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# The Continuing Saga of the Google Book Settlement

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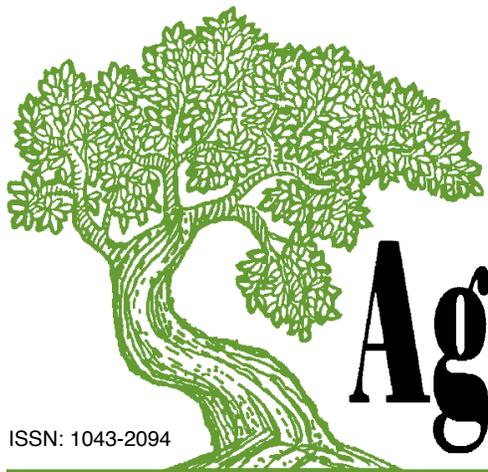
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# Against the Grain

“Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians”

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## The Continuing Saga of the Google Book Settlement

by **Ann Okerson** (Associate University Librarian, Collections & International Programs, Yale University)  
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Sometimes it feels as if the **Google** book digitizing project has been with us all of our professional lives, and the **Google Book Settlement** not much less than that. In fact, **Google** began its digitization program early in the decade; the **Authors’ Guild** lawsuit was launched in 2005, and the **Settlement** was proposed in late 2008. A great deal of the Settlement story remains to be written, to say nothing of its impact on many individuals, organizations, society, and the future of books. It seems that everyone connected to learning and knowledge production — not just attorneys and

authors — has a view about **Google’s** activities, offerings, and strategies. The **Google Settlement** has even become a topic of conversation among strangers seated next to one another on long airplane flights.

Is the **Google** digitization program a boon for all, leveling the playing field for have-not users, fostering creation of new knowledge, accelerating the research process, saving libraries money, and much more? Is it a fiendishly crafty way for **Google** to make even more money than so far? Recently **Michael Cairns**, former president of **R.R. Bowker** and Managing Partner, **Information**

**Media Partners** published a paper titled “Database of Riches: Measuring the Options for Google’s Book Settlement Roll Out.” In it he estimated that **Google’s** annual subscription revenue for licensing to libraries could approach \$260 million by year three. Some of our airplane conversations address matters such as:

- Will **Google** enjoy a monopoly unlike any heretofore seen in the publishing world?
- Will **Google** exploit its tremendous digital assets within the blessing of legal precedent?

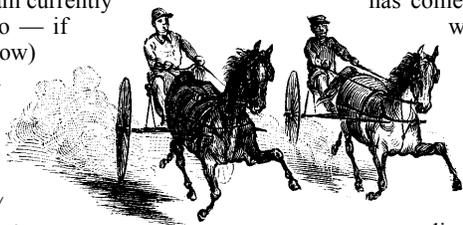
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## If Rumors Were Horses

So much is going on it’s hard to know where to begin!

First up — We at the **College of Charleston** are advertising for the position of **Assistant Dean of Technical Services and Library Systems**. The incomparable **Bob Neville** who has been in that position for over 25 years is retiring June 30. No, I am not applying for the position (my plate is full up) but I am on the search committee and am currently the **Interim Dean**. So — if you (or someone you know) is/are interested, send us your application. Here is the link to the job description. <http://www.against-the-grain.com/2010/05/employment-opportunity-assistant-dean-for-technical-services-and-library-systems/>



We told you in the **ATG Broadcast** a few weeks ago but maybe you missed it, that the deserving and wonderful **Adam Chesler** has a new job! It’s official. He is the **Director of Content Management** at **ASTD** (American

Society for Training and Development). **Adam** is on the **Charleston Conference Planning Committee** and he says he will continue to be involved with all of us.

Want to take a minute to tell you about the **ATG Broadcast**! This is the bam-zowie **Leah Hinds’** creation! **Leah** is sending out the **Broadcast** as an email newsletter to **ATG subscribers** after the print edition of an issue has come out. The **Broadcast** will have some up-to-the-minute news that was not included in the latest issue as well as links to some of the articles from that issue that are available in full text online for subscribers only.

And speaking of the **Charleston Conference**, forgot to mention last time that the **2009 (29th) Charleston Conference** (theme: **Necessity is the Mother of Invention**) got fabulous coverage in **Information Today** (v.27#1, January, 2010, pp. 25-26. The doesn’t-miss-

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**The Continuing Saga ...**  
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- Will other businesses rush to do the same, following **Google's** precedent, thus introducing useful competition into the digital marketplace?
- Will **Google** enhance the role of libraries as the new destination? Will libraries become passé?

