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Hot Topics from E&RL – Electronic Resources and Libraries Annual Conference 2012

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April 2, 2012 marked the start of the 7th Annual Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference. This year’s attendance was the largest achieved with around 550 participants joining us in Austin, Texas and another 100 attendees joining us virtually for our first full online conference offering. Both the in-person and the online conference have received positive reviews from attendees. Andrea Resmini served as the opening keynote speaker and gave a very thought-provoking presentation on cross-channel experiences in the information architecture world and how these principals can be applied to libraries developing both in-person and online services to patrons. In true cross channeling of the ER&L conference experience, you can still register for the online conference archive here: http://www.electroniclibrarian.com/conference-info/online-conference.

There were so many great sessions this year at ER&L that it was really hard to pick even a few to highlight but here are some that you will want to see so register for the online archive or go and read the twitter feeds at: #erl12. MS Powerpoints and selected videos will be posted throughout the summer and into next fall for some of the online sessions that have been recorded.

Anna Creech and Dani Roach pulled together a fantastic panel of librarians to speak about first-hand experiences with various ERM Systems in the program entitled: “All You Can ERMS: Laying Out the Buffet of eResource Management Systems.” Perhaps for the first time in the history of library conferences that ten librarians shared a stage and all got through their presentation points with the time allotment! For the absolute best overview of the current ERMs available both opensource & for profit, this is a must see event.

“Designing a Copyright Outreach Program for Your Campus” was a wonderful program presented by Angela Riggio and Diane Gurman from UCLA that helped outline and offer ideas on copyright education from the library to your users. “Challenging the Big Deal: A Case Study from the UK” presented by the new Californian, Mr. David Beales, outlined the background research and development of an algorithm for assessing big deal packages from the RLUK. “Analytics Data in the Discovery Age” presented by Bobby Reaves, Jeannie Castro, Jeff Daniels, and Roberta Astroff helped participants learn how to harness data from discovery tools to enhance the collection development process using data-driven decisions.

Checkout the ER&L Flickr photographs to get a sense of the great networking and sessions that occurred at this year’s conference: http://www.flickr.com/photos/76489297@N04/sets/72157629296649186/.

Lastly, the dates for the 2013 conference have been set as: March 17-20, 2013. ER&L will be piggybacking on SXSW and we’re encouraging librarians to become involved with SXSWi (interactive) prior to our conference occurring. We look forward to seeing more new faces in Austin in 2013!