People Profile: Alison Mudditt

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against the grain

Interview — Alison Mudditt
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(CALSO) on the UPSO platform with its first four collections in March 2012, and we are also an active member of the consortium working to develop Books@JSTOR. I’m excited about the potential for these initiatives not only to create new revenue streams, but also to help libraries broaden patron access to content and to make scholarly discourse more accessible than it has ever been — a vibrant hub of information and debate that serves not only the academy, but a much wider audience seeking answers to many contemporary problems.

ATG: Why is partnering with OUP to launch California Scholarship Online (CALSO) on the UPSO platform more attractive to you than joining forces with the Books@JSTOR or Project MUSE?

AM: We’re still an active member of the JSTOR consortium and are, like the other members, currently reviewing the revised agreement, so it’s quite possible we will sign with both. We know that our library customers want and need options in terms of platforms and business models, and are committed to meeting those needs. As we’ve been evaluating potential partners, we’ve been considering platform and functionality as well as business models and sales capacity, and feel that UPSO and JSTOR will best meet both our needs and those of our library customers.

ATG: Alison, thank you taking the time to speak to us. We know that our readers will appreciate your many insights.

Interview — Knut Dorn
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an early adapter. The Internet still holds many secrets for me and I want to use my free time finally to catch up. While at the office at HARRASSWITZ I could not find the time for creative experimentation and was glad that I had a chance to organize an economic way to participate in electronic communication without putting an undue burden on the company. Now as of next year, there will be the chance to engage in a learning process for which there also has never been the time.

Will I have the drive to do some writing? There are lots of ideas and some sketches for projects that go back to my years in academia. When I started at HARRASSWITZ I had the idea of doing the writing for the topics of my interest on the side, expecting that my commitments at the company would allow me to do that. What a misconception that was! The job at HARRASSWITZ took more than what I ever imagined a full-time job would do to you. I do not regret this since I can say that I fully lived up to the expectations of the company and of our customers, and the fun part was that I thoroughly enjoyed it. So no regrets that I had what you might call a full professional life. Will I have to muster the energy to go back to what I had intended to do in my formative years at the university? I will have to see.

What I definitely will enjoy is living at a more leisurely pace. It is exactly that leisurely pace that I plan to introduce into my life. For once to fully enjoy the summers in my “club of early morning swimmers” in the fantastic open-air swimming pool on the hill over Wiesbaden very close to my home, without having to rush back for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and to try to be able to be at the office in time to fit into the schedule of meetings and daily routines. For once it will be time management for me under relaxed circumstances, or so I hope. Even if it is only to watch a soccer game without feeling remorse later that you have again lost two hours that have set you back with your professional reading or with composing texts for correspondence or marketing purposes.

And I will be able to devote more time again to my circles of friends, to the theater, and arrange for wine tastings and outings with them, all things I used to do but that had taken second place when business trips and professional duties in general had to be accommodated first.

Naturally, my wife Renate has ideas for me to devote more time to our grandchildren, Lavina and Helena, the two daughters of Nadja who I have to admit have not been given the amount of attention and time that they deserve. How good I will be at that, will have to be seen. It will definitely be children’s books and fairy tales for a while before in a couple of years they will be ready for ball games, swimming, and track and field. I expect that my educational skills will be tested!

Rumors
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Things were different. This issue, ably guest-edited by the fantabulous Ramune Kubilius, certainly illustrates the massive changes in that world and indeed in our world as well. These are great articles. I love music (classical and rock and country, you name it, but not modern) so I was intrigued and fascinated by Sally Gore’s characterization of librarians as constabling an orchestra, this issue, p.25. Don’t you love it?

Our Op Ed this issue is near and dear to my heart! Reading habits. Anyway, when I am in an airport, a library, a doctor’s office, a train station, continued on page 60