April 1991

ACQNET

Christian M. Boissonnas
Cornell University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Boissonnas, Christian M. (1991) "ACQNET," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 3: Iss. 2, Article 7.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1040>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

From your editor

Well, here we are with another issue of *Against the Grain*. It's hard to believe that the months come around as regular as clock-work and it's time to put out another issue yet again!

Quite a few things have been happening in our world over the past few months. Christian Boissonnas, also known as "The Hulk," has begun Acqnet, an electronic network for acquisitions librarians. This is a good way to keep in touch in between issues of *Against the Grain*. Also, it helps us all to ferret out the real issues that are consuming our time over the course of the days. Over the past few months, a lot has happened. Many libraries' favorite supplier of Russian materials, Livres Etrangères, in Paris has gone out of business, apparently because of all of the turmoil over there. This is sad and we wish Georges DeLorme, truly a prince of a man, all the luck in the world. We have seen the purchase of Pergamon by Elsevier (remember, we first told you this was under consideration in *ATG*, 3#1, February, 1991. The acquisition of Pergamon by Elsevier is quite an event, one most of us thought would never happen. Plus there was a Supreme Court decision regarding copyright and creativity in published works which has many of the directorial types on their ear. All of these issues and more are covered in this issue of *Against the Grain* so keep reading!

However, all these serious events notwithstanding — each April, we try to do a little something zany as a tribute to April Fools' Day. In April 1990, you may remember the Barry Fast report that your editor was in the process of suing Boris Yeltsin? Did you catch that or did we trick you? Well — buried somewhere in this issue is something special like that — an April Fools joke. Can you find it?

As our parting shot, it's been suggested by people who like the fact that I have a different quote on my answering machine each day, that I do a quote for each issue of *Against the Grain*. So, here is our quote for this issue: "There usually is an answer to any problem: simple, clean and wrong."

H.L. Mencken

The Acquisitions Librarians Electronic Network

by Christian M. Boissonnas

We have to give the devil his due. The devil in this case is the energetic, peripatetic, incisive, no-holds-barred Frenchman who we all know as Christian Boissonnas, Head of Acquisitions (among other things) at Cornell University.

Well — Christian (after the 1990 Charleston Conference, we might add) began an electronic newsletter/e-mail/bulletin board for acquisitions types.

ACQNET is now three months old — growing, growing, and not gone.

ACQNET aims to provide a medium for acquisitions librarians and others interested in acquisitions work to exchange information, ideas, and to find solutions to common problems. It started with a group of 25 librarians in December, 1990, and the Charleston Conference and *Against the Grain* had a lot to do with its creation. Here is how it went.

Last summer, Meta Nissley, Acquisitions Librarian at California State University-Chico asked me if I knew of any networks for people in our line of work. I knew of the *Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues*, edited by Marcia Tuttle at UNC-CH and the NOTIS Acquisitions Users Listserv managed by Joyce McDonough at the University of Louisville, nothing else. I told Meta that I would put a questionnaire in *Against the Grain* to see how much interest there was in an acquisitions librarian network. That elicited no response, and I dutifully reported this unpromising result at the last Charleston Conference. This tells us something about questionnaires and the printed word, but I'll leave it to someone else to tell us what.

Enough attendees felt that a network should be started that I told them to send me an e-mail message to confirm their interest. Twenty-five did, and they received their first *ACQNET* issue on December 10, 1991.

ACQNET is a managed or edited bulletin board/newsletter. It is not a free-for-all bulletin board in which all messages go to everybody in no order, with no control. It is more like a newsletter and less like a bulletin board, but issues (postings) are sent very frequently: daily or several times a week depending on traffic. So far, we have had 46 issues. I, as editor, receive all potential postings, organize, edit, summarize, and distribute them to the membership.

I am assisted by an editorial board of four colleagues: Meta Nissley (California State

continued on page 35

Hot U Hot *continued*

Publishers and librarians alike must examine the role that history, culture and tradition has given us to play. Let's move with the times and change our approaches, let's do it together by understanding each others' business and needs. Many activities are going on in publishing houses that will change the librarians lives and many activities are going on in the libraries and organizations such as the Corporation for National Research Initiative working on the digital library project that we all have to re-examine our role.

If we want to continue to play the vital role in information dissemination, we should share the information that we have together. 🐘

Upcoming Conferences

We fell down on conference reports with this issue, but here is a listing of things that are coming up soon!

• North American Serials Interest Group, June 14-17, San Antonio, Texas

• Acquisitions '91, April 10-11, Minneapolis, Minnesota

• Society for Scholarly Publishing Annual Meeting, May 22-24, Philadelphia, PA

American Booksellers Association, June 1-5, New York, NY

ALCTS Acquisitions Regional Institute, The Business of Acquisitions, June 6-7. Boston, Mass.

Solinet and The Commission on Preservation and Access, Preservation Management for College Libraries, July 20-27, Lexington, VA

ACQNET *continued from page 4*

University), Richard Jasper (Emory University), Carol Chamberlain (Penn State University), and Rosann Bazirjian (Syracuse University). The editorial board helps me figure out the editorial policy, or anything I am unsure of. Among issues we have dealt with is this one: how much duplication should there be between ACQNET and Marcia Tuttle's *NSPI*, *SERIALST*, and *ATG*. As little as possible, we decided. We did not post a contribution which we knew would appear in *ATG* and Marcia and I negotiate frequently how we will use information that overlaps both networks.

ACQNET's editorial policy is simple: members discuss anything they want. However, they need to keep in mind the other existing networks and newsletters. Feature articles or reports should generally be submitted to *Against the Grain* or other appropriate newsletters or journals.

The main focus of the group has been on acquisition of monographs

and serials, and related subjects. The most important issues or topics we have discussed include acquisitions journals, the ALCTS reorganization of collection development and acquisitions committees, approval plans, BookQuest (Faxon), and out-of-print buying, the Soviet serials distribution debacle. We also deal with many very specific issues, such as what vendor to use for Lebanese materials, warning each other about the latest Gille imprint, or how to deal with vendors who require prepayment.

Last night I signed on our 125th member. I have no way of judging whether we are growing fast or very fast compared to other networks. It seems to me that this growth is pretty fast. It feels fast. We are an international network, thanks to our Canadian members. We are not yet trans-oceanic, but can this be far away? I doubt it.

Anyone interested in joining ACQNET may do so by sending me an e-mail message by
CBY@CORNELLC (Bitnet) or
CBY@CORNELLC.CIT.CORNELL.EDU (Internet).

Guidelines, Guidelines, and More Guidelines

At the 1991 ALA Midwinter Meeting, the Acquisitions Committee of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) Serials Section announced progress on drafts of several documents of interest to the serials community.

The *Guide for Handling Library Orders for Serials and Periodicals* has been forwarded to the ALCTS Publications Committee for final approval. The *Guide to Performance Evaluation of Serials Vendors* is in its second draft; the Committee hopes to begin distribution to interested groups within ALA and the publisher/vendor industry for comment. An extensive glossary of serials and acquisitions terms and a bibliography

on serials vendor performance evaluation are nearing completion; final drafts are planned for spring 1991. Questions concerning these manuscripts may be directed to Jana Lonberger, Chair, ALCTS Serials Section Acquisitions Committee, 2564 Wildflower Lane, Snellville, GA 30278, (404) 894-4517 (BITNET: JLONBERG@GTRI01.GATECH.EDU). The Committee is also planning a public forum at the 1991 ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta; further details will be announced at a later date.