

September 2005

## ATG Deadlines

Editor

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# From Your Guest Editor

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston) <gilson@cofc.edu>

For the ninth consecutive year *ATG* dedicates our September issue to the vagary and variety of reference publishing. As they have done since we started, **Fran Wilkinson** and **Linda Lewis** kick things off with a group interview they have entitled “**Reference eBooks: Does an eBook on the Screen Beat One on the Shelf?**” Once again **Fran** and **Linda** elicited fascinating and informed responses from a panel of librarian experts. This time the topics under discussion include the ways that electronic reference books are being selected, purchased, and budgeted, as well as how they are being promoted and how patrons and librarians are reacting to them.

Keeping the focus on electronic collections we also have an interview with **Diane Kovacs**, consultant and author who has been a pioneer in e-collecting for reference. Her book, the *Kovacs Guide to Electronic Library Collection Development: Essential Core Subject Collections, Criteria, and Guidelines*, is well known to collection development and reference librarians alike.


Our other lead interview is with **Erin McKean**, nationally known and respected lexi-

cographer, and editor of the *New Oxford American Dictionary*. **Erin** had been profiled in the *New York Times* and interviewed on *NPR* and we are delighted that she shares her insights about the creation and publishing of this standard reference work. Her enthusiasm for, and love of, dictionary making is obvious in every answer she gives.

Naturally, we have a couple of articles that focus on reference publishing from the business side. **Karen Christensen**, co-founder of **Berkshire Publishing** follows up last year's piece on quality in reference publishing with *Making Reference: the Business Behind the Books*. **Karen** guides us on a “soup to nuts” tour of how a publisher arrives at quality reference work. She skillfully combines explanation of profit and loss statements with discussions of the creativity and collaboration required for publishing success. And, drawing on her 20 years of editorial experience, **Sylvia K. Miller**, discusses an essential part of any reference work. Her article *Index Appreciation: a Publisher's Brief Guide* highlights the nitty-gritty of what goes into making a good index. **Sylvia** also contends that the indexer's skill is needed more than ever in navi-

gating the massive amounts of information available electronically. She insists that “without the analytical choices made by indexers, full text searching is often no more than a promising mishmash.”

We are also honored to have another article from **Dave Tyckoson**, the 2005 **RUSA Isadore Gilbert Mudge-R.R. Bowker Award** winner. **Dave** goes into the memory bank and pulls out a list of “Reference Classics that were ahead of their time.” **Dave's** nominees range from “the famous (or infamous) *Britannica 3*” to my personal favorite, the *Magazine Index* viewable using COM readers, cutting edge technology of the 1970's. More than a nostalgia trip, **Dave's** article reminds us where we have been, and how far we have come. For those of us who have been around for awhile, it has been an amazing journey and one that few of us could have imagined.

We hope that after reading through these amazing interviews and stimulating articles, you feel as good about this issue as we do. My usual advice still applies — sit back with your favorite iced beverage and enjoy. 

## 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 Editor:

Permit a reference book publisher to congratulate you on *Against the Grain*. I learn from it.

The “Legally Speaking” article in the cur-

rent issue (v.17, no.2, p.58) is splendid.

Cordially,

Matthew J. Bruccoli, President  
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## AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 17 & 18 — 2005-2006

<u>2005 Events</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Ad Reservation</u>	<u>Camera-Ready</u>
Charleston Conference	November 2005	09/21/05	10/05/05
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 05/Jan. 06	11/23/05	12/07/05
<u>2006 Events</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Ad Reservation</u>	<u>Camera-Ready</u>
Annual Report, PLA	February 2006	01/04/06	01/18/06
MLA, SLA, Book Expo	April 2006	02/22/06	03/08/06
ALA Annual	June 2006	04/26/06	05/10/06
Reference Publishing	September 2006	07/26/06	08/09/06
Charleston Conference	November 2006	09/20/06	10/04/06
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 06/Jan. 07	11/22/06	12/06/06

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## From Your (migrating) Editor:



No. I am not moving. I'm migrating. This is the term that has been coined for moving from one Integrated Library System to another. Migrating. I don't think the birds have endorsed it yet. Anyway, last summer it was preparing for the move to the new **Addlestone Library** and this summer it has been the move from **DRA (Data Research Associates)** to **III Millennium**. So it has been and continues to be hectic. Still, life continues. Putting together this issue of *ATG* with the able guest editorship of **Tom Gilson** and many others has been fun as always and a welcome relief from the migrating adventures. We have articles from **Frances Wilkinson** and **Linda Lewis**, **Karen Christensen**, **Sylvia Miller**, **David Tyckoson**, **Rachel Cheng** and **Mary Meernik** and many others. Also, interviews with **Diane Kovacs**, **Erin McKean**, and **Mark Anderson**. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. The remaining reports from the **24th Charleston Conference** are included and **Claire-Lise Bénaud** has reported on her four-month sabbatical internship at **Aux Amateurs**. We have **Book Reviews** on linguistic trivia from **Debbie Vaughn** and **Peter Shepherd** covers the draft of Release 1 of the new **COUNTER Code of Practice**. **Cris Ferguson** talks about **Google Scholar** while **Rick Anderson** offers four mantras that we can all chant every morning. And, of course, that's not all, there is much much more!

Well, better go. I have to feed the birds so they don't migrate. The birdfeeder is empty. Cheers and happy fall.

Yr. Ed. 