

2018

## UKSG: Bigger, Better, and Open in 2018

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## UKSG: Bigger, Better, and Open in 2018

... Reported by Jill Emery, Collection Development Librarian, Portland State University, <jemery@pdx.edu>

Held in Glasgow, Scotland on April 9-11, 2018, UKSG was a fantastic event. This year's conference welcomed **over 1,000 delegates** from around the world and the growth in Northern European delegates is a wonderful development. The Northern European librarians and publishers bring a varied representation of the European Union perspective that makes the conference that much more meaningful and informed. In regards to open access publishing, and management of open access processes and content in libraries, Europe is at the forefront of these changes. This makes the conference feel very cutting edge and innovative for those of us just beginning to work more readily with open scholarly content in the United States.

As with any UKSG Conference, the event started with a tremendous amount to consider and think about. The **opening plenary** featured: Anna Lunden, Head of the Division for National Co-ordination of Libraries at the National Library of Sweden; Liam Earney, Director of Jisc Collections in the UK (the group responsible for licensing & negotiation of agreements on behalf of UK Universities); Ralf Schimmer from the Max Planck Digital Library; and Caroline Sutton

from Taylor & Francis Group addressing: the "Pushing of boundaries and razing of walls: news from the front in the open access transition." Each speaker brought a very engaging and thoughtful perspective on the topic of **open access transitions** within their local environments and the impacts the transition is having throughout the scholarly information chain. Liam Earney noted in his talk that it now feels "As though we are in the state of perpetual negotiations with one another." Caroline Sutton noted that without "A firm advocate among the editorial board & editors, open access is less likely to be adopted." She also noted that the article is just at the point of becoming more important than the journal in most publishing houses. This presentation, along with many others are found at the **IET.tv** website here: <https://tv.theiet.org/?channel=uksg>.

In addition to the transition to open access, the conference focused on **developing better mechanisms** for the discovery of all content, how to best manage the combination of subscriptions and open access payments through off-setting agreements, utilizing new tools such as **Hypothes.is**,

*continued on page 4*



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## Short Takes

**OCLC and Casalini Libri** have signed an agreement to expand their partnership to provide libraries with high quality bibliographic records that improve library users' access to authoritative content. Under terms of the expanded agreement, Casalini Libri will provide bibliographic records for titles from over 4,000 publishers in Europe, in Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Greek languages, in addition to Italian. OCLC and Casalini Libri have been working together for 23 years. Read more at <https://www.oclc.org/en/news/releases/2018/20180523-oclc-casalini-libri-expand-partnership.html>.

### TCR Reports from the Field – Fiesole Retreat — from page 2

The Fiesole Retreats are intended to act as a catalyst bringing together continents and roles. The hope of the organisers is that work going on in Europe can challenge US librarians and others and of course (one hopes) the other way round. Several excellent reports from the meeting are now available at the Retreat website's "In the Press" section at the base of the landing page. Included there is an *ATG* podcast discussion of the Closing Remarks from Stephen Rhind-Tutt, the founder of Alexander Street Press, which contextualise the challenges.

*Ed Note: The 21st Fiesole Retreat will return to Fiesole, Italy on April 3-5, 2019. More details will be available this fall. In the interim, we welcome your support and interest. Contact Rebecca Lenzini at <rlenzini@charlestonco.com> at any time.*

### UKSG: Bigger, Better, and Open in 2018 — from page 3

OA Button, and Unpaywall, and how to develop collaborative partnerships with both end-users and content providers. The majority of the presentations given can be found on slideshare here: <https://www.slideshare.net/UKSG>. In addition, there were over 100 exhibitors available during the conference featuring the usual providers of scholarly content. It was interesting to note that streaming media does not appear to be quite as popular in the UK as in the United States. The majority of booths representing this form of content tended to be included with historical archives for the most part.

Despite the growth in attendance, UKSG is **still one of the best conferences around** for individual networking opportunities including learning tips and tricks from your colleagues during break sections and social hours. This year's conference was no exception in this regard. UKSG held an opening session for newcomers to kick off the conference and to help newcomers feel welcomed and included. They still hold the traditional quiz night dinner led by the esteemed Richard Gedye, which is always quite a competitive event. The final conference dinner featured bagpipers playing contemporary music. UKSG is bigger, better, and helps to provide the roadmap for the management of open access scholarly content in the coming years.

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