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David Burr's FOIA requests, there were reports of over 2,000 incidents of patrons — many of them children — accessing hard-core and child pornography in the nation's public libraries. The admission by the Hennepin County Library official acknowledging receipt of previously undisclosed complaints involving patrons viewing inappropriate sexual material confirms the conclusions on this subject drawn by a March 12, 2000 Family Research Council news release. This news release stated that further analysis of computer log files in Dangerous Access 2000 Edition revealed that hundreds of thousands of incidents were not reported, indicating that the 2,062 known incidents represent only the tip of the iceberg.

Please Note: Because of the length of Ms. Clancy's article (about 60 pages) it was necessary to break it here. The rest of this article, and the next two in this series of forums, will appear in the next Against the Grain. The entire proceedings will also be available online at www.charlestonconco.com. — MH

DISCLAIMER: This article attempts to highlight and discuss certain prominent legal issues raised by the library use of Internet filters. Because of the scope and magnitude of the topic, the overview presented is not a definitive or comprehensive analysis, attacking or defending the matters in question. This article is provided as an educational service and a research tool to the public; and is not meant as personal or specific legal advice or analysis. Although every attempt has been made to provide timely and current information, the reader is advised that statutory or case law frequently changes. The legal authority cited herein is subject to change, and must be specifically updated by the reader. Although a comprehensive analysis of select federal or state law may be presented for instructional purposes, the information contained in this article is not jurisdiction-specific, and does not constitute a complete analysis of the law in the jurisdiction in which the reader may live, and does not constitute legal advice. Legal advice must be tailored to the specific facts and circumstances of each case. Attorneys and estate-planning guidance must be obtained from personal counsel.

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Born & lived: I was born in Palo Alto, CA, but was raised from infancy in the Boston area.

Family: I'm the oldest of seven (!) children; we lived in Belmont when I was a toddler, then moved to Burlington when I was five, then moved to Arlington when I was seven; I spent the rest of my childhood there.

Education: I graduated from Arlington High School in the class of '83, attended Ricks College for a year, took two years off to serve as a Mormon missionary in France and Belgium, then returned for another year at Ricks before transferring to Brigham Young University where I earned my BS and MLIS degrees.

First job: My first job was washing dishes at Brigham's in Harvard Square. I later moved up to scooping ice cream. The only thing worse than washing dishes was serving ice cream on the day of the Harvard-Yale game.

Professional career and activities: Since getting my MLIS I've worked for Yankee Book Peddler, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and now the University of Nevada, Reno. I write a lot in professional and professional journals and magazines, and stay in touch with my inner logoreic by participating much too enthusiastically on several online discussion lists. I'm a member of NASIG and the Music Library Association, and serve on the editorial boards of ACQNET, LCATS and Notes.

In my spare time I like to: Read online novels, hang out with my wife (Laura Wolz, 30ish) and kids (Maggie, 9, Bryan, 6, and Tucker, 3), play clawhammer banjo, write CD reviews, come up with analogies.

Favorite books: I probably would have been a writer anyway, but I tell myself that the reason I'm a writer now is that I read Harriet the Spy five or six times while in elementary school. These days I'll read anything by James Lee Burke, Robert B. Parker, Elmore Leonard, Thomas Perry, George Pellecane, Robert Christgau, Christopher Buckley, Annie Proulx, Hugh Nibley, and Ian Frazier. I can't read anything by Gore (Did you notice how smart and cute I am?) Vidal, and for some reason I can't seem to get past the first hundred pages of Cold Mountain. (It's not you, Charles, it's me.)

Pet peeves/what makes me mad: Loyalty over reason; rhetoric over substance; librarians who want to fix patrons instead of improving services.

Philosophy: Question your own motives at all times.

Most meaningful career achievement: Feeding my kids.

Quirks: I'm bad at sitting still and paying attention (my leg bounces and my mind wanders), and I suffer from an intense and indiscriminate love of babies. I'm also a very bad judge of the difference between appropriate and inappropriate humor.

How/Where do I see the industry in five years: Five years from now I suspect that research journals will be published almost entirely online, and the concept of an "issue" will have started to sound very 20th-century. Half of research libraries will have stopped journal check-ins. Books and humanities journals will still be primarily a print enterprise, but print-on-demand will have finally taken hold in the marketplace and eBook readers will have become the preferred platform for college textbooks. Search engine technology will have matured to the point that, unless we wake up very quickly and start radically rethinking the way we organize, present and distribute our services, a large number of our patrons will see the library as a mug for old information, not a place to solve their current information needs.

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