People Profile: Ann Okerson
• Will other businesses rush to do the same, following Google’s precedent, thus introducing useful competition into the digital marketplace?
• Will Google enhance the role of libraries as the new destination? Will libraries become passe?

Many have views about these matters, and Against the Grain thought to solicit and represent some of them for its readers. Here you will find Ivy Anderson’s opening piece, in which she argues the benefits of having millions of books available to readers and responds to several key librarians’ and scholars’ concerns (such as long-term preservation). Pamela Samuelson offers an author’s viewpoint, based in her legal expertise; as a classical scholar, James O’Donnell values Google, but he does not want to lose the added (and enormous) metadata value that librarians add. The international view is not often heard in the United States, so ATG invited Paul Whitney to write from the perspective of one of the U.S.’s major partners, Canada, our neighbor to the North.

Stuart Hamilton provides a broad international view, grounded in his work as policy advisor for IFLA. Finally, Jonathan Band has given us permission to reproduce his “March Madness” flow chart, showing possible paths forward for the Settlement. Perhaps by the time this ATG issue is published, some of the paths forward will be clearer, but by no means will the Judge’s ruling be the end of the story. You will read more in these pages as time passes. And you will be better informed for your next plane trip!

Rumors

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in Philadelphia to Meredith Jane Petterson at 12:55 AM, April 5th. (8lbs. 15oz.) The births were only a few hours apart. Almost seems like they were coordinated to allow the grandparents time to be there! Whew! Everyone is healthy and doing well. Steve, his wife Anna, and son Will, hung around for a few days, and Anna even stayed on a week with Jane to help out!

Steve was telling me that he was chatting with an old Dickinson colleague, Valrie (Val) Davis who is now at Florida University. And Valrie plans to attend the Charleston Conference this fall and has submitted a proposal for a paper. Hoo-ha! http://www.sflib.ufl.edu/mls/about/faculty/vadavis.html

This whole talk of pregnancy and travel and youth reminds me of how young and crazy my husband and I were once instead of the mature, intelligent human beings we are now. We traveled all over Greece when I was 5 ½ months pregnant with our daughter Ileana. We didn’t even have hotel rooms booked. I remember a nice older lady renting us her bedroom so we would have a place to sleep for the night, I think it was on the island of Skiathos. Youth! Isn’t it grand!

Have been traveling a lot this spring. Noticed in the Delta in-flight magazine, Sky, a big spread on Brussels, Belgium, where the 12th Fiesole Retreat was held (actually the Retreat was in Leuven, but nowhere is far in Belgium). Seems that Brussels is the birthplace of Hergé (the artist of Tintin) (real name Georges Rémi) and the inspiration for much of the artwork in the Tintin comics of which there are over 24 titles translated into over 50 languages. But why am I telling you all this? Apparently, Steven Spielberg’s The Adventures of Tintin: Secret of the Unicorn is due to hit movie screens next year. Reportedly Spielberg bought the rights in 1983 but was waiting for animation technology to become good enough to film the adventures. You heard it here!

And, the 13th Fiesole Retreat will take place in St. Petersburg, Russia, May 12-15, 2011. If you are interested in receiving an invitation contact me or Becky Lenzini (relnzini@earthlink.net). http://digital.casalini.it/retreat/retreat2010.html

Had a great visit from the handsome Courtney Little. Learned that Courtney and his lovely girlfriend who is completing her Residency in New York are planning to get married soon and they are also expecting. Courtney says they plan to live in the Big Apple.

Was talking to the she-who-seems-to-never-rest Gail Schlachter <GailSchlacher@rpsfunding.com> the other day. She was telling me about Reference Services Press’ new book, How to Pay for Your Degree in Library and Information Studies 2010-2012. This is the first biennial edition and I know that Joey Van Arnhem <vanarnhem@cofc.edu>, one of our reviewers, is anxiously looking forward to reviewing the book. Joey is getting ready to go to library school in between all her other duties.

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