People Profile: Barbara Blummer

Editor
BORN & LIVED: I was born in Washington D.C. and lived in Maryland throughout my life.

FAMILY: My son will be a freshman at West Virginia University in Morgantown in August 2005. My daughter is a senior at Temple University in Philadelphia.

EDUCATION: I received my M.L.S. from the University of Maryland College of Information Studies in 1995 and am currently pursuing a M.A. in Communications with a focus on Digital Library at Johns Hopkins University.

FIRST JOB: My first job in the library world was an indexer for NOAA’s National Environmental Satellite, Data & Information Service.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I serve on the education committees of PALINET and the Library and Information Technology Association Division (LITA) of ALA. I am also on the Publications Committee for the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) of ALA.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Read, hike, cook, and garden.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I truly enjoy reading books published by National Geographic on areas throughout North America.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Complete a Ph.D. in Communications with a focus on Digital Library.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Digitalized.

for their institution. At a recent workshop on establishing an institutional repository, Susan Gibbons, Assistant Dean for Public Services & Collection Development at the University, outlined her experiences with their institutional repository. Gibbons noted the library’s role in selecting the repository software, working with the Libraries’ information technology staff for set-up and promoting the project to faculty members. Library staff at the University provide support with the deposits, promote the project, provide scanning services, and offer a helpline. Ms. Gibbons views the librarian’s hardest task as convincing faculty of the need to self-archive.

According to Paula Callan, E-print Archive Coordinator Librarian at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), the library staff is active in promoting an institutional repository at her institution. Ms. Callan oversees the development and population of the repository by reviewing metadata for deposited items, performing permission checking and, if necessary, helping academics with permission requesting. Ms. Callan also works with liaison librarians to assist researchers through workshops on the deposit process. However, Ms. Callan describes her primary responsibility as promoting the repository and especially reminding researchers to self-archive their publications, since QUT requires all staff to deposit copies of new scholarly publications unless there is a legal impediment. All costs incurred are supported through the library budget, since the institutional repository is deemed to enhance research impact and so is considered a major benefit to the institution. Ms. Callan believes that many of the liaison librarians enjoy promoting and supporting self-archiving since it embeds them in the research process of the University.

Although many open access opponents warn institutional repositories may replace libraries, some librarians maintain they offer new opportunities for information professionals. In the “Repository Adventure,” H. Frank Cervone, Assistant University Librarian for Library Technology at Northwestern University, notes the numerous opportunities for libraries in managing institutional repositories. According to Cervone, librarians move from passive transfer agents of information into active partners in the dissemination process. He believes this will ensure librarians’ future position in the digital publishing process. In a presentation Cervone delivered at the “Computers in Libraries Conference” in Washington, DC in March 2005, he emphasized the importance of preservation and metadata to institutional repositories. He maintained librarians are especially skilled to manage repositories because of their training in metadata creation as well as preservation of materials.

In addition to institutional repositories, librarians are also promoting open access journals. Edward Igelis, Integrated Systems Coordinator at Loyola University, noted their librarians have activated numerous open access journals as targets in their SFX server, which allows these titles to be listed in the library’s A-Z list of journals. According to Igelis, they also list the SPARC Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) in the library’s OPAC with a link. Although they are treated like other journals, all costs for open access journals at Loyola are supported through the Information...