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## Something to Think About -- What Now?

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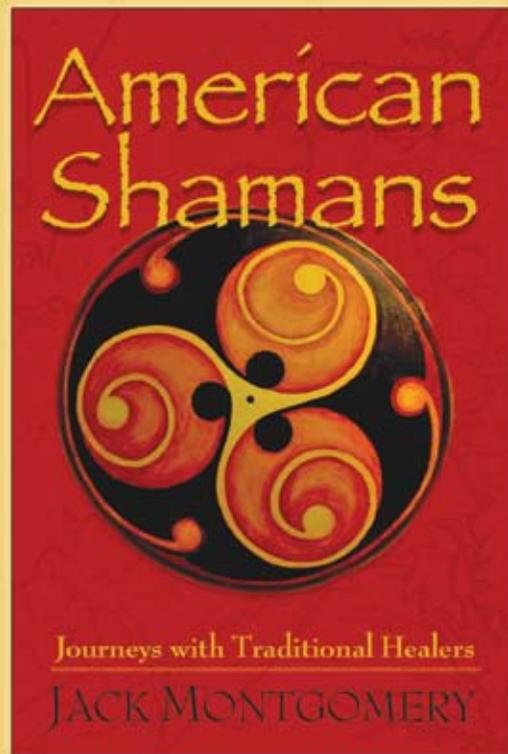
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**Jack G. Montgomery** was born in Columbia, South Carolina in 1953. He earned his B.A. from the University of South Carolina in 1976 and MLS at the University of Maryland—College Park in 1987. Jack has worked as a librarian in Virginia, Ohio, Missouri and Kentucky where he is an Associate Professor and Collection Services Coordinator at Western Kentucky University.

Jack conducts professional seminars on Emotional Intelligence for library groups nationwide. In 2005, his book with co-author Eleanor I. Cook, *Conflict Management for Libraries: A Strategy for a Positive, Productive Workplace* was published by ALA Editions.

Jack plays guitar, bass, harmonica, and Appalachian dulcimer. He released his first music CD in 2002 entitled *Onward to Avalon* and his second CD, *Everywhere I Look*, in 2004. He performs at local festivals in Kentucky and Tennessee and his music has been featured on several college, international, and Internet radio stations.



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## Something to Think About — What Now?

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Well...last year it was a tornado that caused a “crisis.” I must say this year we had some quieter and cooler weather over the holidays. No...this year we returned to find that Starbucks was building a wall on our first floor and getting ready to expand the building in that area for coffee. Never fails! You ask for space for books and they give the space to a coffee shop. I know the Starbucks stock is down and they need a jolt of their own caffeine to get restarted, but really? We hadn’t expected any building until later in the spring, but they fooled us. Permits were obtained during the break and no one knew they had started. I was watching the building with a coworker and suddenly thought, where are our shelves? No, more to the point, where were the browsing journals that resided there? Lawrence told me the shelves were dismantled inside the room and the journals had been placed in a corner of that same room. It is amazing how the mind zeros in on one specific thing when there are many to consider. I am in charge of those journals and I needed to retrieve them and make them accessible to the public. Doesn’t matter if

there are only two patrons, one will ask for a browsing journal and the other will ask for a newspaper. Wow! I had forgotten the newspaper rack! Where were they? Lawrence, our “Rock,” told me everything was ok. I wanted to be sure, so we gathered a couple of trucks and went to the doorway of the new room. There were the shelves — all over the place. The journals were on chairs, but some were under the shelving debris. We extricated them and rolled them back into the Serials area. I just looked at the mess and knew we had to organize them quickly. We did have a storehouse of #37 (extra large) pamphlet boxes in a store room, so we put them together and organized the journals in alpha order, four to a box. Now I understood why we had titles glued to the spines of those locked magazine covers!

Standing them in the boxes allowed for the titles to show. We left the boxes on the trucks and lined them up at the front of the library.

Very visible for the public and they did use them! Later that day, the newspaper rack was moved closer to the vertical files, which has the storehouse of older newspaper issues on top of them. Perhaps they will be used more frequently now. I like the visual picture it creates. There is ample seating in the atrium very near that location for reading comfortably. The journal shelving has been reconstructed in a new area with the lounge chairs and the leisure books will soon join them. We did lose a lot of student study carrels. I am getting edgy about that. We are just about back to normal, and somehow the place looks more inviting. Quick work came from good organization! Boy, you can never tell what’s going to happen around here. Just wait a minute and something is bound to change. Has your library been invaded by coffee? There are ramifications and certainly lots of somethings to think about! ☕

