2009

Letters to the Editor

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From Your (Greek-cooking) Editor:

Y'all, I like to cook but most of the time I am “cooking” on the computer instead. Let me tell you, cooking, especially Greek, is hard, back-breaking work. But it is great fun and now my husband Bruce is my able sous-chef (is that what you call it?) which makes it all much easier. So this summer, with lots of festivities and company, I got out my pile of Greek cook books and began. Haven’t tackled the baklava yet, maybe next year?

In between cooking endeavors, I have read this issue of ATG. And what a great issue it is, on the topic of peer review. Papers cover the history and new directions (Irv Rockwood), current peer review practice (Mark Ware), PLoS ONE (Peter Binfield), interactive open access peer review (Ulrich Pöschl), the open scholarship full disclosure initiative (Gary Hall), and book reviews (David Shatz). Our op ed is by Tony Horava, Tony Ferguson tells us about good turns in Hong Kong, we interview Meris Mandernach a wonderful collection management librarian, learn about a home-grown book order system (Biz of Acq), read about functional and transformative (From the University Press). Moving right along, Bob Holley talks about new models, Celia Wagner has a wonderful reminiscence about Yale, her alma mater, Donna Jacobs talks about translators, Mark Herring is into print newspapers, Tom Leonardt talks about not blogging, Rick Anderson thinks library collections might be too risky. I will take a breath before I continue. Next, Arlene Sievers gives her perspective on building library collections in the 21st century, John Cox is all about authors’ rights, Richard Abel continues the approval plan story as does Rita Ricketts with Benjamin Henry. Ending it all, Michael Pelikan is talking about product announcements, Todd Carpenter is moving libraries into Web services, Greg Tananbaum talks to ProQuest at 70, Chris Ferguson mulls over the demise of the print newspaper, and Xan Arch helps with crowd control. And we haven’t talked about many other columns in this issue. Get busy reading right now!

Oops! Bruce wants to make baklava and I need to lie down first. Yikes! See y’all in Chicago. Love, Yr. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Loyal ATG Fans!

It’s late at night and I need your letter/comments/issues! Are you there? Send me a letter, an email, a missive, whatever, right now!

Okay? Please! — Yr. Ed.

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 21 — 2009

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Rumors from page 1

a fake, computer-generated manuscript to The Open Information Science Journal and then withdrew it after acceptance. They produced the paper using software that generates grammatically correct but nonsensical text, and submitted the manuscript under pseudonyms in late January. The hoax has raised doubts about the open access author-pays model. The editor of the journal has resigned. www.library.yale.edu/~license/ListArchives/scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2009/06/10/non-sense-for-dollars/

Talk about pertinent! This issue — on peer review — is guest edited by the amazing Irv Rockwood (Editor & Publisher, Choice). In his introduction, Irv says that peer review is more important now than ever. We couldn’t agree more!

And did you know that in the midst of it all, Irv was moving! Choice has moved. The new address is 575 Main Street, Suite 300, Middletown, CT 06457. Phone numbers and email addresses are unchanged.

Do you have an iPhone? Well if you do, Duke University Libraries now offers a comprehensive university digital image collection specifically formatted for an iPhone or iTouch device. It includes thousands of photos and other artifacts that range from early beer advertisements to materials on San Francisco’s Haight-Ashbury scene in the 1960s. Although a growing number of scholarly institutions offer images and other material online, Duke is the first to offer collections that take advantage of the iPhone’s design, navigation and other features.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHK3E4N7w6o. m.duke.edu.

Okay. We have changed the theme of the 2009 Charleston Conference to NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION. Used to be “There’s a Whole Lotta Changing Going on.” But in reviewing the themes, I noticed that we had used the “change” theme in two other conferences — 1987 (Plus ça Change) and 2001 (The Trends They are A’Changing). And this year we have changes but also challenges to invent new solutions to our issues/problems/world. NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION is from Plato’s Republic and since I am a Greek, it resonated with me. Not to mention there are a lot of corollary quotes that can build on that quote that seem relevant and may help in presentations. How about — “If necessity is the mother of invention, discontent is the father of progress;” (David Rockefeller) or “Necessity is the mother of fashion;” (Mary Twain), “Necessity is the author of change.” (Tim Hansel) or “Discontent is the first necessity of progress.” (Thomas Edison). If you turned in a request that used the old theme, please do not worry. You don’t have to change. The Charleston Conference is nothing if not flexible and dynamic.

Speaking of which, why not beat the rush continued on page 10

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