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People Profile: Margo Warner Curl

Editor

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**ATG:** Last year I believe you bought **SIRS** which strengthened you in the K-12 market. Do you have plans to make more acquisitions of companies? Partnerships? What types of companies are you considering/would you consider?

**RK:** Our **SIRS** acquisition enhances our leadership in the K-12 library market and diversifies our offerings with strong topic-specific content. **SIRS** gives us greater visibility in the libraries that are our current customers and access to libraries that are not already customers. If we are going to continue to lead our industry, we need to acquire companies that will fit well with our current product line and our future plans.

One of our strategies for growth is acquiring other companies for their human talent, content, products and technology. This year, we have aggressive acquisition plans and have already announced our acquisitions of **Reading A-Z** and **Copley Publishing**. We have a dedicated team involved in identifying, researching, recommending, and integrating companies that we acquire. We will continue to acquire companies that enhance our leadership position and meet needs for our customers.

**ATG:** You have recently announced partnerships with **Bepress** to digitize dissertations and you are digitizing content in other areas. Can you comment on this? What sells in the library market these days?

**RK:** We continually engage our customers to get their feedback — good and bad. We also bring other parties into the electronic creation of our vast library of content and other content that exists outside of **ProQuest**. We believe there are many partners we can collaborate with to continue the growth of our material. In doing so, we can work with others to help bring products to market while expanding the possibilities of information access.

**ATG:** Tell us about yourself and your family. What are your passions? What do you like to read?

I have three daughters with a range from a senior in college to a pre-K and a wonderful bride.

We engage in numerous activities as a family, and it is my #1 passion. A bike ride in the mountains back east is one of our pleasures. I love reading especially books that provide a break from the business world. I often read the “airplane fast-paced book,” such as **Harlan Coben**, **Stephen Frey**, and **John Grisham**. Currently I am finishing a **Frey** book (I have read all of his). On vacation I read something more robust. I expect to read the **Franklin** and **Churchill** bestsellers this summer in between days at the lake and bike riding with my family.

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### Margo Warner Curl

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**BORN & LIVED:** Allahabad, India. My father taught dairy technology at an agricultural college in India for 38 years, my mother was there for 35 years as a dietitian and homemaker (they were married in Mumbai).

**EARLY LIFE:** Most of my schooling from primary through high school was at Woodstock School, a boarding school in the foothills of the Himalayas in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, India. I was raised with the strong influences of Indian culture and the international, interdenominational missionary community associated with the school.

**FAMILY:** A son, James, who graduated from Berklee College of Music in August, 2003, and is an audio engineer for a recording studio in Pittsburgh; and a husband who has his own set of 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

**EDUCATION:** B.A., Central Washington University; M.A. in Linguistics, University of Oregon; M.L.I.S., UC Berkeley.

**FIRST JOB:** First paying job - cleaning maids at a nursing home/residence center in Seattle. First library job - Cataloging clerk, Portland State University Library.

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** Worked 3 years as a paraprofessional in libraries. After MLS, first had two temporary positions - one at the Oregon State Library and next at Western Oregon University. Then got a real job as a monographic cataloger at the University of Idaho. Moved across country to become the Technical Services Librarian at The College of Wooster in 1988. I've worked in almost all areas of libraries (cataloging, collection development, documents, I.L.L., instruction, reference, serials, systems). Am currently at the end of a three-year stint running a grant-supported cooperative collection development project. I'm involved in state cooperative collection development activities through the OhioLINK Collection Building Task Force and the Academic Library Association of Ohio's Collection Management Interest Group.

**IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO:** Do things with my hands. My latest acquired skill is chair caning. I also putter around in my own fashion (hate following patterns or recipes) with cooking, basketry, sewing, and other handwork; and I spend a lot of time digging in the garden. I don't have enough spare time to do everything I'd like to do.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** I've enjoyed various authors and genres at different stages of life. I have a special fondness for **Emily Carr**, the late Canadian writer and artist. I read a lot of fiction by authors from South Asia or the South Asian diaspora. In my reading for cooperative collection development I have gotten sidetracked into the philosophy of the book (e.g., **Walter Ong**, **Roger Chartier**) and find it all fascinating though a bit beyond this bear of little brain.

**PET PEEVES:** Having spent my formative years outside of this country, I'm greatly annoyed by those who believe that the "American way of life" is a deliberate entitlement from God.

**PET PEACE:** Can't think of a pithy statement — life is too complex to reduce to a single one.

**MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** I have really enjoyed working on the cooperative collection development project, but whether that is ultimately meaningful is for others to judge.

**GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW:** I hope I'll be step closer to figuring out what I want to be when I grow up, and continue to be learning and exploring new things.

**WHERE DO I SEE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** GenXers and beyond will have more influence and will be changing the shape of the profession. We will still be grappling with many of the same issues we're now, though balances may be tipped in ways we can't now anticipate. Librarians and information professionals will still be arguing about what to call themselves and will still be running hard to try to keep up with the ever-evolving information landscape.

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