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Adventures in Librarianship -- Recent Developments

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the match there could be issues depending on how the matching is done. Input and edit as well as searching of ISBNs in this module should be checked.

Public Catalog. The ability to search by either form of ISBN must be retained. Many older bibliographies will use the ISBN-10 in the citation. A user should be able to input the search in any form and let the system normalize it as needed for the best results. Display of the ISBN should also be checked. If the system was automatically supplying hyphens, this feature could require changes.

InterLibrary Loan. A number of ILL systems allow search of a union catalog and then behind the scenes the system may automatically check your catalog to verify you don't already own the title, or it may automatically go around to a list of library catalogs to find a copy for the user. If the ISBN is being used for this search it will need to be tested to see that the multiple ISBNs currently in records and the ISBN-13 post-2006 do not prevent the system from working as efficiently as possible.

External Linking. A new feature of many catalogs is the ability to do an Open URL or other link to external sources to display book jackets and reviews or to use an institutional link resolver. Often for monographic titles the ISBN has been the best identifier to use for this type of search. Now, however, the MARC records used to provide the ISBN may contain multiple fields and in the future an older record may contain the 10-digit ISBN while the file of reviews may have the newer number. Keeping these links working will be another challenge.

against the grain people profile

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BORN & LIVED: Boston, last 20 years in Columbus, Ohio and Chicago.

EDUCATION: BA Mount Holyoke, MSLS Simmons, MA English Simmons.

FIRST JOB: Wellesley College Library.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Worked with computers in libraries at Wellesley, Mass. State Library, NELINET, OCLC, NOTIS, Ameritech Library Services, University of Chicago.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Race small sailboats (Rhodes 19).

FAVORITE BOOKS: *Persuasion*.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: For librarians, continuing to assist in the organization and navigation of published knowledge in nonprint and electronic as well as print formats. 🐼

ACTIONS

Since we are already receiving and loading records with ISBN-10 and -13 into our systems now, it is time for us to draw up a list of library processes that use the ISBN and a set of test cases of typical examples from our collections and then to identify where there are going to be problems. We need to start asking the system vendors for their plans and implementation schedules. There are two avenues to do this if the current system can-

not accommodate the changes. One is posing the question at the level of the system's user group, or to your vendor representative. The second is a specific problem report for an example that does not work. When the system vendor presents their proposed change, it is the responsibility of the customer to verify that the approach will work with real examples. 🐼

Adventures in Librarianship — Recent Developments

by Ned Kraft (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State) <kraftno@state.gov>

In a recent issue of *Science*, **Jeb Cartledge** and **Surri Ray** finally confirm through carbon dating and other techniques what many of us have long suspected: that the **Nippur Codex**

is the oldest library catalog known to man. Discovered in 1998 by German tourists looking for a shortcut to the Simmuh Valley, the **Codex** has been under scientific, linguistic, and bibliographic scrutiny ever since. The *Science* article, "Nippur: Yes or No, Library or Laundry List?" (v.68, #4, pp 97-115) puts all doubts to rest.

Now called the "*Nippur Catalog*," the document lists 64 manuscripts. If there is an order to the list, it has yet to be deciphered. **Manny Seaver**, who consulted with **Cartledge** and **Ray** on semantic issues, suggested in a recent interview that the catalog may be in "spontographical" order. But when asked to explain, **Seaver** began coughing and would not respond to the question.

The style of script and the quality of the papyrus lead earlier scholars to believe that the *Nippur Catalog* is actually the result of a well known rivalry between the **Mo** family on one side of the Nippur River and the **Ma** family on the other. **Ray** and **Cartledge** don't dispute that possibility. In fact, their article states that "**Cosimo Ma** and **Maximus Mo** were known to publicly draw daggers over the issue of the size of their respective libraries...." And the document's introductory matter contains the phrase "'contus quentis im pardo Mo,' which translates roughly as 'in your face, Mo.'"

Ray and **Cartledge** will present their paper and entertain questions at the **British Library's Heretofore Auditorium**, part of the **Bombasticum Lecture Series**, on August 2nd. Although **Ms. Ray**, who will lead the discussion, expects to be "heralded by enthusiastic bibliophiles and a few hangers on," **Mr. Catledge** is not as optimistic. "They don't allow spoiled fruit in the **Heretofore**, do they? I'll be all dressed up, you see. And with my fellowship running low, the last thing I need is a pelting." 🐼