June 2011

People Profile: Xan Arch

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

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

Recommended Citation

(2011) "People Profile: Xan Arch," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 23: Iss. 3, Article 19.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5897>

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.

Tony Ferguson and his lovely wife **Cheryl** attended the **Fiesole Retreat** and we had a great time tramping around St. Petersburg as well as listening to the wonderful papers. **Tony** did his usual wonderful wrap up of the **Retreat** and gives us a glimpse in his **Back Talk**, this issue, p.86. **Tony** has retired from **HKU** but is still very active in lots of library venues, including **OCLC**. **Tony's** personal email address is <anthony.ferguson185@gmail.com>. He has relocated to Sahuarita, Arizona. Talk about going around the world! **Tony's** mother is turning 90 during the **Charleston Conference** so he will not be coming unless we can persuade him. In the meantime, the super Scotsman **Derek Law** will be summing up for the **2011 Charleston Conference**.

Oh! The new Librarian at **HKU** is **Peter Sidorko**: <peters@hkucc.hku.hk>. Look forward to having him in Charleston some day soon!

continued on page 40

against the grain people profile

Xan Arch

Collection Development Librarian
Reed College
<xanadu@reed.edu>

BORN AND LIVED: Born in Portland, OR, moved to the San Francisco Bay Area for college, then work, just moved back to Portland in 2010.

FAMILY: My husband **Mike** is a software designer, and we have a fluffy black cat named Cachaca.

IN MY SPARE TIME: Running, reading, cooking, agonizing over next **ATG** column.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I think the industry in five years will be dynamic, with more new types of electronic content, new ways to package content, and new ways to acquire content. I think we will be challenged by how to understand and incorporate end-user software and hardware into our business and service models. We will wonder if doing so will increase our relevance at the expense of our traditional mission and values. 🐼

Purchasing Options in Patron-Driven Acquisitions

by **Robert Johnson** (Clinical Services Librarian, USC Norris Medical Library) <roberte@usc.edu>

The Basics

Patron-Driven Acquisitions (PDA) is a model of purchasing in which the librarians set the parameters of purchase and patrons pull the trigger. The material selected by patrons is appropriate to the collection because of the parameters set in place by librarians, and it is important to the collection because patrons themselves select it. This method of collection development can be thought of in many different ways: as a cost saving measure, supplement to interlibrary loan, method to increase electronic content, an alternative to traditional collection development, etc. At **UCI**, we primarily wanted to know if we could achieve cost savings and still provide robust access to content. Though print PDA options exist, most discussion of PDA centers on delivery of electronic content, which I'll focus on here. I won't try to describe which is "best," mainly because these models are extremely flexible and customizable based on your institution's needs, and each institution has differing needs and goals that may be met differently by specific vendors. Also, these models are changing and evolving constantly and the options/customizations I mention here may be different tomorrow.

The **UCI Libraries** investigated PDA beginning in 2009 and implemented a limited PDA pilot in late 2010. We looked at four vendors and developed questions to compare them to one another. In order to create a list of questions to address as many aspects as possible, **UCI** assembled bibliographers from arts and humanities, social sciences, sciences, technical services, and acquisitions. Mak-

ing sure to include both subject specialists, technical service specialists, and acquisitions specialists was important as we could tackle not only the collection development aspects of this project, but also technical aspects subject librarians would not have thought of (such as the level of cataloging, how easily we could integrate these records into our OPAC, how invoicing works, etc.). We reviewed the available literature and contacted authors to get some first-hand accounts of the process. Then we began examining two years of usage data (both circulation and internal use counts) for material from specific publishers. Armed with this knowledge, we came up with a list of questions to ask vendors (for the full list, see **Sue Polanka's** blog **No Shelf Required**: <http://www.libraries.wright.edu/noshelfrequired/?p=415>). I expected to see established packages from each vendor, but instead, we were presented with four companies very willing to customize based on our needs. The most important thing an organization can do prior to investigating these models is to determine what it wants out of PDA. Cost savings, ILL alternatives, beefing up electronic content, and/or altering responsibilities for collection development librarians are some reasons for interest in PDA, and each of those reasons will change the customization you seek.

Based on our investigations, here are some issues to consider when setting up a PDA program.

Access

Vendors are offering single-user (one user at a time), multiple-user (some predefined number of simultaneous users, up to unlimited), and even two-user options. Pricing for these models varies: some vendors are charging hardcover price for single-user and 1.5 times hardcover price for multiple/two-user options (depending on how many concurrent users your institution wants). Some pricing begins at 1.5 times hardcover with single-user and increases for multiple/two-user. For institutions trying to provide access to popular or high demand works, multiple-user makes the most sense (lots of patrons wanting access at the same time). For academic disciplines, single-user might make the most sense, as patrons are less likely to cluster at the same time.

Another access concern is the platform, whether that means a downloadable e-reader (which can be difficult to manage if you don't have a robust IT department) or a handheld device (for example a **Kindle**, **Nook**, **Kobo**, or **iPad**). A platform is the electronic framework in which the content lives, and some platforms require users to download programs or readers to allow the user to read the content. If the content requires a specific platform, this can cause difficulty when users attempt to access this content from different environments (if their computer doesn't support **Java** or **Flash**, for instance). There are also differences in what

continued on page 16