

November 2013

You Gotta Go to School for That?

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Recommended Citation

Seay, Jerry (1994) "You Gotta Go to School for That?," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 6: Iss. 2, Article 28.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1480>

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You Gotta Go to School for That?

All My Librarians

by Jerry Seay (College of Charleston)

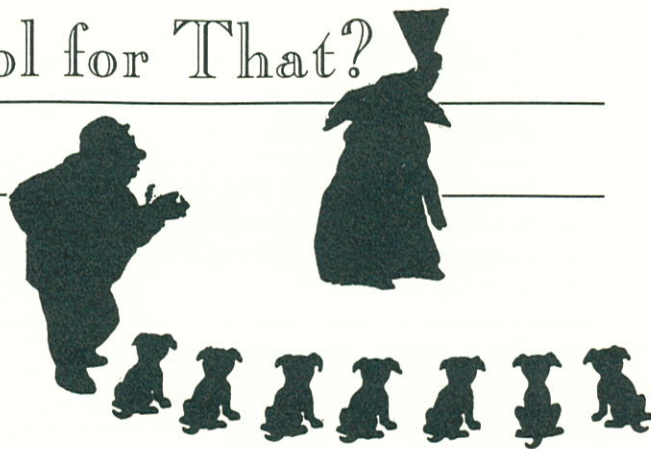
In the never ending struggle to make my life more exciting I found myself reading the soap opera section of the newspaper. Of course this was on a purely research basis. It is called "Speaking of Soaps" and is a weekly digest of all the story lines and shenanigans in last weeks soaps. Have any of you folks out there read this stuff?

Now you and I know that anything that happens at a library is at least twice as exciting and bizarre as what happens on a daily soap opera. So, I'm thinking — why not produce a library soap opera? Just think of the incredible plot twists and strange relationships that you and I take for granted everyday. I'm seeing major television production here. Why, just think of the Biblio Soaps you could see. . .

This week on **All My Librarians** —

Marlene in acquisitions is overwhelmed by book orders and vents her frustration at video poker bars while Victoria punches out the UPS man for knocking over a box of orders that had taken her hours to file. Katina, though still trapped under a pile of books and papers that fell off her desk, is floored to learn that the firm order budget is mysteriously missing thousands of dollars. "Wild" Bill, meanwhile, has suddenly been enjoying new purchases in Special Collections including a Jacuzzi and a marble pool table which he explains simply as special "gifts." Tom's wild relationship with Bambi is nearly revealed at the reference desk when Phil overhears Jannette talking about a certain kinky patron she knows that "really digs reference librarians." In a committee meeting Sheila shocks everybody when she announces that she has better things to do. Bob startles Bill at the new color copier running off twenty dollar bills and muttering something about fixing his budget. David, the library director, goes to France and secretly spends three nights camped out at Jim Morrison's grave. Interlibrary Loan is rocked by the news that half of the requests received this year are fake and have been turned in by a mysterious man who has been living in the library basement and creating ILL forms from potato sacks.

Sound familiar? I tell you the world is ready for the real exciting, seamy, surreal stories that exist behind the scenes in



today's libraries. And soap operas are only the beginning. For years lawyers, police, teachers and bartenders have had their professions splashed all over television. Well, I say that librarians deserve equal time. What better way to create a pseudo-truthful, yet flashy and sexy, image of one's profession? I see an entire genre of library television in the future. Imagine if you will:

- Sitcoms: "All in the Library"
- Action dramas: "Library Vice"
- Real life drama: "Library 911"
- Science fiction: "Biblio 5-Deep Space Library"
- Westerns: "Little Library on the Prairie"
- Comedy: "Library Bloops and Blunders"
- Documentaries: "Librarians or Publishers: Who is really sexier?"

And what any child of the global village is truly waiting for:

"Access versus Ownership: The Mini Series"

Of course, the next step would be the big screen. I can see the opening credits now as they appear over a shot of Daniel Day-Lewis running shirtless through row after row of book stacks. The music builds to a crescendo as he leaps over a book truck and the title of the movie burns into the screen — "The Last of the Librarians." ☞

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Automation Center". This innovative alternative approach to automation is available to libraries who desire the benefits of automation without getting into the computer business. The Library Automation Center is completely provided and maintained by Dynix, including cen-

tral site hardware, software, and telecommunications equipment. The library provides only the database and the desire to automate. Libraries can join for a small initial setup charge and an annual rental fee based on the number of workstations, the desired software, and line-usage costs. Currently Dynix has one center already in full operation and is in the process of implementing a second. For more information on the Dynix Au-

tomation Center, contact Deborah Wheatley at 216-285-4588.

And just as we go to press, we learned that **The FirstSearch Catalog Document Ordering/ILL System** has been named winner of the **1994 Computers in Libraries Information Product/Service (CLIPS) Award**, which was presented during the **Computers in Libraries Conference** in Washington, D.C. ☞