleagues. One moment I will personally never forget: Tom at the top of Chartres Cathedral’s north tower, pointing across to the stone jackass placed atop the south tower by cracked up and coated the stone cathedral with Kiltonian accretions of laughter.

Charlene Kelsey, formerly Assistant Professor in the Cataloging Dept. at the University of Colorado, Boulder, working with European language books (mostly), is now – after a radical sabbatical during which she spent two months in London and three weeks in France – Associate Professor and Interim Head of Acquisitions and will be working more closely with European vendors (among other changes). “She saw London; she saw France / And was promoted – not by chance.”

Jeff Hancks joined the faculty at Western Illinois University in July 2005 as the inaugural Endowed Professor of Icarian and Regional Studies. (Disclosure: Icarian Studies have nothing to do with Icarus and his tragic FAA-defying flight too near the sun.) Previously Jeff was a reference librarian and bibliographer at Central Michigan University’s Clarke Historical Library. He is in charge of WIU’s Archives and Special Collections Unit, with special attention to the Center for Icarian Studies. WIU has the world’s largest collection of materials documenting the Icarians, a 19th century Nauvoo, Illinois based French utopian colony. (They arrived in Nauvoo shortly after the Mormon exodus to Utah.) The Archives also house a number of materials documenting the Swedish utopian colony at Bishop Hill, Illinois. When you need info fast about French or Swedish utopias in the New World, Jeff’s your man. [Suggestion: For more on raisin-economy-based Armenian utopian colonies just north of Fresno, consult our California colleagues.] Jeff’s first book, Scandinavians in Michigan (Michigan State University Press) is scheduled for a June 2006 release. A Scandinavianist by training, he works mostly with Illinois history at WIU. (Which suits him fine, as he hails from the hail-washed prairies of west central Illinois.)

Heather Moulaison of the The College of New Jersey attended a BOBCATSSS Symposium held January 30-February 1, 2006 in Tallinn, Estonia. [Disclosure and disclaimer: the column editor’s father-in-law, a WWII member of the Hungarian Army, survived on kasha for four years in Estonia at a Russian prisoner-of-war camp. His memories differed significantly from those of Heather.] Perhaps inspired by the hunting behaviors of the eponymous Felis rufus, BOBCATSSS
symposia began in 1993 as a way for students from Eastern and Western European library schools to pray upon information via collaborative projects. The official language of the group continues to be English. The symposium (whose acronym is built from initials of the original cities involved) takes place under the auspices of EUCLID (European Association for Library and Information Education and Research) and connects library students with academics and professionals. Only four of the 330 registered attendees in 2006 came from North America (three of them, including Heather, having traveled together).

Heather was one of few actual practitioners in attendance, and she felt that her presence was genuinely appreciated. The first day of the conference convened at the National Library of Estonia. As a Cataloging Librarian, Heather was interested in seeing more than public spaces and made arrangements for a private tour of the Technical Services facilities later that day. She was graciously guided about the behind-the-scenes operations, and she met staff. The degree of hospitality was staggering. The next two days were at the University of Tallinn with conference sessions, poster sessions, keynotes, and incredible enthusiasm. Evening events spotlighted Estonia with a reception at the National Library one night and local musicians and traditional foods the next. BOBCATSSS 2007 will be in Prague, marketing the theme of Information Marketing. Heather, for one, has already started working on a proposal.

Graham Walden, Professor and Collection Manager for Communication, Germanic Languages and Literatures as well as Humanities and Social Sciences Reference Librarian at the Ohio State University Libraries, has been named the 2006 recipient of the ACRL Law and Political Science Section’s (LPSS) Marta Lange/CQ Press Award. The award, established in 1996 by LPSS, honors an academic or law librarian who has made distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science. “Graham has made distinguished contributions to the advancement of political science research and political science librarianship,” said Binh Le, chair of the Marta Lange Award Committee. “In the past two decades, he has published numerous bibliographies, book chapters, book reviews and peer-review-articles in the area of polling and survey research. Graham has also served the Ohio State University and the library profession, especially the Law and Political Science Section, with great distinction. Simply put, Graham is an exceptional scholar-librarian.” Graham received his B.A. in Political Science from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in 1976, and his M.S.L.S. from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in 1981. He earned his M.L.S. from The State University of New York at Albany in 1983. [Journalistic disclaimer: the column editor, having never been in Slippery Rock, will not touch that topic with a 10-foot traction-enabled pole.] CQ Press, sponsor of the award, will present the $1,000 award and plaque at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans during the LPSS Marta Lange/CQ Press Luncheon.

Tim Shipe, our corn-fed colleague at the University of Iowa, recently published an article on Matthew Josephson for the tome France and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia, ed. Bill Marshall (Santa Barbara: ABC Clio, 2005). Reflecting art interests on which he expounded at the WESS Paris Conference [the Paris proceedings are now available in print – buy the volume for the sake of your library and for posterity, if not for yourself!], Tim penned, or word-processed, “Le Mouvement Dada: Bibliographie, 1983-2004,” in Dada: Circuit total, ed. Henri Béhar and Catherine Dufour (Lausanne: L’Age d’homme, 2005). The bibliography is best appreciated by having readers from seven continents recite aloud seven different pages simultaneously. Tim has also been appointed Chair of the ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee. (Art librarians don’t deal with Western European public policy, but ARLIS art folks are interested in Western European art, so Tim supposes that this bit of news borders on being relevant.)

