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## People Profile: Tim Daniels

Editor

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Website, the ability to post entries without knowledge of HTML, the ability to allow multiple people to contribute content and share responsibility for managing the blog, and the ability to provide an **RSS (Really Simple Syndication)** feed to allow readers to be notified of updates to your blog through their RSS reader. Over a year ago, as part of an effort to raise awareness about problems with the current state of scholarly publishing, **Georgia State University Library** created a blog about scholarly communication.<sup>2</sup> This essay will discuss the **Georgia State** experience to date and offer suggestions for librarians interested in using blogs as a tool to keep themselves and their communities informed.

### A Brief History of Blogs at Georgia State University Library

**Georgia State University Library** currently offers more than 20 subject-specific blogs to patrons. All include **RSS** feeds. In addition to the library's main news blog, others blogs are devoted to: economics, education, government information, history, public health, religious studies, sociology, and science. The "Issues in Scholarly Communication" blog is unique in that most of the library's other blogs are maintained by subject liaisons and are targeted to the students and faculty of the departments they serve, while the scholarly communications blog is currently maintained by librarians in technical services.

Two excellent articles detailing the background of blogs at **Georgia State University Library** have been published by those responsible for starting the library's blogging initiative.<sup>3</sup> If you are interested in further information, please look at these articles. We will not devote additional space to them here except to note that, a) our blogs are hosted on our server and were built by our Web Development Librarian and Web Programmer with **Windows IIS, MySQL, and Active Server Pages**, and, b) rather than developing their own software, librarians interested in starting their own blogs might consider an existing free application like **WordPress** or may wish to look into a hosted Weblog provider.

### Why Bother?

For those of you thinking, "Ugh, not another blog, there are already better sources for information about scholarly communication," you're absolutely right. There are better sources for current news and information about particular issues in scholarly communication, the absolute best being **Peter Suber's Open Access News**.<sup>4</sup> Thankfully, it's not a competition, and it is perfectly fine if a blog fails to attract anything beyond a local readership. In fact, that may be a good thing. Since it's unlikely that the best existing resource on a given topic is targeted specifically to your community, you have the opportunity to create a resource specifically for it. As noted on the Website **Create Change**, "Library directors who have mounted successful advocacy programs on scholarly communication have stressed the importance of

against the grain

## people profile

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### Tim Daniels

**BORN & LIVED:** Born in Kentucky lived most of my life in North Carolina.

**EARLY LIFE:** Most of my early life was spent in rural North Carolina near a small town called Seagrove and a small city called Asheboro (which is where the North Carolina Zoo is). I worked in my High School Library and in a book store before college.

**FAMILY:** I have a wife, **Kate**, and a 5 month old daughter, **Julia**. My wife is a Medical Librarian with Children's Health Care of Atlanta.

**EDUCATION:** I have a B.S. in History with a concentration in Public History and minors in Computer Information systems Management and English from **Appalachian State University** in Boone North Carolina, and I have a MLIS from the **University of North Carolina at Greensboro** and am working on a Masters in Instructional Technology at the **University of Georgia**.

**FIRST JOB:** (If you mean my real first job) I painted warehouses and schools with my grandfather between the ages of 12-16.

After my undergraduate work and during my MLIS I worked at **UNC-Asheville's Ramsey Library** in the Special Collections, and in the library at **Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College**.

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** I was the Branch Manager for a branch library in the **Asheville Buncombe Library System** and from there moved on to be a reference librarian at **Georgia Tech**.

**IN MY SPARE TIME (before the Baby) I LIKED TO:** Cook, read, and hike.

**SPARE TIME AFTER THE BABY** (between feedings, diaper changes, and tummy time) I still try to fit in time to read and cook some. I have also begun to collect Fountain Pens.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** Well...All of **David Eddings'** early works, *The Diamond Age*, or *A Young Ladies Illustrated Primer* by **Neal Stephenson**. **John Dunning's Bookman Mysteries**.

**PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD:** Individuals who obstruct the process (of anything) because they can't or won't see the big picture.

**PHILOSOPHY:** "Tell me, and I will forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I will understand." — Confucius circa 450 BC

Followed by "If you can't contribute get out of the way." — A group of **Georgia Tech** physical plant managers during a project planning workshop. Circa 2003.

**MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** Moving things forward where ever I have been and realizing when it was time to get out of the way.

**GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW:** Five years from now I would like to have a PhD in Instructional Technology and be involved in library management.

**HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** In five years I see the library as a blended landscape where the physical environment invites (users, patrons, customers...) to meet, sit, work and reflect and where our virtual resources are object oriented enough to be placed at "point of need" for just in time use by our (users, patrons, customers...). It may take longer than five years to achieve this but I think this is the direction libraries (all libraries academic, public, special, school) should move towards.

understanding the local culture and subcultures in mounting advocacy programs."<sup>5</sup> Your faculty may or may not be interested in particular topics, or they may not have the time or inclination to read 15 to 20 posts a day on another site. Much like current literature alerts and selective collection development, targeted blog postings can be used to provide an institution's users with the most current and relevant information.

### Our Blog

The "Issues in Scholarly Communications" blog was launched in December 2003. From the start, the intent has been to provide links to news items of relevance rather than offer much, if any, commentary. Although early posts were dominated by items discussing Open Access, we have tried over the last several months to broaden the scope so that other issues of inter-

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