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Group Therapy-How do you check in e-journals?

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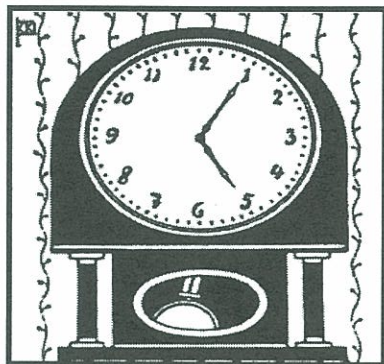
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Papa Lyman Remembers – Deadlines

by **Lyman Newlin** (Book Trade Counsellor) <broadwater@commtech.net>

*Editor's note: Y'all I know that this is a letter and all that and that it is more **Papa Lyman Apologizing** than Remembering, but, you know, it seemed to fit here. Look at all the things it shows about Lyman. The incredible man is always on the go (medical science should study him seriously). We hear more about how Broadwater Books, his company, was named and his beloved Minnesota, and last but not least, we see how Papa Lyman is always stretching his deadlines. Oh well, I guess I forgive him as I'll bet all of us will when we see him in Charleston in November. — KS*



Esteemed, beloved Editor of *ATG*:

Deadlines! Deadlines! Deadlines! I've missed plenty of them in my time, but I hate most to miss your deadline. Excuses include an unscheduled order from a client to attend and work the **Upper Midwest Booksellers Association** regional exhibition in Minneapolis, September 26-28, which I did, accompanied by my partner, **Fred Newlin**, our elder son. We

drove the thousand miles each way to carry exhibition materials for **Merck's Medical Manual, home edition**, of which the first edition was just published. After a successful UMBA meeting, we took an extra couple of days to drive up to my former home on Broadwater Bay in Cass County. The weather was cooperative as viewed from a cruise on Broadwater Bay. My next deadline begins five days hence, when I head for the **Frankfurt Book Fair** on behalf of my client, **Fred Gullette's Book News**. But the best of all deadline's will be November 5, when I expect to put in an appearance at you-know-what in Charleston, SC.

Respectfully, **Lyman W. Newlin** 🐾

Group Therapy

How do you check in electronic journals?

Column Editor, **Rosann Bazirjian** (Florida State University)

Hey y'all out there! Do you have any gripes? Come to your therapist! Try <rbazirji@mail.fsu.edu> or FAX 904-644-5170.

GRIBE:

(Submitted by Jane Clarkson, Head of Collection Development, Florida State University)

I have a question more than a gripe, but I think it is appropriate for your column. With the proliferation of electronic journals, what are librarians doing about check-in? This is of prime concern as we decide to add these titles in electronic format to our OPAC. Should we check-in individual issues as available? How do we know when they become available? How can we monitor our electronic subscriptions? Any help you can provide would be appreciated.

LIBRARIAN RESPONSE:

(Response submitted by Karen Schmidt, Director of Collections and Assessment, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

Libraries need to drag their internal procedures into the next phase of publishing right along with the format changes, and they need to work in tan-

dem with publishers to accomplish this. Our responsibility to expend funds carefully and be good stewards of our collections for our users doesn't change with the move to electronic publications.

Now that the sermon is out of the way - what can we do to make our serial check-in routines conform to the paperless format? Some libraries now are simply sweeping the electronic files on a regular basis for new file additions, questioning publishers when a long time elapses between new additions. This is not unlike our approach to gap claiming before automated serial check-in systems were developed. It's time-consuming at best, and inaccurate and potentially expensive at the worst. Publishers can attempt alert services to tell libraries when a new file is coming along, and internal library systems can develop alerting mechanisms -- but of course if the alert is not forthcoming for whatever reason, the problem is not solved in any way. On a basic level, for the present, it would be helpful for all publishers of electronic journals to provide on a regular basis a listing of files that



have been sent, so that libraries can check manually to be certain that new issues/articles are being received properly. In lieu of that, the old-fashioned manual approach to this new-fangled product often has to serve.

One can imagine an interesting futuristic scenario where journals are unbundled and sent out to libraries based on a profile of interest, libraries establish deposit accounts, money is transferred with the successful completion of data transfer, and online systems are automatically updated (and interested users might find the article in their e-mail files). The industry will need to settle down and the economics smooth out before any of the technology which already exists can begin to come into play in an effective way. Until that time, we need to continue to do one of the things we are very, very good at: being excellent stewards in the most fundamental and sometimes boringly mundane way. 🐾