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Profiles Encouraged: Norman Desmarais

Editor

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Profiles Encouraged:

Norman Desmarais



Experience: Acquisitions Librarian at Providence College in Providence, R.I. since 1984. In addition to overseeing acquisitions, he assists at the reference desk

and manages the library's CD-ROM network. He also teaches an occasional course in Management Information Systems in the college's MBA program. Prior to coming to Providence, he headed the Order & Cataloging Division at Catholic University of America and served as Librarian at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, MD 21210.

Education: Master of Library Science from Simmons College in 1977, Master of Business Administration from Providence College in 1990, M.A. and B.A. from the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy in 1972 and 1969 respectively.

Professional Activities: Editor-in-Chief, *CD-ROM Librarian*, 1990-1993; Senior Editor, *CD-ROM World*, 1993-1994; Columnist, *CD-ROM Professional*, 1994-; Columnist, *Against the Grain*, 1994-; Advisory editor, *Journal of Religious & Theological Information*, 1990-; Contributing editor, *Optical Information Systems*, 1987-1989. American Library Association/ Library and Information Technology Association; Rhode Island Library Association/ feature editor, *RILA Bulletin* Special Libraries Association/ Rhode Island Chapter, 1988-.

Family: Wife and two teen-aged daughters.


Pastimes: Ice skating, skiing, reviewing CD-ROMs, reading, writing. Norm has written several books and numerous articles for a variety of journals. After writing about CD-ROM for the past 10 years, he is now working on developing one. This past year, he has been on sabbatical researching the American Revolution. He has traveled to state and national historic parks and to reenactments of historic events of the period as part of this project. He looks forward to promotion to full professor in the Spring.

From the Reference Desk from page 42

classification scheme based on Eugene Sheehy's *Guide to Reference Books*. Accessing the abstracts is done by clicking the classification number. The 1995 menu has a listing of each abstracted title directly under the classification number, in effect providing a table of contents which makes browsing easier. Unfortunately, the 1994 backfile does not provide this type of table of contents so you have to click each classification number to see which sources have been included. This can be tedious and cumbersome. As *IFB Abstracts* grows, some way of accessing the total contents needs to be developed. As it stands now, browsing or using the Netscape "Find" function to search by keyword on each subpage, are the only options. In the future an index would be very helpful.

The abstracts are brief, but well-written, being both descriptive and evaluative. Related reference titles are referred to when appropriate. Basic bibliographic information is provided including both the English and European language titles, ISBN and the price, in the original currency. Each abstract

is initialed, identifying the abstractor and original reviewer with a list of abstractors and reviewers available from the Introduction page. A minor point, but an improvement on this would be to allow linkage to the abstractor/reviewer lists directly from the abstract pages. In fact, one could argue that more direct linkages could be provided throughout the homepage. But, editor Lehmann points out, homepage construction is very labor-intensive, and although desirable, such multiple linkages are not always feasible given time limitations.

IFB Abstracts is providing a very valuable service to collection development and reference librarians. It provides ready access to reviews of European-language reference works difficult to find elsewhere. The editors and abstractors have reason to be proud. They saw an important need not being met anywhere else, and acted to fill it. At the same time, they have highlighted the "Web" as an outlet for librarian expertise and creativity. The possibilities of librarian self-publishing on the Web opens up a new dynamic for our profession and one that bears watching. This column welcomes reader response on this issue. 

Rumors from page 16

begin working as Senior Acquisitions Clerk in 1987 completed a two-year program at the **Muscular Therapy Institute** in Cambridge, MA in July, 1995. She has also been certified by the National Certification in Therapeutic Massage and Body Work. Several employees of the library and the college volunteered as "practice bodies" during her studies. Rose will continue to work in the Acquisitions Department and practice her new skills on her own time. After her graduation, she offered library staff mini-massages one day after work hours. The library director is considering employing her new skills during periods of particular stress, such as at exam times.

Jack Montgomery (U. of Missouri, Columbia) brings some great news. He says that both the **Charleston Conference** and **ATG** were very favorably mentioned not once or twice but FOUR times at the recent AALL meeting in Pittsburgh. Wow! Thanks, Jack! And speaking of Jack, read his Biz of Acq, about government information, in this issue, p 68.

Sorry I couldn't attend **Long Island University's Palmer School of Library & Information Science** summer publishing institute (August 14-18). **Patricia Glass Schuman** (President of Neal-Schuman Publishers, and ex-president of ALA) and **GraceAnne DeCandido** of the H.W. Wilson Company and **Wilson Library Bulletin** were

the instructors in this intensive one-week format designed to give a basic understanding of the publishing process and the relationships between librarians and publishers. If, like me, you want to know more about it, contact Rosemary Chu, Academic Counselor <rosechu@aurora.liunet.edu>.

Gary Herald (Ambassador) has just returned from a two-day trip to San Francisco. He writes that the fabulous **David Ungar** is Ambassador's Vice President and Director for International Marketing. (I guess I didn't include this piece of info in the last issue, whups!). With this issue, we welcome **Philip Hallman** as the new editor of **Media Minder**. See this issue, page 92. Welcome, Philip!

Okay, I confess, I didn't go to **ALA Annual** in Chicago this year. I had a chance to see my son and I took the latter rather than the former. I understand, though, that this was one exciting and hugely attended meeting (24,000 plus). **ATG** was ably represented by **Lyman Newlin**, and **Garance, Inc.'s** (publishers of the *Librarians Yellow Pages*), **Raissa Fomerand**, **Leslie Levine** and **Allison Lehr**. Thank you all for letting me loaf. 