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Company Profile: Serials Solutions, LLC-One Library's Experience: Our Serials Solutions List

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Profiles Encouraged — One Library's Experience: Our Serials Solutions List

Company Profile — Serials Solutions, LLC

by **Allison P. Mays** (Acquisitions Librarian, Millsaps College, 1701 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39210; Phone 601-974-1083) <maysap@millsaps.edu>

Editor's Note: In the September issue of ATG, I wrote an article about getting our electronic and print journals organized with the company, Serials Solutions. They produce an alphabetical listing of a library's full-text electronic journals; we included our print titles as well. We did receive our report in HTML format and it's now on our library's Webpage <http://library.millsaps.edu/library/Journals%20and%20Periodicals/default.shtml>. We also got a copy of the report in print and we will make a couple of copies to have in the library. Almost immediately the list proved to be very useful and we're pleased with it. —AM

There are a few bugs to work out, mostly with our print titles. I checked all of our print titles that were in the original Excel spreadsheet against the printed and HTML reports and found a few typos that we had made. We had decided to use the journal title as the access point, rather than the ISSN, but when I checked some of the links to our OPAC, I found that too many other titles are being pulled up in the search results. For instance, the journal title "Delta" pulls up a total of 19 titles. Either we need to try to limit the search by material type in the URL — serial/periodical — or we need to use the ISSN as the access point. We'll probably end up using some combination of the two since our very old journal titles do not

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have ISSNs in the catalog records.

The other thing we do not like is the way the OCLC FirstSearch titles just dump you into the big general database. We much prefer the way JSTOR and Project Muse links take the user directly to the specific journal. Another issue is that since the FirstSearch database has a "per search" charge, we're afraid we'll get hit with a massive bill. Because of these factors, we've decided to pull the FirstSearch titles out of the list. (Users still have access to the FirstSearch databases; we're just pulling those titles out of the Serials Solutions list.) I was able to make the change myself because Serials Solutions has just created an online client interface; I can call up our list of databases and either add or remove databases from my list. It's very well-organized and easy to use.

I have to admit that adding our print titles to the list has been a hassle; however, in the long run it will be worth it. It forced us to clean up our existing list and we discovered some mistakes and problems that we will correct. I still need to add the "freebie" e-journals that come with our print subscriptions, and I will get that report from EBSCO. Then I can go into the online client interface, call up the list from "EBSCO Online" and add each title to our list.

As for more changes and features, I spoke

use tools to produce viable alternatives. Combined with the efforts of undertakings such as BioOne and Project Euclid, we believe we can help restore some sanity to the world of scholarly publishing.

ATG: Tell us about you. How did you get interested in this? What do you do for fun? What do you like to read? Do you have a family? Any anecdotes?

GT: I have been at The Berkeley Electronic Press since nearly the beginning, having come on board after working with the EndNote bibliographic software team. I am glad that I get to come to work every day in an

Tananbaum Interview from page 53

ATG: Will you be working with other universities?

GT: It is our sincere hope that other universities follow the University of California's lead and work to provide their faculty with tools to manage and disseminate their research. Many universities, through groups like SPARC, have expressed real concern over the state of scholarly communication. We believe that one way to proactively address these concerns is to provide researchers with easy-to-

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with **Tim Granquist** at Serials Solutions and he said they're working on a title-based searching feature and a subject breakdown of the journal titles. This company is very user-friendly: their customer service is excellent, they're open to ideas and suggestions, and they respond immediately. There is a good article on **Peter McCracken** in the August 2001 issue of *Library Journal*; in fact, **Peter** is on the cover.

If you have questions about Serials Solutions or about including your library's print journal titles, feel free to contact me: **Allison P. Mays**, Acquisitions Librarian, Millsaps College, 1701 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39210; Ph. 601-974-1083; <maysap@millsaps.edu>.

environment that is both fun and challenging. Ultimately, if **bepress** succeeds in its mission, we will have greatly improved the flow of scholarly communication. I think that is an honorable goal.

Free time? I'll let you know the next time I have some! Seriously, though, most of my free time is spent with my wife **Melanie** and our bulldog **Tess**. **Melanie** works at **Berkeley**, and actually is the one who put me in touch with the **bepress** folks. Hopefully, that will go down as an auspicious introduction for all parties!