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To Blog or Not to Blog-Librarian Bloggers

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to introduce challenging Portuguese literary texts to emerging Portuguese readers and language learners. Once in that space, the journey can unfold within uncharted territories to reveal myriad new *travessias* and diverse cultural horizons. Facilitating this kind of educational exploration requires library resources beyond the book to other forms of cultural production such as music, film, television, children's books, and graphic novels. 🍷

Endnotes

1. **Tolman, Jon M., Ricardo Paiva, John B. Jensen, and Nivea P. Parsons.** *Travessia: A Video-Based Portuguese Textbook*. Preliminary Edition. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1988.
2. **Camões, Luís de.** *Os Lusíadas*. Edited with an introduction and notes by **Frank Pierce**. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1973.* See also electronic versions available via Project Gutenberg and the Internet Archive.
3. **Rosa, João Guimarães.** *The Devil to Pay in the Backlands*. Translated by **James L. Taylor**, and **Harriet De Onís**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1963.*
4. For a general discussion of cultural capital in the literary canon, see **Guillory, John.** *Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Canon Formation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993.*
5. The concept of *travessia* is addressed critically in **Medeiros, Aldinida.** *Travessias Pela Literatura Portuguesa: Estudos Críticos De Saramago a Vieira*. Campina Grande, PB: EDUEPB, 2013.
6. **Lispector, Clarice.** *The Hour of the Star*. Translated by **Benjamin Moser**. New York: New Directions, 2011.*
7. **Tolman et al.** *Travessia*.
8. For a critical discussion of postcolonial negotiations of transatlantic and transcendental matrixes, focused on Lusophone Africa with linkages to Brazil, see **Arenas, Fernando.** *Lusophone Africa: Beyond Independence*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011.
9. **Camões, Os Lusíadas**.
10. **Rosa, The Devil to Pay in the Backlands.** See also **Chiappini, Ligia, David Treece, and Marcel Vejmelka.** *Studies in the Literary Achievement of João Guimarães Rosa, the Foremost Brazilian Writer of the Twentieth Century*. Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 2011.
11. **Lispector, The Hour of the Star.** See also **Lispector, Clarice.** TV Cultura, February 1, 1977. <https://youtu.be/w1zwGLBpULs>
12. **Nesti, Fido, and Luís de Camões.** *Os Lusíadas Em Quadrinhos*. São Paulo: Editora Peirópolis, 2006.
13. *Grande Sertão Veredas*. Directed by **Walter Avancini**. 2009. Brazil: Globo Marcas. DVD. For a more recent graphic novel, see **Guazzelli, Rodrigo Rosa, and João Guimarães Rosa.** *Grande Sertão: Veredas*. São Paulo: Editora Globo, 2014.
14. *A Hora Da Estrela = The Hour of the Star*. Directed by **Suzana Amaral**. 1986. New York: Kino on Video, 2005. DVD.
15. **Bloom, Harold.** *The Western Canon: The Books and School of the Ages*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1994.
16. There are a few comic works on **Fernando Pessoa** as well. See **Ventura, Susana Ramos, and Guazzelli.** *Eu, Fernando Pessoa : Em Quadrinhos*. São Paulo: Editora Peirópolis, 2013. See also **Pérez Verneti, Laura.** *Pessoa & Cia*. Viladamat: Luces de Gálibo, 2011.

Editor's note: An asterisk () denotes a title selected for *Resources for College Libraries*.

To Blog or Not To Blog — Librarian Bloggers

by **Pat Sabosik** (General Manager, ACI Scholarly Blog Index; Phone: 203-816-8256) <psabosik@aci.info>

Librarians blog. They share opinions and processes with their colleagues in a peer to peer networked global community. Blogs gained popularity in the 1990s and are now an accepted communication tool for many professions. While the use of blogs differ by professions — critique, chronicling, hypotheses, opinion and observations, new developments — there are similarities and differences between academic blogging and librarian blogging.

The Guardian published an article in 2013 by **Pat Thomson**, Professor of Education and Director of the Centre for Advanced Studies at the **University of Nottingham**, UK, and **Inger Mewburn**, Director of Research Training at **Australian National University**. The article, "Why Do Academics Blog? It's Not for Public Outreach, Research Shows" sums up an informal study of one hundred academic bloggers into two key findings: "Firstly, many bloggers are talking together in a kind of giant, global virtual common room. Over at one table there is a lively, even angry, conversation about working conditions in academia in different parts of the world." "Secondly, we have come to see blogging as a variation of open access publishing. Academics can get to print early, share ideas which are still being cooked and stake a claim in part of a conversation without waiting to appear in print." Visit <https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/blog/2013/dec/02/why-do-academics-blog-research> to view *The Guardian* article.

Librarians, as academics, certainly fit into the discussion of blogging as a "virtual common room," the tone is lively, but librarian blogs are generally more helpful and guidance-focused than academic blogs. Let's look into some of the ways librarians are using this social media tool to advance librarianship.

During 2016, I curated a feature of selected scholarly blogs to be published in the *Choice Magazine's* tablet edition. One of the subjects I was selecting was Library Science and I identified five to six scholarly blogs each month from the collection of blogs included in the **ACI Scholarly Blog Index**.

From this exercise, I saw that librarian blogs seemed to naturally fall into several

recognizable categories: technology, the profession itself, librarian practices, and product reviews. **Marshall Breeding**, an independent consultant, and his blog, *Library Technology Guides*, reports on the latest product and vendor developments, and keeps the library profession informed. *Library Stuff*, written by **Steve M. Cohen**, Senior Librarian, **Law Library Management, Inc.**, and *Letters to a Young Librarian*, by **Jessica Olin**, Library Director, **Wesley College**, focuses on professional development. **Olin's** recent blog post: "Writing (and Righting) Library Policies" is a good example of providing guidance to younger professionals.

There is a generous number of librarian blogs on technology topics, all warranted with different points of view, on how to approach incorporating technology into library service, discovery, analytics, and communicating to the user community through various library websites.

Jason Griffey's blog, *Pattern Recognition*, is a good starting point for looking at technology and public policy. **Griffey** is Head of Library Information Technology at the **University of Tennessee** and a Fellow at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at **Harvard University**. **David Lee King's** blog, *David Lee King*, looks at social media, trends, technology, and libraries. A recent post, "One Big Social Media Prediction for 2017," sums up **King's** views on social media channels and libraries' use of them for communication. **King** is Director of Digital Services at **Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library**.

Scholarly blogs in the **Library of Congress** Classifications of librarianship, information science, technology, and the history of scholarship are all worth reading to keep up with the trends in librarianship and participate in what's being discussed in the "virtual common room." 🍷

Column Editor's Note: All of the blogs mentioned here are included in the **ACI Scholarly Blog Index** along with other *Library and Information Science* blogs. — **PS**

