

Current Awareness

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This column contains summaries of articles (print and electronic) about online services, CD-ROMs, networked information, electronic publishing, multimedia etc. including, with permission, abstracts identified with an * next to the author initials, drawn from Current Cites, the monthly publication distributed electronically by the Library, University of California at Berkeley: <http://sunsite.Berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/>.

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CATALOGUING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

El-Sherbini, M and Klim, G **Metadata and cataloging practices** *Electronic Library* 22(3) 2004: 238-248
This paper reviews the differences between metadata standards, as used in current projects, and current library cataloguing practices, and discusses how the various metadata standards are applied in libraries. Their view is that they are not substantial, neither from the point of view of intent or purpose, nor from that of the fundamental mechanisms governing their creation and structure. However, the proliferation of digital resources available via the internet led to the realisation among librarians that traditional, library-based cataloguing practices could only be applied to a small fraction of them; there was a need for a simplified, flexible standard or standards that could accommodate a diversity of formats, and be applied outside the library by non-specialists. The authors provide an overview of the most popular metadata formats and standards, and propose a view on the role of librarians in relation to metadata. They conclude with a brief discussion of the OHIOLINK Electronic Thesis and Dissertations project. Though not hugely detailed, this article provides a useful introduction to metadata principles and current projects from a library perspective. – [CME]

Understanding Metadata Washington, DC: National Information Standards Organization, 2004.
(<http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/UnderstandingMetadata.pdf>).

Metadata (structured information about an object or collection of objects) is increasingly important to libraries, archives, and museums. And although librarians are familiar with a number of issues that apply to creating and using metadata (e.g., authority control, controlled vocabularies, etc.), the world of metadata is nonetheless different than library cataloging, with its own set of challenges. Therefore, whether you are new to these concepts or quite experienced with classic cataloging, this short (20 pages) introductory paper on metadata can be helpful. – [*RT]

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Case, Mary M. **"A Snapshot in Time: ARL Libraries and Electronic Journal Resources"** *ARL: A Bimonthly Report on Research Library Issues and Actions from ARL, CNI, and SPARC* (235) (August 2004): 1-10. (<http://www.arl.org/newsltr/235/snapshot.html>).

E-journals are definitely a hit at ARL libraries: expenditures have skyrocketed 712% between 1994/95 and 2001/02. In 2001/02, e-serials required a whopping 26% of ARL libraries' serials budgets (versus 5% in 1994/95). To get a more in-depth picture of the issues related to e-serials, ARL conducted two surveys of its members (one in 2002 and one in 2003). This interesting article presents the results of these surveys, which dealt with a wide variety of issues such as "big deals," nondisclosure clauses, pricing models, print cancellations, subscription costs, subscription terms, and usage terms (among others). Of particular note were the findings about print cancellations: "In the fall 2002 survey, only a few libraries indicated that they had moved to electronic-only versions of the titles offered by these 14 publishers. In the more general survey conducted in 2003, many more libraries indicated they were making the switch." Of course, this raises the difficult issue of the long-term preservation of electronic-only journals. I'd also suggest that, as this trend accelerates, it may erode access to scholarly journals by non-affiliated users, who are typically dependent on the availability of a limited number of "public" workstations, and deepen what Peter Suber calls the "permission crisis." – [*CB]

Leydesdorff, Loet. "**Clusters and maps of science journals based on bi-connected graphs in Journal Citation Reports.**" *Journal of Documentation* 60 (4) (2004): 371-427.

Explains the principles of bi-connected component analysis, and presents the findings which show how the journals are connected to each through citations. Discusses how some sub-clusters can be identified. Tables are provided of the various journal clusters. - [CJU]

Morley, Priscilla, Urquhart, Christine. "**Publishing trends in medical journal literature: the views of medical staff in an NHS teaching hospital in the United Kingdom.**" *Health Information and Libraries Journal* 21 (2) (2004): 109-116.

