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Adventures in Librarianship -- American Idle

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Adventures in Librarianship — American Idle

by **Ned Kraft** (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State)
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“This is it. We’re down to our final three librarians. My name is **Ryan Seafoam** and this is **American Idle!**”

“Let’s meet our judges. First, from **Cleveland Public**, the infamous **Randy Down**.”

“Wassup, dawg!”

“From the **Northern Miami State University Janitorial Library**, **Paula Freshly**.”

“Hi.”

“Finally, you either love him or hate him and I’ve never met anyone who loved him, from the **Library of PS 32** in New York City, **Simon Cudgley!**”

“Hmm.”

“And here’s our final three librarians: **Sammy Mott**, **Conchita Fragrance**, and **Bill Terpid**. Are you nervous kids? Yes? No?”

“**Sammy**, last night you presented an authority record for **Quaker Oats Company**. **Randy** said he liked your style, but thought you didn’t ‘bring it.’ **Paula** said that you’re a beautiful young man and that she wouldn’t mind marrying you. **Simon** thought that your 670 fields were ‘flacid’ and your 667 fields were ‘perhaps some sort of library prank.’”



“**Conchita**, you showed the audience your circulation speed by wanding twelve patrons through with 43 books in 24 seconds. **Randy** liked your outfit, thought you were ‘way fast,’ but lacked ‘that soul thing.’ **Paula** thought you were a lovely girl and would make a wonderful mother some day. And **Simon**, to him your performance was ‘amateurish at best, bordering on vulgar.’”

“Finally, **Mr. Terpid**. Your display of spine repair left **Randy** feeling ‘sort of queasy inside’ as if he had eaten a bad taco. **Paula** loved your big strong hands and the way you squeezed the glue out of its tube. **Simon** suggested that you not be allowed near tools or books ever again.”

“But the audience voted in record numbers. Thirty-seven callers jammed our phone lines. And the results... of our 2007 **American Idle** contest... for the best librarian in America... the most talented... the results... were... inconclusive. Oh yes I’m sorry everyone. They were all crank calls! Please come back next week, and for as many weeks as it takes. I promise we’ll come up with the 2007 **American Idle**, our favorite librarian, even if it kills us!”

Rumors from page 8

lege of Charleston) and the **IAMSLIC listserv** at **UC-Davis — American Geophysical Union (AGU)** members who subscribe to the journal **Geophysical Research Letters** or the **Member Journal Library** now have access to scanned issues of **GRL** going back to Vol. 1, 1974. This begins the first phase of the **AGU Digital Library** project to digitize all journals to their earliest volume. The current preview is in the beta stage and does not include linked references or the option for single article sales, which will be available when the library is complete. The **AGU Digital Library** will include over 60,000 **AGU journal articles** going back to 1896 followed by over 600 books and 100,000 pages of **Eos** and its predecessor **Transactions**. The **Publications Committee** and **AGU staff** are working on a subscription model to offer the **AGU Digital Library** to institutions. A plan will be ready for institutions for the **2008 subscription year**.

www.agu.org/pubs/e_publishing/digitize_2007.html

www.agu.org

The incredible **Charles Bailey** sends word that **Version 67** of the **Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography** is now available from **Digital Scholarship**. This selective bibliography presents over 2,960 articles, books, and other printed and electronic sources that are useful in understanding scholarly electronic publishing efforts on the Internet. An article about the bibliography has been published in **The Journal of Electronic Publishing**. Whew! What a job it must be to maintain this bibliography! Thank you, **Charles!**

www.press.umich.edu/jep/07-02/bailey.html

www.digital-scholarship.org/sepb/sepb.html

Was putting quotations on my answering machine and ran across this one by **L.P. Bartharty** — “The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.” Seems to me that our society does not value old timers the way some other societies do. Read **Rick Lugg**’s and **Ruth Fisher**’s article, this issue, p.84, and tell us what you think.

Forgot to mention that **Ingenta** has merged with **VISTA International** to form a new business, **Publishing Technology plc**. The fantabulous **Doug Wright** (Vice President, **IngentaConnect**) says that while the merger will not affect **IngentaConnect** directly, **Ingenta** is already benefiting from the strengthened organization.

eyetoeye.ingenta.com/library/

ProQuest CSA and the **Early English Books Online (EEBO) Text Creation Partnership** have announced the call for entries for the **2007 EEBO in Undergraduate Studies Essay Competition**. The competition grants five prizes with cash awards totaling more than \$2,500. The deadline for submitting essays is **October 31, 2007**. Winners will be announced in January 2008. The **EEBO in Undergraduate Studies Essay Competition** honors undergraduate research papers that rely on research conducted via the **Early English**

continued on page 12