Many have views about these matters, and *Against the Grain* thought to solicit and represent some of them for its readers. Here you will find **Ivy Anderson's** opening piece, in which she argues the benefits of having millions of books available to readers and responds to several key librarians' and scholars' concerns (such as long-term preservation). **Pamela Samuelson** offers an author's viewpoint, based in her legal expertise; as a classical scholar, **James O'Donnell** values **Google**, but he does not want to lose the added (and enormous) metadata value that librarians add. The international view is not often heard in the United States, so *ATG* invited **Paul Whitney** to write from the perspective of one of the U.S.'s major partners, Canada, our neighbor to the North. **Stuart Hamilton** provides a broad international view, grounded in his work as policy advisor for **IFLA**. Finally, **Jonathan Band** has given us permission to reproduce his "March Madness" flow chart, showing possible paths forward for the **Settlement**. Perhaps by the time this *ATG* issue is published, some of the paths forward will be clearer, but by no means will the Judge's ruling be the end of the story. You will read more in these pages as time passes. And you will be better informed for your next plane trip! 🌍

**Rumors**  
from page 14

in Philadelphia to **Meredith Jane Pettersons** at 12:55 AM, April 5th. (8lbs. 15oz.) The births were only a few hours apart. Almost seems like they were coordinated to allow the grandparents time to be there! Whew! Everyone is healthy and doing well. **Steve**, his wife **Anna**, and son **Will**, hung around for a few days, and **Anna** even stayed on a week with **Jane** to help out!

**Steve** was telling me that he was chatting with an old **Dickinson** colleague, **Valrie (Val) Davis** who is now at **Florida University**. And **Valrie** plans to attend the **Charleston Conference** this fall and has submitted a proposal for a paper. Hoo-ha! <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/about/faculty/vdavis.html>

This whole talk of pregnancy and travel and youth reminds me of how young and crazy my husband and I were once instead of the mature, intelligent human beings we are now. We traveled all over **Greece** when I was 5 1/2 months pregnant with our daughter **Ileana**. We didn't even have hotel rooms booked. I remember a nice older lady renting us her bedroom so we would have a place to sleep for the night, I think it was on the island of **Skiathos**. Youth! Isn't it grand!

against the grain  
**people profile**

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**BORN AND LIVED:** Hallein, Austria; lived in US, Canada, and UK.

**IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO:** Pursue, wherever I may be, the following: dark chocolate, cupcakes, French macaroons (I bought my first computer in the 80s to create a database of chocolate shops).

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** For spare-time reading, I enjoy mysteries, particularly with an international setting. I could list many, but here are a few favorites: **Colin Cotterill** (Coroner Dr. Paiboun, Laos); **James Church** (Inspector O, North Korea); **Henning Mankell** (Sweden or Africa); **Eliot Pattison** (Inspector Shan, Tibet); **Lisa See** (China); **Xiaolong Qiu** (Inspector Chen, China). Well, let me stop here and hope at least one of these authors is new to you. And email me for more suggestions!

**PET PEEVES:** Drivers speaking on cell phones. Young people smoking. Don't they know the statistics? People who need to speak on cell phones wherever they may be and don't care who listens to whatever they're saying (sometimes really private stuff).

**MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** Starting **NERL**, the **NorthEast Research Libraries Consortium**.

**GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW:** Less obsessive about working so much of the time? But, then, I do love it!!

**HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** For the librarians, I see enormous opportunities to deliver information to our readers in many new, different ways and to adopt a flexible, innovative mindset. Things we do will keep changing — no standstills. I think (hope) we will be visibly closer to solutions for reliable digital preservation, so that the shift to e-content needn't be so worrisome for scholars and librarians. This will allow us to think about how best to manage and consolidate our physical collections. Many traditional physical library spaces will be repurposed or else shrink/go away. The library will be wherever readers are. We will be five years closer to the vision of a universal digital library, as each of our institutions continues to play its part in making that wonderful future happen. 🌍



Have been traveling a lot this spring. Noticed in the Delta in-flight magazine, **Sky**, a big spread on Brussels, Belgium, where the 12th **Fiesole Retreat** was held (actually the **Retreat** was in Leuven, but nowhere is far in Belgium). Seems that Brussels is the birthplace of **Hergé** (the artist of **Tintin**) (real name **Georges Rémi**) and the inspiration for much of the artwork in the **Tintin** comics of which there are over 24 titles translated into over 50 languages. But why am I telling you all this? Apparently, **Steven Spielberg's The Adventures of Tintin: Secret of the Unicorn** is due to hit movie screens next year. Reportedly **Spielberg** bought the rights in 1983 but was waiting for animation technology to become good enough to film the adventures. You heard it here!

And, the 13th **Fiesole Retreat** will take place in St. Petersburg, Russia, May 12-15, 2011. If you are interested in receiving an invitation contact me or **Becky Lenzini**

<rlenzini@earthlink.net>. <http://digital.casalini.it/retreat/retreat2010.html>

Had a great visit from the handsome **Courtney Little**. Learned that **Courtney** and his lovely girlfriend who is completing her Residency in New York are planning to get married soon and they are also expecting. **Courtney** says they plan to live in the Big Apple.

Was talking to the she-who-seems-to-never-rest **Gail Schlachter** <GailSchlachter@rspfunding.com> the other day. She was telling me about **Reference Services Press'** new book, **How to Pay for Your Degree in Library and Information Studies 2010-2012**. This is the first biennial edition and I know that **Joey Van Arnhem** <vanarnhemj@cofc.edu>, one of our reviewers, is anxiously looking forward to reviewing the book. **Joey** is getting ready to go to library school in between all her other duties.

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