November 2010

Profile-Karl Debus-Lopez

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Recommended Citation

(2010) "Profile-Karl Debus-Lopez," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 22: Iss. 5, Article 18.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5651>

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towards comfort with a library taking more aggressive strategic actions with its print collections of journals in particular, these decisions are made on the local level and will be judged based on local constituent attitudes. Cautionary tales of faculty members speaking out against even the appearance of a print drawdown, including protests at **Syracuse** over the idea of moving a number of materials to off-site storage and at **Cal Poly Pomona** over the deaccessioning of backfiles of journals available through **JSTOR**, have reinforced the idea that a strategic move away from print still requires a significant investment of political capital at the local level. Hence, the sense of being between a rock and a hard place, as many faculty members demonstrate little interest in print collections of journals in particular while they remain in place, but some may react strongly and negatively if they view the continued maintenance of these materials as threatened. It is not always easy to separate real user needs for print access from an attachment to print that may have to do more with the symbolism of the library than its actual practical function; although some faculty have clear, immediate concerns about the impact of a print drawdown on their teaching and research, others may have strong conceptual objections to the de-prioritization of print even if they themselves rarely or never make use of library print collections.

Some libraries therefore seek to shape a conversation that will both elicit needed input about priorities and will also enable the library to communicate its strategic vision and long-term objectives to its users. Towards this end, following a community framework (ideally one grounded in a more scientific approach to preservation planning) can be helpful in taking some of the emotion out of the dialogue. From that perspective, **Ithaka S+R's** *What to Withdraw* framework and decision-support tool can be helpful not only in making decisions about collections management but also in articulating these to campus stakeholders.² Through more deliberate engagement with constituents around these issues, can the library help to establish trust that its decisions about print collections will sustain long-held community values, even if in some cases they may be realized in different ways? By shaping a constructive conversation with constituents, the library may gain needed flexibility to take more deliberate action in reshaping print collections to support the library's intended roles and services. 🌱

Endnotes

1. **Roger C. Schonfeld and Ross Housewright**, *Faculty Survey 2009: Strategic Insights for Libraries, Publishers, and Societies*. <http://www.ithaka.org/ithaka-s-r/research/faculty-surveys-2000-2009/faculty-survey-2009>
2. **Roger C. Schonfeld & Ross Housewright**, *What to Withdraw: Print Collections Management in the Wake of Digitization*. <http://www.ithaka.org/ithaka-s-r/research/what-to-withdraw>

against the grain people profile

Karl Debus-López

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BORN AND LIVED: Born in Arlington, Massachusetts; grew up in suburbs of Chicago. Since my father was a professor at the **University of Chicago**, my family and I had the opportunity to travel with him when he did research at other institutions. Lived a year and spent several summers in Cambridge, England and also lived for a year in Princeton, NJ. Went to undergraduate and graduate school and worked at **Cornell University** in Ithaca, NY. Also lived in Boston, MA and Madison, WI. Currently live in Silver Spring, MD.

EARLY LIFE: I have a Bachelor's degree in History and Government from **Cornell University**. I also have a Master's degree in Regional Planning from **Cornell** and had a very short lived career in that profession. I still have an interest in historic preservation.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: My Master's in Library Science is from the **University of Maryland**. I've worked my entire career as a librarian in the areas of technical services and collection development. I am Chief of the U.S. General Division and Acting Chief of the U.S. and Publisher Liaison Division at the **Library of Congress**. In my positions I have managerial responsibility for the Cataloging in Publication, ISSN, Dewey, and Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging programs at **LC**. My divisions are also responsible for selecting materials received in all formats from the **Copyright Office** and CIP Program for the permanent **Library of Congress** collections. Prior to working at **LC**, I was Head of Acquisitions and Chief Collection Development Officer at the **National Agricultural Library** where I assisted in creating their institutional repository, AgSpace. I have also worked at **Georgetown University**, the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**, the Executive Office of the **President Library** and the **National Library of Medicine**. I worked with colleagues at **UW Madison** to set up an early patron-driven acquisitions program and gave a presentation at the **Charleston Conference** on the program in 2001. I have held numerous positions in **ALA ALCTS**, including Chair of the Acquisitions Section. I am currently President of the **ALA Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table**.

FAMILY: My husband, **Tanner Wray**, is Director of Public Services at the **University of Maryland**, College Park so we get to talk about libraries all the time. We have two guinea pigs, Spooky and Bessie.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: I am an avid scrapbooker and don't know how families will preserve their histories if they rely solely on online services to manage their photographs. **Tanner** and I love to travel. Our most recent big trip was to Namibia. I also have a love of English history, particularly the Tudor and Stuart period.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I do not have one in particular. Currently I am reading **Dave Eggers' You Shall Know Our Velocity**. Previous to that I read *The Pickup* by **Nadine Gordimer**.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: Having staff tell me that they "were never informed," when there is ample evidence that they were informed, often multiple times.

PHILOSOPHY: Always listen to your Cassandras.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Assisting with the creation of a new library for the **Georgetown University School of Foreign Service** in Doha, Qatar.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I think in five years we will finally see the benefits of the cross-mapping libraries have been working on to link classification systems and subject terminologies to easily retrieve content across systems for a variety of purposes. I am privileged to be working at an institution which is in the thick of this critical work. 🌱