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People Profile: Amy Hoseth

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Of course, as another *ATG* columnist often toots, the train has left the station. It seems like we may need a new metaphor that suggests how we use.

What is a Book Exactly These Days?

In a recent essay in the *New York Times Book*, **Joshua Cohen** describes print books he schlepped to an art book conference in Berlin. The books, bundled heavily in an old travel suitcase, were an aggregate of essays that originally appeared online. And not any old online, but a site dedicated to exploring the Print-into-Web and the Web-into-Print world.

The books were aimed at the art and book markets in Europe which the author noted plays differently than U.S. publishing. In Europe, where eBooks are only 1% of books sales, and reader and consumers seem largely indifferent to all the hubbub about eBooks in the U.S. In Berlin people read books, books with paper pages, and they are happy. And they read a lot, and books sell.

Germans joke that Americans just want to buy books and not read them. And what easier way to buy them but at half the hard-cover price?

We might consider the implications of how we think and act about eBooks — as consumers or librarians. For once, let's get ahead of the Annoyed Librarian in telling us what to do.

Let's allow it to suggest to us the book is larger than any momentary version of it. What we mean by the book is only in its infancy. Let's make it our major goal to give each reader a book whatever format it ends up in.

Your links;

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/15/books/review/my-berlin-airlift.html>

Books, Cancer, and Open Access: An Observational Therapy

When you or a loved one is diagnosed with cancer, what you need are answers and explanations. You need easily understood stuff. You do not need the research which requires an expert to synthesize and an MD to put into action.

The Open Access movement assumes a citizen's right of access to federally-funded research. If true, this right is vast. There might be a taxpayer's right to just about everything.

This is a loose argument to base all claims. As law it would be hard to enforce. And why do taxpayers have a right to view the published article? An abstract, the data, a report — all would qualify as a way of disclosing the taxpayer's supported research.

Librarians do not have much role in any of the open access models. Slightly in the gold, some in the green. Many librarians do not need to be hired to run an open access operation. As search experts we are easily dismissed as func-

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Amy Hoseth

BORN AND LIVED: I was born in Evanston, Illinois, but I grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I worked in public relations and employee communications for a DC-based telecom firm from 1995-2002. In 2002 I joined the **Association of Research Libraries (ARL)** and handled communications for the **LibQual+** project while simultaneously pursuing my MLS degree at the **University of Maryland**. I received my degree in 2005, and in the spring of 2006 I accepted my current position with the **Colorado State University Libraries**.

FAMILY: Husband, **Chad** (also employed at **CSU**) and two sons.

IN MY SPARE TIME: Running, high-altitude baking, and spending time with my family and friends.

PET PEEVES: Bad grammar.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *Personal History*, by **Katharine Graham**; *The Road*, by **Cormac McCarthy**; *The Passage*, by **Justin Cronin**; *No Ordinary Time*, by **Doris Kearns Goodwin**.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I think we're at a very interesting point in the information industry. I expect current trends (online access to resources, growing demand for eBooks, etc.) to accelerate in the next five years. I don't expect library budgets to increase much, if at all, during that same period, so libraries will have to be increasingly selective in terms of what they purchase, and what they make available to users through interlibrary loan and other methods. I suspect that libraries are in the process of a shift away from owning content, and towards facilitating access. It will be interesting to see how that plays out, especially as non-library entities such as Amazon, Google, Apple, and Facebook shape user expectations regarding access to information in the digital environment. 🌱



tionally irrelevant. Economic obsolescence follows. Pushing hard for open access — it doesn't do our profession any favors.

The thinking behind open access won't stop at journals. That's the problem from a broad social economic view.

The squirm factor among high management in libraries is huge. They ignored open access for many years before they started to fall in line urging open access declarations. They pay lip service to the politics but deep down they must sense the contradiction. There is no need for big bosses if all the minions are eliminated.

Good medical information, based on the latest research, is everywhere on the open Web. Government Websites like those at the **NIH** provide consumer-directed guidelines and research updates. It abstracts or distills information and makes it knowable. Even scholarly and commercial publishers have made loads of useful information available.

In other words, there are other ways to communicate useful medical information based on taxpayer supported research. Credible, helpful, medical information, based on government-funded research, is a click or two away.

A secondary benefit, a mitzvah so to speak, is work for librarians. If you are laid up with a major disease or caregiving for a loved one, you now have time to use your skills. Health practitioners want to publish. They want good research, do not have time to find it themselves, and want someone to filter the good from the bad, the relevant from the irrelevant. Money is usually not an object and strikingly they want you to filter out open access journals.

In time we may all need to consider this employment alternative. If open access becomes the model in journals there is no reason it won't move to other areas of academic publishing. Then, some clever tea party person is first going to eliminate librarians who have no role because of open access publishing. And those library administrators, well, they will face their own obsolescence when their minions are no longer there to be managed.

Your Links:

www.cancer.org

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/> 🌱