

2006

Adventures in Librarianship -- Glossary of Terms

Ned Kraft

U.S. Department of State, kraftno@state.gov

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



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kraft, Ned (2006) "Adventures in Librarianship -- Glossary of Terms," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 18: Iss. 2, Article 45.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4674>

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.

Adventures in Librarianship — Glossary of Terms

by **Ned Kraft** (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State) <kraftno@state.gov>

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,” “snooty,” 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.

Absorbant: When a publisher, while buying up other publishers, holds more than seven separate imprints, that publisher is said to be “Absorbant.” From the Latin sorbo: to inhale to such an extent that on-lookers 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 overplenical; so rather than explain the mess, let's just tell customers we don't have it.” From the English *over*, meaning “over.”

Contrapantalgration: The process of removing inactive vendors from one's database. From the Greek *pantoon*, 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.”

Disengooqliation: 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 snicker at the supposed ignorance of their teacher. From the Old English *goog*: an elderly person covered in a sticky substance.

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

Rumors

from page 12

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. participation@portico.org

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

e-mail ▶ info@brockhaus-germanbooks.com
Internet ▶ www.brockhaus-germanbooks.com

No two faces are alike

The same holds true for libraries. **Brockhaus/German Books** recognizes that every collection is as unique as a face.

We develop a deep understanding of each customer's library and its unique requirements. Our customers choose from a full range of library services and enjoy services tailored to their individual needs.

Brockhaus/German Books
Library services face to face

Kreidlerstraße 9
70806 Kornwestheim
Germany

Telephone
(+49) 71 54/13 27 49

Fax
(+49) 71 54/13 27 13