September 1999

From Your Editor

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From your (whew-ing) Editor:

I have to tell you that we are breathing a huge sigh of relief here in Charleston now that Hurricane Dennis has blown out to sea. Whew! I think it was Conrad Richter, when asked why he lived near the San Andreas fault, who said that no matter where you live, you have to accept the fact that you aren't far from the potential of a natural disaster. Comforting, isn't it?

Despite all the hurricane scares, though, here is the September Reference Issue of *ATG*! As in the past two Reference Issues, we have a group interview of collection development and reference librarians by **Fran**

Wilkinson and Linda Lewis. In 1997, the proliferation of reference materials was discussed by both librarians and publishers. By the 1998 Reference Issue, the discussions expanded to include the increasing array of format choices, and the Web's effect on reference publishing. Here, in the 1999 Reference Issue, Fran and Linda consider how the traditional distinctions between reference and subject-specific materials are becoming blurred due to the growth of products that combine indexing and fulltext features.

Also in this issue, we have an article by the intrepid **Cheryl LaGuardia** about CD-ROMs which are still around despite forecasts of their demise. Talk about against the grain! And **Tom Gilson**—who has done another awesome job of guest editing—ponders the uncertainties of the future for libraries and

reference publishing. We have interviews with **Dr. Pieter S.H. Bolman**, President of Academic Press, **Sir Charles Chadwyck Healey**, the founder of Chadwyck Healey, and **David Tyckoson**—Head, Reference Services, at CSU Fresno. In Biz of Acq, **Brian Flaherty** talks about acquisitions librarians working at the reference desk. And **Mark McCabe's** article on the impact of publisher mergers on journal prices will rivet you, I promise. And, of course, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Ouch! Since when do hurricanes and icebergs go together? I'm going to be quiet so y'all can get to reading! And, see you in Charleston at the **1999 Charleston Conference**—November 3-6! Visit our Website at <http://www.cofc.edu/library/conference> to register!

Yr. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strauchk@cofc.edu>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: **Against the Grain**, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the *ATG* Homepage at <<http://www.against-the-grain.com>>

Dear Editor:

The article by **Rick Anderson** (UNC-Greensboro) in the April issue of *ATG* about licensing ("Biz of Acq—To License or Not to License: That Really Ought to Be the Question," p.68-70, 72) was fabulous. Everyone needs to read it. I will be making copies for people here where I work. Hear! Hear!

Thanks,

Eleanor Cook

(Appalachian State University)

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Dear Editor:

As part of a decade-long policy of periodically rotating my professional subscriptions, I had decided not to renew my subscription to *Against the Grain*. Acquisitions is just one part of my job, and my acquisitions budget is just \$40,000.

You, however, continued to send more issues and I continued to read them. When I realized how many titles I would be buying from the useful list of biology bestsellers in the April issue, you won my renewal check, enclosed. What other magazine will walk the plank instead of *Against the Grain*? Your

competitors for my (personal) professional subscription budget include *Library Journal*, *Searcher*, and *Online*. Since I have already renewed these subscriptions for 1999, the decision is deferred another year.

Incidentally, over the past five years, when visiting brew pubs and homebrew shops, I believe I have been mistaken on occasion for the well known acquisitions librarian and beer writer with whom I share a name and avocation. Although I have been a homebrewer for five years, I would not think of writing about beer, not under my own name at least.

Best wishes,

Steve Johnson

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Against the Grain — Deadlines 1999 & 2000 — Volumes 11 & 12

Event	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
Charleston Conference	Nov. 99	8/25/99	9/15/99
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 99/Jan. 2000	10/27/99	11/17/99
Annual Report	Feb. 2000	12/08/99	12/22/99
ACRL, SLA, MLA	April 2000	02/09/00	02/23/00
ALA Annual	June 2000	04/05/00	04/19/00
Reference Publishing	Sept. 2000	07/05/00	07/19/00
Charleston Conference	Nov. 2000	08/23/00	09/06/00
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 00/Jan. 01	10/25/00	11/08/00

Rumors

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share the email addresses of **Nick Vincelli** (Order Librarian, UNC-CH) <vincelli@email.unc.edu> and **Selden Durgom Lamoureux** (Serials Librarian, UNC-CH) <lamours@email.unc.edu> in **Rumors** to help them get oriented to the acquisitions community more quickly! Hey, y'all! Everybody send them an email NOW!

Let's see. The also fabulous **Ned Kraft** has a new job! After 13 years he's left the **Smithsonian Institution Libraries** to join the library of the **State Department** as Or-

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