June 2000

Rick Anderson, Head, Acquisitions Librarian, UNC-Greensboro

Barbara Dean

Arlington County Public Library

Jack W. Montgomery

Western Kentucky University, jack.montgomery@wkyu.edu

Allison Mays

Millsaps College, maysap@millsaps.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Dean, Barbara; Montgomery, Jack W.; and Mays, Allison (2000) "Rick Anderson, Head, Acquisitions Librarian, UNC-Greensboro," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 12: Iss. 3, Article 23.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3378>

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.

Profiles Encouraged

Rick Anderson

Head Acquisitions Librarian

Jackson Library

UNC Greensboro

(336) 334-5281

<rick_anderson@uncg.edu>

Born when and where: 1965 in Palo Alto, CA (but raised since infancy in the Boston area)

Current residence: Greensboro, NC

Education: B.S. (1991) and M.L.I.S. (1993) from Brigham Young University

Summary of job experience: Bibliographic searcher/inputter, then section supervisor in the Acquisitions Department at BYU's Lee Library (1988-1993); bibliographer at Yankee Book Peddler (1993-1997); Head Acquisitions Librarian at UNC Greensboro (1997-present).

Family: Wife Laura Wolz, kids Maggie (7), Bryan (4) and Tucker (1)

Most recent accomplishment: My first speaking honorarium

Most recent goal attained: Joined the staff of Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine

First job: Scooping ice cream at Brigham's in Harvard Square

Fondest memory: Having ten dollars in my pocket and knowing I could buy any record in the store that I wanted; then spending hours trying to choose between Fred Frith, Joe Val and Pere Ubu

Favorite pastime: Listening to 1970s-era reggae while reading hard-boiled detective fiction

Hobbies: Reading, writing, guitar, banjo, Irish flute, bodhran

Last book read or literary tastes: Right now I'm reading Robert Conquest's *Reflections on a Ravaged Century*, but mostly I'm a Robert B. Parker/James Lee Burke kind of guy.

Pet peeves: Tribalism, cant and rah-rah

What would you like to be doing five years from now? Playing a genuine Irish flute, a Martin HD-28 guitar, a Bart Reiter Whyte Laydie banjo (with the gryphon peghead inlay) and putting away enough money to get my kids through college. (Hmmm ... I may have to make some choices ...)

Had I but world enough and time: I'd write fewer reviews and more music, and I'd practice a lot more.

Single most important piece of advice: Question your own motives at all times.

Biggest surprise: The fierceness and intensity of parental love. I expected it to be deep and strong; I didn't expect it to shake me like a rag.

Op Ed

from page 38

be unknown in a decade. Ten years from now, scholars appear likely to prefer their monographs, particular in STM and many social sciences, in electronic form only. The library building will house an increasingly humanities-only collection of books. What will happen, then, to book jobbers when so much of the service they provide deals with a physical item? Why shouldn't libraries expect that we will submit the order directly to the publisher using the new 13-digit ISBN and the publisher will FTP the work back to us in seconds. Developments in EDI fund transfer will make the jobber's previous place at the hub of the academic monograph publications wheel less important. If jobbers continue to exist to serve university libraries, they will be handling a shrinking number of paper scholarly titles and likely will be handling the still lively market in trade books. A growth area for jobbers will be the domain of rights management and handling copyright permissions.

Not to worry about these acquisitions is not to take lightly the importance of book vending. Speedy and fiscally simple means of buying books is very important to any library. What might librarians prepare for rather than being concerned about these recent actions? Is it likely that book jobbers will begin to behave like serials agents, particularly in assessing a surcharge rather than selling at a discount. Book jobbers have developed costly Web-based data manipulation engines to assist collection managers and acquisitions librarians in querying about their profiles and accounts. These have traditionally been provided at no charge. The future will probably include annual fees for the more powerful features to allow jobbers to recoup development costs. What about the level of service? To meet the demands of competition, book jobbers, known for their high-touch service, will likely begin to resemble the phone company model where reaching inside and finding a living human being is difficult.

So there is plenty about which to worry, but these acquisitions are not the focus. The next stage of book acquisition will be different and librarians need to keep their eyes open and throw our weight/budgets around in a calculated way to get what we need from the new book vending relationships.

¹With apologies to Stanley Kubrick and to Dr. Strangelove wherever they are.

Here's Looking At

from page 36

Yes, this means libraries would pay for profiling. It also means that profiling could be improved much more quickly. If a good profiling system can identify "core" titles, perhaps a library can spend less time on selection. If an enhanced profiling system can reduce the time spent writing, monitoring, and revising approval plans, that time can be reallocated. If library-based profiling can reduce the costs of some vendors, a portion of those savings could offset the cost of profiling. ILS vendors could view this as a collection development module, fitted to their systems. Publishers could see it as highly targeted marketing to likely buyers, worth at least a single copy from which to profile.

Can it work? We believe it can, both operationally and economically. Is it a good idea? We think so; that's why we're putting it out for comment. What's it worth? That's for the market to determine, but we believe it can more than pay for itself. We're interested in comments for or against, refinements, calumny, or quibbles, either directed to us or to *ATG*.