AGAINST THE GRAIN

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dom Readings and Ramifications: My Thoughts on
E-Journals, Embargoes, etc. (ATG v.143, June
2002), Allison Mays expressed some frustra-
tions about embargoes imposed by publishers in
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Libraries In The Cyberage — Filtering, Censor-
sorship and the First Amendment: Librar-
ies at the Crossroads edited by Mark Herr-
ring — In the summer of 2000, Ron Chesluesen
and Mark Herrring sat down with a simple goal:
put together a series of forums to discuss the
groundbreaking changes that libraries have been
and would continue to undergo as a result of the
advent of the World Wide Web. The forums covered
in this issue include the conclusion of Carol
Clancy’s article favoring library filters.

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by Anthony Ferguson — Anthony just returned
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LEGAL ISSUES

Edited by Bryan Carson, Bruce Strauch, and Jack Montgomery

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Do We Still Need Books for Legal Research? (Why books still matter.) by Bryan Carson — Bryan says several times every day in the course of his work as a librarian, he hears people express the opinion that books are no longer necessary, since “everything is now online.” A second opinion that is sometimes heard is that books are unnecessary, and libraries (and librarians) are no longer needed. So what is the truth—are books still needed for legal research? Bryan tells us.

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(In My Humble But Correct Opinion) The Book Is Dead and It’s a Good Thing, Too by Rick Anderson — As a group, we librarians are certainly not unique in our ability to deny the obvious. And as upsetting as it may be to state the fact out loud, we’ve all sat at our budgets and the results of the referendum are clear: books are out.

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by Barry Fast — Barry is back as a regular ATG columnist! He says that the Book Trade may not be as glitzy as the Industry (Hollywood), but there is more than enough gossip to share.

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Lost in Austin by Thomas Leonard — Tom is now in Austin and tells us he has not had the time or the courage to go looking for used book stores or some good, independent book sellers because he is still recovering from his move of 2,200 miles from Eugene, Oregon to Austin, Texas.

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Variations on a Theme: NISO Z39.7, Library Statistics Standard by Bob Molyneux — The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) is in the process of developing the new version of the “standard” for library statistics (Z39.7). Bob attended the ALA convention in Atlanta, where the NISO committee gave a status report on the standard. Here’s what he learned.

Desperately Seeking Copyright .......... 89
Digital Object Identifiers: Just an Idea or an Innovation of Value? by Edward Colleran — The global groundswell for the adoption of yet another numbering system would appear to be underwhelming at best. After all, we already have ISBNs, URLs, EAN/UPCs, and a plethora of other numbers. Why, indeed, should we invent another? But an unusual convergence of interests among librarians, researchers and publishers has, in fact, already propelled the new Digital Object Identifier (DOI) from an abstract concept to an operational numbering system.

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