Against the Grain

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Would You Like Print With That? — Will Electronic Reference Packages Supplant Print? ............................................ 1
by Frances C. Wilkinson and Linda Lewis — This keynote column began in the Reference Publishing Issue of ATG in 1997. Over the years Linda and Fran have asked librarians and sometimes students and/or publishers a variety of questions of current interest. This year, they thought it would be interesting to look back over the last five years to discover how things have stayed the same or how they have changed.

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by Adam Hodgkin — Content aggregators are playing an increasing prominent role in delivering electronic subscription resources to libraries. It is timely to consider some of the advantages that can be conferred by aggregation.

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An Order Librarian’s Reflections on OLAS by Nick J. Vincelli — The UNC-Chapel Hill Academic Affairs Library began acquiring material through ebay.com auctions. Although the Library had acquired material through auctions in the past, obtaining material from ebay.com established a precedent for the Library, engendering a new workflow that was eventually named OLAS.

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A New Library Paradigm or the Emperor’s New Clothes by Steve McKinzie and Jonathan D. Lauer — Every so often the library profession loses its head over some peripheral issue and goes bonkers, often suggesting that current collection development practices have to be revamped, overhauled or possibly scrapped. It is like that now, and Steve and Jonathan, if you have been following some of the profession’s fascination with digital reference service.

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Libraries In The Cyberage — Filtering, Censorship and the First Amendment: Libraries at the Crossroads edited by Mark.Y. Herrin — In the summer of 2000, Ron Chepesiuk and Mark Herrin sat down with a simple goal: put together a series of forums to discuss the groundbreaking changes that libraries had brought about, and would continue to undergo as a result of the advent of the World Wide Web. Out of a series of meetings they ended up with four forums discussing a wide variety of libraries and cyberage issues: Internet filtering, online/ electronic publishing and the rush to e-izeize libraries, copyright in the digital age, and the humanities and cyberspace.

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by Anthony W. Ferguson — Recently, a university in Hong Kong was taken to task in the press for using public funds to buy and subsequently store lesser-used materials. This university had decided to send books that had not been checked out in six years to a remote storage facility. The newspaper’s reporter implied that some of these books had been little if ever used and questioned why libraries wasted money buying such books in the first place.

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REFERENCE PUBLISHING ISSUE

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by Tom Gilson — This month Tom weighs in on the issue of electronic reference publishing with some thoughts on a unique reference work, the Encyclopedia of Life Sciences. What is unusual about this resource is that it is a landmark publishing effort that was initially planned as an electronic product. Only later, due to the advice of librarians and doubt caused by the techno-trauma of the dot.com collapse did a print version evolve.

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Search Warrants and Records: What Libraries and Bookstores Need to Know by Bryan M. Carson — In these days of terrorism and criminal investigation, libraries and bookstores are starting to become concerned with the privacy of their users and the possibility that circulation or sales records will be requested by investigators. Although most states and the District of Columbia have library privacy provisions in their laws, exceptions have always existed for court orders and search warrants. What does this mean for libraries and bookstores?

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My Experience in Crossing Over to the Vendor Side by Allison P. Mays — Allison represented Serials Solutions at a MINITEX meeting. She tells us all about it.

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