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Letters to the Editor

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain, strauchk@cofc.edu

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From your (whewing) Editor:

There are two things for me to “whew” about! First, with this issue, we have finished volume number 13 of ATG. Whew! The second thing to “whew” about is that the 21st Charleston Conference is over and everything went smoothly. We all had a good time and learned a lot! Whew! So, now it’s time for us to have a great holiday and sit down and read, okay? What’s in this issue of ATG?

Well, when Miriam Gilbert and I talked about her guest editing an issue of ATG over a year ago, who would have believed what would have happened with the bankruptcy of netLibrary. Miriam is no longer with them, but she has still worked her hardest to bring in some excellent papers about eBooks. And, you might imagine that several of the papers had to be reworked in light of the changes at netLibrary. After an introduction by Miriam, we have papers by Kelly Franklin of Wiley, Nancy Gibbs of Duke, Mary Alice Lynch of Nylink, Mark Bide and Kim Richardson of Rightscom, Sherry Thompson of Majors, and Rick Lugg and Ruth Fischer of R2 Consulting. Michael Young of SUNY-Albany has written us an excellent Charleston Conference report.

There’s other great stuff, too!

Besides the regular bam-zowie columns, we have a study of acquisitions positions in libraries by Rob Withers, “The Collection Development Role of the Library Liaison: A View from Both Sides of the Fence” by Jack Montgomery, and “In Search of Fund Allocations” by Norman Desmarais.

Whew! That’s a mouthful. Happy reading and celebrating. This is my favorite time of year. I hope it’s y’all’s too! Happy New Year! See you in New Orleans!

Yr. Ed. ♚

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strauchk@earthlink.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 Editor:

I just discovered your excellent Website and publication today. We are preparing our budget for 2002, and I wondered if you could send a sample issue for our review? It looks like something we’d like to add to our collection of professional journals, but I need to see a copy to recommend it. If this is possible, please send it to my attention at the address above. Thank you for your assistance.

Catherine Whitney
Reference Librarian, Andrews & Kurth, Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton
<cwitney@aklp.com>

Dear Editor:

Lately I have had conversations with some vendors who were at the Charleston Conference. The topic of conversation always turns to “were you at that session” or “did you hear…” I think they find the conference as exhilarating as I do! More and more, the publishers and vendors realize that if you want to know what will be happening in libraries as well as what is happening, you go to the Charleston Conference. I’ve known that for years!

Susan H. Zappen
(Associate College Librarian for Collections, Lucy Scribner Library, Skidmore College)
<szappen@skidmore.edu>

Rumors

from page 1

sleeping. The incredible (and very shy) Michele <michelle@casalini.it> and Susanna Casalini have a son, born September 11, 2001. His name is Pier Niccolo Casalini. The dynasty continues!

And we have another birth to report! The fabulous Karin Carchedi Rush (Ovid/SilverPlatter) has a baby girl, Juliana Hope Rush. Congratulations!

And, speaking of children, these women were talking grandparents at the Charleston Conference, and I was jealous (but don’t tell my kids, please). Mary McLaren <mclaren@uky.edu>, Elsie Pritchard <e.pritchard@morehead-state.edu>, Susan Zappen <szappen@skidmore.edu> and Betty Oktay <oktay@vassar.edu>.

Talked to the wonderful Ivo Mileitch (Chicago State University) at the Charleston Conference. Do you know that he has been coming to the Conference since it started?

Was just reading in Whitestone Communications, Inc. Who’s Buying Whom (October 19, 2001) (Okay, I’m a little behind in my reading,) that the total number of acquisitions dropped 40% from last year to this year. Later, (November 26) what to my wondering eyes should appear but … an acquisition! ProQuest Company’s (NYSE: PQE) Information and Learning unit has acquired Softline Information, the Stamford, Connecticut-based producer of online databases for libraries and educational institutions. Softline, founded in 1991, offers more than 500 newspapers and magazines from ethnic, minority, native, gender, alternative, and independent press. Prior to Softline’s introduction of its databases, most titles were not available in electronic formats. The titles are organized into five specialized databases covering ethnic, cultural, and...