

Against the Grain

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Library Support of Institutional Curricula

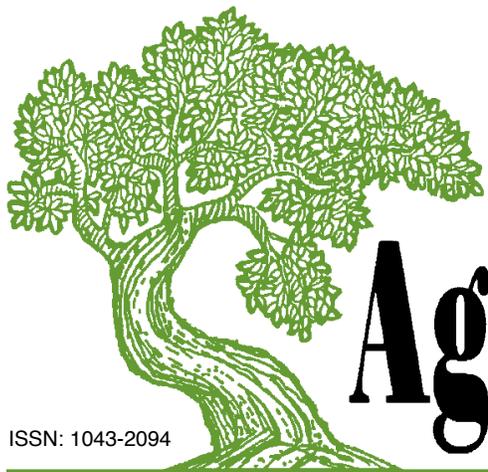
Cris Ferguson

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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

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Library Support of Institutional Curricula

by **Cris Ferguson** (Director of Technical Services, Murray State University Libraries) <Cferguson13@murraystate.edu>

This issue of *Against the Grain* is devoted to the many and varied ways in which academic libraries are supporting institutional curricula. As tuition, the prices of textbooks, and student out of pocket costs continue to rise, libraries are pressed to think both creatively and strategically about how they can best meet the demands of their users, faculty and students alike. Bringing together case studies from a variety of academic institutions, the articles in this issue highlight how libraries are working with their constituents to best support their curricular and class needs. Solutions implemented include buying and making available print and/or electronic textbooks, encouraging

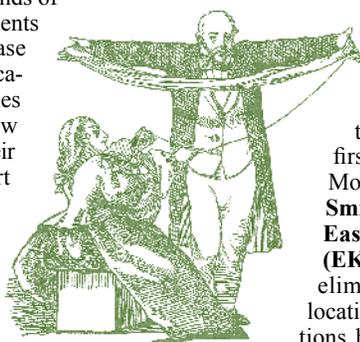
the adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) in place of traditional course materials, providing educational grants to faculty members who are producing or using OER content, and sometimes a combination of more than one of these tactics.

This is a careful balancing act, though. At a time when budgets are shrinking, pressure is on for libraries to make the most effective use of both their holdings budgets and their limited staff time. The first article in this issue, "One Monographs Bucket," by **Kelly Smith** highlights an initiative at **Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)**, where the EKU library eliminated all departmental allocations from its library acquisitions budget and created a single

monographic bucket to better support the institutional curriculum. Some of the results included an increase in budgetary flexibility and improved efficiency.

Many library collection development policies used to preclude the acquisition of textbooks — primarily because textbooks change so often that keeping up to date with the editions being used requires a significant budgetary investment on the part of the library. In addition, a single print copy of a textbook can only serve a single library user at a time. However, more and more libraries, like **Brigham Young University-Hawaii**, are revisiting this decision in light of high student textbook costs. In "Textbooks on Reserve — Seven Years and Going Strong," **Becky DeMartini**, **Marynelle Chew**, and **Michael Aldrich** discuss the success of **BYUH's** growing print textbook reserve collection.

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If Rumors Were Horses



Sharna Williams, Registrar for the **Charleston Conference**, and her husband **Julius** celebrated their 18th Anniversary on a Carnival Magic cruise after the conference ended last year. Such a good looking couple!

We were thrilled to hear that **Lindsay Wertman**, Managing Director, **IGI Global** had her baby Friday, September 14. Look for **Kendrick Allen Wertman's** photo in this issue, p.10. **Lindsay** says "the little man is already giving us a run for our money and we are enjoying every minute we spend with him!"

Speaking of babies, just learned that **Franny Lee** has a new baby girl. "Hello, I am **Mackinnon (Yu-hei) Inglis**, born April 1 at 9:01am pacific at 6 lbs 14 oz and 19 inches tall. I insisted on arriving 2 days late so that my mom could try out a bunch of wacky induction techniques during her 60 hours of labor. I am ridiculously cute with a full head of hair, I squeak like a hamster when I hiccup, I can quiver my lower lip when I cry, and I love to snuggle. Mom and pops are doing well, enjoying their brand new baby girl and resuming their sugar-filled pre-gestational diabetes diets, and wanted me to share the news with you! Love, Little Mac." Her glamour shot is on p.16.

