

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:
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EDUCATION

Ayers, Edward L.. **The Academic Culture & the IT Culture: Their Effect on Teaching and Scholarship** *Educause Review* 39(5) (November/December 2004): 48-62. - A reflective and sometime humorous assessment of the degree to which information technology has been adopted by academics: not much. The author, Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia and a professor of history there, bases his comments upon what he's observed personally, and he contrasts concisely the cultural differences between academe and IT. He reminds those of us fascinated by information media that most faculty regard it as extraneous to their own work, and will embrace it only to the degree that it facilitates (as effortlessly and transparently as possible) their primary research. And once their writing is ready for publication, few are interested in exploiting the possibilities of networks to disseminate their scholarship, though Ayers sees a gradual change there. He describes the development of his own web-enhanced presentation of his Civil War scholarship, and his satisfaction at being able to present digital versions of the primary source documents which would normally be inaccessible to his readers. After giving that concrete example of what could be achieved on a larger scale, Ayers concludes unsurprisingly with a call for increased dialogues between the two cultures. – [*JR]

Crib sheet: E-learning. *Information Age* October 2004: 78-79. The author provides a short sectioned guide to e-learning. Providing information on: context, overview, technology, benefits, market, test case and predictions. – [JW]

Stanley, Tracey and Sotiriou, Asmina. **The portole project: supporting e-learning.** *The New Review of Information Networking* Vol 9 (2003): 141-147. The PORTOLE (Providing Online Resources To Online Learning Environments) Project was funded by JISC as part of the DiVLE Programme (JISC 07/02) and was a consortial undertaking of the Universities of Leeds and Oxford and the RDN. Leeds was the leader of the 10 month project which was completed in August 2003. The project was run to provide a potential solution to the difficulties associated with embedding electronic information resources in VLE's (i.e. keeping links up to date and making sure interfaces are cohesive). The project was designed to let tutors access the JISC Information Environment and local digital resources from within the VLE to utilise appropriate content. The resources selected were the RDN, the library catalogues from Leeds and Oxford, COPAC and the Leeds's ROADS database. Google was also added. The intention was to let tutors cross search the resources from within the VLE, annotations and descriptions could then be added to the results list. PORTOLE utilised a java-based Z39.50 client. The objectives of the project were met although key lessons were learnt: if a subject relies on text (hard copy) based information then the project is less useful; tutors prefer Google to the RDN and the system needs to include additional search targets (e.g. journal articles). Future developments include integration with Leeds' new OpenURL resolver. – [JW]

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Haank, Derk **Springer plans evolution not revolution.** *Information World Review*, Issue 208, December 2004. Page 18 Derk Haank, CEO of Springer Science and Business media has steered his company towards the accommodation of open access with its traditional publishing model. IN this article he explains why has done this. – [LR]

Rockliff, Sue **E-journals: the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Library experience** *Electronic Library* 22(5) 433-439
This article describes an Australian hospital library's experiences of moving to an e-only journal purchasing policy and of participating in an e-journal consortium purchasing scheme. They closely parallel those of NHS libraries in England who participated in local/regional schemes before the advent of the NeLH National Core Content. Challenges, lessons learned, technical problems, and costs and benefits of e-journals are clearly outlined. – [CME]

Sosteric, Michael. **The International Consortium for the Advancement of Academic Publication--An Idea Whose Time Has Come (Finally!)** *Learned Publishing* 17(4) (2004): 319-325. - In this article, Sosteric, founder of the International Consortium for the Advancement of Academic Publication (as well as of the *Electronic Journal of Sociology*), describes how this not-for-profit organization fosters the publication of scholarly e-journals with low production and operation costs. How low? How about as low as \$3,000 for a new quarterly journal that's up in less than a month? But even with this cost structure, the ICAAP faces challenges since it "targets low-circulation and niche journals that cannot survive in an environment where first-tier journals suck all the finances from general library subscriptions." Scholars who want to publish these journals may have difficulty paying the ICAAP's modest fees without external support. In Canada, social science and humanities journals can receive up to CAD\$90,000 over three years from a special funding program; however, the gotcha is that, to qualify, journals must have at least 200 paid subscribers, and, in the small Canadian market, publishers are afraid that switching from print to electronic might cause a subscription drop below this level. One can't help but wonder what could be accomplished with relatively modest subsidies from some other source, perhaps combined with the idea of open access. – [*CB]

GENERAL

2004 Information Format Trends: Content, Not Containers Dublin, OH: OCLC, October 2004. (<http://www.oclc.org/info/2004trends/>). - OCLC demonstrates once again that it is capable of spotting trends and discussing their implications for libraries. As OCLC did in the 2003 Environmental Scan: Pattern Recognition report, this longish paper pulls from sources as diverse as the Pew Internet Trust and Billboard in the quest to understand societal information trends. The top trends identified here are the: "legitimacy of open source publishing (e.g., blogs), rapidly expanding economics of microcontent, repurposing of "old" content for new media, and multimedia content as a service for an array of devices." You may not agree with everything you read, or even the issues that OCLC surfaces in this report, but if you're interested in the information environment of which libraries are a part, you should not miss this. – [*RT]