The survey of 120 doctors at one NHS teaching hospital trust found that getting published quickly (as might be possible in some online journals) was not a major concern. Although doctors perceived that professional or learned society affiliation was important to their ratings of journals, their essential reading in fact reflected the dominance of commercial publishers, whose journals had more 'prestige' and also higher impact factors. - [CJU]

GENERAL

English, Richard. "**Blog Today, Gone Tomorrow? Preservation of Weblogs**" *RLG DigiNews* 8(4) (15 August 2004) (http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=19481#article3).

Should blogs be archived? If so, how can this best be accomplished? First, we need to know what constitutes a blog. The writer provides a working definition: "(P)ostings (at varying intervals), usually by a single individual, in the form of text, images, and other data forms, arranged in reverse chronological order and accessible with a Web browser." Most sources estimate the number of active blogs at somewhere around two million. The number of blogs created, of course, is much higher, but so many are abandoned, often almost immediately. The author refers to last October's Perseus Blog Survey, which reported that "about 2/3 of over 4 million blogs found on eight popular blog hosting services may have been abandoned, i.e., not updated within the past two months. Over a million consisted of just an initial post. The average active blog was updated about every two weeks." The simple fact is that most bloggers have a day job and/or other responsibilities, and keeping up a weblog is akin to feeding an always-hungry beast. It's not uncommon for a blog to develop a following and foster a sense of community. When the blogger decides, for whatever reason, to shut the blog down, its readers are often quite distressed. And then there's the question of what should happen to the content? Consider that there's always a possibility that a free blog hosting service may shut down suddenly, rendering all the users' content inaccessible. As blogging has gotten more sophisticated and been adopted by mainstream media and other entities, the blogosphere has become an increasingly important part of the web, and shares the same general archiving issues, identified by the author as "copyright, robot exclusion, dynamic content, password protection, exotic file formats, and miscoded material." But weblogs present some unique archiving challenges as well, because of features like reader commentary, extensive linking to other sources, and different/non-compatible technologies underlying various blogging tools. Also, notes the writer, "Most librarians and archivists have not yet identified blogs as online resources particularly meriting collection and preservation." At this stage, it seems, the onus falls mostly on individual bloggers to maintain copies of their own content. - [*SK]

Greenstein, Daniel. "**Research Libraries' Costs of Doing Business (and Strategies for Avoiding Them)**" *EDUCAUSE Review* 39(5) (2004): 72-73. (<http://www.educause.edu/pub/er/erm04/erm04510.asp>).

Materials costs continue to spiral upward. Shaped by Google and similar systems, users' expectations rise as well, and they demand that libraries provide increasingly sophisticated, easy-to-use systems. Digital formats proliferate. What's a research library to do? Based on the collaborative experiences of the University of California System, Greenstein has some suggestions for research libraries in similar situations. Rely mainly on electronic journals, but preserve at least one archival print copy of each one. Closely coordinate collection development to eliminate duplicate materials costs, and develop new bibliographic systems to support this. Centralize system support functions, such as digital preservation and tool building (e.g., online portals). Using these strategies, UC believes it can save \$30-\$50 million dollars a year. Sounds like big money. Will it solve the problem? The author says: "If the money is simply eaten away by unmitigated steep increases in the price of library materials, the answer is no. Changing the unsustainable economics of scholarly publishing remains a key to the future of research libraries — indeed, to the continued ability of colleges and universities to provide faculty and researchers with the access they need to the world's scholarly knowledge." - [*CB]

Hepburn, Gary. **"Seeking an educational commons: The promise of open source development models"** *First Monday* 9(8) (2 August 2004) (http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_8/hepburn/).

