My favorite memory of Dana:
Dana was a big fan of competitive ice skating and enjoyed attending skating performances. During a visit to academic libraries in Hartford, we sneaked into a figure skating practice for a performance the next day. We stumbled around in the dark outside of the skating rink until we found an unlocked door. Instead of hiding in the back, Dana insisted that we go down front—and sit just a few rows from the ice. She sat us down among the Russian skaters, most of whom she greeted by name. No one questioned our being there. I guess people thought that we were part of the Russian coaching staff. We had the best time watching the practice, listening to coaching instructions, and watching how quickly the skaters followed them. It was striking how her everyone worked. Dana loved being there, and I loved being there with her.

I miss Dana—and will always remember her with affection and respect.

— Sharon O'Connell

I knew and worked with Dana over many years as she worked with first with Blackwell North America and later with Baker and Taylor. While I have many memories of various times with Dana, I think that one in particular stands out in my mind as a truly amazing occurrence.

While I don’t remember the year, it was springtime in the Great Smokies National Park, probably late April. My wife and daughter and I were visiting the Smokies to see the blooming wild flowers as we tried to do often. It was mid morning and the mountain mist was beginning to lift as we were visiting one of our favorite spots on a nature trail. This trail was easily accessible by automobile. Visitors were able to park and then take a short hike to mountain cabins or other destinations.

We were taking photographs in a clearing behind a log cabin not too far from the parking area, when I noticed someone coming up the trail from the parking area. As the person approached, I walked out on the porch of the cabin and started down the trail. And there walking up the path was Dana. As we looked at each other there was that instant of recognition somewhat hampered by the out of the normal surroundings in which we found ourselves. After all, who would have ever thought that we would run into each other in the middle of the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee rather than in a library in Georgia or at a library conference!

It seems that Dana was passing through Gatlinburg and having never had the opportunity to visit the Smokies decided to take a short excursion off the main road going through the park. She wanted to get a sense of the beauty of the mountains off the beaten path and the folks at her hotel had recommended this nature trail as being easily accessible.

Over the years that followed, we often laughed at this event, realizing full well that you never know when you will find on a mountain path...

— Barry B. Baker, University of Central Florida

Dana Alessi was a wonderful library professional. She was very bright, possessed style and imagination, and was just a quality person generally.

I met her in the late 1970s, maybe at that joint SELA/SCLA conference in New Orleans in the fall of 1978 when she had just signed on with Blackwell/North America. Later, early in 1981, she recruited me for Trinity’s collection development position where they were seeking to build the collection fast and well at the same time. I wasn’t familiar with the institution, but she cued me in, and I’ll always be grateful to her for that.

As I’m sure all your correspondents are saying, she’ll be greatly missed. It’s true.

— Richard Werking, U.S. Naval Academy

WEBWORTHY

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Webworthy has reviewed 317 Websites to date! Are you reading this intro? If so, we’d like to know if you find this column useful! Email the editor at <pmrose@buffalo.edu> with your comments and any suggestions for improvement! Websites are chosen for uniqueness, depth of information, functionality and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and are visited just prior to publication. Please let the editor know of any broken links. Comments and suggestions welcome to Pamela M. Rose, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002; 716-829-3900 x129; <pmrose@buffalo.edu>. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were reviewed in Science’s NetWatch column. — PR

Mythology
Can’t find your copy of Edith Hamilton’s Mythology? Curious about chimeras or Calisto? Wondering about Norse mythology or Latvian folklore? If that’s the case, take a look at Encyclopedia Mythica. This well-organized Website has been going strong since 1995. Boasting over 6,100 definitions, the site has sections for mythology, folklore, folktales, heroes, images, and even genealogical tables. Its coverage is global. This resource is easy-to-use, search, and browse. Most entries include pronunciation guides, etymologies, and images. [Michelle L. Zafren, University at Buffalo] — http://www.pantheon.org

Digital Collections
Forging a piece of the digital future, the Amadeo Group offers links to free medical information targeted mainly to physicians and health care professionals, but available to anyone with an interest. Registration is required, but once registered and profiled in your subject area, benefits include a weekly update of your personal page with literature abstracts and overviews of new publications, plus access to freemedicaljournals.com, and freebooks4doctors.com. The freebooks site in particular contains titles such as the full-text of HIV Medicine 2003, SARS Reference 3rd ed., and Cancer Medicine 5th ed. If you’re a practicing health care professional, you may choose to add your publications to the site, and after one year become eligible for listing on MedicineOnEarth.com. All in all, an intriguing combination of options. — http://www.amadeo.com/

Biology
Ever want to get your hands on an electron microscope? Virtual Classroom Biology from the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands features an interactive, virtual scanning electron microscope with explanations and applications in research. The site also boasts an gallery of 500 printable and searchable images with several movies and animations of microscopic specimens, Web lessons and slide shows for use in the classroom (some of which use the interactive electron microscope), and an amusing informative film that follows Annelies along a program of study in biology at the University. Nifty! — http://www.verbio.sci.kun.nl/eng

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