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Profiles Encouraged: Norman Desmarais

Editor

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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.
Classified 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

began 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 Grace Anne 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.liu.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, waups!) 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), Raisa Fomendar, Leslie Levine and Allison Lehr. Thank you all for letting me loaf.