Hepburn matches an assessment of the potential of open source computing with the development of classroom curricula, and finds a good match. Easily available resources, flexibility and minimal intrusion of corporate culture into the classroom are all desirable side benefits of open source architecture, he argues. A central aspect of a new open source "commons" that could take root is creativity: Hepburn foresees that educators and curriculum planners will experience a noteworthy increase in creative thinking if they cleave to an open source standard. Much of this line of reasoning is based on the hitherto-unrealized potential of the Internet to reshape the classroom. A key challenge for educators, though, is the development of both institutional and professional-level commitments to mainstreaming technology management into teaching — a process that will challenge teachers and educators for some time to come. – [*TH]

Iliff, John, and Judy Xiao. **"Intellectual Honesty in the Electronic Age" Best Practices in E-Learning (Online Conference)** (August 2004) (http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/~jiliff/iliff_xiao.htm).

"The trend toward dishonesty seems to be increasing," according to the authors of this paper, who have unearthed a variety of statistics and anecdotal evidence from research studies, articles and websites cited in the extensive bibliography. The Internet is certainly a factor in this trend, not only has it armed potential cheaters with new tools, but it has spawned a mini-industry of online services designed to assist teachers and professors in catching plagiarists. Meanwhile, the cell phone and the PDA have added a whole new dimension to in-class cheating. "No gum wrapper or note tucked into a sleeve can compare to the storage and intelligence of these devices," the authors observe, wryly. They identify a whole laundry list of reasons why students cheat -- from the obvious ("to get a better grade") to the unintentional (ignorance of how to cite sources properly). And they discuss ways in which cheating can be deterred -- i.e., enforcing a strong academic honor code, defining clearly what constitutes plagiarism, structuring academic assignments so as to either make cheating difficult or make it easy to spot when it occurs. Since technology has "made student cheating faster and easier," it is incumbent upon educators to teach proper research techniques and increase awareness of "what is right and fair." This paper is from a presentation given as part of an online conference hosted by the University of Calgary August 23-27. The authors are librarians at the College of Staten Island, The City University of New York. – [*SK]

Puglia, Steve, Jeffrey Reed, and Erin Rhodes. **Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Archival Materials for Electronic Access: Creation of Production Master Files - Raster Images** Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, June 2004. (http://www.archives.gov/research_room/arc/arc_info/guidelines_for_digitizing_archival_materials.html).

What the staff at NARA don't know about digitizing isn't worth knowing. And thanks to documents like this one, you too can know what they do. From recommendations on metadata capture to essential tips on scanning for the maximum fidelity and information capture, this is a gold mine of best practice that can help anyone digitizing content for web access. Beginning with a section on metadata, the paper includes sections on imaging workflow, digitization specifications, storage, and quality control. The technical overview alone offers a wealth of essential information for digitization novices as well as those who may have been doing this activity for some time, but without a thorough technical grounding in all the technical aspects. Highly recommended for anyone digitizing content. – [*RT]

Ramzan, Muhammad **Levels of information technology (IT) applications in Muslim world libraries** *Electronic Library* 22(3) 2004:274-280

This paper makes dismal reading. It is divided into two parts: 1) an overview, based on published sources, of the status of IT in the libraries of five Islamic countries or groups of countries; 2) results of a questionnaire survey of IT facilities sent to heads of academic and research libraries in Pakistan. The reported availability of computer resources (PCs, servers, standard office software, CD-ROMs, online catalogues and databases, Internet access) was generally poor. Lack of computer literacy among librarians, inappropriate planning, non-availability of standard library system software, poor IT support, lack of standards and quality control, and bureaucratic management attitudes were generally perceived as problems by the respondents. The author concludes that there is a need to raise awareness of new technologies among librarians and decision makers in the Muslim world. There is an urgent need for local information industries to be developed in order to reduce dependence on Western information sources. Library budgets need to be increased to acquire IT facilities, and document supply consortia need to be established. – [CME]

Spink, Amanda. **"Multitasking information behaviour and information task switching: an exploratory study."** *Journal of Documentation* 60 (4) (2004): 336-351.