I hope you have noticed **ATG's Trendspotting initiative**. What does the future hold for our industry? We are lucky to have **Lisa Hinchliffe** in charge. She will be running the **Trend Talk Panel** on Thursday November 8, 2018 1:00pm-

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Rumors

from page 6

for columns. Coming up hopefully in the December-January issue! Unfortunately neither **Jack** nor **Anthony** will be in Charleston this year but there's always next year! And congratulations to **Jack's** wife, **Lesley** who has decided to pursue her online MLS at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. **Jack** is committed to **Lesley's** success in this dream of hers. He says it was through **Lesley's** support that he was able to realize his own dream. We will miss you this year in Charleston, **Jack!** Good luck and blessings to **Lesley!**

Just got the most eloquent email from our troubadour **Albert Joy!** **Albert** says it has been five years since he retired (can you believe it?) and he is ready to say **Bon Voyage**. I so hope that **Albert** will be back some year soon! Good luck, **Albert** and **Happy Trails!**

Another email from the roadrunner **JoAnne Sparks** (University Librarian, University

Library, Archives & Collections, Library, **Macquarie University**, Australia), who is announcing her retirement at the end of the year. **JoAnne** has "beep beeped" her way through an impressive career! Happy retirement, **JoAnne** and keep in touch please!

BEP (Business Expert Press) and **MP (Momentum Press)** have announced the winner of the Essay Contest For Registration To Charleston!, — **Ms. Elizabeth Price** from **James Madison University**. "**BEP** and **MP** were built, in-part, by a panel of librarians, and realize how important it is to support librarians — both in giving them content that



Kendrick Allen Wertman

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While recognizing that providing textbooks has not historically been a part of the library's mission, **Eastern Michigan University (EMU)** has also begun to reconsider its approach to the acquisition of textbook content. **Kate Pittsley-Sousa** outlines **EMU's** Library Textbook Affordability Initiative in her article "Expanding Options — Promoting the Adoption of Reasonably Priced Texts that are Also Available as Library eBooks," which, among other approaches, encourages the adoption of reasonably priced titles that could be available for purchase as library eBooks. This enables students that may not be able to afford to purchase their own copy of a textbook to rely on the eBook owned by the library.

In the November 2016 issue of *Against the Grain*, **Christa Bailey** and **Ann Agee** introduced *ATG* readers to **San Jose State University's (SJSU)** Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) program. Now, two years later, **SJSU** is back to provide an update on the ALS program. **Christa Bailey** and **Adriana Poo** explain in "TEAMing Up with Faculty: A New Tactic in the Textbook Battle" how **SJSU** began offering professional development funds to faculty to encourage them to adopt OER for use in the classroom as part of a new initiative called Teaching with Engaging and Affordable Materials (TEAM).

The University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG) is taking a slightly different strategy with its Digital Partners program. In "Digital Partners — An Incremental Approach to Supporting Digital Scholarship on Your Campus," **Tim Bucknall** explains that through the Digital Partners program, instead of granting financial incentives, the **UNCG Libraries** awards grants of library staff expertise and time, which support pressing and creative faculty digital scholarship concepts.

In "Creating and Marketing Textbook/OER Programs," **Laura Pascual** outlines the University of South Florida's multi-faceted approach to providing access to course materials, which includes several of the tactics mentioned in other articles in this issue.

The important takeaway from this issue is that the ways in which libraries are supporting their institutional curricula are as many and varied as the institutions themselves and there are no right answers. The important part is to start taking steps. As **Pascual** states, "each local initiative contributes to challenging the traditional textbook model." 🌱

Correction Notice — September Feature Article

In our last issue of *Against the Grain*, v.30#4 September 2018, the published article by **Daniel G. Kipnis** and **Lisa A. Palmer** (pp. 33-36), titled "Medical Institutional Repositories in a Changing Scholarly Communication Landscape," contained errors in the two tables that were not found until after the issue had gone to press. Our apologies to the authors and our readers. The article has been updated online to incorporate the authors' corrections and is available at <https://www.against-the-grain.com/2018/10/v304-medical-institutional-repositories-in-a-changing-scholarly-communication-landscape>. 🌱