2015

From Your Editor

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2015 has begun with a lot of rain. Seems like we have had only about two weeks of sun since January! But at least it has been cool which we in Charleston learn to appreciate. This issue is about The Disappearing Print Stacks and is guest edited by Audrey Powers. We have articles from Audrey, Ann Okerson, Kris Ferguson, Jack Montgomery, Sue Woodson and Blair Anton, Andrea Twist-Brooks, Eric Parker and Maribel Hilo Nash, Heidi Nickisch Dugan, Mark Berendzen and Mary Anne Zmarczynski.

Michael P. Pelikan is doing double duty in this issue. First, in our Op Ed, he talks about wearable devices and in his regular column, Pelikan's Antidisambiguation he comments on editions, tweaks, and user preferences. Joe Badics tells us about cooperation in collection development among Michigan's public universities in Michelle Flinchbaugh’s Biz of Acq column.

Back Talk is by Jim O’Donnell who talks about libraries and bats. Our interviews are with Heather Joseph, Jody Plank, and Jon Cawthorne.

Our International Dateline is about the new Weston Library (the old Bodleian), Optimizing Library Services discusses services that libraries should be offering in the 21st century, Stacy Marien and Alayne Mundt talk about working together for offsite storage in their new column Let’s Get Technical. And of course, there is a lot more.

Well, there is a picnic at Dixie Plantation run by the LowCountry Open Land Trust and it is not raining! Excuse me while I leave for a while. See y’all online at the ATG NewsChannel or in June! Love, Yr. Ed.

Letters to the Editor:

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

From the Editor: All back issues of ATG through v.25 have been digitized and are freely available on the Purdue University Website at http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg/

Back print issues of ATG are available from ATG, LLC, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC. Back issues cost $15 each so it’s better to get a year’s subscription for USD $55 if you’re in the US. BTW, the print and online versions of ATG are bundled so if you subscribe to the print, you can also get access the online version and vice versa! — KS

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES

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Rumors from page 1

I did not go to ACRL but several of you did; I understand that there was a record crowd in the lovely city of Portland. There is a report from Don Hawkins online and we will print a shorter report in our June print issue. Meanwhile there are several write-ups about ACRL.


The Call for Papers for the 2015 Charleston Conference – Where Do We Go From Here – is now up and listed here in our print issue, p.10. November will be here before we know it so get crackin’! Speakers will be listed on our Website as they are confirmed.

www.katina.info/conference

One of our main keynote speakers is Jim O’Donnell. Jim has been a teaching faculty member, a Provost, and is now Dean of Libraries at Arizona State University. It will be riveting to hear what Jim will tell us about libraries and librarians as he sees us. Jim has written this month’s Back Talk “A Librarian Is Not Like A Bat.”

This April print issue of ATG is a case in point. When the Slate article appeared in May 2014, as Guest editor Audrey Powers (p.1) says, there was immediate and continuing reaction and the need for more discussion. Most of our libraries are downsizing the print collections in favor of seating for students and researchers. See this thoughtful set of papers “The Disappearing [print] Stacks” which discusses the phenomenon. I was most interested in the paper by Andrea Twist-Brooks on “The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library at the University of Chicago.” “Mass digitization leads users to collections; it does not take their place” is a quote from Judith Nadler, the previous library director at the University of Chicago. Collections were made of materials to put in the new library. As well, a “grand reading room” was designed for scholarly work and study and is a popular destination for students on campus. (p.21). Oh! Got a copy of Jim O’Donnell’s new book Pagans: The End of Traditional Religion and the Rise of Christianity (Harp-er-Collins, 2015). “In Pagans, O’Donnell brings to life various pagan rites and essential features of Roman religion and life, offers fresh portraits of iconic historical figures, including Constantine, Julian, and Augustine, and explores important themes — Rome versus the east, civilization versus barbarism, plurality versus unity, rich versus poor, and tradition versus innovation — in this startling account.”

More about the April print ATG. Ran into Donna Jacobs and her husband at the Lowcountry Open Land Trust picnic last week. It was at Dixie Plantation which was bequeathed to