Presents a literature review – surprisingly scant – of multitasking information behaviour – surely the common experience of many library staff dealing with several user queries simultaneously. The case study in this

research was a single 'ordinary' information seeker, who agreed to keep a diary, to be observed, and to be interviewed. The analysis produced an exploratory model covering the switching between tasks, and the factors that contributed to the co-ordination of search tasks or stopping searching on one information task. - [CJU]

INFORMATION ACCESS

Antelman, Kristin. "**Do Open-Access Articles Have a Greater Research Impact?**" *College & Research Libraries* 65(5) (September 2004): 372-382. (<http://eprints.rclis.org/archive/00002309/>).

For those who have been working to create open access repositories of research and scholarship, this article is a godsend. Antelman performed a formal study of whether open access articles are cited more frequently than those only available through subscription services. The short answer is "yes". For the long answer, as well as to review her methodology, see the (yes) open access article. – [*RT]

Ellison, Jim. "**Assessing the accessibility of fifty United States government Web pages: Using Bobby to check on Uncle Sam**" *First Monday* 9(7) (5 July 2004) (http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_7/ellison/).

Ellison takes a hard look at the real obstacles that people with disabilities face when using government Web sites. He reviews 50 sites using the well-known evaluation program known as Bobby, which checks HTML to evaluate how successfully the code perform in providing accessibility. While he argues that there is great potential for improved accessibility, he claims that the U.S. government has not met its self-imposed goals yet. This would tend to weaken the government's standing to enforce accessibility standards on other organizations, he concludes. – [*TH]

Leslie, F "**Bringing collections to life: digitising local studies and special collections: the COLLAGE project**" *Electronic Library* 22(3) 2004: 261-263

This brief article describes the COLLAGE project at the Guildhall Library and Guildhall Art Gallery, which provides access to around 32,000 images from their collections. COLLAGE was a follow-on to a retrospective conversion project for two libraries. It was a pioneering effort that preceded the NOF-digitisation funding, the cost being borne entirely by the Corporation of London. The project aimed to provide an uncluttered interface that was simple to use for members of the public, yet still incorporated powerful access tools with 'layered' information. It was designed to have four views: for researchers, for the general public, for staff and for remote searchers via the Web. There is a Web shopping function which allows users to select images for purchase – this is the revenue-generating aspect of the project. The article includes a series of bullet points of 'lessons learned', and sets out future plans for the project. – [CME]

Rowlands, Ian, Dave Nicholas, and Paul Huntingdon. "**Journal Publishing: What Do Authors Want?**" *Nature Web Focus: Access to the Literature: The Debate Continues* (13 September 2004) (<http://www.nature.com/nature/focus/accessdebate/31.html>).

In the final analysis, scholarly journal publishing should be designed to satisfy the needs of scholars. So what do they want anyway? The authors conducted a large-scale international survey to find the answer, ending up with 3,787 fully completed questionnaires from 97 countries. Not surprisingly, they found that authors continue to want traditional journal benefits: "They want the imprimatur of quality and integrity that a peer-reviewed, high-impact title can offer, together with reasonable levels of publisher service. Above all, they want to narrowcast their ideas to a close community of like-minded researchers. . ." The majority of authors (61%) indicate that they have access to needed articles, and 77% say that access is better than five years ago. Not many have heard of open access (82% say that they know little or nothing about it), and they are not willing to pay much to publish articles (only 16% would pay more than \$500). Rowlands et al. estimate that the average that authors would be willing to pay may be about \$400, which is below the fees typically charged by open access publishers. Clearly, publishing reform advocates still have much work to do in educating authors about the economics of scholarly publishing and academic library finances. – [*CB]

Suber, Peter. "**NIH Open-Access Plan: Frequently Asked Questions**" (2004) (<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/nihfaq.htm>).

