The Grass is Often Greener
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and implemented. After another brief delay, our selectors were suddenly swamped with notifications. (This was a deliberate feature of the profile. We plan to review the selections in a few months and, in all likelihood, make significant revisions. Depending upon the results it is entirely possible that part of the program may grow to automatic book shipments.)

While our approval plan is finally off the ground, I worry a bit now that our selectors’ excitement over the helpfulness and convenience of the notifications may be overshadowed by frustration. Because we are now far into the budget year, some selectors have exhausted their allocations. I can only hope that this will not discourage them from reviewing titles which must be deferred for several months.

Speaking of new projects, as the brash, new acquisitions librarian, I have become something of an eBook gadfly here at TCNJ, peppered our selectors with eBook articles and inviting representatives from major aggregators to come in to speak to our library faculty. So far, our forays into eBooks have been limited to a small NetLibrary collection augmented annually through purchases with a local consortium. The titles chosen have tended to be on the popular side, but we are getting respectable usage. We have undertaken a study to see just how and where eBook titles might supplement (or supplant) our current collection practices, and I hope and expect to see our involvement grow, but I have again run into budgetary realities.

For good or ill, things just take more time in academia. Our budget is parsed and allocated months ahead of the new fiscal year. There is no money in our current budget for anything more than the NetLibrary collection. Assuming the proposed spending is approved (and in New Jersey’s current political climate this is a true act of faith), I’ll get my chance this summer. I’d like to start with a big splash — an eBook collection and some promotion. We’ll see…

Rumors
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mailing of Against the Grain way back when it was first being published.)

The second person I ran into on the same aisle, not far away was John Riley, now of BUSCA, and Michael Cooper, the owner and brains behind the operation. We had some great Philly cheese steaks (I would sure like one right now, it’s supper time!) Anyway, have I told y’all about the BUSCA blog? It’s fun and very informative http://buscainc.blogspot.com/.

Guess that y’all have heard that Jonathan Tasini is at it again! Remember New York Times Co. v. Tasini, 533 U.S. 483 (2001), which went all the way to the Supreme Court. The lawsuit was about licensing material contributed by freelancers’ online databases without providing compensation to the freelancers. Well, Jonathan Tasini and some bloggers from the Huffington Post (which was recently bought by AOL) have filed a $105 million class-action lawsuit against the

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