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Oregon Trails

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Oregon Trails

by **Tom Leonhardt** (Director, Information Resources Center and University Librarian, International University Bremen, Germany) www.iu-bremen.de

This time I am trimming to the bone. No fat. Only the bare essentials. As I begin to clear out my office I marvel at how much precious junk I have accumulated in less than four years. Much of it has followed me around for many years and much of it has sentimental value but this time I need to travel light. This is to be a new beginning in several ways, so I want to simplify my life beyond anything I have done since beginning my career. That is not to say that my new life won't have complications, of course it will, but I will be parting with all of my worldly possessions except for my clothing. Even my books will stay behind, some with my children, others in storage. My trumpet, my two cornets, my guitar, my music, my CDs will be staying in Oregon. Will I miss them? I already do. Will I replace them? No, but I may find some substitutes.

Already I have thrown away several reams of papers that I have accumulated and transported but ceased referring to. As an Army brat and itinerant librarian, I have carried my history with me but now it has become possible to recognize that much of it no longer has any value to me and its connection to my past needs to be severed forever. The drawers of a large, long file cabinet have been purged. Only a couple of items escaped the recycling cartons.

I will keep the correspondence (and the speaker's badge) related to *The Fourth International Conference on Approval Plans—Collection Development*, held in the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee on October 29, 30, & 31, 1979. For the first time, I had a paper accepted. It

was a thrill and a proud moment. The conference was chaired by **Peter Spyers-Duran**, now retired, then Director of the University Library at **California State University**, Long Beach. Other members of the Conference Advisory Board were **Charles C. MacLeod**, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee; **Joseph A. Boisse**, Library Director at the University of Wisconsin—Parkside; **Hendrik Edelman**, University Librarian, Rutgers; **Max W. Gnehm**, President of **Blackwell North America**; **Doyle C. Pickett**, Director of Program Services, **The Baker & Taylor Company**; **William C. Roselle**, Library Director at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee; and **Julie Virgo**, Executive Secretary of the **Association of College and Research Libraries**. Those names will mean little or nothing to most readers but to other old-timers, they will undoubtedly trigger memories of those and other influential librarians of the day.

I am also keeping my complete run of the "From the Fringes" column written by **T. Harrison Linkwood**, B.S., M.S., M.L.S., Ph.D. for the library journal *Library Underworld*. Let me quote some introductory material from *Library Underworld* when it introduced **Linkwood** to its readers. And let me add that despite this introduction, few librarians know of this writer who may never write again unless he can overcome a desperate case of writer's block. He once thought that his steady diet of Guinness and single malt whiskey had killed essential brain cells but I visited with him during the *ALA Midwinter Meet-*

ing in Washington, D.C., this past January and he seemed as sharp as ever. Writer's block is a serious ailment but its cause and cure are more matters of psychology rather than physiology. Here is the introduction. His writings you must get from him and that may prove difficult. He is very much alive and active as a librarian but a regular **J.D. Salinger** when it comes to his private life.

"Substantial facts regarding the life and career of **T. Harrison Linkwood** are few. The editorial staff has been able to verify the awarding of two degrees in the natural sciences, a B.S. in 1963 and a M.S. in 1965. There is little dispute that a M.S.S. was earned in 1975. The degree granting institutions, all in the West, pleaded that their names not be given. There were allusions to several shameful episodes of naked lust and outrageous intemperance associated with **Linkwood's** student days that the registrars pray will never again be brought to light. Reports of the occasional bit of violence are thought to exist. Repeated attempts by the editorial staff to ascertain the date, subject and granting institution of **Linkwood's** Ph.D. have met with no success. To be honest, there is a growing concern that the doctorate may be self-awarded. Readers can rest assured that our investigations into this matter will continue with all possible vigor."

"**Dr. Linkwood's** professional life seems to have been spent in acquisitions departments in academic libraries in the West. Despite inferences to a cursed independence and an outspoken intolerance to ineptitude, his work history is without interruption, albeit also without distinction. There is some evidence to suggest that **Linkwood** took an internship in journalism with a **Dr. Hunter S. Thompson** of the University of Woody Creek. Details of this phase of **Dr. Linkwood's** life are sketchy. When queried, **Linkwood's** only response is to grin wickedly and beg for strong drink."

