

Online

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Adept Scientific

Like many people with a role in supporting the use of EndNote at a UK university, I was very sad to find out that [Adept Scientific](#), the EndNote license distributor and constant source of advice and training, has gone into administration. The staff at Adept Scientific have been a lifeline for many of us, and we've appreciated all their efforts over the years to help us help our customers.

Amazon/Hachette

Over one thousand Hachette authors including Stephen King, John Grisham, Donna Tartt and Philip Pullman have taken action under the banner "Authors United" in response to tactics by Amazon to discourage online sales of Hachette books during an ongoing pricing dispute. These tactics have included delays in shipping, reduced discounts and blocked pre-orders. Authors United have published [an open letter](#) to the Amazon board in the New York Times, urging them to withdraw the tactics and making the case for traditional publishers with particular reference to their role in supporting new writers. The dispute stems from Amazon's view that an e-book should be cheaper than a print book, and Hachette's view that they should be able to set prices for their titles. Meanwhile the Financial Times have reported (in a paywalled article) that Authors United have called upon the US Department of Justice to open an antitrust enquiry. There are lots of reports on the dispute in the trade press and beyond; this [post](#) by John Biggs in TechCrunch on 9th August opens with Amazon's reference to Orwell in one of their ripostes, but comments further on their PR success in this dispute. Then news emerged on [13th November](#) (NY Times) that the dispute was resolved, just in time for the big pre-Christmas shop on books. In a multi-year deal, Hachette will be able to set their own prices however Amazon will provide incentives to Hachette to discount. Neither party has commented to the press about the detail of the deal, however the dispute has been ugly and is likely to flare up again when the multi-year deal is up.

Court of Justice of the European Union

An interesting [press release](#) for two reasons; the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) have said that EU governments may allow libraries to digitise books in their collection without rights owners' consent in order to make them available at "electronic reading posts" but rights holders must be fairly compensated if library users want to print them or store to USB. Reason one: looking forward to seeing what the UK government makes of this. Reason two: what's an electronic reading post? Please educate me.

SWETS

On 23rd September SWETS the serials subscription management company was officially declared bankrupt in the Netherlands, another sad story in the information business. Many serials management staff in university libraries and other institutions have found themselves looking for a new agent e.g. LM, EBSCO etc. and hoping to ensure continuity of access to their online journals at a difficult time. This [article](#) by Kevin Smith (Duke University) makes the case for direct ordering and using a secure online payment service such as ESCROW (rather than choosing another agent) to ensure a more secure financial footing for libraries.

University of Iowa

A great story (thanks to [Infodocket](#) for the heads-up): the University of Iowa are planning to digitise a collection of 10,000 science fiction fanzines from the [James L. “Rusty” Hevelin Collection](#) which they acquired in 2012. The [press release](#) notes that a small selection of fans will be transcribing, indexing and annotating the contents in preparation to make them available through an searchable, full-text fanzine resource. There’s a labour of love!

Welsh Centre for International Affairs/National Library of Wales

An award of £920,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made to the [Welsh Centre for International Affairs](#) (WCIA), a registered charity based in Cardiff, for a four-year project *Wales for Peace*, “to explore how Wales has contributed to the search for peace since the First World War”. The WCIA have already been working with the National Library of Wales (NLW) to digitise the WW1 [Welsh Book of Remembrance](#) and the collaboration will continue in the Wales for Peace project to develop transcription software for the contents of this decorated volume. Find out more about the [Wales for Peace](#) project.

World War I

The 100-year anniversary of World War I has been characterized by the release of some wonderful online resources. The UK National Archives have just launched [First World War: A global view](#), a fantastic interactive map indicating all the locations of conflict with links to detailed records. In their [Operation War Diary](#) portal, the National Archives are making available online 171 unit war diaries of Indian soldiers who were brought to Europe to fight on the Western Front.