People Profile: Michelle Flinchbaugh

Editor

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

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4302

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

Michelle Flinchbaugh

Acquisitions Librarian, Albin O. Kuhn Library, UMBC
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250
Phone: (410) 455-6754 Fax: (410) 455-1598 <flinchba@umbc.edu>

BORN & LIVED: I was born and raised in northwest Indiana (about 20 miles from downtown Chicago). I lived in Bloomington, Indiana, for a few years, while in and out of college. Later I lived for awhile in Williamsburg, Virginia, then Ann Arbor, Michigan, before settling in Baltimore, Maryland.

EARLY LIFE: I was a brat, hopelessly spoiled by parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. During my Pre-K years, I endlessly asked "Why" and became infamous in my neighborhood for my absolutely incessant question-asking, along with the numerous pretty little dresses I ruined making "must-pies" with a little boy down the block. Later I read voraciously, played softball, hung out at the beach or the pool, and at the library, where the librarians knew me by name. I was "bright-smart," had grandiose dreams, and incredible wanderlust, while lacking in all common sense. I did not want to grow up and be a librarian, because my mother told me that's what I should grow up be.

FAMILY: I have a four-year-old son, and a husband who lives with his girlfriend. I have a large, close-knit extended family in the Chicago area that I don't get to see nearly enough.


FIRST JOB: During my high school years, I did semi-volunteer work in a convalescent home teaching elderly people who couldn't feed themselves. So I stopped wanting to be a doctor and started not knowing what I wanted to be. Sometime after that, the need for money led me to become a full-time fast-food worker. Finally I listened to my mother and decided to become a librarian.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: My first library position was as a graduate assistant working with Slavic language approval plans at Indiana University. My first Librarian position was working on a grant at the Center for Research Libraries cataloging foreign language newspapers. Later I cataloged historical newspapers on grant at the College of William and Mary, and was a Serials Cataloger at the University of Michigan. While working with serials, I was active in NASSG and served four years on its Electronic Communication Committee. Currently I'm the Acquisitions Librarian at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I edit the "Biz of Acq" column in Against the Grain, and serve on the University of Maryland and Affiliated Institution's Serials/Acquisitions Small Working Group for the consortial implementation of the Ex Libris integrated library system.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Most of my time is used up with work, raising my son, and improving my 105-year-old house by painting drywalls, refinishing floors, etc. I dream a lot of what I will do when I have spare time again. I would like to spend more time with nature, more time listening to music, more time gardening, and maybe even someday doing volunteer work with children or the elderly. I also occasionally dream of finding and buying antique furniture in poor condition and refinishing it. I do occasionally find time to read and float in my pool. Playing with my 4 year old son is a lot of fun.

FAVORITE BOOKS: It's Robert Heinlein's Time Enough for Love, although I'm a bit reluctant to admit it publicly, given the amount of incest in it. It comprised of a series of stories, and as a whole, the book is about things like the will to live, happiness, love, and social mores. While Science Fiction isn't my favorite genre, in this case Heinlein uses science fiction to challenge how we think about ourselves, and in my mind, to question the interrelationship between logic and emotions and how society values them.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: Closed-mindedness. When people can only see one side of an issue. When people see everything as either black or white. When people can't get out of the little programs running in their heads to see or understand something different or new. And the worst: When I lose those things myself.

PHILOSOPHY: Figure out what works and do it. Feelings come, feeling go.

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: I've done all kinds of things I'm really proud of, but ultimately, I think it's the times when I've been really good at motivating people that have been most meaningful, whether it's "planting" an idea and just letting it grow, or recognizing a good quality, or really listening and building a consensus based on what I've heard, or even simply pushing for more or better work. Nothing meaningful I've ever done has been done without the other people who worked on it or toward it.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: I would like to be involved in creating a library portal that is as easy, as natural, as useful, and as popular as Amazon.com, and I would like to make it integrated with campus information and classroom software so that users could seamlessly and easily use anything available for them. This is probably not a realistic goal, and it's not really in my job description as an acquisitions librarian, but it's what I'd really like to do. However, there is some small hope, so wish me luck. If I figure it out, I might I'd achieve big.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Likely someone will invent an eBook that people want to buy and read. Some library vendors might find a way to compete with online consumer vendors like Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com in terms of stock and speed of delivery. Maybe a library vendor will partner with an online consumer book dealer, offering specialty library services using the online consumer book dealer's Website and stock of books, giving libraries the best of both worlds. Journals may start to be cut out of the information chain as they become increasingly irrelevant as the package which journals articles come in. Someone in the industry will likely suffer a catastrophic loss of data due to a hacker or a virus. Oh, and we'll all replace all of our CD's and DVD's with the next thing that comes along.

Consortial Circulation ...

from page 34

patrons are continuing to request a growing number of articles through ILL. Because of the consortial agreements no fees are charged for ILL service between the USMAl libraries, and we all search our consortial partners holdings first. By searching catalogusmai Ill staff can quickly discover the paper and online holdings of others in the system, including the specialized databases, and search the materials accordingly. At UMBC alone, over the past eight fiscal years, an average of 41% of total article borrowing requests filled came from within the USM. And UMBC provided an average of 30% of total article requests filled to other USM libraries.

The University System of Maryland ILL Group (USMILL), with representatives from each of the campuses, works together to resolve problems as well as provide the best service to our patrons. The Group created a rush fax form that was used between the USM campuses when a rush was absolutely necessary, and before the OCLC request was even sent. They also lobbied the Council of Library Directors (CLD) to fund Ariel software and workstations for all the USM libraries so that everyone could provide the same level of service to our patrons and each other. Not all campuses were able to afford Ariel at the time, but most now have it. In addition, the USMILL group requested that CLD fund the purchase of CLIO software for all campuses so that our record keeping, and reporting of statistics to the Directors, would be compatible. By purchasing CLIO consortially the USM was given a discounted price which made it all the more affordable. On a yearly basis the USM ILL offices now share statistics which project a more complete and accurate picture of ILL borrowing and lending between the campuses.

Impact on Collection Development

Patron Placed Holds were originally implemented to increase resource sharing and make departmental book budgets go further. In theory, each library should be purchasing fewer items that duplicate other USMAl libraries collections. However, there is no consortial agreement regarding collection development, so various USMAl libraries have very different policies regarding the duplication of other libraries' collections. Some libraries do not consider other libraries' holdings at all when making purchasing decisions, while others might have policies against purchasing any title owned by another USMAl library, while yet other libraries might have a policy against purchasing any title owned by two or more other libraries in the consortium. At UMBC we have thought that selectors should be purchasing fewer items that duplicate other USMAl collections, and that the uniqueness of UMBC's collections should be increasing.

In practice, selectors seem to request just as many items that are owned by other USMAl institutions, despite collection development policies geared toward assisting selectors in reducing that duplication. Both online and book order forms contain an area where selectors may indicate whether they still want an item to be purchased even if it is already owned by another USMAl library. Consistently, selectors indicate on orders that they want the item whether it's owned by another USMAl library or not, displaying little concern for cooperative collection development. In Fiscal Year 2002, for example, out of 9,778 books requested, only 314 orders, three percent, indicated

continued on page 38

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>