Peter Suber has written a helpful FAQ about the U.S. House Appropriations Committee's recommendation regarding open access to journal articles that result from NIH grant-funded research. To recap the main points of the recommendation, such articles would be deposited in PubMed Central upon acceptance for publication. If NIH funds were used to support any publication costs, the articles would be made immediately available. Otherwise, they would be made available six months after publication. NIH would develop a plan by 12/1/04 to

implement the recommendation in FY 2005. The FAQ clarifies the fine points of the recommendation (e.g., it's up to the researcher, not the publisher, to deposit the article), addresses the main issues that it raises (e.g., would journals lose subscribers as a result of the plan?), compares it to the Public Access to Science Act, discusses the future of the recommendation, and provides action steps for supporters (e.g., use the Public Knowledge Web form to send a fax to your Congressional delegation endorsing the recommendation). He also mentions the Alliance for Taxpayer Access, which the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Library Association, the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries, the Association of College & Research Libraries, the Association of Research Libraries, and many other organizations have recently formed to support the recommendation. – [*CB]

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Banwell, Linda, Ray, Kathryn, Coulson, Graham, Urquhart, Christine, Lonsdale, Ray, Armstrong, Chris, Thomas, Rhian, Spink, Siân, Yeoman, Alison, Fenton, Roger and Rowley, Jennifer. "**The JISC User Behaviour Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**". *Journal of Documentation* 60(3) (2004): 302-20. Describes the development of the framework established by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) to monitor the uptake and use of electronic information services in further and higher education in the UK. Summarises the main findings over the first three cycles for the various strands of the research, along with the details of the sample (over 4,000 respondents in total). Discusses some of the problems in research design, and the difficulties of interpreting user behaviour from questionnaire and interview data. A marketing theory framework is used in the paper to present the themes which emerged over the first three cycles. Notable findings were student reliance on the Internet over more specialised resources (purchased by library services), and the influence of academic staff expectations on student use of electronic information services. Trends in the type of resources made available on library web sites were the gradual appearance of non-JISC gateways, and the appearance of the National electronic Library for Health. COPAC and the British Library were the most popular remote OPACs. From the Framework findings a diagnostic toolkit was developed around themes indicating the enablers and barriers, and focused on five stages of electronic information service development, from baseline through to full integration. Concludes that student use of electronic information services is affected by work and leisure use, and that uptake is directly affected by embedding use of such services in the curriculum, specifically in assignment requirements. Library staff need to be aware of the learning process when supporting academic staff and students in information retrieval. - [CJU]

Devine, Jane, and Francine Egger-Sider. "**Beyond Google: The Invisible Web in the Academic Library**". *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 30(4) (July 2004): 265-269. For most librarians, this article won't be their first encounter with the concept of web resources which aren't found by search sites such as Google, but it pulls together current resources and provides concise explanations useful for spreading the word. The problem is the word itself, in my opinion: whenever I talk to library users about an "invisible web" I get the reaction that it's a kind of "librarian layer" that normal people should ignore as long as there's a gatekeeper who can let them in when they need it. Personally, I'd rather not be a keeper of the mysteries, and whenever the opportunity arises I explain the characteristics of the kind of resource that Google couldn't mine: subscription database, un-indexed file content, etc. This article can give you the gear needed to take your users diving down to the deeper levels and not leave them floating on the surface. – [*JR]

Elliott, Susan A. **Metasearch and Usability: Toward a Seamless Interface to Library Resources** Anchorage, AK: University of Alaska, August 2004. (<http://www.lib.uaa.alaska.edu/tundra/msuse1.pdf>). This paper is the result of a sabbatical leave investigation on behalf of the Consortium Library of the University of Alaska Anchorage regarding metasearch software and usability. The author visited a number of libraries that have implemented, or are in the process of implementing, metasearch applications. The strength of this paper lies not in the specifics regarding software options, which are already out of date (although for those who simply can't resist, they are available in a separate file of appendices), but in the body of the report in which Elliott succinctly outlines the problem these tools are attempting to solve, how they are trying to do it, and current issues and problems. As she identifies, things are far from perfect but these tools may at least offer libraries a way to make things more manageable for the users we serve. – [*RT]

