

Movers

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Shakers

2004

**The People
Who Are Shaping
the Future of
Libraries**

SUPPLEMENT TO
LIBRARY JOURNAL

MARCH 15, 2004

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URBAN LEADERS
REINVENTORS
COMMUNICATORS
RECRUITERS
CONTENT PROVIDERS
GLOBALISTS
COLLABORATORS
PROBLEM SOLVERS
FUTURISTS

Movers & Shakers 2004

The People Who Are Shaping
the Future of Libraries

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SUPPLEMENT TO *LIBRARY JOURNAL*
MARCH 15, 2004

Passionate Professionals

The 55 individuals portrayed in these pages, mostly librarians, work in vastly different settings, but similar strains run through their stories. They transform: like Lori Bell (p. 16), who configures a new job description wherever she goes. They create: like Jeff Trzeciak (p. 29), a "tech hotshot" who is building digital history collections of Detroit. They challenge: everything from the status quo to the role of libraries, like Mary Graham (p. 9), who is "humanizing a creaky bureaucracy" in Brooklyn, NY, and Janet Crowther (p. 39), engaged in "marrying" Williamsburg Regional Library, VA, to other local organizations.

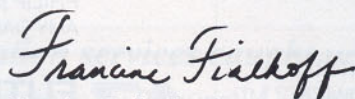
These men and women reflect other common themes as well. Theirs is not a "job" but a career. In fact, many of them abandoned law, healthcare, social work, counseling, acting, business, and more to work in libraries. They haven't left their knowledge of those fields behind but brought it with them to enrich their current work lives. They regard librarianship as "a profession where you can make a difference" (Kimberly Martin, p. 17) and "improve society" (Valerie Gross, p. 15), one that is the best exemplar of "democracy in action" (Steven M. Cohen, p. 22).

Whether they are in public, academic, school, legal, medical, or corporate libraries, or in nonlibrary institutions, the people nominated by their colleagues and selected as *Movers & Shakers* are changing their environments to serve users dynamically and to empower them to help themselves. In the process they're also shaping the future of libraries and altering the library profession.

As in the past, we'll send this supplement to members of Congress, both to highlight the transformative work that is taking place in libraries as well as the people who are responsible for it. We hope that those of you included in *M&S* will use it to raise the profile of libraries and librarians in your own communities. Show your public and your funders how well their tax money is being spent—and why libraries need to be fully funded.

This year we'll be celebrating the 2002, 2003, and 2004 *Movers & Shakers* at a gala luncheon during the American Library Association conference in Orlando in June. Among those joining *LJ* to sponsor the luncheon are ABC-CLIO, EBSCO, GIS Information Systems, Greenwood, InfoUSA, ProQuest, Scholastic Library Publishing (Grolier, Children's Press, Franklin Watts, Grolier Online), and Thomson Gale.

Welcome to the future.



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Tag Team

They're an unbeatable combination: Greg Sennema (pictured, left), digital resources librarian at Calvin College's Hekman Library, and Jed Koops, library systems programmer. Sennema proposes; Koops disposes.

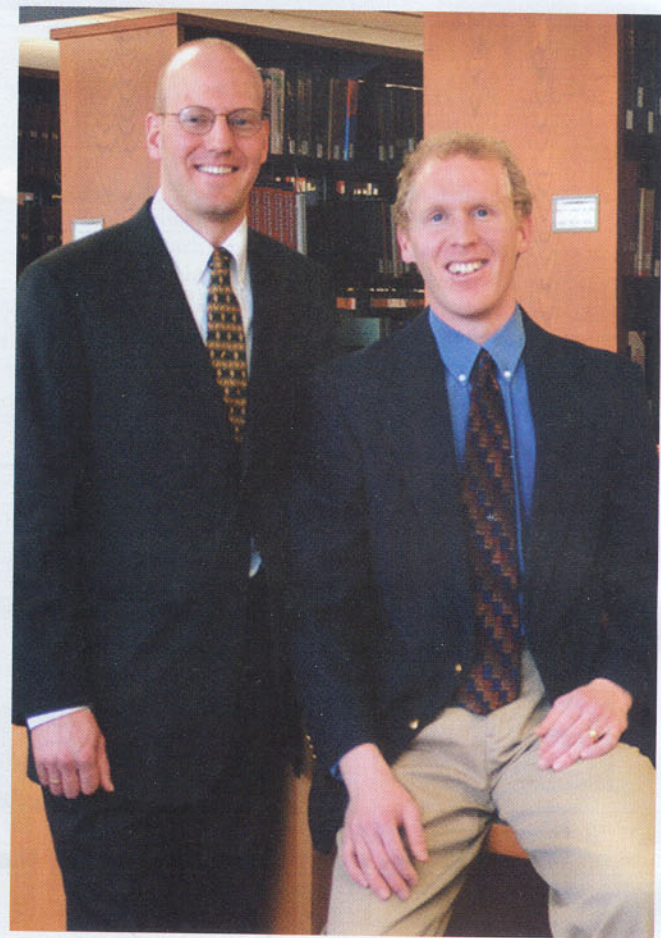
Koops says Sennema is a big-picture guy, with "an insatiable imagination." Sennema says he's good at structuring resources the way users look for them, but his programming skills aren't complex enough to match his ideas. He's happy to tell Koops how it has to work, because "Jed can always create something out of what I ask of him."

One of Sennema's first assignments was to redesign the library's web site. He quickly realized that maintaining thousands of linked resources from static web pages could be never-ending. So Koops developed a web-based content-management system known as Hobbes (for Calvin's library). This allows Sennema to manage the library web page content easily and at the same time provides access to all the library's resources: web catalog, web site, digital archive, e-book collection, and the content from a hundred subscription databases.

As Sennema became increasingly comfortable with Hobbes, he began to consider it to manage internal problems. The library recently switched from having just two full-time reference librarians to assigning all the librarians to stints at the reference desk. This caused communication problems: there was no good way to inform everyone of schedule changes, assignment alerts, or work in progress. Nor was there a good way to make sure messages in the "Ask a Librarian" mailbox would be promptly answered.

Together, Sennema and Koops devised solutions using MySQL tables on Hobbes. Now, when librarians begin their reference shifts, they log on to Hobbes, open the Ask a Librarian file, and take responsibility for all queries that come in during their shifts. From Hobbes, they can also read and post messages on a reference blog and check the desk schedule.

The men bring similar backgrounds to their



work. Sennema spent two years in Tanzania, while Koops, the son of two linguists, grew up in Nigeria. These experiences left each of them with a distaste for commercialism and an appreciation for tax-supported services that are a rarity in the Third World: roads, medical care, clean water, and libraries.

Sennema plans to remain in libraries, while Koops is on his way to a music career. He's now studying for an advanced degree in composition.

Their differing skills and their habit of spurring each other on have made them a team greater than the sum of their individual parts. "I've sometimes wished I could be a killer librarian, with great ideas and the skills to implement them," Sennema says. "But then neither of us nor the library would have benefited from our synergy."

vitals

JED KOOPS

Current Position: Library Systems Programmer, Hekman Library, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Education: B.A. Music Theory and Composition, Calvin College, 1999; M.A. in Composition, Michigan State University, in progress

Musical Composition: The well-received "Dance of the Guava Tree Climbers" captures African rhythms he grew up with

GREG SENNEMA

Current Position: Digital Resources and Reference/Instruction Librarian, Hekman Library, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Education: M.A. in Information Studies, University of Toronto, 1996

First Job: Librarian for Toronto's *Globe and Mail*