2008 Charleston Conference Opportunities to Participate

Editor

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HIDDEN FUNDING GAFFES

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Tobacco giant Vector Group, parent of Liggett Group LLC, funded kicked in $3.6 million for a controversial lung cancer study that suggested annual CT scans. And the authors got a share of royalties from General Electric Corp., which makes CT scanners. None of which the New England Journal of Medicine was aware of when it published the articles.

“This has been a learning process for us,” says the journal.


FIVE TOP READS

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The famous Roger Mudd lists his top five works on journalism:
(1) The Press by A.J. Liebling (Ballantine, 1961); (2) The News Business by John Chancellor and Walter Mears (Harper & Row, 1983);


JPEG JACKPOT

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

A “patent troll” is someone who trolls the patent office looking for a disused patent that can be used to shake down business. Chicago lawyer Anthony Brown was one of the first to be so labeled. He found the patent for the JPEG for compressing electronic files for faster transmission and got the owners to assign it to him for a cut of the profits. Then he began suing Sara Lee, United Airlines, FTD and Sears.

But a curiosity of the patent system allows anonymous challenges to the validity of the patent and the life of the patent does not get extended by the time out period. Brown won the first one, but the review took seven years. Now a second one has been filed.


VOYAGING BOOK IN HAND

By Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

If you’ve had enough eco-touring, the literary tour is booming. Paris is an obvious one visiting the sites of the expats of the 1920s and 30s. Hemingway buffs can further broaden with Oak Park, Ill., Cuba, Africa and Spain. To Hell and Back With Dante takes tourists to the streets of Florence. You can do a Joyce tour of Dublin and Galicia Spain covers the writings of St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa de Avila, and Jack Hilt, a contemporary American writer.


Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Editor’s Note: Hey, are y’all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to Against the Grain’s attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We’re listening! — KS

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2008 Charleston Conference:
The Best of Times

Gauvin is the senior vice president of publishing for ProQuest.

www.proquest.com

Speaking of ProQuest and retirement (way above), guess who I just heard from the other day? The incomparable Debbie Hodges! And, guess what? Debbie was retired for how long? Three months? She is working again! She is Academic Sales Representative for Knovel! <dhodges@knovel.com>.

And, very sad news for the College of Charleston! The amazing Kristen DeVoe, our very first Electronic Resources Librarian (and winner of the 2007 Outstanding New Librarian Award for South Carolina) is leaving the College! Kristen has been volunteering for Hospice of Charleston and has decided that is what she wants to do with her life. So – she is changing careers to attend graduate school in social work in Chicago. Her last day at the College is 11 July. Kristen plans to stay in touch and hopefully will keep writing her Innovations column for ATG (she has a cool one in this issue, p.12, about integrating Firefox and GreaseMonkey) and editing The Charleston Report. My fingers are crossed. Good luck, Kristen! And please keep in touch.

And, speaking of the College of Charleston and smiling and upbeat, we have a fantastic new Reference Librarian, Adrian Tinsley <tinsleya@cofc.edu> who has done her first column about End Users (who we all want to know about), in this issue p. 74. Adrian comes to us from continued on page 16

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