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from the editor

By Catherine A. Lemmer



The Measure of a Career

My current focus on digital rights management meant I started my morning today with coffee and a print copy of Graham Morrison's *Linux Voice* interview of one of my personal heroes, Tim O'Reilly (www.linuxvoice.com/interview-tim-oreilly). Balancing my coffee and stapled pages in the still, dark morning made me a little nostalgic for those days when I personally owned an ever-growing print collection of O'Reilly guides to support my techie habit. Always forward-looking, even Mr. O'Reilly comes off sounding a little nostalgic in the interview when, in response to the question "Is print dead?" he says:

"The thing that I probably miss most about the print, and we have yet to really reproduce, is the carpet of memory that a bookshelf gives. You know when you look at your bookshelf, particularly if you're somebody that likes books, it's almost like there's this texture of memory of all these things."

Among the many memorable quotes in the interview is O'Reilly's charge to "create more value than you capture." I thought about this particular quote on my drive to the office, first in its open-source context and then in respect to the other technology contexts referenced by O'Reilly. In the end, I decided it is also a most appropriate measure of one's career.

AALL President Holly Riccio's theme for our 108th Annual Meeting is a powerful reminder that professional connections create value. Her theme challenges us to open ourselves up to all the possibilities of connecting; in other words, to view each opportunity as a chance to reach beyond our usual boundaries and limitations. As a beneficiary of a mentor who embraced a leadership style based on creating value through the exploration and development of connections, I am very excited about this year's Annual Meeting theme.

As many of you know, I have a relatively short tenure in law librarianship, and I probably wouldn't even have that if it weren't for my mentor, Judith Ford Anspach. Judith, who retired in December 2014, was professor of law and director of the law library here at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law for more than a dozen years. In 2010 she took a chance and interviewed me, an applicant with no academic librarian experience.

Judith's career and management style embodied the idea of "creating more value than you capture." She was quick to encourage you to try new things and to push yourself if you hesitated to take on a new challenge. As a mentor she gave one the confidence to try with the simple words "If you want to do this, I'll support you." My law librarian career includes service as editorial director of *AALL Spectrum* and has taken me from Indianapolis to South Africa to Guantánamo Bay; these extraordinary professional experiences would not have occurred without her guidance, encouragement, and ability to urge others to see beyond the routine to embrace and develop new professional connections.

Judith is a private person. Her favorite hope for those who she has met along the way is the old proverb, "May you live in interesting times." Judith retired without any fanfare in December 2014. Her understanding of the power of connection created more value for our faculty, students, and her fellow colleagues than she ever captured for herself. That is the kind of person she is and the kind that those of us she mentored along the way hope to be.

I plan to take up President Riccio's challenge during my attendance at this year's American Bar Association Tech Show. I hope that you, too, will find a way to embrace her challenge. ■

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