From Your (bundled up) Editor

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Okay. I know I am a wimp, but I am ready for summer. This has been a terrible winter in Charleston. I have worn a coat every day since December. People who have moved to Charleston thinking it's never cold, are having their heads examined.

But, take heart! This issue of ATG will warm us up. Guest edited by Cris Ferguson, Betty Kelly, and Julie Carter, it is full of all kinds of data about eBooks. Articles are by Alan Dawson and Jake Wallis, Heather Wicht, Toby Green and Matt Brosius, Ramune Kubilius, Jill Grogg, Beth Ashmore, Ellen McCullough, Randle Gedeon, Bettina Meyer, Wilhelm Widmark, Brian Clark, William Thompson, Betty Kelly, Julie Carter, Cris Ferguson, Alberta Davis Comer, Lynn Sillipigni Connaway, and Clifton Snyder. There is an Op Ed by Steve McKinzie regarding keeping print in the face of electronic access, and Part Three in Mark Herrings series on filtering the Internet titled “Free Speech and Filtering Myths.”

Plus much, much more! Gotta go. My husband tells me the sun is out and I may not need a coat outside. I’m excited. Happy New Year and Stay Warm!

Yr. Ed.

More from Sirsi — Sirsi Corporation has acquired Docutek Information Systems Inc., a library technology company which focuses on resource and elearning solutions. Now a wholly owned subsidiary of Sirsi, Docutek will continue to design, develop, sell, and support its Docutek ERes, Docutek VRPLUS, and Docutek atSchool products. Docutek’s offices, personnel, and day-to-day operations remain virtually unchanged.

The new Docutek subsidiary will be an independent business unit that reports up to Sirsi’s board of directors and CEO, Dr. Philip Kesten, Docutek’s VP of marketing and co-founder will retain his role in the new Docutek subsidiary, as will Yonn Samuels, Docutek’s director of engineering. Other development, support, and sales personnel within Docutek also remain unchanged. Nathan Vince, president and CEO of Docutek, and Slaven Zivkovic, Docutek’s VP of technology and co-founder, will pursue other interests.

www.docutek.com

Speaking of which, Rittenhouse Book Distributors, Inc. and Sirsi are collaborating to provide enhanced functionality for placing book orders electronically through electronic data interchange (EDI) using the x12 protocol. The two companies will also complete functionality for online book ordering via the Sirsi DXL Loader. This partnership is intended to enable Sirsi libraries to use the Unicorn Library Management System to electronically order, invoice, and receive materials from Rittenhouse quickly and more efficiently.

Rittenhouse Book Distributors, Inc. is an aggregator of print and digital content and provides access to products, services, and information for health sciences, scientific, and technical publishing.

www.rittenhouse.com

www.sirsi.com

www.ecomcontentmag.com/Articles/ArticleReader.asp?ArticleID=7515

Well, hope you enjoyed “Words... They’re Just Words” by John Riley <jdriley@comcast.net> in the last issue of ATG (v.15#6, December 2004/January 2005), pp. 92-93. Like a periphrastic idiot, I forgot to mention that the short story comes from the book Ebe Fink...Little Tales of Horror from Libraries & Bookshops published by Benjamin Press in Northampton, Massachusetts. This is available from Eastern Book as well as from John himself and many other sources. So, check it out! I know that besides Bruce and me, Toni Nix, my hard-working right-hand ATG printer and her husband Dean loved the story and the book. Anyway, John says that he is working on some new stories and the latest involves Johannes Gutenberg, Jesus, and Satan! Hmmm...

Speaking of which, another off the wall idea that we have is that we would like to start running some library, publishing, vending and related fiction on our new “Fiction Page” (see this issue p.69). There are more people than you know out there (colleagues) that are writing such and we are loosing forward to reading it! Anyway, there is even a Fiction Page contest, so see this issue, p.69!

And just so you know that ATG still has and will continue to have some serious scholarly articles with noteworthy impact, I want to update you on happenings at ALA Midwinter. ATG was mentioned in a lengthy article in ALA Connects, issue 5, midwinter 2005 Highlights, p.4. The article was “Is Print Reference Dead?” by Walter Bell and continued on page 8

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>