November 2013

Letters to the Editor

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It's not quite spring yet but, I want to rush it up since we have had such a horrible winter. So, I have been cleaning up. Everyone around me is amazed. My office at work is clean (for me). My study at home where I work on ATG is clean (ditto). I am even cleaning out my clothes closets and omitting stuff that I can't wear anymore. Hmmmm ...

This issue of ATG is on the Retention of Print and is guest-edited by Rosann Bazirjan. We have papers by Tom Peters, John McDonald, Mark Rowe, Don Jaeger, and Robert Alan and Nan Butkovich. There are interviews with independent publisher David Dekker, as well as Rick Lugg and Ruth Fischer's interview with Sara Randall, and Harry Samuels on Open URL Linking, and Bruce Strauch's interview with the Copyright Clearance Center about the Copy Shop Lawsuits. There are People Profiles for two of this issue's authors, Nancy Butkovich and Angi Fals as well as profiles for Roger Press and Joe Lee who both have an interview which will appear in the June issue of ATG. Our Publisher Profile this month features Marcel Dekker, Inc. And of course, we have the usual wonderful columns by our ATG regulars like Tom Gibson's From the Reference Desk and Book Reviews from Debbie Vaughn and Heather Miller, a Devil's Advocate by Robert Molynec and even more on contracts and copyrights in our Legal Issues Section by Bruce Strauch, Bryan Carson and Laura Gasaway. And last but not least, be sure to read Ned Kraft's Adventures in Librarianship way back on p. 93; it's sure to be an crowd pleaser.

Gotta get back to the cleaning. My husband just stacked a load of mail on my computer table. In the meanwhile, happy reading and stay safe.

— Yr. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strau@earthlink.net>, phone or fax 412-723-3556, 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:

I was recently reading Mark Herring's "The Future of the Book" issue of ATG (v.14#6, December/January 2003) and that made me think of a couple of great authors who had this to say (below) about reading and books.

Marcel Proust, "Remembrance of Things Past," Vol. III, writes: "... reading teaches us to take a more exalted view of the value of life, a value at the time we did not know how to appreciate and of whose magnitude we have only become aware through the book." and Henry Thoreau, "Walden," in a chapter on "Reading," writes: "To read well, that is, to read true books in a true spirit, is a noble exercise, and one that will task the reader more than any exercise which the customs of the day esteem. It requires a training such as the athletes underwent, the steady intention almost of the whole life to this object. Books must be read as deliberately and reservedly as they are written."

I can happily report that every time my wife Linda and I visit our local library, and every time we stop by a nearby Borders Bookstore we see these places filled with a broad spectrum of kids and adults, who are avidly perusing books of all kinds. I'd like to believe that Henry and Marcel would be delighted to see scenes such as this!

All the best,
John Long
(Consultant)
<br john-long@worldnet.att.net>

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And, you know, I remember meeting Norman Ross in the company of another old timer, Fred Lynden <fred@jassnet.com> and, coincidentally, Fred and his lovely wife Irina, are planning that interview with Vladimir Zaitsev that I told you about in February, p.14! Fred says we should have the interview for the June issue! Pretty exciting!

The awesome Lynn Sillipi, Consultant, Ph.D. Division Vice President, Research and Library Systems, netLibrary, is currently working with OCLC Research (OR). She is sharing her time between the two OCLC Divisions. Before joining netLibrary, Lynn was the director of the Library and Information Services Program at the University of Denver. She was also on the faculty of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Lynn is continuing to work with netLibrary and its participating libraries to collect and analyze eBook usage data to better understand how eBook content is being used. She is also working with colleagues in OR on a comparative collection assessment project that includes an ILL usage data study and a WorldCat holdings collection assessment project. The ILL borrowing patterns of selected ERL libraries will be identified. These ILL statistics will be compared against the netLibrary collection. The collection assessment project will include analyzing and comparing aggregate holdings data for ARLs, academic non-ARLs, and public libraries. Titles and their intellectual levels, subjects (using the conspectus), and publishers will be identified for each type of library. These projects will provide information to OCLC member libraries to aid collection development and resource allocation decision-making.

And, speaking of eBooks, Elsevier is launching an eBook program with netLibrary. Through the new alliance, netLibrary will create electronic versions of more than 300 Elsevier titles during 2003 and continued on page 8

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