

July 2014

Time's Winged Chariots

Fred R. Reenstjerna
Douglas County Library

Recommended Citation

Reenstjerna, F. R. (2014). Time's Winged Chariots. *OLA Quarterly*, 8(2), 20. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7710/1093-7374.1617>

© 2014 by the author(s).

OLA Quarterly is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association | ISSN 1093-7374

Time's Wingèd Chariots

by Fred R. Reenstjerna
Douglas County
Library System

Shortly after you receive this issue of *OLAQ*, the *Oregon Library Quarterly*, Colleen Bell will retire as Chair of the OLA Publications Committee. As incoming Chair, I would like to offer the thanks of a grateful profession for her dedicated service.

Electrical engineer Gordon Moore formulated "Moore's Law" in 1975. In essence, Moore's Law states that computer capacity doubles every eighteen months—hence, Macintosh V, VI, ..., IX, X, and Windows 95, 98, etc. Every 18 months is a new "Moore generation" of doubled computing speed.

Think of the fact that Colleen Bell chaired OLA's Publications Committee for about 5 Moore generations, and you understand the scope of her work. In human life-spans, 5 generations goes back to our own great-great-grandparents, and that's where we were technologically when she started. Colleen brought OLA's publications along with the technology over the ensuing Moore generations.

Back in 1998 (about 2.5 Moore generations ago), when I joined the Publications Committee, a burning issue involved the appropriate method for distributing our semi-monthly *Hotline* newsletter. Colleen advocated sending the *Hotline* via e-mail, saving substantial amounts in printing costs by using latest technology. But there was resistance among those who were concerned that librarians (implication: many librarians) lacked access to this new-fangled thing called the Internet. As I recall, we compromised by mailing paper copies to those members who lacked Internet e-mail

addresses. Today, of course, the notion that anyone would profess to be a librarian and be without e-mail is equivalent to their being without a telephone and electric lighting—and the *Hotline* arrives in our 'In' boxes on the 1st and 15th of each month (kudos also to Pam Horan!). Some of us may even download our *Hotline* e-mails onto PDAs, and all of us can access current and past issues via OLA's Web site.

Colleen was a leader in developing and maintaining the Web site, securing our own domain [olaweb.org] and the services of a Web designer to maintain the site. As more events require a Web presence (the annual conference springs to mind), OLA groups make increased use of this important resource that Colleen championed.

Always at the leading edge, Colleen is now actively involved in a Web-based publication, *New Breed Librarian*. Oregon's very own library "e-zine" has received high praise from such luminaries as Sanford Berman, himself a leading-edge professional who brought subject cataloging out of its Victorian-era slumber.

Robert F. Kennedy said, "Some people look at what is and ask, 'Why?' I look at what can be and ask, 'Why not?'" As a historian, I often find it useful to look at what is and ask, "Why?" Otherwise, we forget or overlook the great contributions that have been made to bring us to a particular point in time. That is why I encourage us all to stop and think about the contribution that Colleen Bell has made to our lives as Oregon librarians, and the example she has set for professional commitment.

Thank you, Colleen!

