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ATG Deadlines

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Something to Think About — The Cultural Standard

Column Editor: **Mary E. (Tinker) Massey** (Retired) <eileen4tinker@yahoo.com>

It seems that our days fly by in a mixture of advancements, discouragement, challenges, and changes. Now that I am retired, I have the privilege of visiting many different types of libraries and talking with the stewards of knowledge. You have no idea how important you are to the quality of our culture and the wellbeing of its actuators. Sometimes we come to work looking for those special answers for individuals, not knowing if it will make a difference at all. In academic libraries, it is easier to understand our impact on the success of students and faculty, and some general public. Special Libraries are devoted to the advancement of knowledge in specific subject areas for researchers. School Libraries help those beginning to understand the world and its functions at the base levels. I am particularly curious about Public Libraries. When we dashed into the new millennium, I worked in academic and public venues as a way to earn privileges and money to further my education. I began to understand the interesting association of libraries and the community at large. As the general public used our facility, I saw the way our information specialists influenced and aided each human being. Of course, we helped the children from nearby schools, as our branch endeavored to encourage and enlighten

children of all ages understand all the various subject areas and develop wonderfully creative papers for their classes. But, I also understood the various other community inhabitants who were undergoing different problems. We used to help families look up information on a number of different physiological and health problems that their family members were being treated for in the Veterans' Hospital only a few blocks from our door. We not only found information for them, but we held their hand or gave them a shoulder to cry on when they understood the severity of the diseases.

We have spent time helping teenagers explore grief, bullying, and specialized learning as they strive to understand their roles and new coping abilities. We were always watchful for suicidal tendencies and gave them positive alternatives instead of the more common negatives imposed by families and friends. We were special friends.

We became helpful to those people trying to recover from work shutdowns in nearby industries. People came in depressed and they walked out holding their heads higher, finding reasons to have hope because we helped them develop resumes, get them ready for interviews, or walk them through the establishment of a home business.

I think the hours I spent working in a Public Library were some of the most treasured and satisfying I have ever spent. I established personal relationships with the community and became a valuable resource for people's thirst for knowledge and choices for reading or viewing materials. There was not a day that I didn't feel like a valuable part of this extended family. Over the many years of my library exposure from the age of four to well over sixty, I have discovered that we not only protect the knowledge of the world, but we make it accessible and understandable to the public. We are the cultural standard that others use as a pattern. The freedom to use this material comes with the responsibility for the general public to be mindful of keeping the information in good condition for others to use as well. I think it is important for us to be a positive influence on the general public and to present ourselves as that cultural standard in their lives. Since we have lost the actuality of others being our examples, perhaps we can strive to maintain our presence in their world as the Example for them. Perhaps this is something we should think about every day? 🌱



From Your (riveted) Editor:

I rarely have time to read only for pleasure, especially fiction. This doesn't mean that I don't read; it's just that I seem to always be reading library-related things. You know what I mean. BUT recently, I have been captivated by a series of novels about **Winston Churchill** and **World War II**. Look, my ex-husband was a historian (French history), my father was a historian, my boss was a historian, why did I want to read even more history? Go figure! This series of books by **Michael Dobbs**, however, is excellent. I had to tear myself away from them to work on this great issue of **ATG!**

Speaking of which, this issue is excellent and I became instantly ensconced learning more about trends in health sciences and biomedical libraries, ably guest edited by **Ramune Kubilius**. Papers are by **Maria Collins**, **Martha Fishel**, and **John Doyle**, **Patricia Hammond**, **Sally Gore**, **Stephanie Kerna**, **Heather Stecklein** and **Nathalie Wheaton** and **Leslie Czechowski** and **Nancy Tannery** and talk about assembling orchestras, mobile access, eBooks, and much more!

Our Op Ed this issue is by **David Mash** who



conducted a small, unscientific survey of reading habits in airports. We don't have a back talk this time since **Tony Ferguson** was at a Birthday Party for his Mom but **Greg Tananbaum** has taken his place discussing the excellent discussion at the **31st Charleston Conference** by **Anne Kenney** and **Kevin Guthrie**. And even more is in this issue — how serials departments are changing, **Octavio Paz**, **Occupy Wall Street**, the future of the book conference in Tallahassee, the death of cable and much more.

Oops! Excuse me! I think it's the UPS guy hopefully with my **Atlas of WWII Battles** that I just ordered for my birthday present!

Happy New Year and many good thoughts and love y'all's way! Love, **Yr. Ed.** 🌱

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 24 — 2012-2013

2012 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
Annual Report, PLA	February 2012	01/03/12	01/23/12
MLA, SLA, Book Expo	April 2012	02/24/12	03/16/12
ALA Annual	June 2012	04/05/12	04/26/12
Reference Publishing	September 2012	06/22/12	07/13/12
Charleston Conference	November 2012	08/22/12	09/12/12
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 2012/Jan. 2013	11/09/12	11/30/12

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agement and Administration, **Tennessee State University**). **Glenda** was telling me that, at the first **Charleston Conference** she attended (back in the **Lightsey Conference Center**) she sought advice from **Tony Ferguson** about being an Acquisitions librarian and he encouraged her! She tells me that there were 400 attendees at that **Conference**. (400 was the number of newcomers in 2011!)

And more about ninetieth birthdays! **Dennis Brunning's** mom turned 90 as well but her birthday did not conflict with the Conference. Whew! Very considerate of her.

I was so looking forward to seeing **Jerry Curtis** in Charleston #31! But **Buzzy Basch**

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