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Adventures in Librarianship -- Glossary of Terms

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Adventures in Librarianship — Glossary of Terms
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From a recent reader survey, the ATG Editorial Board learned that many are confused by some of the terms the journal uses. Some accused the writers of being “high-fallutin’,” “snoopy,” and (worst of all) “academic.” While the Editor demands that we wield the language with precision, our accountant reminds us of our obligation to you, generous readers, even those of you with inferior educations.

To remedy, we have compiled a short glossary of terms commonly used in our business but perhaps unfamiliar to those who are not really paying attention, and do not generally read ATG beyond the light, satirical stuff. We hope the following will quiet the unwashed.

Absorbitant: When a publisher, while buying up other publishers, holds more than seven separate imprints, that publisher is said to be “Absorbitant.” From the Latin sorbo; to inhale to such an extent that onlookers believe you might explode.

Ramsining: When a book-jobber’s representative drops by unannounced. From the Sanskrit amsin: a common metallic ore often mistaken for silver, or at the very least nickel.

Kilarchinum: A pile of shredded publisher’s promotional leaflets. “That’s not confetti; that’s kilarchinum!”

Overplenical: When, because a library has bought several aggregated databases, a common magazine has many pathways for electronic access. “Time magazine is extremely overplenicle; so rather than explain the mess, let’s just tell customers we don’t have it.” From the English over, meaning “over.”

Contrapantalgation: The process of removing inactive vendors from one’s database. From the Greek pantoo, meaning to flush something out to sea or chase small children away by waving a stick.

Protrivexal: The feeling that a special librarian gets when asked why her highly professional collection includes online access to NASCAR Today and the like. “One of the Scientists chewed me out today about Modern Basketry. I got all protrivexal and had to sit down.”

Disengooliation: 1) The iterative process of explaining to students that not all information is available freely on the Internet. 2) Any act of instruction where incredulous students sneer at the supposed ignorance of their teacher. From the Old English goog: an elderly person covered in a sticky substance.

Biblioparmacism: The change seen in any middle-management or administrative librarian who begins a regimen of antidpressants. From the Latin pharm: a place where animals live happily before being sent to slaughter.

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their thirty-one journal titles. The AAA is the world’s largest professional organization of scholars and students with eleven thousand members. Their suite of journals includes American Anthropologist the oldest and most widely circulated title from the Association. Portico’s partnership with the American Anthropological Association ensures these valuable journals will be preserved for future students, researchers, and scholars in the field of anthropology. In addition to supplying their journal title list in Portico, the AAA has agreed to make an annual financial contribution to Portico and has designated the Portico archive as the official delivery platform for post-cancellation access claims. The AAA’s journals are published by the University of California Press, one of the oldest scholarly publishers in the United States. The AAA joins the American Mathematical Association, Oxford University Press, Elsevier, John Wiley & Sons, Berkeley Electronic Press, Symposium Journals, and UK Serials Group as publisher participants in the Portico archive. The mission of Portico is to preserve scholarly literature published in electronic form and to ensure that these materials remain accessible to future scholars, researchers, and students.

And speaking of Portico, look for our interview with Eileen Fenton, the executive director of Portico, this issue, p.54. As well as Greg Tananbaum’s column, this issue, p.84.

And speaking of archiving ematerials, continued on page 16