November 2013

From Your (meeting-d out) Editor

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The beginning of the school year is always hectic — meetings, meetings, and more meetings! And this year has its own set of new challenges.

But we still persevered and turned out another outstanding issue of Against the Grain thanks to our many columnists and guest editors! This issue is guest-edited by the incomparable Bruce Heterick of JSTOR and encompasses many important issues and questions that we all must consider for the good of the order of librarianship and our place in society. Topics covered include ejournal archiving, library director attitudes toward digital preservation, digital preservation for the smaller academic library, eBooks, and more. We have several special reports from Tony Horava (libraries as publishers; publishers as libraries), Jeanette Smith and Elizabeth Titus (the MLS), and Camille McCutcheon (psychology collection development). Our interviews this issue is with Helen Parr, Executive editor of Medical Online and Ursula Schwarz in Philip Hallman’s Media Minder. Back Talk is about butterflies and POD technology, Greg Tananaum’s Train column gets us to thinking about the theme of the 2008 Charleston Conference — The Best of Times, The Worst of Times, Todd Carpenter talks about standards and culture shock, Kris Ferguson clicks her way to information literacy, Rick Lugg and Ruth Fischer take on a new identity with their column — from I, User to Future Tense — and discuss weeding, Xan Arch tell us about Wikis in acquisitions which we can all take to heart. There is so much more in this issue and even more to come in November so do not quit reading.

Now I have to stop and go to, you guessed it, a meeting … who was it that said “meetings are held to discuss many problems which would never arise if we held fewer meetings?”

Love, Yr. Ed. 🗿️

From Your (meeting-d out) Editor:

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor:

Greetings — I just had an opportunity to read Mark Herrings’ June 2008 “Little Red Herrings” column for ATG (n.20#3, p.75). I wanted to thank Mark for providing a fair and balanced look at the Blended Librarian approach that John Shank and I have been sharing the last few years. We’ve never been evangelistic about the ideas or the community. We simply put it out there as something that our colleagues may find of interest to them. If it doesn’t appeal to you (a “naysayer” I guess), feel free to find whatever works for you. John and I respect that there are other librarians out there offering their own solutions that might have more appeal for some librarians than what we have to offer. We do find that our ability to offer ongoing free Webcasts on topics related to improving ourselves and our libraries continues to be popular among our colleagues.

Aside from Mark’s mentions of BL, I really enjoyed what he said in the column this time. We are certainly of a like mind with respect to our concerns for this profession and those we serve.

Thanks again. I hope that as a result of Mark’s column some new colleagues will take a closer look at Blended Librarianship. We continue to evolve the ideas and goals we’ve set for the community, and now are exploring new territory over at Designing Better Libraries (http://dbl.lishost.org).

Regards,
Steven J. Bell
(Associate University Librarian for Research and Instructional Services, Temple University Libraries) <bells@temple.edu> http://library.temple.edu 🗿️️

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 20 & 21 — 2008-2009

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