Against the Grain

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People Profile: Aaron Trehub

Editor

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Policy Committee. Together, the two committees are responsible for the day-to-day management of **ADPNet**. In keeping with the network's guiding principles, the requirements for membership are as simple and affordable as we could make them. Participating institutions must agree to install and run a **LOCKSS** server in the network; contribute content to the network; and join the **LOCKSS Alliance** for an annual fee. There is no **ADPNet** membership fee.

Surveys have shown that **ADPNet** has succeeded in raising awareness of the importance of digital preservation among Alabama libraries, archives, and state agencies. The task now is to translate this increased awareness into participation in **ADPNet**.

Going Forward

ADPNet's main mission is to build and sustain a robust, inexpensive distributed digital preservation network for Alabama, but it also hopes to serve as a model for similar networks in other states and other countries who may think they can't afford to preserve their local digital heritage. **Private LOCKSS Networks** offer communities a low-cost, highly customizable alternative to more expensive digital preservation solutions. If **ADPNet** had a motto, it might be "keep it simple and keep it cheap." This basic approach appears to be working well for Alabama. It remains to be seen whether it will work for other states and consortia, but the signs so far are encouraging. 🐢

against the grain people profile

Aaron Trehub

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BORN AND LIVED: Born and raised in western Massachusetts. Lived in Canada, California, Washington, D.C., Germany, and Illinois. Currently living in Opelika, AL.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I'm the Assistant Dean for Library Technology at **Auburn University**, a land-grant university in east-central Alabama. I'm responsible for overseeing all aspects of library technology at Auburn, including the integrated library system and discovery tools, digital collections and initiatives, and the **Media and Digital Resource Laboratory (mDRL)**, a multimedia resource center for students and faculty. I came to Auburn from the **University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign**, where I held the rank of associate professor of library administration and managed two Web-based, revenue-generating reference services. Before becoming a librarian, I was trained as a Slavist, and worked for some years as a Russian affairs analyst at **Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty** in Munich, Germany. I have a BA from **McGill University**, an MA from the **Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)**, and an MLS from the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Philip Larkin, *Collected Poems*. This one seems to make the trip from the night table into the suitcase more often than any other.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: In my almost twenty years as a librarian, I have seen a shift in emphasis from content curation to content creation. In other words, I have seen libraries add the creation of new scholarly content, or the publishing of it, to their traditional role as organizers and stewards of content created by other agencies. I have also seen the boundaries between libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage organizations begin to dissolve. I think these are positive developments, and hope they continue. How they will affect the industry and our field in five years, or even three, I don't pretend to know. Given the events of the past five or six months, long-term prognostication seems rather beside the point. I agree that librarianship is at a fateful juncture, and find the prospect invigorating rather than dismaying. Whatever the challenges ahead may be, I think that we can best serve our profession by joining forces with our counterparts in other institutions and focusing on first principles, which include stewardship, discovery, open access, enrichment, and — the theme of this issue — preservation. That's our job, and I don't see it changing. 🐢

You Gotta Go to School for "This?" — A Rave Review

by **Jared A. Seay** (Reference Librarian and Head, Media Collections, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424) <seayj@cofc.edu> *www.cofc.edu/~seay*
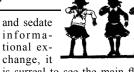
Oh for the days when the word "rave" merely referred to speaking or writing enthusiastically (or incoherently) about something. Yet, linguistic evolution marches on. The term "rave" now describes a wild dance party. Certainly this is not news to those among you (you know who you are) who are connoisseurs of modern party culture. But, the thought of such an event occurring in a library (one with real books in it) sends the mind reeling, especially if one's mind tends toward reeling as mine does. A rave in an academic library? Who knew?

I was introduced to this rave library thing when our staff recently received an urgent all points bulletin of a student rave which was to occur at 11pm in the green just outside the library. Learning that this would involve hundreds, if not thousands, of (potentially riot prone) students who would actually move INTO the library for the main event, I realized I had served my public dutifully for the previous eight hours. I thus selflessly considered that my presence would be unnecessary.

So, though I was not physically present during the event, by piecing together eyewitness accounts, police reports, pieces of shredded textbooks, and the extensive **YouTube** record of the event, I was able to conclude that my decision to leave on time after work was a wise one. Even so, it was a literally earthshaking and exciting event for the library.

Apparently it is a common thing these days for students to blow off steam during final exams. Why one would find it necessary to "blow off steam" during this time is beyond me, since during my student days I found exam times conducive to quiet reflection and relaxation. Of course, besides the fact that I may not be indicative of the norm, my memory is fading a bit, and I sometimes lie outright for dramatic effect especially when it involves my youth. In any case, this library rave thing is a growing phenomenon on campuses in which students are given access to turn the university library into a rocking, screaming, pounding, music thumping rave arena. Students fill the open spaces within the library and dance and scream (with total abandon) to unseen sources of loud music for ten minutes without pause.

For those used to the library as a place of study and sedate informational exchange, it is surreal to see the main floor packed with a seething mass of screaming, dancing, exhilarated students. I think the sight of students crowd surfing across the rotunda amid a blizzard of shredded textbooks (being precipitated from the second and third floors) was particularly memorable and striking. For those ancient ones among us who have never experienced such a thing (or don't remember it) the rave has all the noise, chaos, and mayhem of a street riot, but with much less tear gas and much happier people. It is also over as quickly as it begins, which tends to calm the police/security who just stand to the side and grin a lot.

Across the country there are also so called "silent raves" in which everyone listens and dances and wiggles (silently of course) to the same music on their iPods. It's a sort of a synchronized chaotic, silent dance thing. This removes the