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On the Street

Anne F. Jennings
Sinkler & Boyd

Barbara Dean
Fairfax County Public Library

Kathern J. Miraglia
Catholic University of America

Eamon T. Fennessy
Copyright Group of America

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Eleanor I. Cook



Early on:
Born July 20, 1955, Burlington, NC. Raised in Greensboro, NC by transplanted Yankee parents; consequently never got the

hang of Southern manners, though I am true-blue Tarheel, nonetheless.

And then: B.A. in sociology & philosophy, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1977. After a brief run-in with fast-food work, sought more meaningful employment & fell in love with my job as a pre-order searcher in the Acquisitions Department of Wilson Library at UNC. While there, privileged to work and study with some of the great minds in technical services and collection development; received MLS in 1982. Stints at Georgia Tech and NC State University before arriving at Appalachian State University in 1990. Received M.A. in Leadership & Higher Education, 1984.

Family: Small; the only child of two only children. My surrogate family is that of my significant other, **Joe Balint**. His 3 brothers and 2 sisters and large extended Hungarian/Italian brood provides me plenty of familial stimulation.

Pastimes: Nurturing human and animal companions (Joe, 2 dogs, 2 cats), gardening, cooking, travelling (recent exotic ports-of-call include the Cayman Islands, Paris, New Zealand).

Notable social liability: An attraction to idiosyncratic personalities and a penchant for extroverted emotionalism.

Pet peeve: Liars and telemarketers.

Accomplishment of which most proud: Being invited to become ACQNET editor in 1994 and affiliating with **Anna Belle Leiserson's AcqWeb** in 1995.

Best piece of advice: Assume nothing and check the details.

On The Street

A Survey of ATG Subscribers: Electronic Journals

by **Anne F. Jennings (Sinkler & Boyd)** (contributors are **Barbara Dean** (Fairfax County Public Library); **Kathern J. Miraglia** (Catholic University of America) and **Eamon T. Fennessy** (The Copyright Group))

Send comments to **Barbara Dean** at 703/222-3139. Fax: 703/222-3135 or Internet: bdean@leo.vsla.edu

A few weeks ago I was giving a friend of mine a tour of the law library at my firm. She had left the legal field six years ago to have a family (now ages 5, 3 and one) and was somewhat out of touch with the new technology. I explained to her that we were converting many of our titles to CD-ROM because they offered a more efficient research method and they saved much needed space within our small quarters. What is CD-ROM?, she queried. Well, I explained, it is like the compact disc you have at home with your stereo system, only these contain cases or treatises or other legal data. She thought for a moment and asked: And you just put on head phones and listen to it?

Sometimes I find it difficult to comprehend how fast our world, and particularly the distribution of information, is changing. And, being an English major in college and a devotee of the written word, I was somewhat concerned when I first heard the notion of a paperless society. Now that I understand how beneficial electronic information is to both myself and my patrons, the future is not frightening but rather offers limitless possibilities.

Our poll this month concerns the acquisition of electronic journals. Have you got any? How many? How can your users access them? AND, who should be responsible for archiving: publishers or librarians? We talked with approximately 18 librarians across the country and found their answers enlightening.

Eleven of our respondents say they do subscribe to electronic journals and several others are planning to subscribe in the near future. More than half of those who do have at least three titles available for their users. Access is provided by several types of servers, two through the OPAC, two through the local gopher, two through the library home page, and one via a CD-ROM server (headphones not included).

As one would suspect, most of those



polled felt that the publishers rather than the librarians should be responsible for archiving electronic journals. HOWEVER, because librarians are so intelligent, they offered several excellent recommendations. One person suggested that the decision as to who should archive a journal should be made upon con-

sideration of the conditions, such as the cost of preservation and the impact of the journal subject; another suggested that while publishers should always archive journals for their own purposes, librarians would have to make that decision based on what a publisher would charge for access. A great suggestion (at least I thought so), was to have a centralized e-journal depository (something like UMI) which would function as a distributor/server leaving publishers to concentrate on putting out high quality information in the most usable format.

I guess for the next issue we should ask you about the future of print titles or the future of librarians. You will be relieved to learn that a CNN poll found that regardless of all this new electronic stuff, 91% of those asked felt there would still be a need for librarians in the coming 21st century. Job security, YES!

A few of the survey participants:

Linda Dugger, Lamar University
Nancy Chaffin, Arizona State University
Mary Casserly, University of Maine
John Archer, UC San Diego
Beth Moser, Sandia Labs
Mike Randolph, UCLA
Rebecca Elswick, Mary Washington College
Roy Zeigler, SE Missouri State University
Deanna Britton, University of Georgia
Irene Kan, N.C. State
Joyce Ogburn, Yale University
Cecelia Tavares, Suffolk University
Ann Terryberry, North Adams State College
Anthony Kodzis, Tufts University
Maureen Krier, Farmingham State College