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From Your (energized) Editor

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It's always wonderful to take a break from the routine of your life. And that's what I have been doing. Had a houseful of company for the holidays and spent a lot of time cooking and cleaning and sightseeing and shopping. It was even cold (60s) in Charleston and we felt like it was “winter.” Even went to New York with my daughter on a brief visit. You talk about an energized city.

Meanwhile, back at the ATG ranch, we (my right-hand helper, Toni Nix really) were struggling with new software which is supposed to make ATG “easier” to produce (and may help to put it online?). Come again? It has been far from easy so far! In fact, every single character had to be rekeyed and reformatted. So, if you see anything amiss, please let us know. Anyway, this issue is very late but it will make Midwinter!

The wonderful Karen Christensen has collected some very interesting articles on a variety of innovative topics. She has titled this issue Beyond Boundaries: Knowledge Innovation and Generation. Howard Burrows writes about the healthy information economy. David Levinson talks about the benefits of interdisciplinary publishing. David Pollard explores new roles for librarians. Karen herself talks about the rise of social media. Eric Caluone explores the intersection of print and electronic media in his discussion of Reference Universe, and Tim Coates talks about the future of UK libraries. Finally, Dave Tyckoson tells us that innovation in libraries is not a new occurrence. Our Op Ed this issue is by the inimitable Rick Anderson on the “value of everything and the price of nothing.” Hmmm. Cathy Moore-Jansen, John H. Williams, and Mary Walker dissect Funds and Accounting Trees.

We have several mentions about the 2006 Charleston Conference, from Tony Ferguson, Bob Nardini, Greg Iannabone, and John Riley. John Cox joins us as a regular columnist with his “As I See It” and we are honored to have an international dateline from our correspondent in Russia, Fred Lynden. Our interviews are with Richard Charkin and Hazel Woodward. And we can’t leave out Ned Kraft who gets a mildly laugh out of me every time and also in this issue Margaret Landesman has an incredibly clever and call me Book Meet the Google.” And that’s just the tip of the iceberg. Talk about getting energized! It’s exciting’s happening in our world.

May 2007 bring you all that you ever wished for! Love, Yr. Ed.

Dear Editor:

Many thanks for sending the article [eBook Rollout, v.18#5, November 2006]. We really like Against the Grain. Keep up the good work.

Thanks again,

Jessica Gwendolyn Blower

Editor’s Note: Kris Ferguson’s eBook Rollout insert in the November ATG has been a huge hit. We have gotten many, many requests for it. Thanks to Kris for her diligent work on this project. And it is Kris’s plan to update the eBook rollout as necessary. We are trying to get a format on the ATG Website that we can work with. Stay tuned www.against-the-grain.com

And, just so you don’t think we screwed up (not us, never!), no affiliation is given for Jessica by request. — Yr. Ed.

**AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES**

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and medical content. ProQuest’s product lines include Chadwyck-Healey®, a collection of more than 40 extensive reference resources of the world’s literature; UMI® microform vault, the largest commercially available microform collection in the world; ProQuest Digital Dissertations; Serials Solutions; and ProQuest Historical Newspapers, an archive of 14 million pages dating as far back as 1764 which includes The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Atlanta Constitution, The Boston Globe and The Hartford Courant. Andrew M. Snyder is president of CIG. After the transaction closes, Martin Kahn will serve as CEO of the new company. He will relocate to Ann Arbor, Mich. A seasoned information industry executive, Kahn is the former chairman of business and financial information aggregator OneSource Information Services, Inc. He also served as chairman of Ovid Technologies, Inc., an aggregator of medical and scientific databases and full-text journal articles and as president of BRS Information Technologies, Inc. Kahn earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BA from Yale. Kahn said, “I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead this exciting new company. Both companies have for many years dedicated themselves to serving the needs of librarians, scholars, and students. We are committed to building on those traditions to create a great company for many years to come.”

Matt Dunie, currently president of CSA, will serve as president of the new company. Dunie commented, “The ProQuest Information and Learning and CSA products are complementary. We believe that both companies share many values especially a focus on the needs of end users and that the new company has a promising future.”

Skip Prichard, currently president of ProQuest Information and Learning, will be an active contributor to the transition process. After the transition is successfully under way, he plans to pursue new career opportunities consistent with his interests and leadership experience.

Cambridge Information Group (CIG) is a privately owned group of information services companies and educational institutions located around the world. CIG’s operating companies include: CSA, R.R. Bowker, ReWorks and the Sotheby’s Institute of Art. CIG is also the largest shareholder of Navtech, Inc. (NASAQ:NAVH.OB).

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And, not be left out in the end-of-the-year acquisition/merger frenzy, Francisco Partners, one of the largest technology-focused private equity funds, has entered into a definitive agreement with Elsevier for the acquisition of 100% of the shares of Endeavor Information Systems, Inc., an Elsevier company. Endeavor will be merged with Ex Libris, which was acquired by Francisco Partners earlier this year. The combined