Jackson, Joab. "**Advanced search engines link many data sources**" *Government Computer News* 23 (24) (23 August 2004) (http://gcn.com/23_24/tech-report/26999-1.html). In a nutshell, federated search is coming to the federal government. Rather than have researchers waste time jumping from one search engine to another to access different government databases, various agencies are building single uniform interfaces that allow one-stop searching of multiple repositories. The FDA's Center for

Drug Evaluation and Research uses Convera Corporation's RetrievalWare to facilitate searching across 15 different document databases. And the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has instituted single-interface searching across multiple document repositories, in different locations, concerning the DOE's "application to house a radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain." The NRC is using a software suite from Autonomy, Intelligent Data Operating Layer Server. -[*SK]

Jenkins, Michelle. "**Evaluation of methodological search filters.**" *Health Information and Libraries Journal* 21 (3) (2004): 148-163.

Reviews the research on the development of search filters for the health databases. Defines sensitivity, precision, specificity, generalisability and validation for search filters, and discusses how search filters developed. There are various methodological search filters e.g. diagnosis, for locating systematic reviews, aetiology, prognosis, treatment, qualitative. Examines the criteria used, the way search terms are selected, and how the gold standard is derived. The effectiveness of search filters needs to be evaluated and the search filter validated. Concludes that users of search filters need to be aware of the processes used in search filter development and that more work on the development and validation of search filters is necessary. - [CJU]

Lorence, Daniel P, Spink, Amanad. "**Semantics and the medical web: a review of barriers and breakthroughs in effective healthcare query.**" *Health Information and Libraries Journal* 21 (2) (2004): 109-116.

Discusses the problem of medical vocabulary for the layperson searching specialist medical resources, and reviews various technologies and approaches that may help improve lay searching of medical Web resources. Possible approaches include metasearch (using, for example, SNOMED-CT to label web resources), niche search (e.g. OMNI, NMAP), semantic search (NLM's Semantic Knowledge Representation project), and a type of mediated searching nearer agent based searching (e.g. ILIAD for schools). - [CJU]

Morgan, Eric Lease. "**An Introduction to the Search/Retrieve URL Service (SRU)**" *Ariadne* (40) (July 2004) (<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue40/morgan/>).

Eric Morgan is a master at explaining complex topics simply, and this article is yet another example. Although the true neophyte may be a bit adrift, any moderately technically capable person will find this article a useful introduction to this emerging replacement for Z39.50 based on Web Services. And even those who know about SRU/SRW may find the included example of usage to be instructive. Although Perl familiarity would be useful, given the Perl-based examples, it is not necessary to understand the basic drift of the piece. This article is well worth the time of anyone interested in Z39.50 and/or Web Services. Or, for that matter, any technically capable librarian who wants to keep up with where the profession is going. - [*RT]

Shenton, Andrew K., and Pat Dixon. "**Issues Arising From Youngsters' Information Seeking Behavior**" *Library & Information Science Research* 26(2) (Spring 2004): 177-200.

Faced with training adults to be more careful and critical information seekers and users, it's helpful to see which patterns are imprinted in our school years. This article explores the general information-seeking patterns of school-age children in a single British town. While a larger sample (only 188 individuals here) and greater geographic variation could certainly lead to more universally applicable conclusions, for most English-speaking information providers there will be a high recognition factor of those behaviors which are clear precursors to adult habits, e.g. "the use of untaught, expedient methods was apparent in many contexts, including the 'speculative' entry of URLs to access Web sites and the location of information in books by simply flicking through the pages." No wonder at expedient Google's popularity, being so good at providing reasonable results for speculative input. Also instructive is the prevalence of image or pattern retention which, once achieved, encourages forgetting details like titles and addresses. A bit discouraging for teachers of information literacy, but good to know what one is up against. - [*JR]

Spink, Amanda, Jansen, Bernard J. and Pedersen, Jan. "**Searching for people on Web search engines**". *Journal of Documentation* 60 (3) (2004): 266-278.

