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Little Red Herrings -- How Do You Like Your Librarianship: Straight-up or Blended?

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End Users Speak Out

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building, resources, computers, and the overall collections. Students want to have the ability to utilize the library building at their leisure, without any time restrictions or constraints. I think many of the students believe the library is not only a place to study and do homework, but it’s also a neutral, safe meeting place for students to congregate and relax. It’s quite interesting to hear the rhyme and reasoning as to why so many students on campus would like to have 24-hour access to the Addlestone Library. Many of the students simply made the innocent assumption that all college libraries stayed open 24 hours. Other students feel that it would be a nice accommodation for the library to remain open 24/7.

With all the requests for 24/7 access to the Addlestone Library, will the deans, administrators, and librarians comply? Fortunately, students don’t expect this change to happen overnight. There are too many logistics and politics that come into play when planning and preparing for 24/7 access. The need for additional staffing, budgeting, security, and safety issues are just some of the minimum concerns. The staff must make sure the library building is as safe as possible at all times for students.

So, is this an idea that students should accept as never becoming a reality? Only time and patience will determine the answer to that question. As for students speaking out on what they want and expect from the library, many of their requests and demands will become an immediate reality, whereas other requests will require a little more planning and patience.

All of us librarians love getting feedback and input from our users, and we strive to deliver the best services and resources possible. So please stay tuned, as I plan to meet with more students to see what else our users would like to see happen here at the Marlene & Nathan Addlestone Library. And I would welcome all of your comments and input as I continue my quest. Thank you!

Little Red Herrings — How Do You Like Your Librarianship: Straight-up or Blended?

by Mark Y. Herring (Dean of Library Services, Dacus Library, Winthrop University) <herringm@winthrop.edu>

For, oh, the last 100-plus years, academic librarianship has changed very little. Yes, I know, there is such a thing as Google, and we do have that thing called the Web. I’m not dismissing — or dissembling — those facets of our work. But for the better part of the last 100+/- years, academic librarianship hasn’t changed all that much: we’ve just added new chores to the same old routines. For most of our history, we have been as siloistic as the professoriate in which we serve and work: reference, cataloging, monographs, serials. Even though it has begun to change, if Dewey — or Melville, of course, not John — were to read many of today’s job titles, I doubt he’d be very surprised, or even puzzled. As far as the structure goes, it’s pretty much librarianship served straight-up or neat, as it were.

Maybe we need not be too hard on our profes-
As I See It! — Will Books Ever Go Out of Print?
Printing Technology and the Future of the Book

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Publishing scholarly monographs has not been easy for the last twenty-five years. The number of copies a publisher expects to sell to the library market has steadily diminished as library acquisition budgets have been diverted to support the journal collection. Yet the costs of processing manuscripts, typesetting and preparing the book for printing have remained the same. The result has been an escalation in prices that has further reduced sales. The ARL estimates that ARL libraries are purchasing 25% fewer monographs per student today, compared with 1986 (ARL Statistics 2005-06, Association of Research Libraries, Washington DC, 2007).

While this process of attrition has continued, digital technology has transformed the production and distribution of books, particularly specialist titles with sales in the hundreds rather than thousands of copies that are targeted at the library market. The most prominent manifestation of this is, of course, eBooks. eBooks have revitalized many publishers’ backlists, and have been steadily taken up by academic libraries in order to deliver online content to faculty and students. Never-