April 1996

From Your Editor

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain

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What can I say? I took the flu shot. And still I got the flu! So much for technology.

And speaking of technology, we are doing a lot of talking about it in this issue, especially CD-ROM technology which is the "feature" theme this time. Still, we haven't abandoned our alliance to regular old books and journals. The paperback/hardback issue is still with us (pages 44 and 50) and so is a lot of talk about changing or evolving or different roles (pages 25, 72, 90).

Of course we have some new features — check out "For Readers Only," (p. 86), "Back Talk," (p. 90) and "Colleagues Remembered," (p. 87) We have also continued with the Legal Issues section and I have to say that support for this new section has been overwhelming! Thank you all!

Like all ATG issues, this is especially "great" one! And don't forget that we will have a "sixth" issue this year — an end of the year roundup. And you — and you — and you — better participate! Hopefully by the time you get this the snow will be melted and the butterflies will be out.

**Yr. Ed.**

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**Against the Grain — Deadlines — 1996 — Volume 8**

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**Rumors from page 1**

And we learned walking around the exhibits during ALA Midwinter that Data Trek, Inc. (Carlsbad, CA), part of Dawson Holdings, plc, plans to acquire IME (Information Management and Engineering, Ltd) (London, England). The acquisition will create a global library automation services company. CEO of Data Trek Library Services is Scott Cheatham, and 1996 is its fifteenth anniversary.

Joyce Ogbum sends some new info: Joyce L. Ogbum, AUL for Information Resources and Systems, Old Dominion University Library, phone: 804-683-4189, fax: 804-683-5769, <ogbium@shakespeare.odu.edu>

Harold Regan has been elected President and CEO of the H.W. Wilson Company by the Board of Directors. Regan has been with Wilson since 1974 when he was hired as Director of Personnel Administration.

Charles Evans has been appointed Director of Client Software Development at the H.W. Wilson Company effective March 14. Evans comes from EBSCO Publishing in Boston. Evans, who holds an M.S. degree in mathematical physics from the U. of Alberta, will be responsible for WILSONDISC and the development of distributed client server software, reporting to Lucian A. Parziale, VP, Information Systems.

On the publishing front consolidation continues. Thomson has announced plans to buy West Publishing Company for $3.4 billion. You all know that West has WESTLAW, an online legal database, which is a staple in many libraries. And Thomson owns companies like Clark Boardman, Barclays, and Lawyers Cooperative.

Heard from Jack David (ECW Press, Toronto, Canada) <cew@sympatico.ca> who is a subscriber to ATG. He is coming to Charleston on vacation and wanted to know some local restaurants and places of interest. Well, I have to tell you that Marianne’s has closed (I learned this from Amanda Harmon, UNC-Charlotte) <ali001a@email.uncc.edu> and so has LaFayette's! This just means that there will be some newer restaurants for us all in November!

W H Everett & Son Ltd. <100064.2777@compuserve.com> has already strengthened its book services through a strategic alliance (October 1995) with YBP, Inc. (Watch for our upcoming interview in the June, 1996 ATG.) Now W H Everett & Son Ltd and Universal Subscription Services Ltd — two London library suppliers — are pleased to announce that they have merged. Collin Harrison and Denis Eagle of Everett's have joined the Board of Universal, and Tony Roche of Universal has been appointed a director of Everett's and is now responsible for the combined group's subscription business.

The strengths of the new partnership will result in a wider and more advanced range of services. Everett's, founded in 1793, is the oldest British subscription agent/boonseeller. From their Fulham premises they have built a thriving and expanding business with academic and government clients in the UK, North America, Australasia and the Middle and Far East. Last year they implemented a new PC network-based subscription system with facilities for comprehensive electronic links with their customers. Together the companies share their bibliographic and technical resources. An early step is the current release of an integrated UK/US title database on the World Wide Web, with sophisticated searching and ordering features. Universal, established in 1961 in Sidcup, Kent, has most of its business with UK corporate, government and public sector research libraries. They are involved in a wide range of science and technology-based industries, and have particular strength in the fields of finance, medicine and energy. A growing element in their services is the consolidation of journal issues by Universal rather than direct delivery by publishers. This responds to the growing requirement from libraries in the UK and elsewhere for the outsourcing of traditionally in-house functions. For further information, try Colin Harrison at Everett's: <http://www.everetts.com> or Tony Roche at Universal 0181-302-7833.

And, in its ongoing support of schools, libraries, and not-for-profit organizations, the Board of Directors of the H.W. Wilson Foundation continued on page 8