2008

Letters to the Editor

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From Your (meeting-d out) Editor:

The beginning of the school year is always hectic — meetings, meetings, and more meetings! And this year has its own set of new challenges.

But we still persevered and turned out another outstanding issue of Against the Grain thanks to our many columnists and guest editors! This issue is guest-edited by the incomparable Bruce Heterick of JSTOR and encompasses many important issues and questions that we all must consider for the good of the order of librarianship and our place in society. Topics covered include ejournal archiving, library director attitudes toward digital preservation, digital preservation for the smaller academic library, eBooks, and more. We have several special reports from Tony Horava (libraries as publishers; publishers as libraries), Jeannette Smith and Elizabeth Titus (the MLS), and Camille McCutcheon (psychology collection development). Our interviews this issue is with Helen Parr, Executive editor of Medical Online and Ursula Schwarz in Philip Hallman’s Media Minder.

Back Talk is about butterflies and POD technology, Greg Tananbaum’s Train column gets us to thinking about the theme of the 2008 Charleston Conference — The Best of Times, The Worst of Times, Todd Carpenter talks about standards and culture shock, Cris Ferguson clicks her way to information literacy, Rick Lugg and Ruth Fisher take on a new identity with their column — from I, User to Future Tense — and discuss weeding, Xan Arch tells us about Wikis in acquisitions which we can all take to heart. There is so much more in this issue and even more to come in November so do not quit reading.

Now I have to stop and go to, you guessed it, a meeting … who was it that said “meetings are held to discuss many problems which would never arise if we held fewer meetings?”

Love, Yr. Ed. 🍃

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@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.

— Geoffrey "Yr (meeting-d out) Editor:

Greetings — I just had an opportunity to read Mark Herrings’ June 2008 “Little Red Herrings” column for ATG (v.20#3, p.75). I wanted to thank Mark for providing a fair and balanced look at the Blended Librarian approach that John Shank and I have been sharing the last few years. We’ve never been evangelistic about the ideas or the community. We simply put it out there as something that our colleagues may find of interest to them. If it doesn’t appeal to you (a “naysayer” I guess), feel free to find whatever works for you. John and I respect that there are other librarians out there offering their own solutions that might have more appeal for some librarians than what we have to offer. We do find that our ability to offer ongoing free Webcasts on topics related to improving ourselves and our libraries continues to be popular among our colleagues.

Aside from Mark’s mentions of BL, I really enjoyed what he said in the column this time. We are certainly of a like mind with respect to our concerns for this profession and those we serve.

Thanks again. I hope that as a result of Mark’s column some new colleagues will take a closer look at Blended Librarianship. We continue to evolve the ideas and goals we’ve set for the community, and now are exploring new territory over at Designing Better Libraries (http://dbl.lishost.org).

Regards,

Steven J. Bell
(Associate University Librarian for Research and Instructional Services, Temple University Libraries) <bells@temple.edu> http://library.temple.edu 🍃

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 20 & 21 — 2008-2009

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Rumors
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ebrary has been selected by Ambassador Books and Media to provide Ambassador’s new eBook offering. Under the terms of the agreement, Ambassador will resell ebrary’s eBooks under a perpetual access model to its customer base in more than 30 countries. A growing selection of more than 67,300 eBooks and other titles in a variety of academic and professional subject areas will be available for purchase under a single or multi-user access model, and Ambassador will fulfill eBook orders using the ebrary Ordering Platform (eBOP). Ambassador Books and Media is now celebrating its 35th anniversary as a provider of print and non-print materials to college, university, school, corporate, public, government, and medical libraries. OneSource is Ambassador’s proprietary, password-protected software that offers access to a database of over 3 million book titles and over 1.5 million media titles. Founded in 1999, ebrary is privately held, is headquartered in Palo Alto, CA, and currently offers a growing businesses, Andrew took on global responsibility for the Acquisitions and Distribution functions. In March 2005, he took on the role of BBS UK Managing Director and led the recovery in performance within that business unit. Andrew helped to guide the business through another system change when Blackwell Book Services moved from its mainframe technology to a new Windows-based system. In March 2007, Andrew was appointed Blackwell Book Services CEO. Congratulations, Andrew and good luck as you expand into the Retail side of the business!

Basch Subscriptions has moved into a larger facility! The new facility is spacious (to accommodate continuous growth), bright and still in downtown Concord, NH. Here are the new details: Basch Subscriptions, Inc., 10 Ferry Street, Concord, NH 03301. Phone: 603-229-0662 (no change). Fax: 603-226-9443 (no change). His two preconferences at the 2008 Charleston Conference are among the most popular as well. I tell you, it is impossible to keep up with the Energizer Buzzy!

ebrary Ordering Platform (eBOP) is now celebrating its 35th anniversary as a provider of print and non-print materials to college, university, school, corporate, public, government, and medical libraries. OneSource is Ambassador’s proprietary, password-protected software that offers access to a database of over 3 million book titles and over 1.5 million media titles. Founded in 1999, ebrary is privately held, is headquartered in Palo Alto, CA, and currently offers a growing business

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