"Little is known of **Linkwood's** private life. Based upon limited correspondence and a few garbled phone conversations, the editorial staff has been able to piece together the following: **Dr. Linkwood** has been accused of being slow to adapt to modern librarianship. Late at night he has been heard to rail profanely against such throngs as hardware, software and systems. In contrast, he speaks fondly of books and writers. In spite of a small stature, he is known for a large appetite for single malt whiskies and ales of the strongest type, a predilection he blames on a Scottish heritage. **Dr. Linkwood's** personal credo, which oddly enough, is printed on his business cards, is: "I'm not here for a long time, I'm here for a good time."

The few columns that **Linkwood** has written to date are profoundly irreverent and funny as hell. His description of an ALA conference speaker, so long-winded and unintelligible that he is attacked and beaten by members of the

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Something About Books from page 90

Doris Kearns Goodwin weaves that wonderful mixture of daily life, political times and sports into an absorbing memoir.

"Although my interest in public events rarely went beyond the sport page," she did manage to worry about **Julius and Ethel Rosenberg**; the Soviet Union; the bomb; the work of **Senator Joe McCarthy** and her beloved **Brooklyn Dodgers**. She also learned, at the hands of her devoted father, the fine art of keeping a true and accurate box score, and of telling her father what happened during the day games on his return home after a long day at the office. Taking the box score in hand, she would replay the game, inning by inning, keeping the outcome to herself and keeping her father in suspense—the start of her life as a storyteller and historian.

Towards the end of her story, during the 1955 season, **Goodwin** attended a special July game celebrating **Pee Wee Reese's** thirty-seventh birthday. "Just before the celebration was to begin, I caught **Jackie**

Robinson's attention....The aging warrior remained my favorite player...I leaned over the railing, and with my most beseeching smile waved my autograph book." He signed it "Keep your smile a long, long while. **Jackie Robinson**." She continues: "I would not let the book out of my hand.... As **Reese** approached home plate, I thought about the very special relationship which existed between **Robinson** and **Reese** — the black pioneer and the southern captain. When **Robinson** first came to the **Dodgers**, it had been **Reese** who quashed the petition against him by his teammates.... Now, as **Reese** walked forward to receive the tributes...**Robinson** reached out in a swift, barely noticeable gesture and put his hand on **Reese's** shoulder. '**Reese and Robinson**,' my father remarked, 'they're a lot more than great baseball players.'"

And **Ms. Goodwin's** work is a lot more than a baseball story, more than the simple quest for championship in the **World Series** which so often did not come to the **Dodger** fans of the late 1940's and 50's. This is the story of growing up, facing death and getting on with one's life.

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audience, reminds me of more than one conference program and more than one speaker. Yes, there is a dark side to **Linkwood's** writings (in another piece on an acquisitions conference in the mountains, someone is actually murdered or at least turns up dead—murder is such a harsh word) but they make me laugh, too, and remind me not to take myself too seriously.

The family photos in my office will come with me along with one other that will help warm the atmosphere in my new office. There I am, one of a group of four. From left to right, **Marion Reid** (CSU San Marcos), **Frank D'Andraia** (University of Montana), **Tom Leonhardt** (TBA), and **Arnold Hirshon** (NELINET). We are sitting on a wagon to which is hitched a striped donkey. We were attending an **EDUCOM** meeting in San Diego and on a whim, took the train to Tiajuana, one of the few places in the world where striped donkeys are indigenous. If we didn't look like *tourists* before we climbed aboard the wagon and donned our Mexican *sombreros*, we quickly rested our case.

The books in my office will go into storage. They are too heavy and too many. I will miss them, old friends, but I know how sweet the reunion will be when we are together again

at the end of my adventure. But although they are heavy, too, I will take my paperweight collection to my new office. I will either pack them with my clothes or have my children mail them to me later on. I must have a dozen of them, some from a visit to England years ago but most with some kind of conference association. In other words, I am not an active paperweight collector (bookmarks are another story) but an occasional collector. Someone once noted that once you get three or four of something you have a collection. As I grow older it is easier to discard those inadvertent collections so that I can better concentrate on books and bookmarks. The paperweights are really mementos and do not seem to be propagating as my wife's spoon collection is. She claims it is my collection but I am only the delivery boy, bringing back a spoon from whatever city I happen to have been in. They, too, will go into storage. Let's just hope that I don't, I mean, she doesn't acquire any duplicates as a result of their inaccessibility.

