

2002

## Adventures in Librarianship: DonCo

Ned Kraft

*U.S. Department of State*, [kraftno@state.gov](mailto:kraftno@state.gov)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

---

### Recommended Citation

Kraft, Ned (2002) "Adventures in Librarianship: DonCo," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 14: Iss. 6, Article 38.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3970>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.

## Allen Williams, MLIS

by **Allison P. Mays** (Acquisitions Librarian, Millsaps College, 1701 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39210; Phone: 601-974-1083) <maysap@millsaps.edu>

**Name:** Allen Williams, MLIS

**Title:** Currently unemployed and desperately seeking work.

**Born:** Fowler, Michigan 1971 – a mid-western farm boy at heart!

**Current Residence:** Sunnyvale, California – the center of Silicon Valley, horrible commutes and cost of living, but a wonderfully rich culture with many outdoor adventures.

**Education:** BA in Creative Writing, Minor in Theatre Production (1995) — Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan

Masters in Library & Information Science (1999) — University of Texas, Austin, Texas

**Work Experience:** I have a strong passion for information and fostered this while working in the periodicals department of Grand Valley State University. I pursued my graduate degree with the intent of staying in academic libraries, but my curiosity got the better of me. I soon explored special libraries and work in the Internet industry.

1991-1994: Library Clerk, Grand Valley State University

1995-1998: Periodicals Specialist, Grand Valley State University

1998-1999: Library Research Associate, Sulzer Orthopedics

1999: National Editor, Networker.com

2000-2002: Product Marketing Manager, SolutionCentral Media

2002: Founder, **Between the Stacks**

The latter experience seems to have impaired my job search a bit; no one in traditional libraries wants anything to do with me now ... but I am determined to find a position. In the meantime, I will throw all of my energy into my latest adventure, **Between the Stacks** — an online discussion site for library and information science professionals.

**Hobbies & Interests:** My most current hobby has been soapmaking. I learned how to make handmade soap — a combination of olive, palm, coconut and avocado oils to make a rich and wonderful soap. My favorite soap is scented with orange and ylang-ylang essential oils and contains ground chamomile flowers.

I am also an avid camper and enjoy the outdoors. A few weeks ago I spent a few nights along the Big Sur coast. Hiking can be fun as well, especially at Tahoe and Yosemite. I love living in California.

**Former Body Piercings:** Tongue and nose ... I don't miss the tongue piercing at all. It was only a matter of time before I chipped a tooth! The nose piercing was fun though and occasionally wish that I still had it. However, my mother is a much happier person now that there isn't any metal on my body. 🍷

## Adventures in Librarianship: DonCo

by **Ned Kraft** (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State) <kraftno@state.gov>

[Run title script: **Iron Mike Library Systems...** Produced by **Don King** and **DonCo Enterprises...** filmed before a live audience. Cut to stage camera one with applause.]

**OG:** Ahh... Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm your host, **Oscar Gossett**, and I'm here to tell you about an extraordinary new product.

**Audience:** [Gasp]

**OG:** Let me ask, how many of you work in libraries?

**Audience:** [All hands go up. Heads nod in approval]

**OG:** And how many of you are happy with your integrated systems?

**Audience:** [Hands quickly go down. Annoyed mumbling]

**OG:** Folks, do I have a product for you. **Mike Tyson** got together with **Don King** of **DonCo Enterprises** to produce the library system of your dreams. Because he's so excited about this product, **Mike** has graciously agreed to come here to tell you about it. Should we bring him out?

**Audience:** [Applause, hoots, whistling]

[**Mike Tyson** enters. Smiling. Waving. Bashful.]

**OG: Mike**, great to have you here. You're not going to bite me, are you?

**Audience:** [Laughter]

**MT:** That's very humorous, **Oscar**.

**OG:** Seriously, **Mike**, why are you so excited about the **Iron Mike Library System**? With all the big-name systems out there, what's different about yours?

**MT:** It's... Its' a very good system, **Oscar**.

**Audience:** [Applause]

**OG:** I mean, specifically, what's so special about the **Iron Mike System**? How about circulation? How does circulation work?

**MT:** Yes, circulation does work. It works spectacular. I've used it myself and I can tell you. I've used it while traveling, at my training camp, in the shower. The circulation is great.

**OG:** And cataloging?

**MT:** Yes, cataloging, I'm pretty sure that works too. That works especially well. I'm pretty sure.

**Audience:** [Applause]

**OG:** And I'll bet it has a wonderful **OPAC** display, doesn't it?

**MT:** Oh, yes, very much so. Whenever ladies come over to my house they inevitably comment on how wonderful that **OPAC** display is.

**OG:** Now, **Mike**, if you were going to walk into a store and buy some other library system with all those features, how much would you expect to pay?

**MT:** Oh, I... I think millions of dollars, **Oscar**. Several million.

**OG:** But how much do you think we're selling the **Iron Mike Library System** for? A thousand? Five Hundred? One hundred?

**Audience:** [Applause. Whistling. Hooting. Fainting.]

**OG: Mike**, what if I told you that by calling now, we'll sell the **Iron Mike Library System** for \$79.95?

**Audience:** [Gasp]

**MT:** I would be astounded, **Oscar**. Simply flabbergasted. Did my agent agree to that price?

**OG:** That's right, folks! Call now and get the **Iron Mike Library System** for just \$79.95!

**MT:** [Moves threateningly close to **OG**] I said, did my agent agree to that?

**OG:** The first ten callers will receive as a special bonus the **Iron Mike** barcode wand!

**Audience:** [Applause. Whistling. Hooting.] 🍷

