Against the Grain

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Letters to the Editor

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From Your (tickety-boo) Editor:

It's summer and my last one at the College of Charleston Library as Assistant Dean of Technical Services and Head, Collection Development. Sad and exciting at the same time! I am looking forward to no more annual reports, no more budget spreadsheets, no more staff evaluations, no more SACS reports, etc., etc. Instead I will do something else! Moving right along, this issue is guest edited by the awesome Colleen Campbell of Ithaka and Adriaan van der Weel of Leiden University and is on the future of the monograph. Articles are by Geoffrey Crossick (open access monographs), Rick Anderson (authorial intent), Colleen Campbell (researcher perspective), Agata Mrva-Mondoja (evolution of the monograph), Adriaan van der Weel (reading monographs), and Don Waters (monograph publishing in the digital age).

In this issue we also have a bam-zowie special report section on consolidation in our industry with answers from ten of our noteworthy colleagues Don Beagle, Dennis Brunning, Tim Collins, Peter Froehlich, Nancy Herther, Matthew Ismail, Alison Mudditt, James Neal, Audrey Powers, and Stephen Rhind-Tutt.

Our Op Ed is about how we are failing at preservation of our heritage especially on microfilm. In Back Talk, Ann Okerson talks about “flipping” from the subscription to the APC model. Our interviews are with Ann Okerson and Alex Holzman as well as Yoav Lorch. Glenda Alvin’s column in this issue spoke to me! Boy. It’s oh so true that a good business relationship with one’s Business Services Departments is crucial.

We have a summary of the 2016 Oustell Information Management Benchmark Report. Also, a new regular column from Dan Tonkery called Straight Talk. We have our usual book reviews from Tom Gilson and Regina Gong. As always, Donna Jacobs keeps us on our toes with François Mauriac and I was fascinated with Tom Leonard’s Oregon Trails which is about his visit to the famous Hay-on-Wye and his book searching there.

There’s much much more! But I have two upcoming conference calls about the 2016 Charleston Conference! Register!

Love, Yr. Ed.

Dear Editor:

Mark Herring and his “Little Red Herrings” editorials are some of the best things going in Against the Grain. Herring writes well, and he is frequently willing to take on almost anyone. He is also very often correct in what he argues — but not always. He actually errs in his April 2016 editorial. In that piece, he defends the FBI’s insistence that Apple give them access to the iPhone 5C used by the couple involved in San Bernardino, California shootings. He is right, of course, that we are genuinely awash with privacy and security leaks, and he makes a great point there is a good bit of anti-government hysteria afoot in all of this. (By the way in the interests of full-disclosure, the FBI did figure out a way to unlock the phone without Apple’s assistance.)

But the FBI clearly overstepped itself in this case. In requesting security clearance or access to this particular phone, they were also asking for an additional ability — the capacity to gain access to tens of thousands of people’s phones. To argue against giving the government such enormous power, as Barbara Fister and others insist, isn’t to suggest that “the sky is falling,” as Herring claims. On the contrary, it is simply reasserting an old contention — the insistence that the government’s powers are limited, circumscribed — that they must be restricted in particular circumstances. At least that is very much the way the constitutional framers saw it. Their fourth amendment clearly stipulates “that the right of the people to be secure in the persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated.” If that doesn’t restrict or disallow Apple’s request, what does?

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Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3336, 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.

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Charleston Conference Call for Proposals! www.thecollestonlibraryconference.com/call-for-proposals/

Speaking of new things we can do now that I have resigned (notice I am saying resigned from my day job at the College — I am NOT retiring!!) Anyway, this year we are introducing the CHARLESTON FAST PITCH. In an exciting new and experimental session called CHARLESTON FAST PITCH, 3-5 applicants, thoughtfully pre-selected from among all those who respond to a CALL (soon to be issued), will “pitch” their ideas to the entire audience and a select group of judges. For more information, see this issue, p.46 and the conference website www.charlestonlibraryconference.com.

AND — I want to give huge, immense, and boundless THANKS!!!! to Steve Goodall and Ann Okerson who have spearheaded this initiative! THANK YOU BOTH, Steve and Ann!!!

Just received my June 2016 (v.33, issue 5) of Information Today. One of the lead articles “Ebooks in Libraries: Equal Access to Digital Content” by Jenny Arch points out that continued on page 8