Louis Reith, Humanities/Rare Book Cataloger at Georgetown University, also liaison for American and European history, German studies, and French studies — plus member of WESS for ages, nigh unto eons – received a vicennial gold medal for service to Georgetown University and its library on 21 March 2006 in an academic convocation. (Disclosure: despite shenanigans at a white house also found in the District of Columbia, “vicennial” is not the term for “vice” that calls for special prosecutors every other year.) The medal is awarded annually to faculty and staff who have completed 20 years of service at Georgetown University and is conferred by the president of the institution, at this point, Dr. John DiGioia, the first non-Jesuit lay president of the Jesuit university. Two papers which Louis delivered at scholarly conferences are being published this year - one on “Pavel Josef Vejvanovsky, Neglected Seventeenth Century Moravian Trumpeter and Baroque Composer” in SVU (a Czech and Slovak cultural society) collected papers from the world congress in Olomouc, Moravia, Czech Republic, in June 2004; the other article deals with “William Louis DuBourg - The First Bishop of Louisiana,” from a French Dept. conference in November 2003 on the subject of “France et Louisiane.” And that brings us back to Louisiana, the state named after Louis. Or was it before Louis?

Who is Ellen Brow? In researching this question, I first journeyed on a generous WESS Newsletter stipend to England’s Lake District, where I learned that “Ellen Brow is a superb self-catering cottage accommodation in one of the most beautiful locations of Bowness-on-Windermere.” Unsatisfied – despite the excellent gingerbread available in the region – I turned naturally towards a public library in Chester. There, I came across a deathless passage from William Dean Howells’ internationally acclaimed novel, The Kentons, which read: “Ellen’s brow darkened in silent denial…” After spending the rest of my stipend in Hawaii, I stopped in at the Honolulu airport’s bookshop, “Book ‘Em, Danno,” where I saw that a certain Ellen Brow had authored The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Smoothies. Then suddenly, once the money had been spent, I remembered: Ellen Brow is none of these things, none of these literary quirks, none of these
persons. I have known Ellen, the Gypsy Librarian, for nearly thirty years. I first met her at the University of Kansas in the late 70s, where she directed the SPLAT program at Watson Library (SPLAT is an energetic acronym for Spain, Portugal and Latin American collections). Then she was off to Harvard as Latin American and Southern European Librarian. While there, she spoke at our 1986 WESS program. In the 1990s, my wife and I visited her at the best Basque collection on earth, that of the University of Reno at Nevada (or the other way around), where she proudly showed us some of the strangest collection items ever assembled: sections of tree trunk on which Basque sheepherders had carved graffiti (I wonder which vendor supplied those). While basking in that job, she gave a paper at SALALM in 1992, entitled: “Basque Violets for Basque Terrace-ists: Contemplating a Level Five Collection.” Following a stint as the University Librarian at Fort Hays State (Kansas), Ellen is now Reference Director of the Davis Branch of the Yolo County Library System (California). And she fervently insists: “Yolo quiero.”

[Journalistic disclaimer: Ellen obviously loves puns as much as the column editor, who also spent too many years in Yolo County, home of UC Davis and 74% of our nation’s ripening tomatoes.] Ellen’s wealth of accumulated academic experience serves her well in public library work. A recent reference question dealt with the Spanish equivalent for “duct tape.” She efficiently replied: “cinta plateada,” and now she is investigating non-preservation uses for duct tape in the public library, some of which require clearance from Homeland Security and the blessing of the SPCA. Don’t you believe it when Ellen says: “I am terminally shy, so it is hard to break through the lovely veil of anonymity that librarians enjoy.” For Martin Luther King Day, 2006, she co-organized the 5th local reading of “Letter from the Birmingham Jail.” Her terminally shy pronunciation to the press was in a quacking voice: “The civil rights movement was effective without guns and bombs, and that is something we need to be reminded of.”

Frances Allen of the University of Cincinnati draws our attention to the opening of the German Emigration Center, or Deutsches Auswanderer Haus, in Bremerhaven, which held its grand opening on August 8 of last year. The Emigration Center presents a counterpoint to the Ellis Island historic site in New York: Ellis Island was a port of entry; Bremerhaven was a port of exit. It is estimated that about seven million passengers sailed to America from the port of Bremerhaven, most of them German emigrants. The building, located adjacent to the old harbor, resembles a ship, and this was the intent of the architect, Andreas Heller, and the conceptual designer, Sabine Süss.

[Personal disclaimer: the column editor’s wife emigrated from the harbor at Bremerhaven in the 1950s; as fate and the captain of the ship would have it, her ship landed at the Port of New Orleans.] One of the most exciting parts of the Center is the historic display area where one can step into ship travel as an emigrant might have experienced it. You arrive at the pier; it is still dark out, and there is a slight rain; water laps at the side of the ship. You walk through the crowd standing there, some with baggage waiting to board, some to see friends and family off, and you walk up the gang plank. Thus begins the voyage. Aboard ship, a peer through the porthole reveals, not the pier, but the ocean. The end of the voyage is arrival at Ellis Island, where you can view a short film with historic footage. In another display area you can see personal items that individual emigrants chose to bring along from home (donated by their descendants) and learn about emigrant life in the New World. A hands-on children’s area contains a 19th century German kitchen, such as the emigrants might have left, and also an American frontier area such as the emigrants might have come to in the New World. This children’s area is big enough for a whole class to use, and it offers child care while parents relax or research. The research area of the Emigration Center hopes to document all passengers— an invaluable resource for genealogists. Another part of the research area focuses on current global migration. Overlooking the old harbor is a pleasant café. The Center has taken membership in the Society for German-

American Studies, and SGAS President, Don Heinrich Tolzmann, was on its planning board. It is hoped that SGAS will hold its 2009 Annual Symposium in Bremerhaven.

