Deadlines

Editor

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Recommended Citation
Editor (2000) "Deadlines," Against the Grain: Vol. 12: Iss. 6, Article 4.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3090

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Rumors
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He will also be working with the Library's systems staff and working on consortial/state-wide issues on behalf of the library. Mike is also the newest Board member of The Charleston Advisor (www.charlestonco.com). Here's his new email address at Indiana State: libsmoe@isugw.indstate.edu.

The bam-zowie Mary Page <mpsage@rci.rutgers.edu> got promoted in September and I forgot to tell y'all! After serving as head of collection services and serials management for the New Brunswick campus for two years, Mary is now Head of Acquisitions at RUL. She says she wasn't able to make it to the Conference in 2000, but she has already put the conference on her calendar for 2001! Congratulations, Mary, and Hooray!

More news! Five Sage employees have left the company to start HostedSurvey.com, an Internet software application provider. Dennis Frayne (former IT Director), Geane Dvorak (Marketing Director) <geane.dvorak@hostedware.com>, Rob Donahue (Book Sales), and two other IT staff members will be launching the new company and its software applications at American Evaluation Association's Annual Meeting in Hawaii. HostedSurvey will give researchers and organizations the ability to create and administer surveys for the Web without installing software, or writing programs. They will also deliver applications for creating and administering tests (HostedTest.com), and HostedConferencing for live and prerecorded seminars and conferences. They will serve primarily universities and organizations.

Well, this broke during the Charleston Conference and you probably already know about it, but here goes. Reed Elsevier is set to acquire Harcourt General's Scientific, Technical and Medical business and US Schools Education and Testing businesses for a net cost of $4.5 billion. The acquisition was announced of the whole of Harcourt General Inc. for $4.45 billion and the assumption of $1.20 billion in debt, and on-sale of Higher Education and certain Corporate and Professional Services businesses to The Thomson Corporation for $2.06 billion. The latest word seems to be that Reed Elsevier has extended its offer for Harcourt General to January 8. This is to accommodate review by regulators in the U.S.

Have you seen the news that, "beginning in January 2001, Purdue University Press will begin to accept monographs for publication in its new e-only monograph imprint, Digital-I books. Facing the ever-increasing need to produce titles for smaller market segments in Academic, the Digital-I imprint will provide an outlet for scholarly information that does not presently exist. Each project will undergo the same rigorous acceptance routine that regular scholarly monographs now face, including approval by the Press's editorial board. However, unlike traditionally published books, the Digital-I imprint will take full advantage of the new e-book software and programs now being developed by organizations like Microsoft®, Ebrary®, and other e-book vendors." (http://www.press.purdue.edu/index.html)

And, I don't know about you, but I sure am struggling to keep up with ejournals and databases. My life has turned into one big database! And now, to top it all off, there are the e-Books out the wazoo! If it's not one distributor, it's another. At the 2000 Charleston Conference, we had several forays into e-Books. Dennis Dillon's site at www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Text.txt is an awesome place to start.

And, did you read Judy Luther's great interview with Troy Williams of Questia in the last issue of ATG? (v.12/5, p.50) Scheduled to launch in January 2001, Questia has generated lots of interest on the e-Book front. (www.questia.com/).

And now there's ebrary™, which calls itself "the authoritative source for online research," and which has announced a contract in which Taylor & Francis, the international academic publisher, will make available the vast majority of both its ongoing frontlist and its 17,000 book titles in the humanities, social sciences, sciences and engineering, to all users of ebrary. ebrary is creating a rich collection of authoritative and valuable content that includes books, journals, maps, periodicals, and digitally archived material. ebrary patrons will gain access to this content without having to pay membership or subscription fees. Using the photocopy analogy, patrons will pay to copy or print specific paragraphs, pages or chapters as needed. "Our link up with ebrary is consistent with our strategy to seek technology partners where appropriate in order to ensure that our scholarly material is disseminated to as wide an audience as possible," said Christoph Cheshire, director of sales and marketing for Taylor & Francis. "This contract follows closely on our decision to make all our titles available as e-books in 2001 alongside their traditional print versions." For more information, visit www.ebrary.com or see Judy Luther's upcoming interview with Christopher Warnock, CEO, in The Charleston Advisor, v.28,3, January, 2001.

And one more eBook development. Data Research Associates, Inc. (DRA) (Nasdaq: DRAI) has announced an agreement with netLibrary to integrate netLibrary eBooks into DRA's Classic and Taos library automation systems. DRA and netLibrary are working together to integrate netLibrary eBooks into the acquisitions and OPAC modules of the two DRA systems through the use of communication protocols for the transfer of machine-readable catalog (MARC) records. The integrated systems will enable librarians using DRAs Classic and Taos systems, at their discretion, to quickly search, select, and acquire eBooks for their collections. Also through the integrated DRA systems, librarians will be able to purchase eBooks from netLibrary with the simplicity of transmitting an electronic purchase order. In addition, library patrons will be able to search for eBooks purchased by their library directly from the library's DRA-furnished OPAC. eBooks found by patrons in the OPAC can be previewed or borrowed at the click of a mouse. www.netlibrary.com

There's more. netlibrary and Houghton Mifflin Company have announced plans to launch a digital textbook initiative. netLibrary's MetaText division will create electronic versions of Houghton Mifflin College Division texts and, beginning in the fall 2001 semester, provide college students and instructors access to electronic textbooks through MetaText's interactive, Web-based learning platform. Once transformed into MetaText editions, select Houghton Mifflin college titles will be available for review and adoption by instructors at colleges and universities throughout the United States. Instructors may adopt MetaText editions directly through their existing Houghton Mifflin sales representatives in the spring 2001 for use in classes beginning in the fall semester of 2001. MetaText editions contain all essential components of a textbook, including words, photographs, charts, and graphics. MetaText editions organize text into conceptual units rather than arbitrary page breaks. The MetaText platform features a variety of tools to benefit both instructors and students. For more information, go to www.MetaText.com.

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