I'll take my two **Dilbert** heads, too—**Dilbert** and the **Boss**. They used to say things when you pressed down on them. Their batteries are dead now but their spirits live on. They also remind me not to take myself too seriously and to reflect on how I behave. I don't want to become like some administrators I know who love to share **Dilbert** cartoons with

the rest of us but fail to see that they have met the enemy and it is them. They only think that **Dilbert** is funny. How sad.

From the opening paragraph you have guessed that I am on the move again but this is not an ordinary move and not the usual job change. On May 1, 2001, I will begin my duties as Director of the Information Resources Center and University Librarian at the **International University Bremen (IUB)**. This is the chance of a lifetime for me, starting a new library at a new university in a country where I went to high school (albeit an American high school) and whose language and literature I have studied for many years. Finally, I have the opportunity to really learn the language and I will be able to browse regularly in German bookstores.

I am not sure if I will be in San Francisco for the **ALA Annual Conference** in June but I plan to attend the other midwinter and annual meetings for the next three years, just as I have done for the past twenty-five years. I also hope to continue writing for *Against the Grain* and hope to hear from my readers once I have my new e-mail address. In the meantime, you can get in touch with me, from May on, in Bremen, Germany. See this URL for details: www.iu-bremen.de.

Aufwiederssehen!

Desperately Seeking Website

by **Amber Williams** (American Society for Bone and Mineral Research; Phone: 919-620-0681)
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I spoke with **Eric Albright**, Head of Acquisitions at **Duke University Medical Center Library**, and I realized our perspectives on the matter of online access are not so divergent. It is my hope that the paths of librarian and publisher can come together in more places than in print.

PUB: In your opinion, what is the most difficult aspect of accessing online journals?

LIB: Negotiating the license is usually the most difficult portion of this process. When we purchase print materials from our various publishers we know the restrictions, i.e. copyright and fair use, but that is not the case with a site license. Just as you have many customers with varying concerns we have various publishers each with different concerns which lead to the site licenses looking very different.

PUB: What do you think publishers can do to change this?

LIB: I offer either the adoption of mutually agreed upon model licenses or doing away with licenses altogether. What have either of us really gained from them?

PUB: You suggest the adoption of mutually agreed upon model licenses for publishers or to do away with the site license altogether, but doesn't the site license offer

protections/ guarantees for the library customer as well? Shouldn't these needs be addressed in some medium (such as the site license)? I don't know how often you purchase online only subscriptions, but if you do, don't you need some kind of security that the product will be available and maintained for you?

LIB: In the ideal world where we are full partners in the pursuit of academic endeavors, I would love it if we could do away with them altogether. Unfortunately, yes we do need simple agreements that say we agree to pay you and make it only available to certain IP ranges and to follow copyright and you agree to deliver the product and ideally guarantee archival access. That takes but a page or two. Some licenses we see go on for many pages about liability, indemnification and prevailing court authority. When we subscribe to a print title, we have expectations that you will deliver the title and its content to us. But we have yet to sign an agreement with you stating that we expect you to maintain an editorial board of such and such caliber and have it delivered by the 13th of every month with X number of minimum pages on glossy paper. We can do that in print because there are accepted norms in the publishing industry which we and the courts would uphold. In this emerging electronic world those norms have yet to be established.

I am not even certain that they ever will.

PUB: What is favorable about electronic journals?

LIB: As opposed to print? The obvious advantage for us is the link from our indexing sources directly to the article. Our patrons, like most of society, want instant satisfaction.

PUB: Are you happy in general with the service you receive from publishers when subscribing to online journals?

LIB: At the turn of the year when the subscription agents cause us to lose access to a journal, it is rather frustrating but in general we are happy. We also do not get clear information about when some of the larger sites are down or experiencing difficulties. The electronic environment requires more communication than the print because of enhanced expectations.

PUB: How do the subscription agents cause you to lose your subscription/access? Is this because they do not make payment in a timely manner or because they are responsible for getting online access for your institution?

LIB: We renew a title with the vendor but negotiate the site license with the publisher. Often it seems that the publisher cannot make the link from the vendor renewal request to

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