June 2005

ATG Deadlines

Editor

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From your (who would have guessed) Editor:

It has been a strange spring here in Charleston. It has been basically cold for us (high 50s and low 60s) and we don’t like it. Of course, we don’t like the heat either. We want California perfect weather. Why can’t we have that?

This means that when my daughter Ileana graduated from the University of South Carolina Honors College (can’t help myself, magna cum laude) it was cold. We were wearing inappropriate summer clothes. Who would have guessed?

Plus, problems with technology continued when the whole email folder on my harddrive crashed and couldn’t be recovered. What can I say? Who would have guessed? Everyone says it will happen but we never believe it. We never take precautions. We say we will back things up “later” or “soon.”

Still, in the face of graduations and technical failures, this issue chugged along. Who would have guessed? Stefanie Dubose is our guest editor for this issue, which is on training for acquisitions and collection development. Some great useful articles. And our Special Report section in this issue is guest edited by Bob Houbeck who gives us a series of papers that give us an inside look at some of the many issues in budgeting for acquisitions and collection development. And, of course, there’s much more. A great interview with the wonderful Norm Desmarais and profiles of Paul Strey, Tim Daniels and William Walsh. We have an Op Ed by Rollo Turner on selling direct by publishers and Rick Lug and Ruth Fischer give a response to Robert Behra’s Op Ed in the last issue regarding necessary tasks in technical services. Ellen Finnie Durnaceau has delivered her much-awaited second part of the ERM picture. And, of course, there’s much much more.

Y’all have a good summer and see you in Chicago.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrach@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor:

Against the Grain’s Mark Herring has outdone himself this time. His most recent “Red Herring” column, his three-part series on Internet filtering (November, December-January, February), is something of a tour de force. Herring’s piercing critique of the anti-filtering ALA establishment, his common sense concerns about the perniciousness of pornography, and his contention that traditional collection development selectivity ought to be applied to the Internet all make a great deal of sense. His arguments won’t be easily answered.

In the process, Herring’s three-part series challenges us all. He encourages us to explore old prejudices, asks us to reexamine the profession’s status quo, and bids us think hard about liberty and free speech. Even so, I fear his cogent arguments and his challenge may fall on deaf ears. I frankly wonder. Are those of us in the library field too hidebound to listen? Are we too entrenched to think outside the box (or outside of the screen for that matter) on issues of censorship?

Let’s hope not.

Steve McKindie, Library and Information Services, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA 17013 <mckindie@dickinson.edu>

Runners

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Guess what? the awesomely fantastic and buff Mary Pagle <mary@wisewomensworkouts.com> is up to? She’s now working 20 hours per week for Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. And in her other free time when a lot of us are thinking of retiring, Mary has started her own personal training and pilates business called WISE WOMENS WORKOUTS! (Mary adds that she trains men as well!) She has a small studio near Union Square in Manhattan and also goes to people’s homes and offices. No more business travel for her! One of my fondest memories of Mary (besides, bless her heart, when she called me for the awesome Jolanda von Hagen), is when she ran an exercise class at NASIG for a group of us. We were all bushed, except for her! Remember those days, Mary? Jeez! Good luck! And happy exercising! BTW, how about a pilates preconference in 2006? 917-750-8531 <mary@wisewomensworkouts.com>

And a voice from the past! Philip Dankert <pdankert@twcny.rr.com> wrote to say that he was doing some cleaning up and came across several old issues of Against the Grain and realized that, although he is happily retired, he misses us! Phil says he spent a good deal of time this winter on the ski slopes of central New York. (He is the youngest member of the great people he skis with; most of whom are in their late 70’s and early 80’s!) Phil and his wife are expecting another grandchild in late June; a boy, and since Phil’s son lives ten miles from Ithaca, I’ll bet there will be baby-sitting coming up. Phil says he gets back to Catherwood Library on occasion but only to visit. The ideal library life, if you ask me. We miss you, Phil!!

The visionary Jan Veltenen, Director and Publisher of BioMed Central, will be leaving to pursue independently his many engagements as an advocate of Open Access to societies, funding institutions and publishers. Jan has been a key figure in the development of the Open Access model and its acceptance by the research community, and will now be extending his expertise to other organizations and initiatives.