needs." Counting California integrates data from both state and federal agencies, and provides the user with multiple entry points into the information, including topic, geography, title, agency and full-text search. The data delivery is also "user-focused," Jacobs explained, with a standard, uniform display. Extensive user testing and surveys helped to inform the design of the Counting California homepage, which is neither "scary" nor overly academic in look and feel. From the opening screen, users have access to the full functionality of the product. Jacobs also showed examples of search and browse output, demonstrating how the information can be manipulated and understood by users, and featured forthcoming functionality to a highly receptive audience, including new geography (zip codes, congressional districts and census tracts). Educational materials for Counting California, including PowerPoint presentations and sample questions, are available from Patricia Cruse, patricia.cruse@ucop.edu.

Finally, Jim Jacobs wrapped up with a presentation on finding statistical data. When user needs are not met through a published statistical source, librarians might need to find social science data, which Jacobs defined as the "raw material out of which social and economic statistics are produced." Like Forte, Jacobs framed his opening remarks around the reference interview, presenting a flow chart to show the potential paths of a statistical question. Does the patron want one number? Are they pursuing a fact or figure? Can the question be resolved by a published print or online ready reference source? If not, the patron likely needs computer-readable data. Jacobs showed slides of computer-readable data, from its originally collected format (answers to survey questions) through the process of making responses anonymous and converting text to numeric codes. In order to work with data, researchers will need the datafile (raw numbers), a codebook to understand where the numbers are and what they mean, and statistical software for reading and analyzing the data. In contrast to a spreadsheet program, which handles small files and has a cell-orientation, statistical software reads large numerical files and has a row and column orientation. With the proper software, users describe the data layout and write commands to analyze the data. Jacobs discussed the importance of establishing a service model for reference regarding data. Librarians can help patrons locate data, but will not get involved in its analysis. Successfully locating data will depend on the outcome of the reference interview by defining the unit of analysis, time period, geographic coverage, etc. librarians can help identify possible sources, be they government, private or individual researcher. Jacobs concluded by reviewing sources for finding data, including standard statistical sources ("where there's statistics, there's data"), specialized guides, government agencies, and data libraries and archives on the web.

Judy Ruttenberg, UC Irvine

Breakout Session I: The Changing Consortial Landscape: California and the National/International Scene

Evan Reader (Director, CSU Systemwide Electronic Information Resources) began his presentation with a definition and history of library consortia, and went on to discuss the economics, structure, and benefits of membership. A library consortium is an organization that fosters resource sharing, collaboration, and cooperation among libraries. They can negotiate contracts, maintain licenses, provide ILL and resource sharing, and even run computer systems at the local, statewide, regional, national, or even international level. The Triangle Research Libraries Network in North Carolina, one of the oldest, began in 1938. In California, the Statewide Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC) began in 1986, founded at the University of Southern California, as the "Electronic Guild Hall of Knowledge." The CSU's Systemwide Electronic Information Resources (CSU-SEIR) began in 1989.

Many funding models exist to support a consortium: membership dues, grants, shared resources among member libraries, and cost recovery (service fees or contributions from the network for products and services). For example, CSU-SEIR follows the cost recovery model because it lacks direct funding from the CSU.

In terms of structure, a library consortium can be an organized body with a centralized management, a legal charter, and provide a wide range of services, such as is the case with OHOLINK. Other consortia are decentralized, with one negotiating body, but leave actual purchase decisions to the individual library. For example, SEIR will negotiate a deal on behalf of the individual campuses, which are free to take it or leave it. Furthermore, the member libraries each have a representative in an advisory group that reports to the CSU library directors. Probably 80% of library consortia are structured this way. Another possible structure is a loosely organized body that bands together to obtain a discount only. Not all vendors will deal with this type of consortium, however.

According to Reader, there are many benefits to being part of a library consortium: In terms of licensing, which is a complicated area, a consortium presents a
coordinated approach to negotiating and maintaining licenses. It represents a group commitment to licensing databases that meet a common set of criteria. However, it does require member libraries to have commonalities. Consortia provide the opportunity to gain economies of scale and enhance an individual library's ability to achieve leverage on other contractual issues with vendors. Even if you subtract the costs of membership in a consortium from the discount, it might still be worth the time and effort it saves individual libraries having to do the negotiating and contracting themselves. In addition to potential cost and time savings, consortia can deal with fair use rights, and have influenced contracts related to ILL of electronic text, allowing libraries to print out and fax articles that they subscribe to electronically. In addition, they have negotiated with vendors to allow "incidental public use" or walk-in use of licensed databases rather than require librarians to police terminal use in the reference room.

Reader then described some of the major library consortia in California: The SCELC (Statewide Electronic Library Consortium), CDL (California Digital Library), Community College system's CCL-EAR (Council of Chief Librarians - Electronic Access and Resources Committee), the LoC (Library of California), and CSU-SEIR (CSU Systemwide Electronic Information Resources).

The other speaker was Rick Burke, Executive Director of the Statewide Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC), who focused his presentation on the national and international scene. There are over 160 library consortia representing some 4,000 institutions in the world today. The International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) (http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia) has been meeting informally since 1997 as a "consortium of consortia." The Coalition services primarily higher education institutions by facilitating discussion among consortia on issues of common interest. They have semiannual meetings during which they "grill vendors." The ICOLC also issues policy statements that influence the electronic resources marketplace, and provides guidelines to vendors on such issues as pricing, archiving of electronic resources, statistical measures of usage, etc.

There are different types of consortia of all types of libraries at all geographic levels. A cartel, such as ORBIS Courier System, for example, might provide buying power, staff development, risk sharing, and grant seeking for its members. Access to Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, for example, represents a mega deal in which several consortia contracted with a larger consortium. Services provided by a library cartel could include patron initiated borrowing via ILL, courier services, and shared cataloging. In addition, library consortia might provide advocacy on issues of interest to their members, such as, encouraging/negotiating with vendors to archive digital content, limit pop-up advertising, etc. Beyond licensing agreements, another type of consortium might provide shared reference service, including virtual reference, such as the MCLS 24/7 project. Consortial digitization projects, such as the Online Archive of California, provide digital access to archival text, images, maps, etc.

Burke went on to discuss the complexities of international library consortia. Difficulties in maintaining funding; marketing, training, lack of computers, language differences, expensive licensing, and billing in different currencies are just a few of the challenges. There are many examples of international consortia: EIFL Electronic Information for Libraries, includes libraries in the former Soviet block, Eastern and Central Europe, southern African countries, Guatemala, Haiti, and others, and includes 2,100 academic, research, national, public, parliamentary, and non-governmental organization libraries. EIFL is working with Ebsco to deliver electronic journal content to its members. In non-European countries, there are many examples of library networks, many dealing with access to scientific journals. U.S. libraries should consider not limiting themselves: California, for example, could become part of a Pacific Rim consortium.

An interesting question and answer period capped off a highly informative overview of the vast and complicated world of library consortia.

Kathy Dabbour, CSU Northridge

Pre-Conference Program: Collection Analysis in an E-World

This Pre-Conference Program sponsored by the CARL Collection Development Interest Group North (Helene Lafrance, Santa Clara University, Chair) was well attended. The first half of the Program dealt with electronic serials while the second half dealt with electronic monographs.

In the first half of the Program, Cecily Johns, Associate University Librarian, UC Santa Barbara, presented an overview of the UC system-wide "Collection Management Initiative," details of which can be found at: http://www.ucop.edu/cmi. This twelve-month collection development project, sponsored by the