Roger Brisson has announced his acceptance of a position as director of the Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library on Cape Ann, Massachusetts. He now oversees a “friendly, helpful staff” there, as reported on the website at http://www.sawyerfreelibrary.org/. He assumed his responsibilities with the New Year and is now fully engaged in his new role as a city department head. Knowing Roger’s enthusiasm and drive, an upcoming $15 million capital campaign and major building project should be a piece of cake – whatever cake is most beloved on Cape Ann. Roger sends out an invitation to WESSies to consider a visit to his home on Cape Ann when you are in the Boston area; his personal email address is: roger@humanismus.com. For the curious, the Gloucester Lyceum’s roots go back to the 1830s (Roger’s office is actually in a house built in the 1750s), and it was part of the 19th century Massachussetts lecture circuit regularly frequented by Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, et al. Gloucester was settled in 1623, one of the earliest permanent European settlements in North America.

European Podcasts: A First Look

Hank Harken
Arizona State University

Audioblogging is an old concept in “Internet years”. Now popularly known as podcasting and also by other terms such as radio blogging, it was first proposed in October 2000. In brief, a podcast is an audio file or program that may be listened to at the user’s convenience rather than on a schedule devised by someone else. A small number of web bloggers began making these audio enclosures available for download on their web sites after the 2000 proposal but there was little activity until client software became available in 2004 for the
listening audience. Clearly the “pod” derives from the Apple iPod, the most prolific digital music device on the market though attempts have been made to manufacture other origins or meanings. Longer and more technical explanations of podcasting and its history are available on the Internet (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podcasting).

The authoring of early podcasts was very much a hobbyist and “geek” activity: deeply personal and intimate discussions, technology issues, and musical subjects seemed to dominate. (For one viewpoint on podcast quality and subjects during this period, see http://www.joyoftech.com/joyoftech/joyarchives/705.html). In 2005, the concept became mainstream, embraced by a variety of organizations including National Public Radio and many of its member stations (see http://www.npr.org/podcasts/). The use of podcasting by radio broadcasters and other organizations provided access to higher quality productions for listeners but there is no subject which is off-limits on the Internet for discussion through these audio files.

With Apple Computers’ release of video playback on its iPods in the fall of 2005, video blogs (AKA video podcasts, vodcasts, vlogs, vcasts, etc) have begun to proliferate. In this case, subscribers receive a video file downloaded to their computer and to their portable music/video player. Like the audio-only podcasts, vodcasts run the full range of quality and subject matter.

Using client software as an intermediary, individual podcast files may be downloaded as desired or new files may be received automatically as they become available. The most technical act a user needs to perform in order to begin downloading a podcast is typically to copy a string of XML code from a web page and paste those characters into a window in the podcast client. Some podcast sites and current podcast software, such as Apple’s iTunes (for Macintosh or MS-Windows), have made this task much easier by eliminating even that step.

Client Software for Receiving Podcasts

iTunes. (Macintosh or MS-Windows) no cost http://www.apple.com

Juice, formerly iPodder. (Macintosh, MS-Windows or Linux) no cost http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/index.php

The use of the word “subscribe” with podcasts begs the question of free or pay. Thus far, podcasts have been free but commercial entities have discussed making content available with some charge. Apple Computer has already made various television programs from Disney, ABC and NBC available for purchase and download to the newer video iPod players. Some podcasts may follow this example.

Finding new podcasts and keeping track of available ones is not simple. “Podcasters” have been encouraged to register their audio programs at iPodder.org, and many have done so. Apple’s iTunes software has an integrated directory. Other directory sites also exist, and exhibit great variation in their organization. No directory appears to be comprehensive. Checking your favorite web sites for announcements about podcasts and searching on standard web search engines are additional ways to locate materials in this format.

Podcast directories

General

iPodder.org http://www.ipodder.org
Note: a commercial entity is using .com

Podcast.net http://www.podcast.net/

Podcast-Alley http://www.podcastalley.com/

Podcasts.tv http://podcast.tv/index2.php
Audio and video podcast directory

Non-English Podcasts: a Starter List

Podster.de http://www.podster.de

Currently lists 1385 German language or German origin podcasts (February 2006). Highlights new podcasts.

Podcast Directory
http://www.podcastdirectory.com/
http://www.podcastdirectory.com/regional/

Cluttered and difficult list to work with. Browsing by language is possible. Select “Deutsch” and “German”, Française and French, etc. It’s a poor substitute for Podster.de for German language podcasts. Browsing by region and country is interesting but can be confusing.

Penguinradio
http://www.penguinradio.com/regional/europe/

Originally created to list radio stations broadcasting on the Internet, Penguinradio has added some podcasts to its listings. Click on a country and podcasts will also be listed with the radio choices.

Podcast-France
http://www.podcast-france.com/ “Site francophone de resources Podcasting”

PodBlaster
http://www.podBlaster.net “L’annuaire de Podcasting Francophone Indépendant”

Examples of Podcasts and Podcast Pages

Deutsche Welle’s podcast page http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,1719252,00.html
An assortment of Deutsche Welle podcasts in German and English languages.

Deutschlandfunk Radio’s Podcast page http://www.dradio.de/aktuell/398578/ An amazing 27 separate German language radio programs available for subscription.

BerlinCast
http://www.BerlinCast.de
Recorded non-musical sounds from Berlin. Illustrations on the webpages.
New Publications of Note

**Column Editor:**

**Robert L. Kusmer**

Reviewers:

[JKL] = Jeffrey K. Larson

[RLK] = Robert L. Kusmer

### FRENCH


In a series addressed to professionals working with young adults, a schematic survey of science fiction, related genres and themes. Includes bibliographic references to works illustrating the themes and a 22-page bibliography/index of titles published in French (original or translation). [JKL]


Not an anthology, but a chronological guide to detective plays from the Paris stage. Entries, with one or two titles to a page, give author, director, theater, premiere date, cast, plot summary, excerpted reviews, and revival notes. Includes a title index. [JKL]


