

November 2013

## People Profile: Rickey D. Best

Editor

Follow this and additional works at: <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Editor (2007) "People Profile: Rickey D. Best," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 19: Iss. 3, Article 16.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5373>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.

- No member should pay more than an individual subscription would cost.<sup>13</sup>

In allocating costs, NAAL utilizes five models<sup>14</sup> to allocate group subscription costs to the individual subscribers in the groups. These models were developed when vendors provided a single group quote, but can be adapted for use with almost any quote if the vendor allows NAAL to allocate the costs. The models are:

- The **FTE Model**. The total group cost is distributed using the participating institutions' student FTE data. Each institution pays the percentage of the cost that represents its percentage of the group's total student FTE.
- The **Equal Model**. The group cost is divided equally amongst the participating institutions.
- The **50/50 Model**. In this model, the participating libraries divide one-half of group cost equally. The remaining cost is divided using the FTE allocation.
- The **Bid Model**. Institutions are asked to "bid" the amount they can pay to be a part of the NAAL group.
- The **Vendor Model**. Vendors will present quotes stipulating the price for each institution. Vendor pricing is most often linked with access controlled by simultaneous users with a set number of users assigned to each participant.

With each model, the **AUM Library** has benefited by being able to extend access to full-text journal coverage at a reduced cost for licensing products, particularly when compared to our licensing a product as a single institution. In negotiating the license for a product, NAAL seeks to establish a common expiration date for renewal. Any current subscribers are able to transfer an existing subscription for a resource into a NAAL group licensed subscription. Each of the models listed above has advantages and disadvantages which are listed on the background page for the **Online Content Program**.<sup>15</sup> The advantages and disadvantages are identified as follows.

The **FTE Model** results in the lowest possible cost for the smallest members and the highest possible costs for the largest members. As a result, it violates NAAL's second principle in that larger schools may pay more in this model than they would pay for an individual subscription. The **FTE Model** works the best when participating institutions are similar in size.

The **Equal Model** works best for reference type products not generally used by students, e.g., *Books In Print*, *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*. It is also used when a group shares the same number of simultaneous users. The assumption in this instance would be that every user, regardless of the institution's size, has an equal chance of accessing the database. The model is also used for online products which have a comparable print cost.

## against the grain people profile

Dean, Auburn University Montgomery Library  
Phone: (334) 244-3200 • <rbest@mail.aum.edu>

### Rickey D. Best

**BORN & LIVED:** Yes, to both. Actually, born in Los Angeles, CA and grew up in Riverside, CA.

**EARLY LIFE:** Nothing extraordinary.

**FAMILY:** Married to **Charlotte Redemann**.

**EDUCATION:** BA MA in History from the **University of California Riverside**; MLIS from the **University of California Berkeley**.

**FIRST JOB:** Manuscripts Librarian for the **San Diego Historical Society**.

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** Dean, **Auburn University at Montgomery Library**. Member of **ACRL Government Relations Committee**.

**IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO:** Travel.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** *Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States* by **Charles Austin Beard**. *The Big Four* by **Oscar Lewis**; and (though I probably shouldn't admit this) *Don't Step in the Leadership* by **Scott Adams**.

**PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD:** Arrogance; Selfishness.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Live to make each day better than the one before.

**MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** The improvement in the **LibQual+** scores for the **AUM Library** from 2003 to 2006.

**GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS**

**FROM NOW:** A new library building for our campus.

**HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** I think there will be a restructuring of the "Big Deal" concept as libraries are forced to cancel because of costs. I think we're going to see more publishers pull their titles from aggregated databases and move towards licensing on their own. 🐼



The **50/50 Model** is judged as being more equitable in distributing costs. Larger schools with bigger budgets are paying more than smaller schools but less than would be the case using the **FTE Model**. For both the larger and smaller schools, the costs are less than an individual subscription.

The **Bid Model** has as an advantage — the ability to allow smaller schools to join in a subscription based upon what they can pay. Larger schools will often pay their individual costs or more in order to allow as many institutions to participate as possible. Even doing so, the larger schools benefit from the lower group cost negotiated by NAAL and the resulting group does not incur the higher costs that a smaller group would be charged. Over time, NAAL works to move to a **50/50 Model** for the participants in groups using the **Bid Model**. To accomplish this, renewal price increases are allocated to those schools paying less than **50/50 Model** while holding the costs level for those paying more than the **50/50 Model**. An advantage for the smaller schools is that even with the renewal price increases there is not the sticker shock of having to come up with a large amount of money to maintain the subscription at renewal.

The **Vendor Model** utilizes vendor set pricing

linked with access controlled by simultaneous users with a set number of users assigned to each participant. This can be a problem in delaying user access to a resource because a limited threshold has been reached. However, NAAL has always been quick to react to situations where this occurs and works with the vendors to acquire additional simultaneous users for the group. Overall, the price stipulation provided by vendors does not offer a distinct advantage for the NAAL libraries.

### Benefits of NAAL Licensing

NAAL licenses access to ninety-six separate databases,<sup>16</sup> three of which are provided by multiple vendors. In one instance, NAAL negotiated with the database vendor for a discount based on the number of subscribers and then negotiated a separate access cost with the database platform provider so members could choose their preferred provider platform. NAAL has also negotiated deeply discounted secondary access to the same licensed content available from multiple vendors. Table 1 documents the number of databases and the allocation formula ascribed to each.

The methods that have been used by NAAL to license databases have saved the citizens of the State of Alabama more than two million

*continued on page 20*