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FYI

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instances of publishers’ failure to supply prepaid orders and/or publishers’ supplying grossly inferior products. With this documentation, PVLR is able to pursue the issue with the individual publisher and/or the U.S. Postal Service, if appropriate. Truly bogus publications, after all, constitute mail fraud.

PVLR’s second mechanism was developed to address acquisitions librarians’ complaints in the aggregate. For years now the committee has maintained and distributed a list of imprints believed to be operated by Frank and Michael Gille—otherwise known as the “Gille list.” As noted above, the committee was originally established to deal with many, many complaints librarians had regarding Gille publications. The availability and distribution of the list has broadened general awareness of these imprints.

Along with PVLR’s efforts, several vendors circulate “publisher not supplied” (PNS) lists which are somewhat analogous to the “Gille” list. In addition to the PNS category, these lists usually include publishers which are “apply direct” (AD). The general idea is that the AD publishers are legitimate organization which will not work through vendors, so the library must “apply direct.” Unfortunately, the “publisher not supplied” category is rather more slippery. It is difficult sometimes to tell whether the vendor has found the publisher to be unreliable or just difficult to work with.

The main problem with both PVLR’s “Gille” list and the PNS lists circulated by the firm order vendors is keeping them updated and current. Many of these bogus publishers fold operations under one name in one state and re-appear six months later with a new address.

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