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People Profile: Diane Kovacs

Editor

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most younger people come to college with — they give you a sense of ease in doing email and Web browsing for serious research. Most of my students had used inter-office email before — but only a couple had ever emailed for non-work and a different domain. Three or four had used Web search engines previously. Oh and average age was about 38 for these two groups. Quite a few were my age and two were older.

ATG: *Are you satisfied with the progress libraries have made in creating e-collections? Are librarians and patrons finding such collections useful? What else should be done to increase their relevance to users?*

DK: Satisfied? I'm truly impressed. I remember when I was almost shouted off the stage once by people proclaiming that print was all libraries needed to deal with and that the computer resources were like CB Radios and a passing fad. I don't want to be negative but that incident did almost stop me... but not quite. There were more people quietly telling me in private that they thought it was a marvelous opportunity for libraries to get ahead of a popular culture/information-seeking trend for once...

ATG: *What is it that has impressed you? Are there any specific library Websites we should look at to see examples of good e-collecting?*

DK: I'm impressed by the number of working consortia — my main experience is with **OhioLINK** and **Illinet Online** — **OPLIN**, **Clevnet**, etc., that sort of thing. I know there are many others in other states either existing or in development.

ATG: *Yes that's true. Here in South Carolina we have developed a working consortium called PASCAL. But the e-collecting being done is more shared licensing of databases with e-content, like JSTOR, etc. There is no plan to harvest quality Websites to be shared by the member libraries. Are they doing that sort of thing in other consortia?*

DK: Some yes — **OhioLINK** does it a bit as does the **Michigan Electronic Library**.

ATG: *Do you think there is a need for a comprehensive database of core Websites or are services like the Librarians Index to the Internet enough?*

DK: There is need for comprehensive databases of core Websites — **Librarians' Index to the Internet** <http://lii.org/> is okay — but it is really not doing a comprehensive collection — it does a core collection with a California focus. The **InfoMine** <http://infomine.ucr.edu/> concept is a bit better in terms of core academic resources and the **Internet Public Library** <http://www.ipl.org/> is a bit better in terms of core public library resources and **Google** is my friend. I think that the most important part of your question though is 'core' — there are only really a few compared to the many sites available — that are truly useful. Much of what is out there really is 'brochures,' 'pamphlets,' 'personal correspondence,' 'sales flyers,' etc.

against the grain people profile

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Diane Kovacs

BORN & LIVED: 1962 Colorado — Illinois from Kindergarten to University.

EARLY LIFE: Oldest of 9 children — grew up in small town and farm — Goats/Pigs/Sheep/Chickens — Parents returned to college when I was 10 and completed their degrees — Mom, Nursing — Dad, Agriculture and then Nursing.

FAMILY: I married **Michael Kovacs** in 1984 and we are still very happy — We didn't manage to procreate but we have 23 neices and nephews and a Godson to spoil. At the moment we have three dogs — two rescued Shih Tzus and a Tibetan Terrier and four cats — all rescues.

EDUCATION: I went to the **University of Illinois** because that is my family college — when they go to college they go there usually.

1985 **UIUC** Anthropology/Psychology Cognate BA

1989 **UIUC** GSLIS M.S. Library and Information Science

FIRST JOB: Worked in the Office of International Agriculture at **UIUC** until Graduate School — First Library job was at **Bucknell University** — Government Documents and Law.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Pick something — lol — I used to be really energetic; <http://www.kovacs.com/dianevida.html> — I have vivid memories of being told that the Internet was a passing fad. No one was interested in email discussion lists and e-resources were too unstable/free etc. for real libraries — am drafting an article and presentation on the sort of history of how I developed my electronic collection development courses from about 1991 to now — Will present in October at the Ohio Library Council meeting and the article is for *The Serials Librarian*

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Read, Internet Message, Game, Walk, Belly-Dance (yes I'm one of those).

FAVORITE BOOKS: Very hard to say — I look for **Mercedes Lackey**, **Andre Norton**, **Ursula Leguin**, and **Lois McMaster Bujold**.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: Educated people who won't read... I am very tolerant of people who need to learn to read — I like to teach them to read and enjoy it — but when people who are supposed to be readers don't bother and thereby waste my time — it really ticks me off.

PHILOSOPHY: What will be will be...You get what you need.

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: When **UIUC** GSLIS asked me to teach a LEEP course. Then I felt truly successful. Seconded by winning the Documents to the People Award for starting Govdoc-L.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Be doing what I'm doing now in the newer technology — training and developing training. Web-based primarily.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Five years from now I see libraries being much more user-centered than now — more focussed on the resources needed by patrons for education/research/recreation/life skills and even less focussed on the format of those resources. Archiving of electronic resources will be more effective/reliable. I'd like to be really optimistic and say that our Catalog records will be converted to XML database formats and fully Web database integrable and searchable. **Google** might be a good OPAC vendor... 



ATG: *We're not sure what you mean by 'brochures,' 'pamphlets,' 'personal correspondence,' and 'sales flyers?'* Just how would you define a comprehensive Website?

Are there other comprehensive sites that our reader's should know about?

DK: I mean that they are just sales pitches

continued on page 42