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People Profile: Amy Kohrman

Editor

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There are all sorts of new initiatives out there. Saw in the New York Times the other day (6-12-09) that Simon & Schuster is planning to sell digital books on Scribd. This is seen as an alternative to Amazon’s Kindle. Readers will be able to read up to 10% of the titles that are loaded on Scribd which will include best-selling authors among others. See — “Simon & Schuster to Sell Digital Books on Scribd.com” by Brad Stone. http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/12/technology/internet/12books.html?th=&emc=th&p

Let’s see. There is a fascinating article in the Chronicle of Higher Education (June 12, 2009). The author (Ann Kirschner) read Dickens’ Little Dorrit four ways (paper, Kindle, audiobook, iPhone) and outlines her reaction to the experiences. Definitely worth a read! See — “Reading Dickens Four Ways – How ‘Little Dorrit’ fares in multiple text formats,” by Ann Kirschner. chronicle.com/free/v55/i39/39b01601.htm

Speaking of content — Way back when I started life in acquisitions, I only worked with books. Ah, they were so simple to work with. Then they gave me the serials job too and I began to get chronic what I called “serials headaches.” Read about an example in Tinker Massey’s “Something to Think About,” this issue, p.48.

Are you going to ALA in Chicago? Just saw notice of the SPARC-ACRL Forum to be held Saturday, July 11 from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM at the Sheraton Chicago, Ballroom II/III. It’s the ACRL Scholarly Communications discussion group. Ivy Anderson, Charles Lowry, Emma Hill, and James Neal will be speaking. The forum will be available via SPARC video-cast at a later date. And Ivy is one of our speakers in Charleston in November! http://www.arl.org/sparc www.katina.info/confere

I remember when I met my husband Bruce he asked me what I did for a living. I said I was a librarian. He said back. “Oh, so you know about Dewey Decimal and all that.” I guess I laughed. I don’t remember. But anyway, Xan Arch’s call for help in this issue, p.8, recalls that incident. Help her out! Please!

I spent some time in April in Oxford England at a delightful conference called Exploring Acquisitions which was organized by Alice Keller of the Bodleian and David Swords of Blackwell. The hard-hitting Rick Anderson was just one of the many speakers! I will be writing the conference up for ATG shortly. Watch for it probably on the ATG NewsChannel! www.against-the-grain.com

What a great thing to do for your little girl — Rick brought his lovely 16-year old daugh
ter Maggie to Oxford! Besides shopping and enjoying the sites, she was buying all kinds of books at the best book shop in the world, Blackwell’s Book Shop to take to her friends back home. I understand that Maggie’s next big adventure this summer will be participating in a three-day pioneer trek reenactment, complete with handcarts! Rick says Maggie had a wonderful time in Oxford, and he particularly enjoyed watching her meet people whom he’s talked about at home — everyone was so nice and made her feel welcome and special. It was a great experience.

Speaking of which, I remember a great trip with my Dad from Richmond, Virginia, to Baltimore to the Federal Reserve Bank there. It was way back when I was a teenager and I loved Baltimore and the library at the Fed. I particularly remember the hamburger steak my Dad bought me in the Washington train station on the way back home to Richmond.

Speaking of little girls — the other day I met with John Baudassi (ProQuest). What a delightful man! (Truly, between us, when Debbie Hodges left ProQuest I was devastated) but John is just as great! What a gentleman he is. He has a daughter whose name is Danielle and she has been going to UC Boulder. She graduated last year and is employed as a graphic designer. Her employer said she could work at home so she decided to move back to Richmond where her mother and grandmother live. The family is very happy that she is going to be closer to home. And John, the proud father, gets to drive the car with the trailer on it from Boulder to Richmond. He didn’t want his daughter to drive all that distance by herself.

And, speaking of driving a long distance, was talking to my favorite person in the world, Becky Lenzini, yesterday. She was driving from Denver to St. Louis all by herself. Her daughter, Sarah, is pregnant and is due July 5. Everyone (including me) is excited for the big event!

Heard recently from the fantabulous Jim Morrison <jmorrisonll@carolina.rr.com>, another one of my favorite people. Jim retired in Oct. of 2007, after 40 years on the road. He says he misses the regular paycheck and all the friends he made over the years. In May of 2008, Jim went to Duke for radiation & chemno and then surgery. Fortunately, the cancer had not spread, and the radiation had fried the tumor. After many hospital adventures, Jim is finally home regaining his strength. He even has his daughter’s 3-year-old twins (a boy and a girl) to play with to help him recover! And now his son’s wife is pregnant with twins. I tell you, when it rains it pours!

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