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## Letters to the Editor

Katina Strauch

*Against the Grain*, [kstrauch@comcast.net](mailto:kstrauch@comcast.net)

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## From Your (recovering) Editor:

Here's a tip! Don't ever break your elbow, especially your right elbow. It's a pain in more than the neck! But on the positive side, I suppose it's better than breaking your right wrist!

Undaunted, we have finished the June issue of *ATG* and it's another great one! **Kristen DeVoe** has put together seven papers on "Best Practices in Collection Development," we have profiles from all of the authors — **Rickey D. Best**, **Jim Dooley**, **Daniel Mack**, **Suzanne Kapusta**, **Cory Tucker**, and **Dan Tonkery**. There's an



**Op Ed** by **Susan Klimley** about digital artifacts and a **Back Talk** by the inimitable **Tony Ferguson** about getting our users' attention. Our interview this issue is with the amazing **Donald Beagle**, and **Greg Tananbaum** talks with **Joe Esposito**. We have the second **eBook rollout** by **Cris Ferguson** and **Natalee Hattig** tells us about a home-grown license manager. And I could go on and on.

But, you know what? My elbow is giving out. It wants a rest! Like I said, don't ever break your elbow!

See you in Washington! Yr. Ed. 🐾

## 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:

The review in this issue of *Against the Grain* (v.19#3, April 2007) by **Annis Lee Adams**, "Rx: eBooks — A comparison of functionality of four medical eBook Collections" (pp. 40) — is really good. I'm wondering if **Annis** could do something like this live for the **Charleston Conference**. It's really the best review of good functionality with eBooks that I've seen. It might kick start some of the development we need to make eBooks really usable. Anyway I don't know if there's anything for the conference in this, but I really liked the article and the maneuverability/usability that different publishers are putting in to medical texts. They are making it possible to email or print single sections/chapters, to search easily, with **Boolean** in one case, relevance ranking, spelling correction, download book sections to PDA's etc. — a whole list of things that we need to make eBooks viable. Her table 1 comparison of features lists features that standard eBook vendors haven't implemented generally. Maybe she could work up a what does a good eBook platform look like? Or what I want my eBooks to be.

**Chuck Hamaker**

Associate University Librarian Collections and Technical Services,  
Atkins Library, University of North Carolina Charlotte  
<cahamake@uncc.edu>



**Editor's Note:** Thanks for the suggestion, **Chuck**! We are trying to get **Annis** on the program! — Yr. Ed. 🐾

## AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 19 — 2007-2008

2007 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
Reference Publishing	September 2007	07/25/07	08/08/07
Charleston Conference	November 2007	09/19/07	10/03/07
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 07/Jan. 08	11/21/07	12/05/07

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

**Toni Nix** <justwrite@lowcountry.com>; Phone: 843-835-8604; Fax: 843-835-5892 or  
**Edna Laughrey** <elaughrey@aol.com>; Phone: 734-429-1029; Fax: 734-429-1711  
Address: 291 Tower Drive, Saline, MI 48176. 🐾

### Rumors from page 1

Hope to see him in Washington in a few weeks!

According to **BBC News (5/15/2007)** — **Reuters** has agreed to be bought out by Canadian financial data provider **Thomson** in a deal worth about £8.7bn (\$17bn). This could create the world's biggest financial news and data firm. **Reuters** and **Thomson** speculate their deal will save them \$500m (£250m) a year. **Reuters**' shares in London closed 3.39% or 20.5 pence higher at 626p. Analysts say that **Reuters** complements **Thomson**'s news operations in the US and AFX in Europe and a merged **Thomson** and **Reuters** would be in a stronger position to compete with **Bloomberg**. According to industry estimates released in April, **Bloomberg** has a 33% share of the terminal market, with **Reuters** controlling 23% and **Thomson** 11%. Following the merger, the new company will be called **Thomson-Reuters** and will be listed on stock exchanges in London and Toronto. It will have annual revenues of about \$12bn and almost 49,000 employees. **Niall Fitzgerald** is chairman of **Reuters**. The deal would still need approval from competition regulators. Says **Robert Preston**'s blog (Preston is the BBC's business editor): "For more than 150 years, **Reuters** has been one of the great independent news organizations. No longer, ..." **Reuters**' independence has been guaranteed by the structure of the business — which prohibits any individual from owning 15% or more of the company, ... However, "that prohibition is being waved for the **Thomson** family, which will end up owning 53% of the enlarged business." According to the terms of the deal, **Reuters** shareholders will get 352.5 pence in cash and 0.16 **Thomson** share for every **Reuters** share they own. That values **Reuters** shares at 692p each, the companies said in their statement. **Reuters** boss **Tom Gloer** will head the enlarged firm, while **Thomson** president and chief executive **Richard Harrington** will retire.

I guess this tells us why — **The Thomson Corporation** (NYSE: TOC; TSX: TOC) has sold its **Thomson Learning Higher Education Assets** to funds advised by **Apax Partners** and **OMERS Capital Partners**. The Combined Total Value of the assets was listed at US\$7.75 billion. Jeez! **Thomson.com** is a huge conglomerate that includes: **Thomson Financial** <http://www.thomson.com/solutions/financial/>; **Thomson Healthcare** <http://www.thomson.com/solutions/healthcare/>; **Thomson Learning** <http://www.thomson.com/solutions/learning/>; **Thomson Legal** <http://www.thomson.com/solutions/legal/>; **Thomson Scientific** <http://www.thomson.com/solutions/scientific/>; and **Thomson Tax & Accounting** <http://www.thomson.com/solutions/taxacct/>. What they have sold is the **Thomson Learning** piece. **OMERS** and **Apax** funds will acquire the higher education, careers, and library reference assets of **Thomson Learning**, and a consortium of funds advised by **OMERS** and **Apax** will acquire **Nelson Canada**, for a com-

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