

Editorial

Wearing Many Hats

By Jacqueline Snider, Editor

Several months ago, a former editor of this journal, Scott Walters, sent out a call for chapters for an upcoming book on educational librarianship. I was intrigued. Education librarians wear many hats as this issue demonstrates. From helping students with their dissertations, assisting multicultural programs, selecting materials that accurately represent Native Americans, and using online learning for library science education, we do it all.

One task that never changes is to provide intense reference service by reaching out to our community of education librarians. By way of demonstrating this, let me give you an example. Several years ago, a researcher asked me to locate an important paper by J.B. Sympson and R.D. Hetter presented in 1985 at the annual meeting of the Military Testing Association in San Diego. A search in ERIC turned up a microfiche copy of the *Proceedings* (ED338627). Much to my disappointment the paper was not on the fiche. I shared my concern with Anna Marie Guengerich, a testing librarian at The University of Iowa's College of Education. After speaking with one of the authors, Anna Marie learned that the paper was never published in the *Proceedings* and that a 1997 paper contains the same information including the algorithm that most psychometricians were after.

The plot thickens somewhat when I ran a search in ISI Web of Knowledge and discovered that over 79 researchers incorrectly cite the Hetter and Sympson paper in the *Proceedings*. In the interim, Anna Marie went one step further by talking to the faculty with whom she works closely. She discovered that one professor actually attended the presentation and had a copy of the non-published paper, thus confirming that a

print copy of the paper exists although not on microfiche from ERIC.

So what does this all prove, you ask? First, embedded connections and networking saved the day. Without Anna Marie's excellent contacts, we would still be stumped. Second, while microfiche is no longer the cutting edge of digitization, the format preserved a copy of the proceedings which revealed that the paper was not included. Third, librarians--academic, special, and public--collaborate with each other and the outside community to find answers and take advantage of opportunities to form new connections. Fourth, I welcome a book on education librarians; it's about time.

In the interest of collaboration, I want to thank the editorial board for their time, effort and valuable contributions. A special note of appreciation is in order to Lesley Farmer for her herculean proof-reading assistance.

References

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