Running off to the east-southeast of the Place de l’Opéra is the Rue du Quatre Septembre: what event does that refer to? You can look it up in this admittedly non-pocket-size glossary of historical terms, mainly Hexagonal. Important events are arranged by month: 4 VIIbre marks the outbreak of the revolution of 1870 and the proclamation of the Third Republic. Unfortunately this work omits the juridico-sexual usage of congrès, a procedure that was discontinued in 1677. Includes indices of antonomasias, personal names, and place names. [JKL]

### GERMAN


A wide-ranging alphabetically arranged handbook on the famous author. Entries include Kafka’s works, their characters and settings; family members, friends, contemporaries, influential historical figures and influenced authors; concepts; publication venues; and “homes and haunts.” Some bibliographies in the articles, plus a general bibliography at the end. Index as well as table of contents by category as well as list of English titles and names with their corresponding German entry forms. [RLK]


With coverage up to 2004, Meyer’s enumerative bibliography seeks to be comprehensive for primary and secondary works as well as films, sound recordings and sculptural treatments. Arrangement of secondary titles is by category then alphabetical by author. Includes indexes by titles and by personal names. Earlier bibliographies were those of Wilhelm Frels (1924), Hans Ruppert (1950) and Bernd Balzer (for the 11-vol. collected works edited by Emrich, 1966-74). [RLK]

Containing ca. 270,000 words, this “reverse” dictionary is organized alphabetically by suffix elements. Highlighting of suffix categories through the use of bold-face font helpfully identifies morphological groupings. As expected in this genre, definitions are not included. [RLK]

**Duden. Das Bildwörterbuch Deutsch als Fremdsprache / herausgegeben von der Dudenredaktion.**


**Duden Bildwörterbuch Deutsch als Fremdsprache / herausgegeben von der Dudenredaktion.**


While the titles vary, the content of these two books is identical with the exception of the preface. A very attractive and interesting reference work, for the first time with color illustrations (ca. 400 full-page). With around 30,000 entries divided among eleven large categories (“Atom, Weltall, Erde,” “Verkehrs- und Nachrichtenwesen, Informationstechnik,” etc.), the *Bildwörterbuch* has the air of a compact encyclopedia of sorts, covering the entire gamut of the natural and human worlds. A nearly 250-page analytic index unlocks the contents for the targeted, as opposed to the browsing, search. [RLK]

**Duden Aussprachewörterbuch.**


This is the latest edition of the pronunciation dictionary in the Duden series since the 5th published 2003. Provides stress and pronunciation for over 130,000 words. One hundred twenty pages of introductory linguistic material. [RLK]

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*Continued on page 10*

This is the first volume in a new German translation of the Danish philosopher, based on the historical-critical edition in Danish which began in 1994. Transcription of Kierkegaard’s annotations in addition to the text itself enrich the reader’s insight into the work. Extensive editorial analysis section augments the text. Indexes by names, places and name-title entries are included. [RLK]


The result of painstaking analysis of primary sources, the Motif-Index whose first volume has just been published will comprise six volumes plus a CD-ROM. Based on the alpha-numerical system of classification devised by Thomson for the Motif-Index of Folk Literature, the set will be arranged alphabetically by author or anonymous works within four major genres: Matière de Bretagne (v. 1-2), Oriental and Misc. Romances/Chansons de Geste (v. 3), Heroic Epic/Maere and Novellas (v. 4) and Romances of Antiquity (v. 5). Vol. 6 will contain indexes to the motif classification system, a keyword index and a name index. The CD-ROM will enable sophisticated searching. Birkhan states that he limited the content to secular literature for practical reasons due to the wealth of religious writing and because he hopes to write a motif index for the Bible. A side benefit of this set is the provision of plot descriptions for the cited passages, in addition to identification of the motifs. Thus the reader is offered a handy plot

and thematic guide to the works. A fine resource for the study of selected medieval German literature. [RLK]

Spring 2006

IBERIAN


Published under the sponsorship of the Xunta’s Instituto Galego das Artes Escénicas e Musicais <http://igem.xunta.es/>, this catalog covers more than 300 Galician playwrights, adaptors, and translators of theatrical works (about 2,000 titles in all)—a useful scope, given the general neglect of the regions in literary dictionaries. Entries include photographs, brief biographies, bibliographies of works both published and unpublished, as well as other theatrical activities. Includes multiple indices of personal names and of titles, and a 20-page general bibliography. A 2nd volume is promised. [JKL]


A descriptive catalog of 15th-century Castilian translations in manuscript from Latin or Italian held in the Madrid area. Entries offer bibliographical references. Includes indices of authors (& their works) and of translators, and a 16-page bibliography. [JKL]


A scholarly encyclopedia of theater of all periods in all the languages (80% Castilian) of Spain. Covers playwrights, selected plays, theatrical concepts, directors and other theater professionals; articles give biographical sketches, lists of major works, and references to the 20-page end bibliography. Also includes lists of entries treating works and terms, cross-references, and an index of works treated. [JKL]

Syntagma: Revista del Instituto de Historia del Libro de la lectura. Salamanca: Instituto de Historia del Libro de la lectura, 2002-28 cm. ISSN: 1695-6958; ISBN 849335046X: €50 a year (outside of Europe)


After a 131-page introduction that sets the novel in its context, this semi-scholarly dictionary covers the terms, characters, and themes in Cervantes’ masterpiece. Omit mention of Howard Mancing’s Cervantes encyclopedia (see Choice, Sept. 2004). Includes cross-references and a 68-page bibliography; no index. [JKL]


A popular glossary of GLBT terms in Castilian, with occasional unsourced quotations. Includes a 3-page bibliography/hemeroteca/webography/chat rooms. No index. [JKL]


An ambitious encyclopedia to be complete in 10 volumes covering all aspects of Cervantes, his work, and his world and legacy, with the publisher claiming at least 12 international scholars authoring 25,000 entries. The signed entries include occasional tables of contents for longer articles, illustrative quotations from Cervantes’ works where
appropriate, selected bibliography, and cross-references. No mention found of any index or illustrations. [JKL]


