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Adventures in Librarianship: DonCo

Ned Kraft

U.S. Department of State, kraftno@state.gov

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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.] 🍷

