

February 2005

People Profile: Randle Gedeon

Editor

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Recommended Citation

Editor (2005) "People Profile: Randle Gedeon," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 17: Iss. 1, Article 31.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4755>

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against the grain

people profile

Randle Gedeon

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BORN IN AND LIVED: Cleveland, Ohio then Tahlequah, Oklahoma and currently live in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

EARLY LIFE: Sheltered in the suburbs.

FAMILY: My Mother is a recently retired public librarian.

EDUCATION: BA, **Muskingum College**; MAEd, **Baldwin-Wallace College**; and MLS, **Kent State University**.

FIRST JOB: Summer camp counselor.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER: **John Carroll University** (Reference Librarian); **North-eastern State University** (Education Resources Coordinator); and **Western Michigan University** (Education Librarian and now Acquisitions and Serials Librarian).

IN MY SPARE TIME: I enjoy wine tasting (reds, in particular) and single malt scotch.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by **Ken Kesey** and *Native Son* by **Richard Wright**.

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: I'm still working on that one.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL: Promotion to full professor.

WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I see an even greater emphasis on all things delivered electronically, but I can't foresee doing away entirely with the print volumes any time soon.

eBooks at Western Michigan Univ. from page 52

sis creates additional financial costs and significant delays in loading the records in the online catalog. Quality control and adherence to cataloging standards needs to be addressed by eBook vendors.

eBook Applications

As more and more institutions both public and private offer online courses through distance education, access to eBooks becomes a standard means of providing a "library." The value of an eBook collection grows in proportion to the content provided. For **Western Michigan University** participation in eBook acquisitions began with a distinctly academic focus. A group purchase among Michigan academic libraries focused on subjects identified as important by the group. Since the first purchase, the group has added annually to the collection. In addition, a statewide public collection was acquired by the **Library of Michigan**, the state library, adding titles not included in the academic collections.

Almost all of the Michigan academic libraries participating in the group purchases offer some form of distance education. The initial collections purchased were from **netLibrary** and allowed one user access at a time. A circulation period was set at 6 hours for all books. To accommodate **Western's** needs for titles re-

quested for e-reserves, institutional copies were purchased as well. The e-reserve titles either duplicated the academic collections or were unique titles. E-reserve books from **netLibrary** were given a 2-hour circulation status. Titles from **ebrary** and other eBook collections do not require circulation periods since the eBooks can be accessed by multiple users, an advantage for specific class reserves.

Both distance education needs and those of electronic reserves are well served by eBooks. eBooks can also be helpful in fulfilling reference queries. They allow the user to search an entire text quickly for information regardless of its location within the book. Computer books, which usage statistics indicate are heavily used, readily lend themselves to the user needing information on a particular process, rather than being read from cover-to-cover. In addition to the eBook collections noted above, specific reference titles from publishers such as **Dekker**, **Elsevier**, **Wiley**, and **McGraw-Hill** have been acquired to meet these user needs. Rather than acquiring entire collections, the selection of specific titles returns the subject selector to traditional collection development.

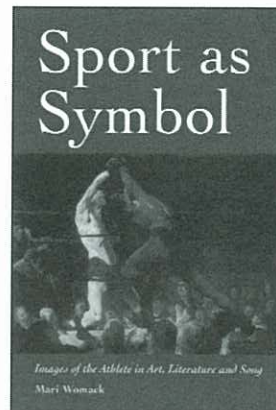
Usage

Not all of these collections provide usage data and several of those examined here do not provide them at all. In this particular instance, usage statistics are available on the **ACLS Col-**

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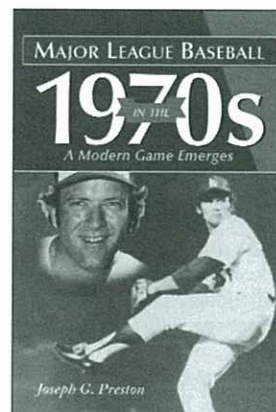


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