

## No Laughing in the Library: You Name It!

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My wife and I recently purchased a new car, and the name of our salesman was *Mr.*

*Crook* – no, I'm not kidding. We laughed about it, then reassured ourselves that at least he wasn't a *used* car salesman. This got me thinking about other professions and potentially ironic names: the surgeon named *Cutter*, the teacher named *Apple*, or the meteorologist named *Storm*?

In the early 1990s, a fellow graduate student from the University of Pittsburgh had written a very funny piece for our library school newsletter about librarians with humorous occupational names. He had consulted the membership directory of the ALA, and had uncovered librarians with names like *Carnegie*, *Dewey*, *Page*, and *Stacks*.

Imagine having to introduce yourself at endless social gatherings as *Mr. Book*, only to cringe in anticipation of the inevitable question – So what do you do for a living, *Mr. Book*? It would almost be easier to have the same name as a famous actor - like Ralph Fiennes for instance. Or . . . on second thought, maybe not.

Given how dramatically our profession has changed over the past fifteen years, I thought it was time to revisit my classmate's experiment. I consulted the Personnel Index of the American Library Directory, 58<sup>th</sup> edition (2005-2006), and here's what I found . . .

For the readers among us, you'll be happy to know the directory contained 2 *Bookers*, 2 *Readers*, 24 *Pages*, 48 *Barnes*, and 7 *Nobles*. Being a special collections librarian, I was pleased to discover 4 *Friends*, 1 *Binder*, and 1 *Presser*. For all you archivists, there were 3 *Hollingers*, 3 *Gaylords*, 2 *Boxes* and 1 *Filer*. If you're a cataloger, it's worth noting there was 1 *Marc*, 1 *Tag*, 2 *Records*, and 16 *Fields*.

But what about the modern electronic library, with all of its systems, search engines, and specialized software? Well, you'll be interested to know there was 1 *Ram*, 1 *Rom*, 3 *Players*, 4 *Dells* and 6 *Drivers*. There were no *Yahoos* or *Googles*, but there was 1 *Web*, and 44 *Webers*. There were no *Blogs*, *Bloggers*, *Pods*, or *Podcasters*, but there was 1 *Podboy*! Now there's a man ahead of his time.

Of course, no modern survey would be complete without considering the mighty Microsoft. While there were no *Explorers* or *Excels*, there was 1 *Word*, and 12 *Gates*. Lastly, let's not forget about those new cafés that have been incorporated into many of our library buildings. A final check revealed there were 2 *Coffees*, 2 *Creamers* and 1 *Spill* among us!