The 3rd and concluding volume of the supplement that updates and extends Balay BE1364/Walford6 3/#8313, the reprint of the 1989 edition of which was noted in our Spring 1996 issue. The coverage is now broadened to African Lusophone literature, and the treatment of Galician literature is expanded and more detailed. Many of the articles are new (e. g., Saramago) or substantially updated (e. g., Veríssimo, Eríco), but in some cases (e. g., Pessoa, Fernando) the updating is simply of the end-of-article bibliographies. Includes indices of authors and titles. [JKL]


A descriptive bibliography of 1,558 18th-century Spanish grammars and dictionaries that continues the volumes that Niederehe devoted to earlier periods, noted in our Spring 1995 and 2000 issues. Entries indicate holding locations and bibliography of commentary and references. Includes a 19-page bibliography of sources and studies, and indices of titles, of places of publication and publishers, of scribes, printers, and editors, of holding locations, and of authors. [JKL]

The volumes covering Aq-Arri and the letter H in this ambitious exercise in historical lexicography that was noted in our Spring 1999 and Fall 2003 issues. [JKL]


A diachronic catalog of 769 Spanish women theatrical producers and directors and 77 “protodirectors”. Entries provide what biographical, literary, bibliographical, and production information is available. Includes essays on various aspects of theater production, interviews with contemporary directors, and photographs. As announced in the 2nd volume, the completion of the work has been delayed due to financial difficulties. [JKL]

**ITALIAN**


A survey and a classed bibliography of 20th-century Italian literary anthologies. Includes an index of personal names and anonymous works. [JKL]


A classed list of 2004-2005 publications from Sardinian houses followed by a directory of the latter, with an index of authors and editors. [JKL]


*After an introductory discussion of the theoretical problems involved, this international filmography covers the field from 1895 to 2004. Entries give basic production information, including major cast and crew credits. Includes a 19-page bibliography and an index of film titles. [JKL]*


A selective classed directory of cultural reviews in Italy. Includes sections on 6 associations and research centers and 18 online reviews, a list of publishers and distributors, and a title index. [JKL]


By the author of other popular guides to pulp genres, an international guide to horror in literature and film. Entries cover authors, titles, and selected subjects, with scanty critical apparatus. Includes a thematic listing of films according to 10 categories, e. g., “Vampires”, a one-page bibliography and a general index. Skips Fritz Lang’s transcendental “M”. [JKL]


A scholarly dictionary of Italian terms of depreciation at all levels of usage. Entries offer brief definitions and occasional derivations, followed by sourced quotations. Includes a 63-page bibliography, but no index. [JKL]


The third volume, covering (continued on next page)
euphemisms, metaphors, and slang describing the human body, of a classed, fairly scholarly glossary of English sexual terms that was noted in our Fall 2004 issue. Includes a 14-page bibliography, cross-references, and indices of terms and of illustrations. [JKL]

ROMANSH


A brief description of the social context of Romansch (a Swiss subset of Rhaeto-Romance). Each chapter concludes with a selected bibliography; at the end of the book is a webography. [JKL]

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**Europe by Bits & Bytes**

*Column Editor: Sebastian Hierl*

**PAN-EUROPEAN RESOURCES**

Following the WESS General Membership Meeting in San Antonio, Richard Hacken established a new book fair wiki at http://wess.lib.byu.edu/index.php/European_Book_Fairs. The wiki provides basic information about Book Fairs in Western and Eastern Europe and includes archival photos, reports in C&RL News, lists of attendees, and more. Anyone registering an account can update the information on the site. In addition, the European Book Fair Wiki contains a “Discussion” page connected with each book fair’s entry. This can be used as a blog or discussion forum for those who plan to attend a given book fair. For further information, please contact Dick Hacken.

Through *Wikipedia*, we are informed that “Quaero” is the name given to the new and upcoming European Internet search engine, developed by a host of European companies and research centers: Thomson, France Télécom, Deutsche Telekom, Siemens, Thales, Bertin

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**Spring 2006**

Technologies, Exalead, Jouve, LTU, Vectys, Empolis (Bertelsmann), Inria, Inria, CNRS, Chips Imag, RWTH Aachen and the University of Karlsruhe. Compared to the Airbus project, due to its international, European and government backed development; “Quaero’s” main financial and political supporter is the French government, which specially created the Agency for Industrial Innovation (AII), based in Paris, to bring the project forward. Endowed with €1.7 billion, “Quaero” is meant to rival and supplant Google by using image recognition software that will allow it to search both text and audiovisual documents and to operate in several languages. Unfortunately, “Quaero’s” main page is still password-protected, but the following article provides a good summary of the European “Google Killer” that is to be launched in “early 2006:” http://www.euractiv.com/Article?cnum=tcm:29-151587-16&type=News

The Lund University Libraries’ “Directory of Open Access Journals” (DOAJ), available at www.doaj.org/, has recently been expanded to provide access to the “Directory of Open Access Journals” (OpenDOAR) at http://www.opendoar.org/. The latter categorizes and lists the wide variety of Open Access research archives around the world: “OpenDOAR is building a comprehensive and authoritative list of institutional and subject-based repositories, as well as archives set up by funding agencies… Users of the service are able to analyse repositories by location, type, the material they hold and other measures. This can be of use both to users wishing to find original research papers and for third-party ‘service providers’, like search engines or alert services, which need easy to use tools for developing tailored search services to suit specific user communities.”

**FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES**

The newsletter of the “École des chartes” alerts us to two new online publications in its Études en Ligne collection at http://elec.enc.sorbonne.fr:

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**WESS Newsletter**

• A critical edition of the Latin chronicles of Saint-Denis, manuscript BnF lat. 5925, at http://elec.enc.sorbonne.fr/chroniqueslatines/. Compiled by monks of the Saint-Denis Benedictine abbey, this manuscript was one of the most read texts from the XIIIth to XVth centuries. Chronicling the history of the French monarchy from its origins to 1250, the manuscript served as a basis for historiographic research and was later translated as the *Grandes chroniques de France.*

• The database BÈDE (“Bibliographie des études diplomatiques et éditions d’actes et documents du Moyen Âge français”) at http://elec.enc.sorbonne.fr/bede/. BÈDE is a retrospective bibliography of books, articles, critical editions, inventories and descriptions of collections, as well as exhibit catalogues, documenting the French Middle Ages (for the present territory of France). The database currently includes over 1,000 entries covering the period between 1991 and 2000. Sections for 1965-1990 and 2001-2005 are in development. With its focus upon the French Middle Ages, BÈDE expands upon the “Bibliographische Datenbank zu den Geschichtlichen Hilfswissenschaften” at http://www.geschichte.lmu.de/ghw/GHWBibliographie.shtml.

In December 2005, Danièle Hervieu-Léger, President of the prestigious “École des hautes études en sciences sociales” (EHESS) inaugurated the “Centre d’édition électronique” at http://cedel.ehes.fr. In conjunction with the “Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique” (CNRS) and http://www.revues.org, l’EHESS will develop the new Laboratoire d’édition électronique ouverte (LEO). At this occasion, the electronic versions of four new journals were announced: Archives de sciences sociales des religions (Editions de l’EHESS—already featured above as an addition to Persée and Revues.org); Histoire & Mesure (Editions de l’EHESS); Journal de la Société des Américanistes (Société des Américanistes); and
CAIRN, the “Portail de revues de sciences humaines et sociales,” was launched by the publishers Belin, DeBoeck, the Discovery and Érès at http://www.cairn.info/. Through CAIRN, the publishers aim at improving distribution of their journals over the Internet and to develop the infrastructure and know-how to foster cooperation with other publishers in the Humanities and Social Sciences. CAIRN is located at the University of Liege, in Belgium, and supported by the French National Center of the Book.

A directory of the collections at l’IMEC, “l’Institut mémoires de l’édition contemporaine,” is now available at http://www.imec-archives.com/fonds/. Established in 1988, on the initiative of researchers and professionals engaged in publishing studies, IMEC manages the literary papers and archives of some of the most important actors of the XXth Century French book world, such as Jean-Paul Aron, Roland Barthes, Samuel Beckett, Emmanuel Levinas, Alain Robbe-Grillet, the publisher Le Seuil, and the journal Critique, to name only a few. With over 350 collections, it is no exaggeration to claim that IMEC is “one of the most prestigious documentary source centres [for] contemporary French literary papers.”

ITALIAN LANGUAGE RESOURCES

The site “Italia Pianeto Libro” at http://www.ilpianetalibro.it/genera.jsp provides a complete resource on the Italian book world. It includes a database covering the Italian publishing market, with 7,000 entries containing the full addresses of publishers, and providing access to publishers by their areas of subject speciality and by geographic region. The database is completed with an updated guide to Italian literary and cultural magazines that is derived from the print publication Quaderni di Libri e Riviste d’Italia (Istituto Poligrafico dello Stato, 2005). The guide describes the most authoritative Italian magazines and lists them by subject. The site also permits access to a modified, online version of Libri e riviste d’Italia, which includes reviews of recent important titles. Finally, “Italia Pianeto Libro” presents a full bibliography of new publications, organized by month, publishing house, authors, and genre.

SPANISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

Not yet featured in this column, the site for “Iberian Studies in SALALM” (ISIS) was launched in 2005 and fully developed “to provide a forum within SALALM for identifying, collecting, organizing, providing access to and preserving information resources from and about the Iberian Peninsula in support of education and research.” Complementing WESS pages, ISIS is a well-organized and thorough guide to Italian resources that is coordinated by Patricia Figueroa and available at http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/University_Library/ISIS/index.html.

GERMAN LANGUAGE RESOURCES

A major recent bibliographic development is the availability of Das Schweizer Buch at www.helveticat.ch/schweizerbuch since January, 2006. While the national bibliography was previously available in pdf files, this site makes possible a variety of keyword searches on author, title, and publisher information, as well as year, issue, and subject. Searches can be refined further by language, format, and content. The Schweizer Buch is available from Heft 1 (2001) to present. The web site is embedded in the online catalog, permitting users to complete searches and create bibliographies with titles from Helveticat. General information on the Schweizer Buch, including access to pdf files of the print, is available at www.snl.ch/schweizerbuch.

The first “Diplomata” of the Monumenta Germaniae Historiae (Deutsches Institut für Erforschung des Mittelalters) are now available in page image format at the “Monumenta Germaniae Historiae Digital” (dMGH) at http://www.dmg.de/ . A joint project of the Monumenta Germaniae Historiae and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, funded by the DFG, the dMGH aims at providing complete full text and page image access to its vast corpus of critical editions of medieval texts, to be done in stages. As the result of an inquiry made by Dick Hacken to MGH, we are informed that the “Epistolae” will become available first during 2006; followed by the “Scriptores” (2006-2008); and the “Antiquitates” and “Leges” (2008-2010). There will be a moving wall for issues from the previous five years.

The “Stiftung Deutsches Rundfunkarchiv” in Wiesbaden and the ARD have embarked on a project to provide access to German radio transmissions since 1945 at http://livelx.ard.de/radio/hoerspiel_soundart/dra/htdocs/search.php?back=yes. The database currently includes references to all transmissions by the ARD and is to be expanded to include cooperative transmissions with the broadcasting services from the GDR, Radio Saarbrücken, NWDR Hannover, the Deutschen Welle, and Deutschlandfunk, among others.

