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HEARD ON THE NET

Allow Me to Introduce Myself ...

By Jill Emery (*Head of Acquisitions, The University of Texas Libraries*)

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By way of introduction, I thought that I'd provide a brief overview of myself and some of my professional development to give the reader with some context for the forthcoming columns.

My Background

At the age of 19, I began my first academic research library job as a desk worker and shelver in the periodicals room of the Sterling C. Evans Library on the campus of Texas A&M University. There were a couple of research projects underway and part of my responsibilities was to collect the loose journal issues that had been used, mark a hash mark on a statistics sheet and replace the journal issue in call number order on the shelf. I had managed to get the job through some friends who worked in the more attractive research services area where they had the privilege of performing BRS After Dark searches. The first "dummy" terminals with NOTIS were being installed, and I still have a "Get NOTIS'd at the Library" button somewhere. Library technology has been a fascination and addiction from the very beginning.

One opportunity that I return to as a basis for many thoughts and ideas was entitled: "Electronic Commerce in the Information Industries: Technical Frontiers and Institutional Issues for Information Management Professionals," which was held in April 2000 as a GS-LIS Clinic at the University of Illinois. At the time, I was working as the collections and acquisitions specialist at the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and also enrolled in an e-commerce certification program that was being developed at the University of Texas at Arlington. Both the clinic and the certification program helped me get a head start on much of what began to occur in the library and information science field in regard to electronic resources and business opportunities at the time. In many ways both experiences continue to resonate and delineate how the context of digital information differs from textual information. It is also hard to believe that it occurred almost a decade ago.

In my current position as head of acquisitions, I'm involved in finding new models of acquisitions and maintaining a firm understanding of information delivery that is increasingly digital in one aspect or another. Much of our collections, especially our subject area collections that come from far-flung areas of the globe are still produced in print. However, acquiring these print resources and managing them continues to be more and more digital in acquisition, presentation, and context. So while my job still encompasses print and digital resource acquisitions, the management for both is increasingly technologically based, an interesting crossroads to find myself standing at. It therefore seemed worthwhile to provide the readers of this column with an overview of my history and the tools that inform both my personal and professional life.

My Devices

At work, I use a standard Dell PC with dual screens for my daily activities. Dual screen functionality is a must-have for acquisitions personnel at this point in the twenty-first century. There is always toggling going on between, e-mail, Web browsers, ERMs, and ILS tools. Multitasking is the norm as opposed to the exception, and all

members of the acquisitions staff can request dual monitors for their daily activities. It is not a luxury; it is a necessity. And it is one I strongly support. We currently have III's Millennium as our ILS; Ex Libris products for our electronic resource management: Metalib, SFX, Verde; WorldCat Local as our discovery tool; EZ-Proxy & Shibboleth as our authentication mechanisms; and DuraSpace (formerly D-Space) for our IR.

For personal and other professional use, I own a MAC I-Book from 2005 and an iPhone 3G. The I-Book is nearly completely out of memory and I need to work on reconfiguration this summer. Most of the memory is taken up with photographs and music. I have three screens of apps on my iPhone, mostly free ones but a few purchased ones because I just couldn't resist. There are 432 photographs and 763 songs but no movies saved at this time and I've reverted to standard ringtones and sound notifications. I've held onto my iPod for the gym and for additional storage.

Add to this my love of music. My husband's first birthday gift to me was a portable turntable with USB port so I can start creating a personal digital library of the hundreds of 45 rpm records I've collected over the years.

My Online Networks

Currently, I have a blog on Tumblr that needs updating: <<http://ntkl.tumblr.com/>>. In addition I have profiles on Face-book, LinkedIn, and MySpace. I have a personal Twitter account and an account for NASIG that I'm keeping up-to-date, and I also manage a LinkedIn group for NASIG. Face-book is usually the most up-to-date as I can feed posts from my blog onto both my personal Twitter account and Face-book. I enjoy social networking, but when my professional activities kick-in I'm less likely to keep up with everything and usually choose one or two avenues to communicate through. At the recent NASIG conference, I did this through the NASIG Twitter account and Face-book directly. It is intriguing how personal and professional lives are becoming entwined and this topic will likely be future fodder for a column.

I also have blog feeds set-up via Google Reader and follow about three dozen blogs this way. It's a mixed bag of personal interest, professional, and general technology. Lastly, I use chat via Google fairly regularly to hash out specific assignments usually related to professional activity.

My Professional Networks

I am currently Past-President of the North American Serials Interest Group, a dedicated participant with Electronic Resources and Libraries (ER&L), a member of the Society for Scholarly Publishing, a member of ALA-ALCTS, a member of the New England Journal of Medicine Library Advisory Board, and a member of the Nature Publishing Library Advisory Board. I've been fortunate enough to be able to attend UKSG relatively regularly in the past few years as well. My other standing column is entitled "A View from the Grid," which is published three times a year in the *Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship*.

Plans for This Column

After this introductory column, my goal is to work back and forth between technology and programmatic advances in the information profession and commentary on emergent tools and services. Initially, the plan was to pull something from the Web trend map to the basis of each column <<http://Webtrendmap.info/>>. This may still inform each column but more than likely, there will be times when something will

be emergent in the library and information field that will not have the impact on the Web trend map. There will also just be topics that come across through the blog feeds or from conferences that will require some rumination and exploration. Lastly, any and all suggestions are welcome if there are specific topics the readership would like to see explored. I can be reached at any of the above social networks or at the following Gmail address: <jill.emery@gmail.com>. ■



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