2015

Letters to the Editor

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It’s that time of the fiscal year when the financial books are closed on the past year and opened on the new fiscal year. This means a new budget and new allocation figures that depend on many things — the final budget, the cost of books, journals, databases, leases, et al, the personnel budgets and salaries, supplies, computers and equipment, etc., etc.

It’s a time when most people take vacations but we in technical services who handle the budgets, can’t think about it til the middle of July! And don’t forget that August is when Annual Reports are due! ACK!!

And of course this year as always we had the September print Against the Grain to complete. Special thanks to the ATG team of Toni Nix, Tom Gilson, and Leah Hinds!

This issue is guest edited by Corrie Marsh and Fenella France and is entitled Audio Visual Preservation. What a hugely ambitious topic! We had three times as many papers and total pages as we could publish in the print September issue. We will be publishing the other papers online and as possible in future print issues of ATG. The articles that we have in this print issue cover preservation at the Library of Congress (Fenella France), preservation at the National Archives and Records Administration (Christina Kovac and Jason Love), preservation of digitized video (George Blood), magnetic tape (Brianna Cassidy et al), optical disc archiving (Hiroko Ito), microfilm (Tim Knapp) and the digital vapor trail (Chris Muller). Online and other papers will include a case study about preservation during Hurricane Sandy (Kara Van Mahsens), magnetic tape stability (Dietrich Schuller). Video format guidance (Kate Murray and Carl Fleischauer), the cost of inaction (Chris Lacina), and audio tape restoration (Richard L. Hess).

Our OpEd is by Steve McKinzie and is about net neutrality, our back talk by Jim O’Donnell is about his inbox, our Biz of Acq is about librivulares, and our interviews are with Tom Hogan and Pauline Rodriguez-Atkins. Our reviews section is packed with columns — we have book reviews, from the reference desk, briefly noted, booklover, collecting to the core, and one special review. Ramune Kubilius, Sever Bordeianu, and Don Hawkins have also packed this issue with reports of meetings in case you missed them.

Well, time to quit for tonight! Did I tell you I also have to pay a ton of personal bills assuming I have the money!

Let’s avoid hurricanes! Love, Yr. Ed

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From Your (number-crunching) Editor:

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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 letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Letters to the Editor.

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Dear Editor:

I am writing with a business request, but first on a personal note, I would like to extend my sincerest sympathies to you, your colleagues, and the city of Charleston for your horrific loss and tragedy. I’ve enjoyed coming to your conference and spending time in your lovely city so much the last few years that I now think of Charleston as “my own,” and it deeply saddens me to see the city going through such a difficult time. I look forward to coming back this fall and doing what I can to help the city return to normalcy.

Best regards, Devika Seecharran Levy
(Sales & Outreach Manager, World Bank Group)
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