Examines what proportion of Web search engine requests involve searching for personal names, and how those searches are made. Datasets were obtained from AlltheWeb.com queries and Alta Vista and random samples of 10,000 queries from both datasets were qualitatively examined. Personal name queries constituted only 4% of all queries, but of those name queries, most were for celebrities. Searches were generally short and unsophisticated, with few searches reformulated and few searchers using double quotations to enclose the entire name. Name searches on Alta Vista were more sophisticated than those on AlltheWeb. - [CJU]

Van Schaik, P and Ling, J **The effect of system response times on visual search in Web pages** *Electronic Library* 22(3) 2004:264-268

The web usability expert Jakob Nielsen has argued that system response times (SRT) impact upon web usability in two main ways: users may divide their attention between an information retrieval task and other tasks, or they may become impatient with unpredictable delays and abandon the information retrieval task, and the offending web site, altogether. This study sought to examine the effect of variability of SRT in web searching using a choice reaction task, i.e. one which requires one response to the presence of a stimulus and another response to the absence of a stimulus. Mock web pages (with the text in the content frame replaced by asterisks) were created in HTML, captured as bitmaps and saved as graphics image files. Each page consisted of two frames, a navigation area and a content area. The navigation area contained five left-aligned hypertext links. Background colours, font faces and font sizes were kept constant. In the experimental trial, a target word was presented to the participants for a fixed time period. This was followed by a white screen, presented with either a fixed or a variable time delay (SRT). After this, the mock web pages were displayed. These either contained or did not contain the target word within the series of links in the navigation area. The participant's response triggered the start of the next trial. A total of 115 participants, all psychology students, completed a series of nine practice and 72 'real' trials. After completing the trials, they each then had to provide demographic information (age, sex, web experience) and complete a self-assessment, answering the questions: 'Did you feel impatient during the experiment?' and 'Did the presentation of the web pages slow you down?' The authors found that there was no effect of SRT either on the participants' response time or on their accuracy. Perceived response time also was found to be unaffected. The authors surmise that the effect of SRT may only become a major issue when SRT exceeds ten seconds. They suggest that a wider range of SRTs needs to be investigated, using both text and graphical displays. – [CME]

LEGAL ISSUES

Dean, Katie. **"Saving the Artistic Orphans"** *Wired News* (20 September 2004)
(<http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,64494,00.html>)

"Artistic orphans," as discussed in this article, are "older books, films and music" that are "no longer commercially viable," but are kept from the public domain because they are still under copyright. Changes in the copyright law that no longer require intellectual property owners to register or renew their copyrights with the U.S. Copyright Office have made locating these owners "a formidable challenge." Brewster Kahle, founder of the Internet Archive and Rick Prelinger, a film collector, are interested in digitizing these materials and putting them online so the public can have free access. They filed suit in March to have declared unconstitutional the changes to copyright law that prevent such materials from entering the public domain. The legal wrangling is ongoing; the government filed a motion to dismiss the case, the plaintiffs filed an opposition and the government will file its reply in October. In late October, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California will hear arguments. Lawrence Lessig, the Stanford Law School professor representing Kahle and Prelinger explains that copyright was traditionally "opt-in" -- where intellectual property owners had to actively register and then renew their works. Now, from the moment a work is "fixed in a tangible medium," copyright protection exists without any need for registration or renewal. The article notes "that on average, 85 percent of copyright owners never bothered to renew their copyright after the first 28 years anyway." You can submit examples of orphan works via a website set up by Kahle and Prelinger. – [*SK]

O'Brien, D. **Stand up for your rights.** *New Scientist* 182, 2463,15 (4 September 2004)