The creation of the “Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Bibliotheks-, Buch- und Informationswissenschaften (ViFa BBI)” has been announced by the DFG on the GBV Wiki at http://www.gbv.de/wikis/cls/Virtuelle_Fachbibliothek_Bibliotheks-,Buch- und_Informationswissenschaften_(ViFa_BBI). Under the leadership of the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, which serves as the DFGSondersammlungsgebietsbibliothek for the discipline, the FH Potsdam, the Deutscher Bibliotheksverband Berlin (DBV), and the Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg contribute to the project.

SCANDANAVIAN LANGUAGE RESOURCES

Norbok, the Norwegian National Bibliography, is available free of charge at http://www.nb.no/baser/norbok2/english.html. Updated daily, the database originally started in 1971. Following the description, “Records dated 1921-1970 are added later as a result of a project based on scanning the printed five year cumulations. The cataloging principles are according to Norwegian rules, which from 1984 are based on the Anglo-American (AACR 2). […] Non-Latin (continued on page 14)
scripts are transcribed partly according to Library of Congress’ system, partly according to ISO standards. Classification according to Dewey’s Decimal Classification, abbreviated Norwegian editions, is given from 1956 (from 1984 according to the fourth Norwegian edition, based on DDC 19; from 2003 according to the fifth Norwegian edition, based on DDC 21).”

Norbok is complemented by the Sami Bibliography from the National Library of Norway, Rana Division, at http://www.nb.no/baser/samisk/english.html. The latter provides references to “books, pamphlets, serial monographs, serials, official publications, talking [audio] books (from 1993), articles from collections and approx. 290 Norwegian serials - published in Norway 1945-1987, 1993- [...]. Newspaper articles are excluded, apart from those from the paper “Sami igi”. All documents in the Sami languages are registered; documents in Norwegian and other languages are registered when the subject is relevant to Sami culture.”

**BENELUX RESOURCES**

The project “Historische kranten in beeld” at the National Library of the Netherlands (http://kranten.kb.nl/index.html), provides page images for three Dutch newspapers from the period 1909 to 1945: *Het Vaderland*, *Het Centrum* and the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant*. Articles are searchable by keyword and the newspapers may be browsed chronologically, including morning and evening editions. The project, made possible by the National Library’s initiative “Het Geheugen van Nederland” and the project “Metamorfoze” of the Haags Gemeentearchief, is funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science and currently provides access to about 350,000 page images.

The “Nederlands Instituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie” (NIOD) in Amsterdam holds the archives of the German occupation of the Netherlands and the Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies. The archives include an extensive photographic collection of about 130,000 images that is now searchable at http://195.169.62.3/beeldbank/

index_nl.jsp. The collection includes images from the press and propaganda documents, as well as from private citizens, soldiers, resistance fighters, etc. The database currently contains 3,000 images, but is continuously updated.

The resources described above are only a sample of those available in the online version. Please visit http://www.dartmouth.edu/~wessweb/nl/index.html for the full column.

**Discussion Groups**

**European vendors poised to offer shelf-ready books to American libraries: Romance Languages Discussion Group and Catalogers’ Discussion Group hear presentations from the Library of Congress and from vendors’ representatives**

Charles R. Croissant  
Chair, Catalogers’ Discussion Group

Dominique Coulombe, Chair of the Romance Languages Discussion Group, invited a distinguished panel of presenters to the Discussion Group’s San Antonio Midwinter meeting to speak on current initiatives by the major European vendors to offer cataloging records along with their books. The degree of interest which this topic exerted was apparent from the large attendance at the meeting, which was held on Saturday, January 21, 2006, at the Saint Anthony Hotel.

For years, the major European vendors (Casalini, Harrassowitz, Touzot, Puvill, Aux Amateurs de Livres) have supplied minimal-level cataloging records for the books they distribute. In most cases, these records were loaded into the national bibliographic utilities and thus made available to all the utilities’ members. The primary purpose of these records was to assist in the acquisitions process, and they have been successful in fulfilling this role. Problems arose, however, when libraries imported these minimal records into their local catalogs. Headings for names and series often were not formulated according to the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, and were thus out of sync with headings for the same entities already present in the local catalog. The records routinely required extensive editing by the cataloging staff of each end-user library. At the same time, many American cataloging departments have been experiencing difficulty in getting their foreign-language books cataloged; as catalogers with foreign language expertise retire, many libraries have searched in vain for qualified catalogers who can replace them. Clearly, an opportunity was arising for the European vendors, if they could develop a feasible plan for providing shelf-ready books complete with full cataloging records.

The first of the presenters to speak was Dr. Donald Panzera, Chief of the European/Latin American Acquisitions Division of the Library of Congress. Dr. Panzera gave a most informative description of the Shelf-Ready Pilot Project which LC has been conducting with the firm of Casalini for the past year. Casalini approached LC in March, 2004, with an offer to provide shelf-ready Italian books. Perhaps the most compelling part of Dr. Panzera’s presentation was his description of the reasons that impelled LC to accept Casalini’s proposal. The Library’s costs are dramatically outpacing its available resources, both in financial and personnel terms. In 2004, the Library cataloged 37% more print items than it did in 1988. Yet fully half of the Library’s cataloging staff is close to retirement, and the Library is seriously concerned that it may not be able to fill these positions once they are vacant, both because of budgetary constraints and because of the difficulty of finding qualified applicants. As Dr. Panzera put it, “We cannot go back to the way things were.” The Library must be open to new options that will help it conquer its workload.

