The Age of Analytics is only just beginning!

...add to the veritable Niagara Falls of information, each and every home and business everywhere. RFID for an Internet-based retailer's perspective, imagine each with its own provenance. From an Internet point of view, imagine every screw, every washer, in the car. Every network address. True? I sure don't know. But I wouldn't bet against it.

The network itself will have become large and as small and cheap as they're going to get? Of course, for all this to happen, network technologies. But your phone is just one minion in an unfathomably large swarm of minions, all connected to the ever-growing array of host systems constituting the Cloud, and through them, interconnected with each other.

The advent of IPv6 ushers in a new era. This is the latest version of the Internet Protocol, or IP (worth Googling, if you're not familiar with it). Under IPv4, presently in place, there were 4.3 billion network address available. We've just about used all those up. Under IPv6, the number of address spaces is increased to 3.4 x 10 to the 38th power. Write it out – that's a very, very big number. Better yet, simply Google "2 to the 128th" and see. The Economist says this is "roughly 340 billion billion billion." The Wikipedia article on IPv6 says this is enough address range for every atom on the surface of the Earth to be assigned 40 unique network addresses. True? I sure don't know. But I wouldn't bet against it.

This means instead of simply having serial numbers for automobiles, we have could have unique identifiers for each and every part, every screw, every washer, in the car. Every bullet loaded or fired from every firearm — each with its own provenance. From an Internet-based retailer's perspective, imagine the incentive for self-reordering supplies in homes and business everywhere. RFID for library books? Child's play. Each and every volume can be its own network node, with an address and a knowable present location on the network map topology. And each and every behavior, each human/device interaction, adds to the veritable Niagara Falls of deeply minable device/content usage graphs. The Age of Analytics is only just beginning!

The network itself will have become largely invisible. We'll simply live in a world in which virtually everything "talks" with virtually everything else. Indeed, things will rely upon that capability just to function properly and as designed.

Of course, for all this to happen, networkable devices would have to shrink in price and size. But who's ready to stand and say that Wi-Fi and cellular devices are already as small and cheap as they're going to get? Cellular and Wi-Fi? These are just way stops along the path to the true Internet of Things. I think all this future-stuff will happen a lot sooner than we might think, certainly in a whole lot less time than it took us to get from Samuel Morse's telegraph to where we are today. It's probably not a gross exaggeration to suggest that one will be able to create a network-connecting subassembly simply by printing it. Network connectivity will add pennies, at most, to the price of a product — nothing, really, compared to the irresistible value added from the vendors' perspective once every consumer item bought and sold on the planet will be able to phone home and tell the folks how it's going...

My guess is that there will be virtually no facet of day-to-day life left untouched by the emergence of constantly-connected Cloud-based commodity devices embedded in an ever-increasing array of products with which we interact daily. I believe that try as I might, I probably cannot successfully or unrealistically over-exaggerate the applications and reach that we will see for such technologies.

E-Resources & Serials Librarian
Rollins College, Olin Library
1000 Holt Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789
Phone: (407) 975-6431  •  <egallagher@rollins.edu>

Erin Gallagher

BORN AND LIVED: Born in Fairview, Ohio in 1982. Grew up on a farm in rural North Arkansas until graduating high school. Moved to Florida to attend college and have lived here for 13 years.

EARLY LIFE: Arkansan pastoral splendor. Spent most of childhood in and out of dance classes and with my nose in a book. Attended Florida School of the Arts for a degree in Dance and then Florida State University, where I changed my major to English and never looked back.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Graduated with M.L.I.S. from Florida State University in 2010. Immediately began working with Ingram Couts, a global book vendor, as a Collections Consultant. After three-and-a-half wonderful, challenging years with Ingram, I was eager to get back into the library and was thrilled to take a position at Rollins College. Member of ALA, FLA, ACRL, and ALCTS. I've had the opportunity to attend and present at numerous conferences over the past four years, including ALA annual, AALL, SEALL, FLA, and my favorite, Charleston.

FAMILY: I am the mother of a demanding and affectionate 5 year-old cat, Neko.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I love to travel, hike, and enjoy the natural offerings of new cities and countries around the world. I try to attend as many theatre, dance, and literary events in and around Orlando. I love to cook and then eat too much of what I cook. I take ballet, swim, run, and do yoga to feel better about eating everything I cook. I read, smell, and love books.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Orlando by Virginia Woolf, Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell, Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell.

PET PEEVES: Tardiness, adverbs, and Jeopardy contestants who do not finish an entire category before moving on to the next.

PHILOSOPHY: All global citizens should have the ability to access information. Knowledge is power, and reading is one of the universal joys that make our small lives even bigger and better. On personal philosophy, I believe empathy is key. We’re all in this together.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Achieving this marvelous position at Rollins.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Professional: establish myself as a key leader in streamlining e-resource management in the 21st century while contributing to the stellar body of library scholarship through open access avenues. Personal: become a wildly successful Jeopardy contestant.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I see academic libraries evolving to include services previously held by other campus departments. We will continue to be leaders in educating our campus and distance-learning communities on digital tools and information technology. We will continue to be the hearts, brains, and safe spaces of our communities while wowing new generations of patrons who may not be bound to antiquated ideas of what librarians do. We will shrug off the confines of our physical spaces to become recognizable faces in our communities. We will continue to be activists and educators on global issues like intellectual freedom and open access initiatives. And most importantly, we will continue to instill a love of reading and lifelong learning in everyone we touch.