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People Profile: Edwin Merwin

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Edwin O. Merwin, Jr.
Asst. Librarian / Asst. Professor
Peden McLeod Library
University of SC Salkehatchie
Walterboro, South Carolina

Name: Edwin O. Merwin, Jr.

Born & Lived: Born in Charlotte, NC. Lived in Westchester, NY, and later in northern New Jersey, before returning to my “southern roots” in July, 1983; when I moved to my present residence of Denmark, SC.

Family: I have a mother (Florence Merwin) and sister (Deborah Merwin) presently living on Fripp Island, SC. I also have a sister (Harriet DiChiara) who lives with her husband (Fred), in Ivyland, PA.

Professional Career and Activities: I am presently employed as Assistant Librarian/Assistant Professor by the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie, where I manage the Peden McLeod Library; located in Walterboro, SC.

I am a member of:
- The American Library Association
- South Carolina Library Association
- Sigma Tau Delta

In addition to my article on “Stress...” I have written an article “Retention of Student Assistants In a Small Academic Library” and “Research Libraries and the USA Patriot Act.”

On October 25, 2002, I participated in a presentation entitled “Peer-to-Peer ILL with Iliad,” given at the SCLA/SELA 2002 Joint Conference in Charleston, SC.

Within the University system, I am presently a member of the Regional Campuses Faculty Senate. I also publish a weekly campus newsletter (Salke Talk) in both electronic and paper format.

In My Spare Time: In my spare time I enjoy tennis, beach combing, reading, and singing in the Bamberg Co. Choral, of which I am a founding member.

Favorite Books: I enjoy reading mystery books by such authors as Dorothy Gilman, Laura Childs, Lilian Jackson Braun, Mickey Spillane, and Wilkie Collins. I have also very much enjoyed the various “Mitford” books by Jan Karon.

Philosophy: The words of my late father (Edwin O. Merwin) guide me in many situations: “Don’t fight the problem.”

How/Where do I see the industry in five years: Contrary to the view of some of my colleagues, I do not anticipate the demise of “hard copy” books, journals, etc. Paper, especially acid-free paper, will be with us for a long time to come. In terms of research (high school, college, professional/scholarly) I see expanded use of information in electronic format. This is especially true of reference materials, where viewing the Oxford English Dictionary on a PC screen is much less cumbersome than sitting with a volume at a table. In the area of science and medicine, because information in these areas is almost obsolete when it is published, I see paper journals and books being totally replaced with electronic sources; this is more the exception, than the rule. I say again, paper will not go away; just look into any professor’s office!