

Publishing Instead of Perishing

Impetus and Ideas for Academic Publishing: by Richard Hacken at the SALALM panel discussion in New Orleans, June 1, 2008

Desire: the psychological barrier (*get over it* – get over the barrier, that is...)

Do you really **not** want to publish? - Don't publish: figure out some other strategy.

Do you feel like you **have** to publish? - Get started, and you may even enjoy it.

Do you **want** to publish? - You're halfway there.

Oppportunity: How do you get the opportunity to publish? Try **TNT** – it's dynamite!

Time: Your work is piling up, and you can't take the time?

Talk to your supervisor and see if some time allowances can be made.

If not, do it on your own time. Really.

Network: Not a "member" of the right "club?"

Work at establishing a list of people and associations that might share your interests (local, regional, SALALM, publishers). Start researching and writing (or indexing and reviewing) where you can volunteer, then "escalate" from there. Apply for grants to write, to travel, to research.

It will be a piece of cake after the first grant, since your vita will sparkle by then.

Topic: You can't think of anything you have to offer?

Ask yourself a number of questions. Consider what types of publications are acceptable for tenure or rank advancement (if that's all you're after). What has tweaked you in your daily work? Write about it. Do you disagree with a library article you read? Write it the way you think it should be.

What have you discovered? Tell the world. Can you translate? Index? Give a talk? Report on a conference? Work with a colleague? Write a book fair travelogue? Be opinionated? Do It!

Inspiration: The adjunct to perspiration.

Use your database searching skills to look up readings on a topic of interest. Read, read, read.

Get passionate about what you find. Think of things from your own angle, an aspect you think of that hasn't been mentioned. Show a rough draft to a friend or, better yet, an enemy. Fix things.

Ask for help. Ask for suggestions. Ask for ideas. Ask for grammar help. Finish it. Put it on the shelf two weeks. Look at it again. Fix it again. Send it in. If it is rejected, ask for specific reasons.

Fix it again. Do it again. Send it to the same place. Send it some other place. Try for the best publication. Try for the next-best publication. Start all over again.

Tenacity: Do not take "No" for an answer.

Take "I Need to Know" for an answer, and then figure out if you need to (a) change the topic;

(b) do spicier thinking about the topic; (c) make the content more controversial (or less controversial); (d) change the potential publishing venue; or (e) all of the above.

Executive Summary: "DO IT"

Desire (Ya gotta wanna)

Oppportunity (**TNT** = **T**ime + **N**etwork + **T**opic)

Inspiration (Add your own insights to the topic)

Tenacity ("*illegitimi non carborundum*")

TOP TEN FAVORITE WAYS I GOT STUFF PUBLISHED:

10. Saying "yes" to abstracting for a Casalini libri review journal:

English-language abstracting from the German journal *Informationsmittel: IFB for Reference Reviews Europe* (1995 to the present).

9. Writing on topics of interest that came (a) from a library school assignment, (b & c) from the work assignment, (d) from an RLG study in which I had participated, and (e) from reactions to other professional articles (and submitting to journals):

- (a) "Current Trends in the Planning and Development of Northern European Collections," *Collection Management* V/3-4 (1983): 69-87.
- (b) "Statistical Assumption-Making in Library Collection Assessment: Peccadilloes and Pitfalls," *Collection Management* VII, 2 (1985): 17-32.
- (c) *Central European Economic History from Waterloo to OPEC, 1815-1975: A Bibliography* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1987).
- (d) "RLG Conoco Study and Its Aftermath: Resource Sharing in Limbo?" *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* XVIII/1 (March 1992): 17-23.
- (e) "Tomorrow's Research Library: Vigor or Rigor Mortis?," *College & Research Libraries* XLIX/6 (November 1988): 485-493.

8. Networking with (a) my former professor, (b) a German library journal editor in Dresden, (c) a book review editor in Wisconsin; and (d & e) joining an obscure society:

(a) *Into the Sunset: Anthology of Nineteenth-Century Austrian Prose* (Riverside, Calif.: Ariadne Press, 1999).

Translations from German of 14 novellas and stories with a general introduction and author-specific prefaces.

- (b) "Körperlich gesunde Tage." *BuB: Forum Bibliothek und Information* 58, no. 7/8 (July 2006): 540. (reporting on a German library conference)
- (c) Book reviews in *Monatshefte*, 1979-1992.
- (d) "Scandinavian Social Economics, 1850-1930: A Bibliographic Note," *Review of Social Economy* XLI/2 (1983): 137-151.
- (e) "Scandinavian Social Economics Since 1930: A Bibliographic Note," *Review of Social Economy* XLIV/2 (1986): 159-177.

7. Being asked to speak at a conference, and the proceedings were published:

- (a) "Images of Migration and Change in the German-Language Poetry of Galsan Tschinag," March 25, 2004 presentation at the WESS international conference for *Migrations in Society, Culture, and the Library* held in Paris. Published in proceedings (Chicago: ACRL, 2005): 166-172.
- (b) "The Germanic Studies Collection at Brigham Young University," June 26, 1989 presentation for WESS program on *Austria, Switzerland, and the Two Germanies: Collection Building and Bibliographic Control* at the ALA conference in Dallas. Published in proceedings (Chicago: ACRL, 1990): 103-109.

6. Being asked to speak at a preconference, and I submitted the talk for publication:

"The Current State of European Studies in North America and of Scholarly Publishing in Western Europe," June 27, 1997 address at WESS preconference, *European Links: Sources of Information in Western European Studies for Academic Libraries*, in San Francisco.

Later published in *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* XXIV/3 (May 1998): 201-207.

5. Recognizing unique collections of European history sources within our library (and elsewhere) and digitizing or linking them (with library grants):

- *Letters of Philip II, King of Spain, 1592-1597*, including facsimiles of Special Collection holdings and transcriptions. <http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/phil2/>.
- *EuroDocs: Online Sources for European History*. <http://eurodocs.lib.byu.edu>.
- *World War I Primary Document Archive*. <http://wwi.lib.byu.edu>.

4. Taking examples from digitization work (as well as from activities of the Global Resources Network) for talks and articles:

(a) "Types of Digital Library Cooperation in German Studies," paper delivered at the Toronto WESS program, June 23, 2003.

Later put on the Internet: <http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wess/torontotalk.html>.

- (b) "Recognizing, Digitizing, Advertising: GNARP Efforts with Unique German Studies Materials," *Global Resources Newsletter* 6 (Winter 2005-2006): 7-8.
- (c) "Digital Germany: Virtual Archives, Powerful Portals, Wise Wikis," *Global Resources Newsletter* 8 (Winter 2006-2007): 12-13.

3. Contacting and collaborating with a European librarian interested in a common topic, in order to co-author a bibliography (using NEH Travel to Collections monies):

"Walter-Kempowski-Bibliographie" (with Bernd Hagenau) in: *Walter Kempowski zum 60. Geburtstag* (Munich: Knaus, 1989): 47-110.

2. Visiting a synagogue in 1986 and learning of its history in World War II, then researching the synagogue library's history a decade later (with a Nijhoff grant):

"The Jewish Community Library in Vienna: From Dispersion and Destruction to Partial Restoration." *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 47 (2002): 151-172.

1. Sending an e-mail to Norman D. Stevens, a librarian specializing in wit.

He published it and made me a Fellow of the Molesworth Institute (for library humor).

"Finding Your Proper Niche in the Bibliotheca Academiae: Or, the Study of Elephant Hunting Behavior," *Collection Management* XVII/3 (1993): 25-27.