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From Your (spreadsheet-weary) Editor

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From Your (spreadsheet-weary) Editor:

Spreadsheets. I hate them. When they are good, they are very, very good, but when they are bad, they are horrid. I have spent the six weeks since the **Charleston Conference** ended looking at spreadsheets. How much money will we have? What does such and such an item cost? Can we afford it? Must we cancel it? You all know the drill. Anyway, *Against the Grain* has been blessed relief. It's better to dream about words than numbers!

As the holiday season approaches (the library is closed for two weeks!), you will all have plenty of time to read this truly wonderful issue of *ATG* from cover-to-cover. The features this month are on the topic of **Electronic Use Statistics: A Panacea or Just A Problem?** and are guest edited by the incredible **John McDonald** from **CalTech**. He has put together nine articles from **Bob Molyneux**, **Steve Black & Amy Sisson**, **Phil Davis**, **Steve Hiller**,



Jennifer Weintraub, **Marthyn Borghuis**, **John Sack**, **Denise Davis** and **Peter Shepherd**. We have an interview with **Robert Wedgeworth** by **Victoria Beatty**, as well as **Dan Halloran's** interview, and one from **Jack Montgomery** who interviewed **Bob Schatz**. **Michelle Flinchbaugh** has provided a profile from **Anje Mays** who also has a "Biz of Acq" column on page 80. Our wonderful reviewers, **Tom Gilson**, **Debbie Vaughn**, and **Ellen Finnie Duranceau** have provided us with lots of book and reference title reviews. And don't miss out on this issues book trade gossip by **Barry Fast** in **Talk of the Trade** (p.83), or **Tom Loughran's "Book Pricing Update"** on p.86. Plus there is more on **OCLC** and the **Library Hotel** in "Legally Speaking" by **Bryan Carson** and **John Cox** tells us how not to confuse price with value in an "ATG Special Report" on p. 92.

Meanwhile, a spreadsheet is calling me. Happy New Year! **Yr. Ed.**

Rumors from page 1

tended over the years, beginning in the late 1980's, were very important to him and something that he always looked forward to with much anticipation. He doesn't have definite plans for retirement but says he will keep busy hiking in the summer and fall, skiing in the winter, organizing his jazz CD collection, probably more traveling (one of his sons lives in Southern California) and doing some volunteer work. Whew! Plus since Phil says that he definitely wants to bring his wife, **Ginny**, to **Charleston**, I hope we will be catching a glimpse of him at one of the upcoming **Charleston Conferences!**

Moving right along. **Taylor & Francis Group plc** has agreed to acquire, subject to the receipt of regulatory clearances, the business and publishing assets of the **Dekker** group of companies. ("Dekker"), a US based Scientific, Technical and Medical ("STM") publisher from the family owned, **Marcel Dekker, Inc.** The consideration will be made up of \$122.0 million (£72.2 million) in cash, a loan note of \$1.6 million (£0.9 million) and a further contingent cash payment at closing estimated to be in the region of \$15.0 million (£8.9 million). The cash consideration will be paid from Group cash resources and banking facilities. Founded in 1963, Dekker is a leading US based STM publisher of journals, reference and textbooks and encyclopedias, in the specialist areas of science, engineering and medicine. Dekker publishes 78 journals and around 200 new book titles per year and has a backlist of over 3,000 book titles. Headquartered in New York City, the business employs some 170 staff. Dekker's sales for the year ended 31 December 2002 were \$42.0 million (£24.9 million), producing an operating profit before exceptional items and shareholders' costs of \$5.1 million (£3.0 million) and profit before tax of \$3.2 million (£1.9 million).

Primarily a journals publisher, in 2002 sales totaled \$24.9 million (£14.7 million) from journals and \$17.1 million (£10.1 million) from books. Net assets at 31 December 2002 were \$0.8 million (£0.5 million). The nature of Dekker's US dollar revenues and the US dollar purchase consideration will further reduce the enlarged Group's cash flow based exchange exposure to the US dollar. **Taylor & Francis'** STM journal title portfolio will reach over 1,000 for the 138.6 million dollar purchase. It is rumored that Dekker's finance department will move to Florida where **CRC** is located. According to the Bookseller ("T & F does US double with Dekker," 11/21/2003 Issue 5104, p.5. <http://www.tandf.co.uk/news.html>. See also *Business Source Premier*.

Taylor & Francis has also acquired the business and assets of **Swets & Zeitlinger B.V.** and **A.A. Balkema Uitgevers B.V.** (together, "Swets & Zeitlinger Publishers" or "SZP"), the Dutch based Scientific Technical and Medical ("STM") journal and book publishing business being divested by information services provider **Koninklijke Swets & Zeitlinger Holding N.V.** The cash consideration of €16.75 million (£11.5 million) will be paid from the Group's existing cash resources. Founded in 1916 with the publication of the journal title **English Studies**, **SZP** publishes English language journals and books in the specialist areas of engineering, ophthalmology and life sciences as well as in the social sciences. **SZP** publishes 41 journal titles and 100 new book titles per year and has a backlist of around 2,000 book titles. Based in Lisse, Hol-

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Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, 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 Santa:

This letter is from **Yr. Ed.** I am very unhappy. You did not bring me what I asked you for. I know that I did not sit on your knee and all that, but, still, I have been a good little editor all year. What did I ask you for? Just a small, little, not hard to do, letter to the editor. And I did not get one, not one

single one. No more cookies for you.

Sincerely,
Katina Strauch,

Your Editor
<kstrauch@comcast.net>



AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 15 & 16 — 2003-2004

Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
Annual Report, PLA	February 2004	12/10/03	01/07/04
ARLIS	April 2004	01/28/04	02/18/04
ALA Annual	June 2004	04/21/04	05/12/04
Reference Publishing	September 2004	06/30/04	07/21/04
Charleston Conference	November 2004	09/08/04	09/29/04
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 04/Jan. 05	11/03/04	11/24/04

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