Against the Grain

AGAINT THE GRAIN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

v.14 #5 November 2002 © Katina Strauch

ISSUES, NEWS, & GOINGS ON

Rumors ........................................... 1
From Your Editor .............................. 6
Letters to the Editor ......................... 6
Deadlines ....................................... 6

FEATURES

Charleston Conference Issue

Guest Editor Ed Colleran (Copyright Clearance Center)

Surviving the Era of Digital Media .... 1
by Edward Colleran — The Internet and computerization have revolutionized the way information is retrieved, collected and shared, fundamentally altering the ways these tasks are carried out and raising a host of new questions and problems.

Through a “Content Looking Glass” .. 18
Another Way of Looking at Library Licensing of Electronic Content by Corilee Christou and Gail Dykstra — This article offers some tips for ways to take advantage of this new flexibility and the the emerging library-vendor partnerships to get what your users need from the licensing process.

Digital Rights Management: Old Hat or New Wrinkle? ...................... 22
Ready or Not, DRM Is Dramatically Altering Today’s Publishing Landscape by John Cox — The Internet has totally altered the environment in which librarians and publishers strive to disseminate information, creating tensions and uncertainty as people of good faith on all sides wrestle with new questions without clear-cut answers.

Nighttime Musings of a Sleepless Librarian .................................. 28
by Ann Okerson — Does the term “digital library” mean that all of our collections will someday be digital? Will readers be able to have the full experience of a contemporary library (and more besides) without going near one of our wonderful library buildings?

Op Ed — Opinions and Editorials . . . 30
E-Journals, Embargoes and Other Matters: Are the Publishers Villains or not? by Ian Jacobs and David Bull — In her Op Ed, “Random Ramblings and Raving: My Thoughts on E-Journals, Embargoes, etc.” (ATG v.14 #3 June 2002), Allison Mays expressed some frustrations about embargoes imposed by publishers in aggregators’ databases. This month’s author hopes to clarify some issues.

ATG Special Report: Part II ........... 32
Libraries In The Cyberage — Filtering, Censorship and the First Amendment: Libraries at the Crossroads edited by Mark Herrin — In the summer of 2000, Ron Chepesiuk and Mark Herrin sat down with a simple goal: put together a series of forums to discuss the groundbreaking changes that libraries have been and would continue to undergo as a result of the advent of the World Wide Web. The forums covered in this issue include the conclusion of Carol Clancy’s article favoring library filters.

Back Talk — GIS Induced Guilt ........... 94
by Anthony Ferguson — Anthony just returned from the 2002 Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC) meeting held in Osaka, Japan. The result of his attendance has him now trying to figure out what he wants to do about GIS.

ATG INTERVIEWS

Karen Hunter .................. 61
Ted Fons & Laurie Daviston ........... 70
Senior Vice President, Elsevier
WebBridge, Innovative Interfaces

Jenny Walker & Oren Beit-Arie ...... 67
Information Services Division, Ex Libris

ATG PROFILES ENCOURAGED

Publisher Profile ......................... 80
Edited by Allison Mays and John Long
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press by John Long

REVIEWS

From the Reference Desk ............. 72
by Tom Gibson — This month Tom tells us that print indexes still have a place in academic research, which may be refreshing news for some and a shock to others. The United States Supreme Court Decisions 1778-1996 by Kelly S.

Janousek is just one of the reference titles he reviews this month.

Book Reviews ............................ 75
Monographic Musings by Debbie Vaughn — Learn how to teach computer skills to practically anyone.

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CHARLESTON CONFERENCE ISSUE
LEGAL ISSUES
Edited by Bryan Carson, Bruce Strauch, and Jack Montgomery

Legally Speaking ........................................ 76
Do We Still need Books for Legal Research?
(Why books still matter.) by Bryan Carson
— Bryan says several times every day in the course of his work as a librarian, he hears people express the opinion that books are no longer necessary, since “everything is now online.” A second opinion that is sometimes heard is that books are unnecessary, and libraries (and librarians) are no longer needed. So what is the truth—are books still needed for legal research? Bryan tells us.

Questions and Answers ................................. 78
Copyright Column by Laura Gasaway — A librarian has been asked to present a paper at a conference. The association that sponsors the conference has asked her to bring 25 copies of the paper to sell. What copyright symbol should be placed on the copies? This is just one of the questions Lolly answers for us this month.

Cases of Note ........................................... 78
Trademark Dilution by Bruce Strauch — Beanie Babe Battles.

PUBLISHING
And They Were There ................................. 81
Reports of Meetings — ARLIS/NA 29th Annual Conference by Nina Stephenson — This year the Art Libraries Society of North America met in Los Angeles. The cultural riches of Los Angeles and the dynamic field of art librarianship were showcased with an array of informative program sessions.

Books Are Us ........................................... 82
by Anne Robichaux — This column covers fiction about people like us — librarians, publishers, vendors, booksellers, etc. All contributions are welcome.

IMHBCO .................................................. 60
(In My Humble But Correct Opinion) The Book Is Dead and It’s a Good Thing, Too by Rick Anderson — As a group, we librarians are certainly not unique in our ability to deny the obvious. And as upsetting as it may be to state the fact out loud, we’ve all dealt with our budgets and the results of the referendum are clear: books are out.

Book Pricing Update ................................. 82
Talk of the Trade ........................................ 83
by Barry Fast — Barry is back as a regular ATG columnist! He says that the Book Trade may not be as glitzy as The Industry (Hollywood), but there is more than enough gossip to share.

Bet You Misread It ................................. 84
by Pamela Rose — What do NASA and the National Science Foundation have in common? Read about it in this issue.

Texas Trails ............................................. 92
Lost in Austin by Thomas Leonard — Tom is now in Austin and tells us he has not had the time or the courage to go looking for used book stores or some good, independent book sellers because he is still recovering from his move of 2,200 miles from Eugene, Oregon to Austin, Texas.

TECHNOLOGY AND STANDARDS
Edited by Sandra K. Paul and Albert Simmonds

Devil’s Advocate ...................................... 85
Variations on a Theme: NISO Z39.7, Library Statistics Standards by Bob Molyneux — The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) is in the process of developing the new version of the “standard” for library statistics (Z39.7). Bob attended the ALA convention in Atlanta, where the NISO committee gave a status report on the standard. Here’s what he learned.

Desperately Seeking Copyright ............. 89
Digital Object Identifiers: Just an Idea or an Innovation of Value? by Edward Colleran — The global groundwork for the adoption of yet another numbering system would appear to be underwhelming at best. After all, we already have ISBNs, URLs, EAN/UPCs and a plethora of other numbers. Why, indeed, should we invent another? But an unusual convergence of interests among librarians, researchers and publishers has, in fact, already propelled the new Digital Object Identifier (DOI) from an abstract concept to an operational numbering system.

Drinking From the Firehose ...................... 91
SPAM SPAM SPAM: and MORE SPAM!!! What are we to do? by Eleanor I. Cook — It is only natural to ask, “how can we get around the problem of SPAM?” Is there any practical way to avoid it without compromising our civil liberties?

ETC.

Adventures in Librarianship .................. 90
First Draft by Ned Kraft — Please edit before sending this to the dean!

Against the Grain / November 2002

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