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Best Practices in Collection Development

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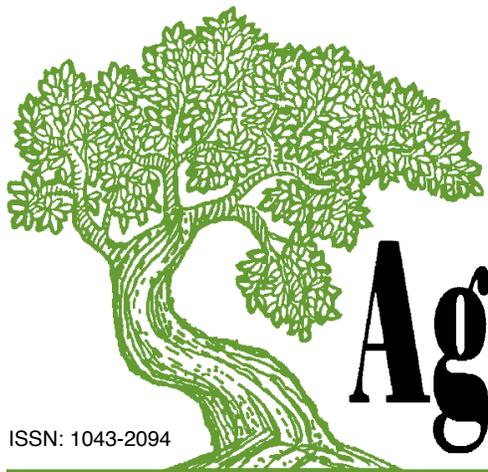**VOLUME 19, NUMBER 3**   **JUNE 2007**

Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

Best Practices in Collection Development

by **Kristen DeVoe** (Electronic Resources Librarian, College of Charleston) <devoek@cofc.edu>

A "best practice" is a management idea which asserts that there is a technique, method, process, activity, incentive or reward that is more effective at delivering a particular outcome than any other technique, method, process, etc. In collection development "best practices" can be developed locally to fit specific needs, but the basic ideas and principles behind the practices can often be applied to other libraries.

With the rapid shift from print to electronic for many journal titles and monographs, how can a collection development librarian establish "best practices" at his or her library for managing collections? To help answer this questions, we have collected seven articles from library professionals that discuss how they have developed "best practices" for collection development at their library. The topics of the articles range from performing collection assessments to consortium licensing practices.

Rickey Best, Dean, **Auburn University at Montgomery Library**, wrote a thorough article on how the **Network of Alabama Academic Libraries** developed their practices and policies for the consortial licensing of electronic databases. **Jim Dooley**, Head, Collection Services, **University of California-Merced**, contributed an article describing that library's first foray into the world of ebooks and how the library is managing the transition from print to electronic monographs. **Barbara Gushrowski**, Access and Instructional Services Librarian, **Indiana University School of Dentistry Library**, has included an article on developing and refining a weeding process. Her article details her own experiences at a dental school library, but the lessons learned can be applied in all types of libraries. **Daniel Mack**, Head, **George and Sherry Middlemas Arts and Humanities Library**, **The Pennsylvania State University**, tackles the topic of collection development in academic libraries and its place in an open-systems view of librarians'

liaison work with collegiate faculty and academic programs in his article. **Elizabeth Lorenzen**, Head of Acquisitions/Serials, **Indiana State University** and **Suzanne Kapusta**, Senior Collection Development Manager, **YBP Library Services**, examine approval plan management in times of budget constraints. **Corey Tucker**, Collection Development Librarian, **University of Nevada, Las Vegas**, has contributed a paper discussing the collection assessment process at **UNLV** and how it became a "best practice" for that library. Finally, **Dan Tonkery**, VP of Business Development, **EBSCO Information Services**, examines how agents are inventing new services for efficient collection development that would be beneficial to librarians. 🐎

If Rumors Were Horses

So sorry. Neglected to mention this what with the broken elbow and all. Culminating a yearlong search, **Penn State University Press** (an administrative unit of the University Libraries) has appointed **Patrick H. Alexander** as its new associate director and editor-in-chief effective March 6, 2007. **Patrick** began his publishing career in 1986 as associate editor with **Hendrickson Publishers, Inc**. of Peabody, Massachusetts. He joined **Brill Academic Publishers, Inc**. and **Brill USA, Inc**., located in Boston, Massachusetts, as vice president and publishing d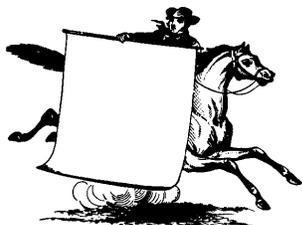irector in 2000 before moving to **De Gruyter** in 2005. At **Penn State University Press**, **Alexander** inherits a flourishing book-publishing program. The Press reached its **50th anniversary in 2006**. As **Patricia Schroeder** said on this occasion, the Press "is a vital, thriving answer to the Cassandras who have predicted the death of print publishing in general, and scholarly

publishing in particular, as the inevitable 'collateral damage' of our digital Brave New World." **Graham Spanier**, President of **Penn State**, paid tribute to the **Press** as "still relevant, still supporting great ideas, and still deeply committed to serving academe, its scholars, and society." **Patrick Alexander** will serve as the Press's co-director of the **Office of Digital Scholarly Publishing**, a **joint venture of the Libraries and Press** at **Penn State**, launched in spring 2005, which is developing low-cost and experimental publishing services. He will share this responsibility with **Michael Furlough**, who came on board as assistant dean of scholarly communications in the Libraries in September 2006.

Sadly, the wonderful and charming **Dr. Data** (**Bob Molyneux**) <drdata@molyneux.com> is no longer with **SirsiDynix** but he is still ecstatically happy married to **Carolyn**.