2003

From Your (envelope addressing) Editor

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain, kstrauch@comcast.net

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From your (envelope addressing) Editor

Well, my son’s wedding is less than six weeks away. Guess what I’m doing (when I am not working on JAG)? You guessed it! Addressing invitations to the Rehearsal Dinner. I already have my mother-of-the-groom dress, now it’s just a matter of fitting it in, so the Rehearsal Dinner is the next big event on the calendar. Yikes!

But I tore myself away from the calligraphy pen to read this issue. It is incredible. Tom Gilson, our guest editor, has put together some great papers from Fran Wilkinson and Linda Lewis, Irv Rockwood, Phil Powell, and Alis Whitt. We also have a paper on pricing models from Barbara Schader and Mark Funk, and another one on eBook buying from Sydney Allen and Heather Miller. Back further in the issue, we have interviews with Gary Shirk, Ron Boehm and Rolf Janke, profiles on the work of Rob Withers, a hilarious Ned Kraft piece on Fear Factors in libraries, and a timely article on filtering by Bryan Carson. Now you just have to see for yourself what all else is in this issue. I have to finish the addressing. Or else I will be in trouble with my new “in-laws.”

Yr. Ed.

Rumors
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www.ybp.com/ybp/newsarchive/
www.willisi.com/
http://news.corporate.fidias.com/prnewswire/
20030703/03jd/200307034412.html

And this as we go to press — The Thomson Corporation (TSX: TOC; NYSE:TOC) has acquired Techstreet, Inc., a digital content delivery company that provides full-text industry standards and specifications to engineers, researchers, and technical information professionals worldwide. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Techstreet delivers full-text standards and specifications from Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs), including the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the British Standards Institution (BSI), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and hundreds more SDOs giving them one of the world’s largest collections of industry standards and specifications. Most documents can be obtained in both print and electronic format, via subscription or single-document delivery. The Techstreet offering also includes a large collection of technical books, materials property data, and technical training from publishers, industry associations, and technical societies worldwide. “This business provides Thomson a key source of foundational content,” said Mike Tansey, Chief Executive Officer of Thomson Scientific. “Adding Techstreet makes Thomson a stronger one-stop resource for technical and intellectual property information for engineering research and development, delivering patents, journal literature, and standards information.” “We are very enthusiastic about the opportunities presented by this agreement,” said Gregg Hammrman, Co-founder and President, Techstreet. Techstreet will become part of the Scientific and Healthcare business within Thomson Scientific and Healthcare, and will be managed by Gregg Hammrman and Andrew Bank, Co-founder and Vice President of Business Development. www.techstreet.com

Plus — This just out courtesy of Reuters and LibrInCense. — British private equity firm Candover Investments CDLL said recently that the U.S. Department of Justice has cleared its acquisition of science and trade publisher BertelsmannSpringer, announced in May. Candover, which joined with fellow British-based buyout firm Cinven to make the 1.05 billion euro ($1.14 billion) offer to Germany’s Bertelsmann AG BERT.UL, said the U.S. had also given the go-ahead for the two firms to merge the unit with their own scientific publisher, Kluwer Academic Publishers (KAP). The newly merged company, to be called Springer, will create the world’s second-largest publisher of scientific, technical and medical titles, the private equity firms said in a statement. They added that Springer will have revenues of about 880 million euros. The deal is expected to close on September 15. Candover and Cinven acquired Netherlands-based KAP from publishing house Wolters Kluwer in January 2003 for 600 million euros. In May, they announced a deal to acquire BertelsmannSpringer, but have been waiting for regulatory approval to close the deal ever since. The transaction was cleared in Europe in July after Candover and Cinven agreed to remove French competition concerns by offering to sell Bertelsmann’s French medical publishing business. The two firms said they each would have a 50 percent stake in Springer and would plan to control the business for the next three to five years — a typical timeframe for private equity investments. http://reuters.com/news/Article.
html?type=businessNews&storyID=333777

I have some incredibly sad news to report. Heard from the incredibly energetic, fabulous, up-beat, hard-working, industrious, and just all-out wonderful Dana Alessi <dalessi4@cox.net>. Dana left Baker & Taylor to work for Ovid in January of 2000 and has held several other interesting and challenging jobs as well since she fell in love with Las Vegas and wanted to stay there. But now Dana is facing her biggest challenge of all. She has recently had surgery for a brain tumor and has been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Dana wants that she could last from months to a few years. She says she wants people to know since she’d love to hear from all of us about how we’re all doing. In time Dana even hopes to go back to work. She can be reached at this new email <dalessi4@cox.net> or via snail mail at 7908 Riviera Beach Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89128, tel 702-562-0560. Dana says she treasures all her memories of all the wonderful Charleston conferences and her library, publishing, and vending friends. We love you, Dana!

8/12/03 was the anniversary of Lyman Newlin’s 70th year in the book business! He started his first job in 1933 working for the Economy Book Stores in Chicago. The Depression was on and so was the World’s Fair. FDR had just pushed through the 40-hour work week with a minimum of $15/week. The history this man has lived through is incredible as is his encyclopedic memory for everything, especially names! He says he’ll be in Charleston in November! Plus he’s just renewed his driver’s license and it doesn’t expire until he’s 101! My gosh!

The truly amazing Charles W. Bailey, Jr. <cbailey@uh.edu> has been appointed Assistant Dean for Digital Library Planning and Development at the University of Houston Libraries. He served as Assistant Dean for Systems at the University of Houston Libraries from 1987 to 2003. As you may remember, in 1989, Bailey established PACS-L, a mailing list about public-access computers in libraries, and the Public-Access Computer Systems Review, one of the first scholarly electronic journals published on the Internet. He served as Editor-in-Chief of this free, peer-reviewed e-journal until the end of 1996. In that year, he made available the first version of the Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography, a free electronic book that is regularly updated. As the bibliography evolved, a resource directory and a Weblog were added. Forty-nine versions of the bibliography have been published, and there have been over 2.5 million requests for its component files. In recognition of his early electronic publishing efforts, Bailey was given a Network Citizen Award by the Apple Library in 1992 and the first LITA/Library Hi Tech Award for Outstanding Achievement in Communicating to Educate Practitioners Within the Library Field in Library and Information Technology in 1993. Bailey was profiled in the Movers & Shakers 2003: The People Who Are Shaping the Future of Libraries supplement to the March 15, 2003 issue of Library Journal. Bailey has served as co-editor of Advances in Library Automation and Networking and on the editorial boards of Library Computing and Reference Services Review. In 1998, he served as the first Vice Chairperson of the Library and Information Technology Association’s Imagineering Interest Group, and he subsequently served as its Chairperson. He is a frequent contributor of reviews to Current Cites. http://info.lib.uchicago.edu/cvb/bailey.htm

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