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Book Reviews

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Profiles Encouraged:

Chuck Hamaker

Born: Mattoon, Illinois (Coles County) at Mattoon Memorial Hospital. Delivered by a red-headed nurse who I worked with 18 years later when I was an orderly.

Education: I lived in Mattoon until I graduated from high school and went off to college in 1964. Served as a Mormon Missionary in Peru and Ecuador (1967-69). Then I came back in 1969 to finish my degree (BS, Education) at Eastern Illinois University. I got my library degree in 1972 from Brigham Young University.

Current residence: Baton Rouge, LA.

Family: I have two brothers and 1 sister. My companion Mark and I have raised a son Jeremiah who started college at LSU this fall.

Why I became a librarian: Didn't have the money to get my PhD in English.

Current position: AUL for Collection Development, LSU Libraries.

Fun as a child: I read books all summer long and fished (though I never caught anything.)

Favorite pastimes: I read a lot and respond to Mormon feminist listservs. Am now reading *Clandestine Marriage in England, 1500-1850* by R.B. Outhwaite which I found on the new book shelf at the library. I also like detective and science fiction too.

Proudest accomplishment: Participating in the building of the Utopian Literature Collection at the U. of Missouri, St. Louis. Lyman Tower Sargent created the standard bibliography which went beyond Thomas More to science fiction and fantasy. The literature goes back a long way, and it was a low cost collecting area.

Pet peeve: People who say things in the library world without doing their homework. Pontificating.

Best piece of advice: Don't let the — get you down.

Book Reviews



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Please send books for review to the address below OR if you are interested in reviewing any of the titles below, please contact: Thomas W. Leonhardt, PO Box 3042, Norman, OK 73070-3042; phone: (405) 325-2458; fax: (405) 325-1893. <tleonhardt@libsys2.lib.uoknor.edu>

Nat Bodian. *The Joy of Publishing*. Fairfield, Iowa: Open Horizons: 1996. 239 pp; 0912411473; \$29.95. <openhorizons@bookmarket.com>

Reviewed by **William K. Finley** (Head, Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries)


What was the first book ever prepared on a typewriter? What book took the longest to complete? How did a Nescafe ad become a bestseller? When did the first cookbook appear? What bestseller is best known by its title's initials? What was the "Fog Index"?

These and hundreds of other questions about book and publishing lore are answered in Nat Bodian's enticing compendium *The Joy of Publishing* (Open Horizons: 1996). As Bodian states in his preface, this book is the product of "a lifetime love affair with books and the people involved in writing, creating, publishing, and circulating them."

Covering all aspects of writing, publishing, and book selling, this book about books alternates anecdotes with facts about the great and the not-so-great, the known and the unknown, the mainstream and the curious or bizarre. Among the more than 300 diverse topics in 11 chapters (each with a different focus) are Clifford Irving's forgery of Howard Hughes' biography; the work habits of authors such as Fitzgerald, Michener, and P. G. Wodehouse; the publishing histories of *Gone With the Wind*, *Animal Farm*, *The Guinness Book of World Records*, the *Chicago Manual of Style*, Emily Post's *Etiquette*, and other luminary works; the origins of paperback publishing, the dime novel, university presses, and *Who's Who*; and writers' philosophies (Faulkner: "If a writer has to rob his mother he will not hesitate; *The Ode on a Grecian Urn* is worth any number of old ladies").

Most lovers of literature will enjoy sections devoted to the most popular words for book titles, famous banned books, or shortest book titles — even if they are mere lists. We learn from Bodian that Barry Goldwater never wrote the work for which he is most famous (*The Conscience of a Conservative*) and that the first true American novel (*The Power of Sympathy*) was written not by William Hill Brown but by a neighboring woman!

Although some of the entries seem trivial (the tallest author to be #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list) or generally known (how Francis Scott Fitzgerald got his name), the stories, anecdotes and curious facts about books are for the most part witty, amusing, or amazing. Some of the information is repetitious or outdated and the index could use revamping, but these are minor flaws in a book that has something for every book lover.

Bodian, the author of thirteen books on publishing or marketing and a former marketing manager for John Wiley, Baker and Taylor, and Hayden Books, has culled his collection from a wide realm of sources (the bibliography lists 120 titles) and offers the reader a combination of reference and amusement, a delightful stroll in booklore through the ages. No entry is more than two pages long, making this the perfect work to pick up in brief snippets. *The Joy of Publishing* is accurately depicted in Bodian's own words, "a celebration of the book." 

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<<http://www.idealibrary.com> and the OhioLINK consortium's homepage can be found at <<http://ohiolink.edu>>.

And also from OhioLINK. ISI (The Institute for Scientific Information) and OhioLINK have announced the first major implementation of statewide lease of SciSearch®, Social SciSearch®, and Arts & Humanities Search Citation® databases. OhioLINK users will be able to access the files via a World Wide Web browser interface designed by ISI. OhioLINK campuses will be able to access the ISI Citation Databases beginning this fall.

Wright State University will serve as the central site and will mount the data on a DEC AlphaServer.

More — ISI has selected Professor Charles Oppenheim, International Institute for Electronic Library Research, DeMontfort University, UK, as the 1996 ISI Research Grant recipient. ISI will award Professor Oppenheim a grant in the amount of \$3,000 for his research proposal, which involves corroborating the value of various types of citation analyses in research assessment activities.

The University of Kansas (KU) Libraries have signed a contract with VTLS Inc. for the

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