

February 2012

People Profile: Ruth Fischer

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Recommended Citation

(2012) "People Profile: Ruth Fischer," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 24: Iss. 1, Article 19.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6089>

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and data. Because WorldCat holdings data is central to SCS's offerings, we jumped at the chance to develop one of the first third-party applications on WorldShare. The partnership allows SCS to develop our own version of a collection analytics application on the same core data used by OCLC — and to create a new avenue for returning value to member libraries. In our view, the WorldShare model opens up lots of potential for innovation and mutual benefit. We're very pleased to be part of that.

ATG: *We've been discussing a lot of serious issues but before we let you go, we were hoping that you could tell us a little bit about you and your family. What do you do with your spare time? What do you like to read? Do you have any hobbies?*

RL/RF: We both have big extended families, Rick's in New England and Ruth's in Colorado. We spend time with both. Daughter Emily is an artist living just down the road from us and son Lincoln is an engineer working in Louisville, Kentucky. Most evenings when we're home we gravitate toward the long story arcs of shows like "The Wire," "Battlestar Galactica," "Deadwood," or, most recently, "Six Feet Under."

ATG: *Rick and Ruth, we want to thank you for taking the time to talk to us. As always, we learned a lot.*

RL/RF: Our pleasure. Thanks for asking! 🍀

against the grain people profile

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Rick Lugg & Ruth Fischer

BORN AND LIVED: Rick: A New Hampshire native: "Live Free or Die." Ruth: College Park, MD; Earlham College; and after 27 years, still a newcomer to New Hampshire.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Rick: 18 years at YBP; 12 years at R2; 1 year at SCS. Ruth: Teacher and administrator at independent schools; 10 years at YBP; 12 years at R2; 1 year at SCS.

FAMILY: Emily, 27, is a visual artist. Lincoln, 23, is an engineer.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Rick: *Lonesome Dove*. Ruth: *The Once and Future King*.

PHILOSOPHY: Ruth: "People don't change." Rick: "All life consists of moving objects from one place to another."

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS: Both: Building a profiling decision-support system at YBP in 1993; creating and growing R2 Consulting; staying married while working together for nearly 20 years!

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Collection development will continue to evolve toward curation of a discovery environment. Instead of deliberately trying to identify titles most relevant to a discipline, broad categories of material that may be relevant will be enhanced for optimum discoverability, immediate delivery (in either print or digital form), and partial or temporary use. 🍀

Something to Think About — Responsibility for the Future

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

We have arrived at a new year and changes that bring challenges to all libraries.

In the past, we have seen different challenges for different libraries dependent upon monies available for our functions. Now, we have been drawn together to find relevant solutions to problems we all share. There is a push to receive, develop, publish and create our information systems digitally — ONLY! If we never include the older materials, this will be a daunting task and still leave our facilities looking for physical space to house those older materials. Most libraries, no matter what size, are working on their own grants to protect the rare materials that provide us with the history of special subjects still developing today. I am reminded of my own experience with my Information Brokerage firm finding information for doctors and others who desperately needed the knowledge of a rare disease or human condition to solve a present problem. When searching a current need/problem in the seventies, I found that I had to wander back through the journal articles of the fifties to find relevant information for the doctor. I was surprised, but the doctor explained that this human condition had

not been noted in the literature for many years. That is why he used my firm to find that lost information. If we start with the current years of publications only, we miss important material that is vital for doctors and others. Making older information available to researchers is a major task and a necessary one. It's not only something to think about, but a MUST! We cannot cull portions of the data to soothe our need for "ALL DIGITAL." As digital becomes more and more primary to our needs, we also discover that libraries are destroying the older data as unnecessary. Some of the rare materials a single library owns, once well-known and preserved by hundreds of libraries, are now known in only 1-5 institutions. How soon will that become none, as we determine someone else should keep it, not us? That day has reached our doors, and we can no longer rely on others to do our work. Our responsibility is to procure, organize and provide access to as much human achievement as possible, or else we will need to recreate that effort everyday. Have we forgotten our mission? Are we being goaded by administrators who cherish space rather than providing their researchers with

as much raw data and knowledge as possible? We cannot be expected to create something from nothing. Have you experienced a loss of contact with the Internet because of natural disasters? If earlier data was unnecessary, I would hate to find data banks empty when information had been lost as to how we could create electricity, because the primary source had been lost. If you had to re-create a method to obtain a basic system because of disaster, could you? Who would you ask? Who could you rely on? The decline of the library is based on this change! We are becoming less able to supply answers. Do you find this something to think about? I do! If the library system as a primary knowledge source dies, it will be because we allowed it and ignored the early signs of decay. Think about it, and find a solution! 🍀

