Letters to the Editor

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain, strauchk@comcast.net

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F
al semester has begun with all its frantic-ness. Time to develop new budgets, orient new faculty, finish annual reports, that sort of thing. And to top it all off — my daughter Ileana is getting married in 42 days! Talk about questions, decisions, phone calls, and bills, bills, bills!

I was excited to have this issue to take my mind off all this frantic stuff. Edited by the magnificent Jesse Holden, this issue deals with discovery which is all about search and find. Follow Scott R. Anderson, Sam Brooks, Eddie Neuwirth and Harrison Cain, and Virginia Bacon and Ginny Boyer as they help us explore the new information ecosystem that discovery has created.

Our Special Report is by David Parker about Content, Services, Solutions and Space, and bills, bills, bills!


We have Ron Burns informing us about usage statistics, Allen McKiel and Jim Dooley about data curation, Mark Herring about freedom, and Tom Leonhardt about bookstores.


AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES

2013 Events  Issue  Ad Reservation  Camera-Ready
Charleston Conference  November 2013  08/23/13  09/09/13

2014 Events  Issue  Ad Reservation  Camera-Ready
Annual Report, PLA  February 2014  01/02/14  01/16/14
MLA, SLA, Book Expo  April 2014  02/20/14  03/13/14
ALA Annual  June 2014  04/03/14  04/24/14
Reference Publishing  September 2014  06/19/14  07/10/14
Charleston Conference  November 2014  08/21/14  09/11/14

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Toni Nix <justwrite@lowcountry.com>; Phone: 843-835-8604; Fax: 843-835-5892; USPS Address: P.O. Box 412, Cottageville, SC 29435; FedEx/UPS ship to: 398 Crab Apple Lane, Ridgeville, SC 29472. 

Letters to the Editor
Send letters to <strauch@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’ve become a great fan of the Charleston Conference because this conference often is uncomfortable for all the groups in the audience including librarians. For example, one speaker cautioned libraries that they might not get to keep the savings from the success of open access because these savings would be used to pay author fees.

I’ve come to dislike conferences where all the sessions tell the librarian audience how great they are, what great work they are doing, and how they shouldn’t worry about the future of libraries. I would suggest, for example, that inviting a university president who cut libraries and explained why this step was taken is much more useful than inviting one who loves libraries. I’m of the opinion that librarians would learn a lot more from the first speaker than the second.

Conferences on how great librarians are, complete with a symbolic singing of Kumbaya at the end, are great for feeling good but don’t lead to much learning. Hearing from the “enemy” is often one of the best ways to learn how to do better or, at a minimum, to understand an alternative viewpoint.

Robert P. Holley
Professor
School of Library & Information Science
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48202
<aai3805@wayne.edu>