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People Profile: William Walsh

Editor

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Slate (<http://www.slate.com/>) This daily news magazine, which was formerly owned by **Microsoft**, was recently purchased by **The Washington Post Company**. A recent article discussed the fact that only the first four volumes of a new translation of **Proust's** *In Search of Lost Times* have appeared in the United States due to the passage of the **Sonny Bono Copyright Act**.

Blogging for Yourself

The best thing about trying to blog regularly on a particular subject is that it offers the opportunity to learn about that subject. **Cory Doctorow**, science fiction writer and European Affairs Coordinator for the **Electronic Frontier Foundation**, says of editing his popular blog:

... [O]perating "Boing Boing" has not only given me a central repository of all of the fruits of my labors in the information fields, but it also has increased the volume and quality of the yield. I know more, find more, and understand better than I ever have.⁶

Through blogging about issues in scholarly communication, we have learned not only a good deal about scholarly publishing but also about copyright, institutional repositories, and digital information. The exercise has allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of many of the factors at play in the world of scholarly communications. Moreover, since our blog is a searchable database, the information we have posted is always available to us, ready to be retrieved when the need arises.

Access Statistics

Although word-of-mouth reaction to the blog has been overwhelmingly positive, we would like to have an idea of the number of people the blog reaches. Unfortunately, even though we read monthly statistical reports, this can be difficult. For the first few months, the number of requests made to our server nearly doubled monthly. Since March 2004, the number of requests has been consistent, averaging around 800 per month. So what does this tell us? As **Jeffrey Goldberg** explains in his somewhat overwrought "Why Web Usage Statistics are (Worse Than) Meaningless," no inference about the number or identity of people reading

against the grain people profile

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EDUCATION: BA and MA in English from the **University of New Hampshire**.
MLS from **Simmons College**.

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FAVORITE BOOKS: *My Truck is Stuck!*, *Bear Snores On*.

the site can be gleaned from these numbers.⁷ What we can tell is that that most of the requests being made are consistently coming from the **Georgia State University** domain.

Conclusion

In today's environment, it is not enough for acquisitions librarians to manage the day-to-day business of acquisitions. The ever-increasing costs of library resources combined with current budgets have brought the process by which

libraries acquire materials to the fore. This new attention has created an atmosphere of change, and acquisitions librarians with their unique perspective can be a part of that change. Communication is the first step in any successful change process. Users must be educated and staff must be made aware. Here at the **Georgia State University Library** the initial communication phase has taken the form of the "Issues in Scholarly Communications" blog. 

Endnotes

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2. Georgia State University Library. "Issues in Scholarly Communication." <http://www.library.gsu.edu/news/index.asp?typeID=62> (accessed March 18, 2005).
3. See Goans, Doug and Teri M. Vogel. "Building a Home for Library News with a Blog." *Computers in Libraries* 23, no. 10 (2003): 20-26. Also see, Vogel, Teri M. and Doug Goans. "Delivering the News with Blogs: The Georgia State University Experience." *Internet Reference Services Quarterly* 10, no. 1 (2005): 5-27.
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6. Doctorow, Cory. "My Blog, My Outboard Brain." O'Reilly Web Devcenter. <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/javascript/2002/01/01/cory.html> (accessed March 30, 2005).
7. Goldberg, Jeffrey. "Why Web Usage Statistics are (Worse than) Meaningless." <http://www.websm.org/upload/editor/On%20interpreting%20access%20statistics.htm#whykeep> (accessed March 31, 2005).



Books Are Us

by **Anne K. Robichaux** (Professor Emerita, Medical University of South Carolina) <awkr7721@sc-online.net>

Column Editor's

Note: This column covers fictitious accounts of people in our industry — librarians, publishers, vendors, booksellers, etc. — people like us. All contributions, comments, suggestions are welcomed. — AR

The back cover of *The Librarian* (Nation Books, Avalon Publishing, 2004, ISBN 1-56025-636-2) by award winning author **Larry Beinhart** poses the question: "How did nebbish university librarian **David Goldberg** end up hunted by **Homeland Security** and on Virginia's ten most wanted list for bestiality?" That didn't entice me to check the book out of

our local library as much as the title and the thought this would be great for this column. But the book is entertaining, a thriller, and the descriptions of four librarian characters, including our action hero (not just "the keeper of the flame") did not disappoint.

One character, **Elaina Whisthoven**, is de-
continued on page 89