

April 2007

People Profile: Millie Jackson

Editor

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Recommended Citation

Editor (2007) "People Profile: Millie Jackson," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 19: Iss. 2, Article 24.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5064>

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packages have, in fact, combined the process for buying bundles and titles one by one. In both instances a minimum number of titles had to be purchased before titles could be added one by one.

Recently we have started adding more titles one by one. The criterion for eBooks continues to be developed and we have been adding titles from several publishers where we have not had access before. Access, space and cost have been among the main considerations for adding eBooks to reference, in nursing and in the sciences. Like many institutions, we are adding reference titles in electronic format for easier access and because we are running out of space in our current building. For example we added 95 reference titles, which provided new titles as well as updated titles. In addition we added over 20 specialized eBooks for our health related programs where students are primarily accessing books online or on PDA's. We have been careful about disciplines for which we have selected eBooks and remained conscious of the publisher's formats for eBooks and the disciplinary habits for research. Most of our decisions have been made based on faculty requests or curricular needs. I expect this to be an evolving process as publisher's tweak formats to respond to the market and as more disciplines become comfortable with accessing and using eBooks. At a recent conference, representatives from eBook companies spoke about the missteps in early models for eBooks as well as their awareness that these models can change and are changing. Librarians need to continue to tell the publishers and vendors what we need and how our faculty and students are using the resources, which will require observation and analysis.

At **Grand Valley** we made a conscious decision in 2004 to begin going e-only for journals if the option was available. The decision was also made not to purchase books in print form if we already had a copy available electronically through **NetLibrary** or **ebrary**. Some exceptions were made for specific faculty requests for print editions. The questions we had to ask that related to the format included access issues. Could students who were off campus easily access electronic materials? Would the materials we selected be of use to students and faculty who were teaching away and on campus? What was the trade off for purchasing the electronic edition vs. purchasing the print edition? The large distance education program influenced many of our decisions, as did the fact that **GVSU** draws many of its students from the local area that access materials from home. Serving students and faculty where they are and when they need information added support for the e-only options.

The basic questions remain the same for print or electronic format. Does this fit the curricular needs of our students and faculty? Beyond that question, we needed to consider how the resource would be used and how it would be accessed. There were debates about needing to add MARC records to the ILS

against the grain people profile

Millie Jackson

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BORN & LIVED: Born in Traverse City, Michigan. I lived several places in Michigan including Bay City, Mt. Pleasant, East Lansing and Ann Arbor. I've also lived in Stillwater, Ok, Virginia Beach, VA, Jonesborough, TN and Tallahassee, FL.

EARLY LIFE: I was the youngest of five and spent most of my young life reminding my parents that I wasn't one of the grandchildren, who were the same age.

FAMILY: Four older sisters, a number of nieces and nephews who also have a lot of children. And my cat, Pete.

EDUCATION: Ph.D. in English from **Michigan State University**, MILS from **The University of Michigan**, MA in Storytelling from **East Tennessee State University**. B.S. in Ed. from **Central Michigan University**.

FIRST JOB: Typing building permits for the city.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I've worked in Special Collections, Cataloging, Serials and Collection Development. I am currently Head of Collection Development at **Florida State University**. I spent ten years at **Grand Valley State University**. I am on **ACRL's Literature in English Section Executive Committee**.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Go to movies, read, walk and talk to my friends.

FAVORITE BOOKS: **Jane Yolen's** *Favorite Folktales from Around the World* and **Shirley Brice Heath's** *Ways with Words*.

PHILOSOPHY: The worst it can be is awful (which I was told the day before I began teaching 9th grade for a very good reason).

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Recently, leading a team at the first **ARL/ACRL Institute on Scholarly Communication**.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: We will continue to add electronic resources and digital content. Librarians will be figuring out better ways to deliver the increased amount of electronic content to users. Collaboration and innovation will be necessary to move away from the way we have always done things to the way we need to do things to serve our communities. 🐾

or if the searchable database was sufficient. Evaluating the MARC records and the ability to easily obtain, update and download these records factored into decisions about adding them to the catalog. These questions have become far more important in the electronic world than they are in the print world. While we certainly think about whether or not a book will be checked out of the library or a reference resource will be used, we do not seem to ask all the questions of print that we ask of electronic resources. There are some good reasons for this, but I wonder if we agonize a bit too much over use. How many of us track every instance a reference book is used once it is cataloged and on the shelf? While reference statistics are kept, I doubt the level of concern is there in many places as they are in the e-world. Cost is one obvious reason for this concern. Often an electronic edition costs far more than a print edition. I am seeing that shift, however, and when we consider the access issues associated with a print book on the shelf (one user at a time in the building) vs. the availability of a resource 24/7 to our community via Internet access, then the thinking has to shift.

Coordination is essential in eBook purchases. While this has always been true, the virtual book does not show up on a book truck to be cataloged, labeled and shelved. This requires collection development librarians understanding more about the technical services side of the library than they may have had to in an entirely print world. Are MARC records available and how will they be loaded in the ILS? These conversations need to take place to coordinate workflow. Who in the organization reads and interprets the licenses and pays for the eBooks? Where else will the eBook be available? The resources that we use to make e-journals available in A-Z lists do not yet provide the capability to provide access to eBooks. This would be a step in the right direction. Are we going to create lists or are they available easily through the publisher's Website? This varies and is not consistent. How many clicks are students going to tolerate to access the content? And will they tolerate a proprietary reader? Should they have to?

At **Grand Valley State University**³ we developed checklists for evaluating e-resources

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