People Profile: Kristen DeVoe

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Kristen DeVoe

Pittsburgh, PA <devoek@verizon.net>

BORN & LIVED: Born in Cincinnati, Ohio but moved shortly after to Louisiana. I have lived in New Orleans, LA; Johnson City, TN; Charleston, SC and now I am in Pittsburgh, PA.

FAMILY: Father, Michael DeVoe, and mother, Rebecca DeVoe live in Jonesborough, TN; brother, Stephen DeVoe, is an engineering student at Louisiana State University. Fiancé, also Stephen, is a PhD student in Theatre at the University of Pittsburgh.

EDUCATION: B.A. in History with a minor in Asian Studies from the College of Charleston, MLIS from the University of South Carolina.

FIRST JOB: First job ever was at a pizza place in Johnson City, TN. First job in a library was in Charleston, SC at the College of Charleston in the Collection Development department.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Since I moved to Pittsburgh a couple of months ago I’ve been working part-time ‘or Tutor.com’s Librarians by Request. I have recently become involved with writing a new (for me) column in Against the Grain called “Innovations Affecting Us” and another survey column in The Charleston Report. I belong to several library organizations/associations such as ALA, NASIG, and PaLA and I try to attend conferences when I can.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Knit, read, exercise, bake, and search for new music to listen to. I also find myself spending quite a bit of time wondering how I am going to make it through my first Pittsburgh winter!

FAVORITE BOOKS: Anything by Carson McCullers, Abarat by Clive Barker, and many many more!

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Right now I feel that my most meaningful career achievement is writing for publication.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Transition from print to electronic resources will continue with serials. I think that many libraries will reach a point where they cannot financially maintain multiple formats and since many users are asking for electronic versions, print cancellations will increase. I also think that format standards will begin to emerge for electronic books. 

The decision to cancel a print journal subscription when the electronic version is also received is one that must be made thoughtfully. There is no “one size fits all” list of criteria that can be included in a set of guidelines to advise decision making on this issue. It is important to take local institutional and user considerations into account, to evaluate subscriptions on a title-by-title basis, and to continuously ask for faculty opinion during the evaluation and comparison of the two formats. As mentioned earlier, flexibility is also important when writing a policy intended to advise selectors on this issue. There may be factors not originally considered when writing the guidelines that come up when print journal subscriptions are actually under consideration for cancellation. It is important that policies are not too restrictive that consideration cannot be given to any unanticipated issues. Guidelines should also be flexible enough to change with the industry so that they do not become outdated and useless in a short period of time.

When creating a policy to advise decision-making, libraries may want to develop a philosophical statement on the issue of canceling print subscriptions when the electronic version is also received: this could include a statement of the economic challenges faced by the library due to maintaining dual format subscriptions; it could also include a statement of general preference for the electronic format over the print format if this is applicable; a preliminary statement can also include information on what the library plans to do with the print copies it already has, where a user can go to discuss a particular title with a library faculty or staff member, and statements on why the library feels it is appropriate (if it does) to move some subscriptions to electronic only access.

What can be included in a set of guidelines if every title is unique and should be considered individually? What follows is a list of criteria, by no means exhaustive, that academic libraries may consider for inclusion in their policies and guidelines. These criteria were developed based on a review of the online guidelines continued on page 40