

September 2010

Something to Think About-Is It Time to Hang Up the Spurs?

Mary E. Massey

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, masse36e@erau.edu

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



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

Recommended Citation

Massey, Mary E. (2010) "Something to Think About-Is It Time to Hang Up the Spurs?," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 22: Iss. 4, Article 31.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5619>

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



R2: Converting Librarians to Cybrarians

The R2 Digital Library from Rittenhouse makes it easy for librarians everywhere to offer more than 1,000 health sciences titles online.

SAVE MONEY. Avoid “all-or-nothing” prices. Add more titles immediately with the push of a button.

SAVE TIME. Our easy-to-use interface meets needs of librarians. If you can surf the web, you can use R2.

MANAGE SMARTLY. Monitor usage statistic in real time, so you can make informed decisions.

Move into library management’s digital age with a name you can trust: Rittenhouse.

Rittenhouse
BOOK DISTRIBUTORS

DISTRIBUTING THE LEADING SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND MEDICAL PUBLISHERS

511 Feheley Dr., King of Prussia, PA 19406 • 800-345-6425 • www.r2library.com • www.rittenhouse.com

Something to Think About — Is It Time to Hang Up the Spurs?

Column Editor: **Mary E. (Tinker) Massey** (Serials Librarian, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Jack R. Hunt Library)

[<masse36e@erau.edu>](mailto:masse36e@erau.edu)

Been riding the range for forty years and the saddle sores are getting to me now.

I can still remember that first day of work in libraries when I was introduced to the floating floors of the stacks and the eerie progression of lights going on and off throughout the four vertically connected floors. I have worked as a student, shelver, clerk, LTA, archivist, and librarian in almost every department of the various organizations. It has been an adventure and a challenge. I have lived through a library shooting and the reorganization it brought that consumed me for nine years as an intermediary between the staff and the administration resolving a successful conclusion. I have killed the backlog dragons and lassoed the reclassification horses, as well as conquering the masses of withdrawals and building procedures for years that solved the ills of the kingdom. One of the great rewards of the profession are the wonder-



ful people you meet along the way; whether they are co-workers, conference attendees, students, faculty and staff of universities or public libraries, they are stimulating, fun, and challenging at times. I have learned much in my travels and my ideas have been boundless, but the energy level is decreasing now, and I must ask the question, is it time to go?

Times are changing from the print I know to the more unfamiliar digital products, but I am making those adjustments. They are somewhat slow, but I’m getting there each day. I still rise early every morning, week-day or weekend, and I seem to get things done at almost the same speed, but the memory is going. Whereas I could maintain four or five projects at a time before, I can only do three or four now. I am careful to put all of my lists and projects on flash drives, as well as my other daily activities, so that I can quickly recall the information. Coping is the name of the game. I still

have the passion for the work, but I look at my off-hour activities and think how rewarding they would feel with more time to give to them. I’ve started on my second book, and I continue to publish around ten articles a year, plus writing children’s stories for my fourteen grandchildren and poetry for other minor publications. I take care of a church library and develop programs for the women to explore. In the next couple of years, I will probably decide to retire for the third and last time, but the world on the other side will be rich and exciting. So much to do and so little time to do it! I am thinking about re-opening my information brokerage firm, but I might just set up a Website and write stories for children contracted by their parents or other relatives. That would be fun! Regrets? No, I did the thing I loved for most of my life and now I will be continuing to use my skills for new adventures. I have touched a great many lives and they have touched me as well. How right is that?! Is it time for you to be considering the “I” word? It might be something to think about! 🌻