New technologies are giving copyright owners the power to infringe long held public rights (such as legal doctrine of First Sale in US) which allow the resale of purchased books or CDs. Digital Rights Management (DRM) prevents selling on or lending. And in particular, no DRM system is programmed to unlock itself after the work is released into the public domain (70 years after the death of the copyright owner). - [DJH]

VIRTUAL LIBRARIES

Chapman, Stephen. **"Techniques for Creating Sustainable Digital Collections"** *Library Technology Reports* 40(5) (Sept./Oct. 2004)

Library Technology Reports appears to be on a roll, with this excellent issue following close on the heels of Susan Gibbon's report on institutional repositories (cited in a previous issue of Current Cites). Few people are as well suited for covering this topic as Chapman, who has long experience in creating digital collections at Harvard, and has spoken on this topic for years as a faculty member of the highly regarded School for Scanning: Building Good Digital Collections. The report begins with a section on institutional readiness for digitization, followed by sections on managing digitization, levels of service for image digitization, levels of service for text digitization, managing costs, and committing to change. So if you find yourself suddenly

responsible for a digitization project, as many are, your first purchase should not be a scanner, but rather this issue of LTR. Out of all the money you will spend on your project (and spend it you will) the \$63 cost of this report will be the single most effective use of your resources. – [*RT]

Moyo, Lesley M **Electronic libraries and the emergence of new service paradigms** *Electronic Library* 22(3) 2004 220-230

Moyo provides an overview of technological developments in academic libraries, more particularly of the new types of services to users that are now being provided. Academic library services need to accommodate users' preferences for electronic access to information and expectations of 24/7 virtual reference services. In the digital environment, there is the risk that students will have insufficient contact with the library, and may not obtain the help they need in locating appropriate resources; moreover, that in their preference for speed and convenience in searching, they will neglect high quality print sources. Libraries need to mitigate these risks by providing 24/7 virtual reference services, by developing new approaches to library instruction (e.g. via Web-based tutorials or through using VLEs) and also by providing efficient, timely document supply services. The need for personalised one-to-one assistance to users has not diminished in the digital environment, rather it has increased owing to the complexity of the resources and the varying levels of IT literacy among students. It may be appropriate also to offer technology facilities that enhance access to electronic resources, e.g. a laptop circulation service. Technology resources and services may be collocated as an 'information commons'. While the article is unlikely to tell academic librarians anything they do not already know, it offers a useful summary for non-specialists. – [CME]

WEB DESIGN

Childs, Sue. "**Developing health website quality assessment guidelines for the voluntary sector: outcomes from the Judge project.**" *Health Information and Libraries Journal* 21 (Suppl 2) (2004): 14-26.

The Judge project examined how to help consumers judge the quality of Internet health information, and how to promote the role of support groups by helping them produce good quality websites. Qualitative methods were used (focus groups with 35 participants, questionnaires with 55 respondents). The criteria included currency, utility of information provided, ease of use, authority, sponsorship, reputation and trust, and concerns considered included fraudulent claims, unsafe or incorrect information. Sets of guidelines were produced to a) help consumers search the Internet for health information, and b) help support groups present information in an attractive and useful way. - [CJU]

Twist, Jo. "**Web Tool May Banish Broken Links**" *BBC News* (24 September 2004)

(<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3666660.stm>). - The Jargon File defines link rot as "The natural decay of web links as the sites they're connected to change or die." And while it is a fact of life on the Web today, it is also a tremendous source of frustration to information professionals, scholars, and plain ordinary Web users. Well, a team of UK intern students at IBM has come up with a tool that addresses the problem of broken Web links. Although other tools exist that can detect broken links, this tool — called Period — also ferrets out where the missing information has gone and "replaces outdated information with other relevant documents and links." It can also detect links to "inappropriate information." Basically, the technology keeps track of key elements of WebPages so it is able to quickly spot any changes. In its current version, "it runs reliably over 100,000 pages." – [*SK]

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