AGAINST THE GRAIN

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by Kate C. McDill — Who says library skills are not needed? Last summer Kate worked as an intern at Amazon.com assigning browse nodes to nodeless ASINs in the toy & baby stores. What this really means is that she applied subject indexing to merchandise, utilizing the in-house taxonomy, with the goal of improving the information retrieval.

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Economics of Simultaneous Publication: The Wholesaler’s Point of View by Dana Courtemay — We have discussed this issue more than once in these pages. Simultaneous paper editions are a huge money-saver for libraries and we are buying the paper more and more. What’s happening with publishers and vendors? Dana delivered this paper at the American Association of University Presses meeting in Toronto in June. She predicts that more and more libraries will opt for a paper-prefered approval plan and will order paper on firm order over cloth.

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HDCN On-Line (Hypertension, Dialysis & Clinical Nephrology)

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Down by the Ol’ Mainstream — Backlogs and Bottlenecks by Ruth Fischer and Rick Lugg — It can almost go without saying that technical services have a profound and immediate impact on the patron experience. It is obvious that the library can only fulfill its mission when the work “flows,” unimpeded by bottlenecks. To a large extent, this requires adoption of a “production” orientation instead of an artisan or “expert” mentality.

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Endeavor Information Systems to design and test ENCompass, Endeavor’s digital library management system, on a test hardware platform provided by Sun Microsystems.

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by Bob Nardini — The library community was surprised a few years ago to find itself the target of a serious and custom-made operation in hype. This had not happened before. When compared with many other walks of life, the stakes are modest in the library world. No one had previously seen a profit in the considerable effort and expense of a classy hype campaign aimed at libraries. Not, that is, before 1999 and the launch of netLibrary.

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