People Profile: Mary Page

Editor
Provocatively, she asks, “Can you hold an electron in your hand?”

Mary Grenie, the serials cataloger at the University of Oregon, provides a reality check. Processes have changed, some for the good and some less so. Staff who took great pride in their work resolving problems with printed serials now sometimes find that other staff members (acquisitions or systems staff, for example) take the lead in troubleshooting. Mary provides the important reminder that staff morale needs our attention as well.

And finally, Adam Chester, the assistant director of sales and library relations for the American Chemical Society, describes the changing landscape from a scholarly society publisher’s point of view. With so many value-added options (interactive tables and links to yet more data and tables), what exactly is an article, not to mention a journal, these days? Adam’s perspective is so important for librarians to hear about: who knew publishers migrated systems, too?

All of these articles address the disruptive technologies that have changed the way everyone in our industry does business. We change, hit an obstacle, pick up the pieces, regroup, and do it again. While no one has quite figured out the ideal method, we’ve all done pretty well in finding the best way to shape the digital landscape to fulfill our service missions. What was true for the ancient Greeks is true for us as well: the only thing permanent is change. Just don’t try to manage it!