As the Library sees it, the Casalini Pilot Project amounts to an extension of the very successful Program for Cooperative Cataloging, or PCC. LC entered into an agreement with Casalini whereby LC, in March and July 2005, provided extensive training to the cataloging staff at Casalini’s Italian headquarters. The training began with bibliographic description and was then expanded to include authority work. Casalini has committed to providing records that meet the PCC core-level standard. For its authority work, Casalini
has contracted with OCLC to contribute authority records to the LC/NACO Authority File via OCLC. Following its training, LC provided (and continues to provide) extensive follow-up in the form of review of records to ensure that it meets the required standard. The Library of Congress is now committed to purchase 4,000 core-level bibliographic records from Casalini in the current fiscal year, along with the accompanying books.

LC’s intent with this pilot project was to determine feasibility. Can such a project help in achieving the goal of “More, faster, better, cheaper?” Can the vendor meet the required standards over the long term? Can they supply the records in a shorter time and less expensively than LC could itself? The Library believes at this point that the answers to these questions will be “Yes.”

Casalini is a commercial operation, and a business model must be found whereby it receives just compensation for the expenses it incurs in producing full-level bibliographic records. LC pays Casalini about 6 times more for full-level records than Casalini charges its other customers for its minimal-level acquisition records. The Library of Congress is licensing these records rather than acquiring full ownership. The 1902 law which governs LC’s distribution of its own records mandates that the Library, in distributing records, may recover only the cost of distribution plus 10%. The law thus prevents LC from distributing these Casalini records to the national utilities: if it were to do so, it could not recover a sum equal to that which it must pay out to acquire them from Casalini. Casalini will of course make these records available for direct purchase by any interested library. Happily, at least for libraries who are OCLC members, it was announced at San Antonio that OCLC has reached an agreement to purchase (at least for the coming year) these full-level records from Casalini, so that they will thus become available to OCLC member libraries.

LC feels that the Pilot Project has been successful in meeting the goal of cost reduction. LC will save $100,000 this year that it would otherwise have spent on cataloging Italian books. This money is being re-allocated to meet more pressing needs, in particular the cataloging of electronic journals.

After Dr. Panzera spoke, the Discussion Group heard from vendor representatives: Gilles de Rocheffoucauld and Jane Maddox, Aux Amateurs de Livres; Joachim Bartz, Casalini; and Oscar Puvill, Puvill.

Mr. Rocheffoucauld informed us about Aux Amateurs de Livres’ plans to offer full-level cataloging. Additionally to the minimal-level acquisition records it has offered for some years, Aux Amateurs de Livres produced 1,200 full-level records in 2004 and plans to expand this program. Books are cataloged using AACR2, 1998 revision. Headings are verified against the LC/NACO authority file. LC call numbers and LC subject headings are provided. A full-level record costs 5.50 Euros when the book is purchased on an approval plan, and 12 Euros if purchased outside an approval plan.

Mr. Bartz of Casalini explained that his firm currently offers three levels of records: vendor records, which are not fully AACR2; enhanced records, which are vendor records with the addition of an LC call number and an LC subject heading; and, beginning in October, 2005, the LC core-level records described above. Casalini must establish a secure income that will support this effort. Currently, in addition to LC, 10 major American libraries are purchasing full-level records directly from Casalini. Casalini believes it has the capacity to increase its cataloging load to some seven to eight thousand records a year, up from the current four thousand.

Mr. Puvill explained that his firm received some initial training from Library of Congress in 1993 in order to produce brief records. He also expects that his firm will expand operations in the direction of providing full-level cataloging; their cataloging service is currently the fastest-growing of all their departments.

The presentations were followed by open discussion. In general, the participants seemed open to this new model; some expressed the view that our current model of expert catalogers situated in academic libraries is in any case broken, and that some kind of fix is definitely in order. The question was raised: What do libraries really want in terms of cataloging? It was clear that this question would need much more time for discussion. One question asked was whether libraries feel that they must continue to have Library of Congress subject headings, or whether they are more interested in enriched content in the record which would provide more access via keyword searches. There was a consensus that librarians must engage in frank dialogue about who will pay for cataloging and how much.

On Sunday, January 22, Dr. Panzera repeated his presentation for members of the WESS Catalogers’ Discussion Group. He was joined by his colleague Angela Kinney, who directly oversees the Casalini Pilot Project. Some further discussion ensued: some catalogers are concerned for the future of their profession: Does this mean that the kind of work we currently do will gradually move out of academic libraries and into the corporate world? At the same time, it was felt that this development may constitute a relief in terms of our workloads, freeing us up to finally catalog the “hidden collections” so many of our institutions house. Some fear was expressed over the use of the core-level standard in this new model: since the PCC core-level standard only requires a single subject heading (additional subject headings are optional), its wider use may result in the degradation of subject access in libraries’ catalogs.

Arles (continued from page 1)
WESS Jazz Dinner Cruise in New Orleans
Sunday June 25, 2006
7:00-9:30 PM
$35 per person

For directions and other details, visit:
http://www.library.uic.edu/mdx/WESSCruise/wesscruise.htm

Menu:
Prime Rib au Jus
Green Beans Amandine
Praline Chicken
Catfish Louisiane
Mardi Gras Pasta Alfredo
Spinach Southern Style
Red Roasted Potatoes
Sternwheeler Salad
New Orleans Bread Pudding
Water, coffee & tea

There will be a cash bar for soft drinks, bottled water and alcoholic beverages.

To register by check, print out and mail the registration form and check for $35 per person by May 25, 2006.

To register by credit card, print out and mail or fax the registration form and credit card information by May 25, 2006. Credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone.

We will once again offer free tickets to the first five new members (those who have joined WESS since July 1, 2005) who claim them. For details please contact David Lincove at Lincove.1@osu.edu.

JOIN THE CRUISE!
Travel the mighty Mississippi on the Riverboat John James Audubon while listening to a jazz band and enjoying famous New Orleans Fare!