November 2003

People Profile: John McDonald

Editor

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Recommended Citation

Editor (2003) 'People Profile: John McDonald,' Against the Grain: Vol. 15: Iss. 5, Article 17.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4165

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Column Editor: Allison Mays (Acquisitions Librarian, Millsaps College) <maysap@millsaps.edu>

JoAnne Kelley
National Sales Manager
Wolper Subscription Services
6 Centre Square, Suite 202
Easton, PA 18042
Phone: (610) 327-3971 (I'm in Boston)
Fax: (610) 469-0943
jkelly@wolper.com

BORN & LIVED: In Boston all my life.
EARLY LIFE: Boston.
FAMILY: Three sons, all graduated from college
now! Jeff, is 29 and just newly married, Ryan is 26, degree in Marketing, just moved back home from
CO where he went to UC, and Tim, 23, just
graduated from BU School of Management and is a
Financial Planner with American Express.
EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science from Boston
State Teachers College.
FIRST JOB: High school English teacher in Boston.
PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:
Member of the Teachers Union. Fund Raising
committees at my sons' colleges. I sit on a
domestic violence committee here in Boston.
Member of SLA.
FAVORITE BOOK: Anything by John Grisham and
Stephen King
PET PEES: When people use incorrect grammar
or use of words. (goes back to my teaching days).
PHILOSOPHY: Eleanor Roosevelt: “Life was meant
to be lived...”
MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:
Watching the first class I taught graduate!
GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN FIVE YEARS: Buy real
estate in the Caribbean!
HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE
YEARS: Well, I believe a second Internet will be
born; more portals technologies to manage and
access information; and digital content will just
continue to grow while everyone seeks to do global
business.

Thomas P. Gallina
Vice President & General Manager
Wolper Subscription Services
6 Centre Square, Suite 202
Easton, PA 18042
Phone: (610) 559-9550 x 235
Fax: (610) 559-9898
Cell: (610) 417-1332
tgallina@wolper.com

BORN & LIVED: I was born in Brooklyn, NY, in
1956. I'm the younger of two children. I have lived
in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island (three of
the five boroughs of NY), as well as Decatur and
most recently Oregon, Illinois. I am in the process
of moving back east to Pennsylvania.
FAMILY: Wife — Michele, Daughters — Christie,
FIRST JOB: Worked in the mailroom for Readmore
Publications. (My father, Phillip Gallina, who most
people knew, was a Salesman for Readmore.)
PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:
Worked for 22 years at Readmore (Blackwell);
started in mailroom and became Vice President of
in 1998 as VP of Operations and ran the Illinois
office until Faxon's demise in 2002. Hired in
January 2003 by Wolper Subscription Services as
Vice President & General Manager.
IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Golf, Golf, Golf —
did I mention Golf? Play basketball
Travis McGee novels by John D. MacDonald. Lord
of the Rings — J.R.R. Tolkien. Gulag Archipelago
— Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn.
WHAT MADE ME MAD: Witnessing the fall of
Faxon, by a group of people who did not care
about what we did or about the libraries we
serviced. Only cared about siphoning money from
Faxon to finance their other companies.
PHILOSOPHY: What will happen will happen and
there is no use in worrying about it. Enjoy life
and family.

John McDonald
Acquisitions Librarian
California Institute of Technology
jmcdonald@library.caltech.edu

BORN & LIVED: Bridgeport, NJ; Streator, IL;
Richmond, VA: Pasedena, CA.
FAMILY: My dad & stepmom, my mom, two
older sisters and a younger brother, and a sister-
in-law and brother-in-law. One wonderful 6 year
old niece, and three great nephews (5, 7, and 3
months) and a wonderful fiancee!
EDUCATION: BA History, University of Illinois,
1994; MS LIS, University of Illinois, 1997.
FIRST JOB: Collection Management Librarian for
the Social & Behavioral Sciences, Virginia
Commonwealth University.
IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Play softball, watch
sports (Yankees baseball, Steelers football),
garden, cook, homebrew beer.
FAVORITE BOOKS: 1) The Hobbit, Tolkien.
2) One Hundred Years of Solitude, Garcia
Marquez. 3) Last Train to Memphis, Guralnick.
4) Tales of Ordinary Madness, Bukowski.
TOP FIVE DESERT ISLAND ALBUMS: 1) At
Folsom Prison, Johnny Cash. 2) Too Far to Care,
Old 97s. 3) Anodyne, Uncle Tupelo. 4) Create
your own, Lennoneheads. 5) Life's Rich
Pageant, REM.
FAVORITE BEER: Goose Island IPA.
PHILOSOPHY: Work hard and maintain your
sense of humor.
MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:
My first presentation at the Charleston
Conference, of course! We were scheduled for
the very final presentation on Saturday, just
before noon! Fortunately, a few diehards stayed
in the audience to hear us. I had such a good
time that I almost always send in a proposal for
the conference now.
GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM
NOW: Finish my Ph.D. in library science that I am
currently pursuing at UCLA.
HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE
YEARS: I believe the industry will still be strong
in five years. Consolidation may reduce vendor
choices but will hopefully improve efficiency and
services. The serials field will be more
electronically based and more dynamic than
many librarians were used to in the 80’s and
90’s, but still challenging and important.
Hopefully, open archiving and author retention
of copyright will help stem (or reverse) the negative
impact most commercial publishers have had on
the dissemination of scholarly information.
Librarians will be expected to be more evaluators of
collectors and services than they are of selection
of that information. Reference and instruction
will retain strong footholds in our field.

charleston conference dates

future

Preconferences and Vendor Showcase
Main Conference
2003 5 November 6-8 November
2004 3 November 4-6 November
2005 2 November 3-5 November
2006 8 November 9-11 November
2007 7 November 8-10 November
2008 5 November 6-8 November
2009 4 November 5-7 November
2010 3 November 4-6 November

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