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Editorial: What Are Your Favorites?

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Editorial: What Are Your Favorites?

Connie Foster, Editor

Having just returned from the American Library Association's Midwinter Conference in Denver, Colorado, my mind is swimming with a plethora of responsibilities, discussions, names of restaurants, and to-do lists for my to-do list. I keep shifting pieces of paper in and out of folders, freeing them from legal pads, transcribing notes, crushing notes, and tossing them in the wastebasket—thinking I have accomplished something. Organization used to be my trademark—always ready, taking charge (even when it was something I should not manage) and finding a better way to organize the process.

I took pride in the minutiae of life: packing a suitcase five days before a trip, having agenda ready one month before a meeting (or at least two weeks), preparing for meetings by reading all of the material, armed with pens and highlighters, way ahead of time to allow for ample revisions and updates. Now you are smiling. Been there, tried to do that. What happened? Some would say "life," others would say "age," and the cynics would say "an aging life." I will leave the answer hanging as I have not quite analyzed a good response. I do know how to say "no" and set priorities. I hold off too long on experimenting with my Kindle, iPod Touch, and now I've seen a Livescribe pen that is totally intriguing. Really, though, I just want my cell phone to work (without email

functionality); I do not want my personal laptop to crash; I see value in watching four deer rest in the snow in my backyard. I almost feel Andy Rooney-ish drollness envelope me. Are vacations or trips really worthwhile if the aftermath is overload? Overload, whether through technology or what we choose to do in our lives, trumps us all at one time or another.

As I worked my way through lists just long enough to have a coherent report to my dean, I thought it would be fun to incorporate reading ideas into this editorial (I did plan ahead on this one) while sorting out institutional repository growth, scholarly communications trends and issues, deciding on best practices for journals and sections within ALA. I wondered how others keep on top of or even with professional development on a regular basis. As one communications provider advertises in the United States, who are your "favs" and who is in your circle of friends? What are some favorite sources of professional reading for *Serials Review* editorial board members (assuming *Serials Review* is number one on a quarterly basis)? Here are "favs" from some board members:

► Patricia (Pat) French, Manager, Collections and Technical Services, Multnomah County Library, Portland OR

> My favorite is Lorcan Dempsey's weblog on libraries, services, and networks (orweblog.oclc.org/). Dempsey is OCLC's chief strategist and thinker, always provocative, and offers broad commentary about the world of information and libraries.

►Sandy Hurd, inveterate (and veteran) Director of Strategic Markets, Innovative Interfaces:

I read Bob Cringely's column regularly at http://www.pbs.org/cringely/ and Nicholas Carr's blog at http://www.roughtype.com/index.php. I don't always understand the uber-technical details of what they're writing, but I think it's important to read at times beyond my comfort zone!

►Corrie Marsh, Associate Director, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Library:

Well...I have a hard time pinning down one thing but I guess I always check http://www.google.com/Top/Reference/Libraries/Library_and_Information_Science/. It's the Google open directory for L&IS and I find it useful to keep checking for new links, blogs, etc. In particular it's been interesting to see the growth of resources in */Knowledge Management/*--it's now over 1400 sites(!)

►Sarah Tusa, Associate Professor, Coordinator of Collection Development & Acquisitions, Mary & John Gray Library, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX

I rely on SERIALST (the listserv) quite a bit for suggestions regarding serials management tools and references to articles that are pertinent to specific aspects of serials management.

► Taemin Park, Associate Librarian/Adjunct Assistant Professor, SLIS, Indiana University, Bloomington:

It seems to be too plain to name OCLC WorldCat and ISI Web of Knowledge. I use these resources often as sources of information and research tools. Those are great resources to experiment research ideas and as a data analysis tool. I love the quantity, richness and diversity of data these resources contain.

►Nathan D.M. Robertson, Director of Information Policy and Management, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore:

I never miss the "Legal Issues" section from *Against the Grain*. I find practical legal information and thought-provoking legal theory for serials librarians.

►Tschera Harkness Connell, Ph.D., Head, Scholarly Resources Integration Department, Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus, Ohio, lists hers as:

Serials Review (of course), *C&RL (College & Research Libraries)*, *LRTS (Library Resources and Technical Services)*, Lorcan Demsey's webblog at http://orweblog.oclc.org/, *D-Lib*, *Educause Quarterly*, DSpace General listserv, and selected reports recommended on the CNI announce list.

►Isabel Bernal, Assistant to eIFL.net Managing Director, Rome, Italy, shares a very interesting description of resources:

As a couple of fav resources from my side for your consideration, I wanted to mention that eIFL has a demonstrator of a federated repository (http://eifl.cq2.org/en/page/page.view/eifl.page) for more than 100 open repositories from 17 countries that are part of our network (Azerbaijan, Bulgaria,

China, Croatia, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Mongolia, Namibia, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Uganda, Ukraine and Zimbabwe). It has helped to raise awareness on the importance of standards, adding of full text within repositories, as well as a way to motivate countries to set up open repositories. All this leads to higher visibility of scholarly output worldwide, international academic cooperation and community building.

I would also recommend our bi-monthly newsletter, which is becoming richer and richer in content as our 6 program areas develop and give a good overview of eIFL work and also what is happening in each of our 48 member countries as far as digital library services and enhanced access and visibility of knowledge in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, former Soviet Union and Eastern and Balkan Europe (see http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/news/newsletter).

Personally (so it doesn't have anything to do with eIFL), I like a lot this initiative I have come across lately, the West African Arabic Manuscript Project, whose main attempt is to create bi-lingual database (English-Arabic) and to thus give more visibility to Arabic manuscript collections from a number of countries in Western Africa that have long been "in the dark." The database has a search engine designed to identify manuscripts and authors when only fragmentary information is available, in Arabic or Roman script, for records now in excess of 23,000. Experimental linkage of digital images of manuscript texts to the records is currently underway.

It is an initiative involving a number of partners internationally: University of Illinois, Northwestern University and Duke University in cooperation with local institutions in selected Western African countries and al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation (see http://westafricanmanuscripts.org/).

►Dan Tonkery, Vice President of Business Development, EBSCO Information Services, succinctly completes the responses with:

My favorites are the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Information Today*.

These Board members are joined by a cast of others who are listed in the front of each issue. Both Editorial Board and Column Editors make *Serials Review* work. The newest people should be duly noted for their willingness to serve for 2009-2011:

Dr. S. Venkadesan, JRD Tata Memorial Library, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is a new regional editor;

Taemin Kim Park, Associate Librarian/Adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University, Bloomington and

Linda Smith Griffin, Head of Cataloging, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge are on the Editorial Board;

Sharon Dyas-Correia moves from the Editorial Board to become Co-editor of "The Balance Point";

Chad Hutchens, Electronic Resources Librarian, University of Wyoming Libraries, Laramie, is the new Column Editor of "From Picas to Pixels: Life in the Trenches of Print and Web Publishing" (or maybe a name change in the future?);

Susan Barribeau joins Barbara Richards as Co-editor of "Little Magazine Interview Index" as Yvonne Schofer has the chance to experience retirement.

I have had the wonderful opportunity to reappoint existing people who continue to support the efforts, aims and scope of *Serials Review*, and to continue with Beverley Geer as Associate Editor. You *all* are terrific to work with.

So let's arm ourselves with reading material, knowledge, inspiration, and, dare I say, hope for a 2009 that has more that its share of challenges.

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