People Profile: William Thompson

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Recommended Citation
Editor (2005) "People Profile: William Thompson," Against the Grain: Vol. 17: Iss. 1, Article 35.
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4759

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against the grain
people profile

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William Thompson


EARLY LIFE: Most of my early life was spent learning to walk, talk, and avoid authority figures. This prefigures my later and present life.

FAMILY: I am single and programmed to remain that way.

EDUCATION: BA Fordham University 1979 (Latin and English); Ph.D. University of Southern Mississippi 1995 (English); MLIS Louisiana State University 1997; I am starting an MS in Instructional Technology.


PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Reference, Bibliographic Instruction, Collection Development, Programming, Grant Writing, Walking Around Hallucinating New Ideas.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Read (seriously— I really do like to read); take photographs; count the cats (12) and dogs (4) I share my life with; cruise for cute guys; advise my friends about how to snare cute guys; wonder where things went wrong with the cute guy I was dating—I didn’t want to get married.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Andrew Holleran’s Dancer from the Dance, Adrienne Rich’s poetry, Vanity Fair, all of Evelyn Waugh, Barnaby Rudge by Dickens, Star Money by Kathleen Winsor, Pride and Prejudice. I could go on and on...

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: Being late, waiting for other people who are late, the lack of movie theaters in my town, academic pretense and condescension, people who don’t know Latin.


MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Leading the successful effort to get domestic partner benefits on my campus.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Be ungodly rich. find myself in the arms of a very charming man, and continue to amuse myself and others.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: More of the same. More digital content; fewer people in the building; more need to rethink what we do (luckily there are lots of things to do if you know where/how/look); fewer librarians in the building, more librarians or librarian-like people working all over campus to help people connect with the information they need. Archives and Special Collections are going to be huge growth areas (as universities actually own for the most part) the intellectual content contained in them. Anything that can be **reasonably** outsourced will be.

References

I Have Seen the Future
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likely to read from a computer screen and less insistent about printing” (Lynch, 2001). Eco claims some hackers, grown up on computers, have read great literary masterpieces on eBooks (Eco, 2003). Maybe so, but a casual scroll through the Amazon top twenty-five eBook titles reveals a mix primarily of pornography, business titles, and computing books.

In the classic horror masterpiece, Frankenstein, the monster is created using electricity but the beast is not accepted and the town’s people revolt. If we continue to attempt to electrify the printed book, will readers revolt, or are they ready to accept this half-book, half-beast we call an eBook? 🙅‍♀️