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ATG Deadlines

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From Your (wishing my puppy was still here) Editor:

Spring has sprung in Charleston. The azaleas and dogwood are out, the birds are singing, and we are forgetting the cold winter that we had down here and preparing for the heat that always comes with summer. So it is especially bittersweet to have spring without my 15-year-old puppy called Cleo who was truly a member of the family. But age got to the poor thing and she is now a fond, loving memory.

So it has been especially fun to work on this double-barreled issue of ATG about electronic resource management systems guest edited by Heather Kluensen and as well as collection development policies guest edited by Gary Geer. Susan Kleinley, Nancy Beals, Heather Staines, George Stachokas and Oliver Pesch discuss the development of ERM systems. Heather Kluensen discusses a survey of ATG readers regarding ERM systems. Our OpEd by Michael Pelikan talks about ERM systems and eBooks. Moving right along, Gary Geer, Cindy Craig, Martha Hostetler, Margaret Foote, Matthew Landau, and Patrick Scott discuss collection development policies regarding subject collections, collections assessment, purchase-on-demand, Kindles and other eBook readers, and special collections. Plus Jack Montgomery has a Group Therapy on textbook purchasing policies. Wow! A lot to digest.

We have an interview with Patrick Sommers of Gale regarding the exclusive licensing agreement of Time, Inc and Forbes as well as an interview with Marilyn Johnson about This Book is Overdue.


I am running out of room plus I have to go and babysit a friend’s cat. It’s also time to go to the pound and get another furry friend to cheer us all up. Happy Spring and see you in June! Or – on the ATG NewsChannel – www.against-the-grain.com/. Much love, Yr. Ed. 🦊

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor:

I read with great interest your February issue of ATG, and spent a good deal of time digesting all the articles on the general subject of the death of the book.

As a long time believer in books, lover of same, and even sometime author, I beg to differ with this death sentence.

My reason is quite simple and was found just this past week in the eyes and voice of my four year old granddaughter. On a recent afternoon visit, she was told by her grandmother to “go sit with Grandpa Jack,” which she promptly did. She sat next to him, leaned up to him, and looking up, asked: “Will you read me a book?” I replied “Yes,” and she quickly jumped off the sofa, went to a two-foot pile of kids’ books, picked out the largest of the lot, and returned hugging it to her tiny chest. I remarked, “Well, Alison, this is certainly a big book for such a little girl!” Her only and very quiet reply was: “But it’s MY book, Grandpa.”

With that I proceeded to read to her, and each page, while new to me, was well-known to her, to the point of catching me on skipped words and even one whole skipped page, which brought out this rebuke: “Grandpa Jack, you missed a page!”

And so to me, like so many others, including little Alison, the book will never be dead, for there is always true magic in books.

With warm regards,

Jack Walsdorf
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