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Something to Think About -- Where Are the Shelves?

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2006 Conference is **Unintended Consequences** (thanks to **Bob Molyneux** <drdata@molyneux.com>). Visit our Website and see what's happening so far, www.katina.info/conference. And see this issue, p.8.

And speaking of **Dr. Data** above, guess who came to visit the other day? An ex-student and protege of **Dr. Data** himself, **Michael Cook** <mnc2@cornell.edu>. Besides singing the **Dr's** praises, **Michael** was looking over the **College of Charleston Library's Computing Facility** for ideas. **Michael** was vacationing on Folly Beach with his wife and two little girls. The weather was beautiful if a little cold for a swim. Anyway, it's been a few years since **Michael** left collection development for Coordinator, Public Computing at **Cornell**, but he is getting ready to turn in a proposal for the **2006 Charleston Conference**. You can do the same! Send in your ideas to <beth_bernhardt@uncg.edu> or <kstrauch@comcast.net>.

Come on down! And, in the meantime, happy spring. 🌱

IT'S TRUE!!!!

ATG FICTION CONTEST— \$250 prize *How many of you are working on the Great American Novel, Short Stories, Poetry?*

Here's your chance to get into print and reach thousands of readers starved for fiction that tells the story of libraries and librarians, publishing and bookselling, but we're open to any original works—your imagination is the limit.

A fiction page will become a regular feature of **ATG** after this contest, so sharpen your pencils and tell us your story.

Submission lengths, generally, should be 1,000 to 2,500 words. Deadline for entries is October 15, 2006.

ATG LAUNCHING NEW FICTION PAGE

Drinking From the Firehose from page 71

at least for having vastly improved their e-journal management and/or access. Since the "Worst Serial Title Change of the Year" Committee has been disbanded, perhaps instead we should be giving prizes (both complimen-

Something To Think About? — Where Are the Shelves?

Column Editor: **Mary E. (Tinker) Massey** (Serials Librarian, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Jack R. Hunt Library)
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Shelf, Shelves, Shelving, Shelver, Shelves! Anyway you look at it means a home to so many periodicals. As I prowled the journal stacks yesterday, I suddenly noticed how few shelves we have available for shifting. That means the big "W" word will have to be brought to realization. You got it, "weeding!" So many times we are forced to do weeding by virtue of the no shelf syndrome. Our library does not, as a rule, actually bind our periodicals in the general stacks. They are housed in pamphlet boxes that sometimes take up more space than we would like. For instance, there are some title changes or ceases that have very few issues housed in their boxes, perhaps one to five, so that space is occupied or lost, whatever your philosophical persuasion. Sometimes we have actually procured microfilm to cover that period and gotten rid of the issues themselves. It appears that we are having a giant influx of new titles in the **ACS**, **ASME** and **IEEE** sections. There is nowhere to go but the weeding process now. I have tried to envision more shelving, a dream, because there is no more floor space. Sometimes I get greedy and try to encourage administrators to usurp the student study space, but alas, they are dedicated to the teaching aspect of the institution. The shelves have already maximized the unit space as much as possible, because the boxes are as small/short as we can make them.

I shudder at this summer's weeding project, but a modernistic display of "floating" shelves is just not possible, even though we have a "soaring" plane in that position near the journals. We will try to replace as many older issues with microfilm, since we have some bright new cabinets for that purpose. Then, we will evaluate the circulation records of the other titles, and perhaps delete some titles that are not being used anymore. That

will probably be very few. We will also evaluate the online access to full text for these titles. Not just full text, but those that also include diagrams, tables, charts and photographs. That will be a necessary pain, because there are some online sources that only give you the actual text (words). Do we have perpetual access to the full text? Do we have these articles available 24/7? Since our campus consists of three arenas which cover the entire world, it is impossible to accept one time zone of 8-5 access as a replacement for the real print issues. Having a very lively ILL section that supplies over a 140 small corners of learning around the world, we have to keep pace and places open for all the information.

Do I dare think about Plexiglas shelving? Pull out shelving, so we stack double? Chipping away at the concrete block to insert shelves? No, I think we have to actually remove some of the old to make way for the new. Perhaps we can remove some of the old browsing journals and make new rules to keep only the latest ten years or so. That would make a lot of room fast. Perhaps we can begin to build shelving on the moon. Mars is too far for adequate retrieval, but we could do some fairly good turn around time for the moon, if **NASA** will help. They are just down the road, and I'm sure they wouldn't mind a little payload difference. Hmm, that would be something to think about?

Keep posted as we move closer to the summer. We might have some new alternatives for you. In the meantime, perhaps you would like to send me suggestions for the weeding? Did I mention I was a packrat? That does hamper my lifestyle. Decisions? Always decisions! We'll talk about the journals next time and how they fit the library's personality. Deciding the titles you will keep and why. 🌱

tary and booby) to publishers for their either fabulously easy to navigate or impossible to work with e-journal systems. Hmmm, maybe this should be my next column!

I supposed I should also invite a publisher representative to guest write a column here on top ten complaints about librarians. I suspect we drive them crazy with all our quirky

demands, bizarre consortia arrangements, slow payment systems, etc. Yes, I am sure they could tell some tales on us librarians too. 🌱

Thanks to **John Abbott** and **Beth Bernhardt** for their feedback on the creation of this column. — **EC**