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From Your Editor

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From Your (covered up with stuff) Editor:

I am the superstitious type. I think it’s a Greek characteristic. The wedding is coming up. And right after that comes the 33rd Charleston Conference! Yikes! Who planned it this way? I have to be careful what I say so as not to anger the gods of superstition. And how can I keep all the bills, schedules, timelines straight?

Seems like in the interim there’s only a bit of quiet, reflective time for Against the Grain which is near and dear to my heart. The November issue is guest edited by Stephen Rhind-Tutt and is about multimedia and streaming video. The rise of these formats has been striking. I know at the College of Charleston we have two streaming media services and we are ordering hundreds of educational DVDs. Who would have thought?

This issue includes articles by Lorraine Estelle, Kira Henderson, and Aaron Wood. As a change of pace we have two interviews as features — with deg Farrelly and Jane Hutchinson. Our Op Ed is about special collections and we have have yet another great interview with Mark Saunders and a profile of the University of Virginia Press. There are a couple of other interviews with the investigators and sponsors of the Library Publishing Toolkit and Winfred Metz has an interview with Anne Gilliland. Our Special Report is about Gold Open access by Joe Esposito. We have several comments on BrowZine by Matthew Ismail and Angela Flenner. I was especially intrigued by Biz of Acq by Beth Jacoby regarding student attitudes toward academic eBooks, David Parker’s Blurring Lines, trends that he wants us to help him scrutinize, Myer Kutz talking about the art of editing engineering handbooks, Tom Leonardt and Raymond Walser talking about books, and Jerry Spiller entering the world of digital comics. There’s more, lots more, so curl up in your favorite armchair or plane seat and enjoy!

And see you in Charleston!

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:

It is my pleasure to serve again as a Mentor to Charleston Conference attendees for the third year! Ginny Gilbert and I will be joined this year by Mary Marshall, and we would be pleased to add another volunteer to our group of long-term Charleston Conference attendees who are officially retired yet continue to be professionally involved.

Mentors respond via email to questions posed prior to the conference, and we assist onsite during the conference. We arrange schedules among us such that we each can attend Charleston Conference presentations of our choice. Please let me (arnheimjo@princeton.edu) know if you are interested for 2013 or wish to join us as a mentor in 2014.

Julie Arnheim, Chemistry Librarian Emeritus
Princeton University, <arnheimjo@cofc.edu> 🦉

Rumors from page 1

in the Dec-Jan issue of ATG and maybe I will have read the book myself by then.

Rachel Fleming is doing a great job with the ATG Luminaries column, isn’t she? First it was Twitter and for this issue Rachel asked the luminaries to comment on The Charleston Conference!

We have just posted a question on Multi-Grain about the recent Chronicle of Higher Education article about peer review and open access. John Bohannon’s article in Science Magazine, which attempts to measure quality control by open access journals, has upset many OA proponents. Where do you stand on the issue? We want to hear from you!


Speaking of open access, was reading about Gabriella Reznowski, humanities librarian at Washington State University, whose son Xavier, was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder last year and the only information was in research journals that require subscriptions. WSU Libraries will host three events, in October and November, to showcase Open Access Week Oct. 21-17.

http://www.openaccessweek.org/page/about

This open access talk reminds me of the hard-hitting Phil Davis who had a post on licensify many years ago (2009) about “fake” journals. Phil has often spoken in Charleston! Did you know that Phil has his own consulting firm doing research and analysis for scholarly publishing. Phil has a Ph.D. in scientific communications from Cornell and has won awards for his work in bibliometrics.

phil-davis.org

Still on the OA topic among other things, we are extremely lucky to have the awesome Lorraine Estelle, Chief Executive Officer, Jisc Collections as one of our Plenary speakers this November. Lorraine has been Chief Executive of Jisc Collections since 2006 and has been heavily involved in all aspects of the UK national procurement and licensing activities. Her presentation — The British