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## People Profile: Michael Mabe

Editor

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## Michael Mabe

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and Visiting Professor, Centre for Information Behaviour &  
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**BORN:** 19 June 1958 in Littlehampton, West Sussex, UK. Lived first 18 years in Bognor Regis and since then in or around Oxford.

**EDUCATION:** BA Hons and MA (Oxon). Read chemistry at St. Catherine's College, Oxford and did research into aspects of radiocarbon dating.

**FIRST JOB:** Scientific lexicographer with the Oxford English Dictionary — "a harmless drudge."

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** After five years with OUP spent a year technical editing for the British Standards Institution before joining Pergamon Press as Manager of their Scientific Encyclopedias programme. In 1990 was appointed to run the materials science publishing programme for Pergamon. In 1994 was appointed Editorial Director for materials science at Elsevier Science Ltd, 1996 Publishing Director for the international materials science programme of Elsevier worldwide. In 1999 became Director of Academic Relations for Elsevier, running their research and relationship programmes with the global academic community.

From 1999-2002, Hon Lecturer at the School of Library, Administration and Information Studies at University College, London, supervising a PhD student and giving occasional lectures. From 2001, appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Dept. of Information Science at City University, London. For summer 2003, Visiting Professor, Information Science, College of Communication, University of Tennessee, Knoxville teaching a graduate summer school in scholarly communication.

**IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO:** Try to speak better Italian, collect wine, visit archaeological sites and museums.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** The Lindsay Davis novels set during the reign of Vespasian featuring the ancient private investigator Marcus Didius Falco; Hoggart's *The Uses of Literacy*; Jane Austin *Pride and Prejudice*; Iain Pears *An Instance of the Fingerpost*.

**PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD:** Illogicality of argument; willful ignorance; the modern tendency to believe consoling but false truths.

**PHILOSOPHY:** To understand all is to forgive all.

**MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** Commissioning the world's leading encyclopedia in materials science.

**GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW:** Owning a retirement home in Italy!

**HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** Hope: the "us and them" has become "us and us" as an evidence-based agenda overturns the emotionally-based one and we can all work on improving the lot of end-users rather than waste energy scoring points off each other.

Fear: everything just carries on as before with a waste of time, money and energy on emotional rhetoric to the detriment of everyone. 🐼

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## Dr. Gregory Walker

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Project Manager, CURL-CoFoR  
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**FAMILY:** Married to Anne, a teacher. Two grown-up children. We live near Oxford, UK.

**POSITION:** Since 2002, freelance consultant on library management, currently serving as Project Manager for the CURL-CoFoR project described in the article.

**CAREER:** Mostly spent developing collections in Slavic and E. European studies, first at Lancaster University then (for 31 years) in charge of the Slavic collections at the Bodleian Library, Oxford University. From 1988 until retirement in 2002, also Head of Collection Development at the Bodleian, overseeing collecting policies, acquisition budgeting and legal deposit.

**SPECIAL INTERESTS:** Russian and Soviet publishing (PhD thesis, book, articles); library collections in the UK on Russia and E Europe (four directories); bibliography of British theses in Russian and EE studies.

**EDUCATION:** Slavic philology at Cambridge; PhD on Soviet publishing at Sheffield.

**SPARE TIME:** Travel, translating (Russian and German), amateur acting.

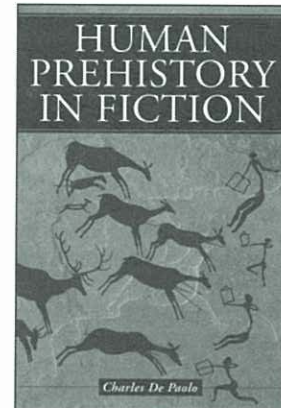
**FAVORITE BOOKS:** John Le Carre; Hans-Hermann Hertle, *Chronik des Mauerfalls*.

**PET PEEVE:** Librarians' inborn tendency to look at every tree and ignore the forest.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Don't be afraid to recognise that something obvious needs doing — then do it.

*Walker profile continued on page 66*

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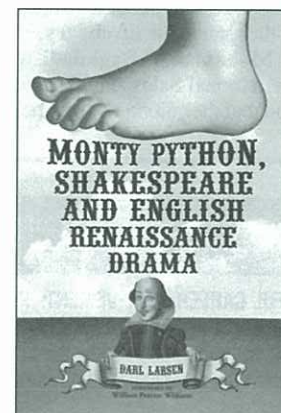


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