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Biz of Acq

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There's no biz like acq biz

by *Richard Jasper* (Emory University)

SO YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN BUSY?

ATG Columnist **Richard Jasper** reports that the post-ALA period has been full of changes at Emory University's General Libraries, where he heads the Acquisitions Department.

In late August, the General Libraries brought up the acquisitions component of IBM's DOBIS integrated library system, four years after having implemented the DOBIS online public access catalog and circulation system. The General Libraries are the last, and by far the largest, of five campus libraries to bring up the DOBIS acquisitions system.

The very first orders in the new system were for French titles, in honor of Emory's rapidly expanding Department of French and Italian, Richard reports. In the past year, Emory has added five new French faculty and 12 graduate students (including eight doctoral candidates). Emory's luring of the new faculty, most of whom left Johns Hopkins University to join Emory, made headlines in the *New York Times*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and the front page of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Ordering for French language materials is increasing rapidly at Emory.

To top it all off, effective September 1 the General Libraries

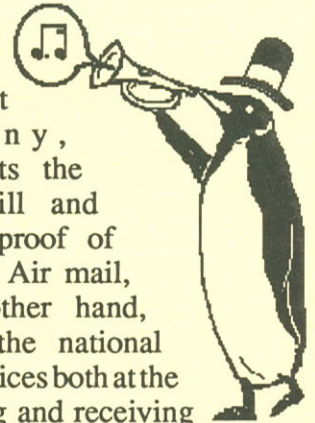
merged the formerly separate divisions of Technical Services and Collection Management into a new, expanded Division of Collections and Technical Services. The new division is headed by Jane Treadwell, formerly Director of Collection Management. The merger came nine months after the retirement of Peggy Kline, long-time Director of Technical Services, and was strongly influenced by the need for close cooperation between Collection Management and the Technical Services departments in the implementation of DOBIS Acquisitions.

Air Mail, Air Freight — What's the Difference?

Maybe everyone else knew this, but I didn't. The question has to do with the difference between having materials from foreign vendors shipped air freight as opposed to air mail. This question assumes, of course, that you need these materials more speedily than you would receive them via surface mail — the position we find ourselves in here at Emory University, now that we have drastically increased the number of French language materials we are purchasing to support our greatly expanded Department of French & Italian.

According to Ed Lockman of the Faxon Fulfilment Center in Ann Arbor, Mich., air freight is

sent by a commercial freight company, which cuts the airway bill and provides proof of delivery. Air mail, on the other hand, employs the national postal services both at the originating and receiving ends. Air mail from western European countries may take a few weeks, whereas materials sent air freight usually are delivered in about one week.



There are some other differences, Ed points out. Customs/duty is included in the cost of the stamp for air mail materials, which are not opened and inspected upon point of entry. Materials sent air freight, however, are opened and inspected; moreover, materials sent air freight must be accompanied by an invoice to determine the value of the air freight shipment — the basis for the duty to be paid.

"What it comes down to is how valuable and how time sensitive is the material," Ed says. "Air mail is cheap, not duty, slower, and no trace. Just the opposite is true for the small package (under 20 lbs.) via air freight." He adds that if the vendor is willing to pick up the shipping charges "don't accept airmail; make the shipment traceable with an air freight company." Comments? 🐧