Cole, Timothy W., and Sarah L. Shreeves. **The IMLS NLG Program: Fostering Collaboration** *Library Hi Tech* 22(3) (2004): 246-248. (<http://lysander.emeraldinsight.com/vl=885645/cl=77/nw=1/rpsv/cgi-bin/linker?ini=emerald®idx=/cw/mcb/07378831/v22n3/s1/p246>). - If you are interested in the important work of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), check out a new special issue of *Library Hi Tech* that provides descriptions of seven projects funded by IMLS' National Leadership Grant program. Issue guest editors Timothy W. Cole and Sarah Shreeves overview the contents of the special issue in this article. They have selected articles that represent three categories of grant activity: (1) "state-wide and regional collaborations between multiple types of organizations" (3 articles), (2) "communities of interest that have coalesced to spawn successful and wide-ranging collaborations between information specialists (librarians, curators, and information technologists) and subject specialist end-users (students, teachers, and scholars)" (2 articles), and (3) "ongoing research into and demonstrations of key infrastructure components that take advantage of the opportunities afforded by new technologies to facilitate and enable collaboration in digital library building at a high level between experts with diverse skills and backgrounds and widely dispersed geographically" (2 articles). The issue also includes an article by Joyce Ray, the IMLS Associate Deputy Director for Library Services, that overviews IMLS activities. Access to this issue is currently free. – [*CB]

Dore, Debbie and Middleton, Ian **Agents of change**. *Information World Review*, Issue 208, December 2004. Pages 46-47 Interview with Debbie Dore, UK MD of Swets Information Services and Ian Middleton, General Manager at EBSCO. They exchange views about the current state of the market and what the future holds – [LR]

Dudman, Jane **Driving change** *Information World Review*, Issue 208, December 2004. Pages 20-23 Interview with Karen George, Head of the Home Office Library. – [LR]

Dudman, Jane **The winning combination** *Information World Review*, Issue 208, December 2004. Pages 25-27 Interview with Peter Rigby, CEO of T&F Informa and Tony Foye, Finance Director T&F Informa. Both comment about the biggest merger of the year between Taylor and Francis and Informa and how they will grow the business. – [LR]

Fister, Barbara, and Niko Pfund. **We're Not Dead Yet!** *Library Journal* (15 November 2004) (<http://libraryjournal.com/article/CA479162>). - This is actually two pieces -- one by a librarian and another by a university press publisher. The librarian's tongue-in-cheek piece highlights the fact that libraries have been raiding their book funds to pay for increasingly expensive journals, thereby potentially harming the viability of university presses. Library purchases can be a significant percentage of the potential sales of university press books, so the recent decline in monographic purchasing can have a devastating impact on their bottom line. The publisher's piece is less playful but no less thought-provoking. – [*RT]

Jones, Phil. **Acrobatics.** *Information Age* October 2004: 37-40. The author profiles the software manufacturer Adobe and describes their efforts to further develop their 'intelligent documents' division. In 1998 Adobe was, with its products Photoshop and Illustrator, a provider of software solutions to creative specialists. After some problems in the late 1990's the company restructured and started concentrating more on its intelligent documents division which now accounts for 33% of the company's revenue. The intelligent documents division was created as an attempt to marry the worlds of paper and electronic documents, in an environment where \$16 billion was spent last year on re-keying information from paper documents to electronic systems, this is seen as crucial. Diverse organisations such as Astrazeneca, Lloyds TSB, DEFRA and the IRS are all buying Adobe products to make the most of "intelligent documents". Two key developments include: the definition of an XML Data Package (XDP) which allows data to be rendered as PDF or XML, and a document management architecture which allows common services to be applied across documents from any enterprise application or web service, before delivery to the client. Adobe hopes that the integration of XML and document management into the intelligent documents will increase the use of PDF from straight document reproduction to more varied roles such as the IRS's scheme to use the format for self-validating forms. – [JW]

Myles, Sally. **Content management at Telecom New Zealand.** *Electronic Library* 22(6) 523-526 This is an engagingly-written, readable brief article that describes the process of migrating Telecom New Zealand's intranet to a new content management system during 2002. She outlines the problems with the old intranet and describes the requirements for the new system, the process of selecting it, the technical solution, the process of engaging users, and the outcome for the organisation. It is a worthwhile and refreshing read for anyone who has intranet responsibilities, though I would have liked more detail, both about the actual process and about the "political" aspects; how, for instance, did she make the case for the new intranet and get backing for a CMS implementation? How was the project group formed? How did she and her team "design an information architecture aligned to our corporate culture"? Also, some screen shots would have been useful. – [CE]

O'Brien, D. **How to mend a broken internet.** *New Scientist* 184, 273, 47-49 (13 November 2004) The internet is said to be on the brink of collapse. There is poor security and vulnerability to cybercrime. And there is a shortage of addresses for all potential devices. The IETF solution is IPv6 but this has not been universally adopted. A rival solution is Network Address Translation (NAT) but this is controversial. An approach called TRIAD that addresses the problems with NATS is proposed. - [DJH]

OCLC Top 1000 Dublin, OH: OCLC, November 2004. (<http://www.oclc.org/research/top1000/>). - This web site isn't the usual thing you see reviewed here in Current Cites, but neither is it hard to justify highlighting it. OCLC Research staff plumbed the depths of the largest bibliographic database in the world and discovered the 1,000 most widely held books among member libraries. Be careful, though, the site is interesting enough to keep you glued to your computer screen for more time than you likely have to spare. The U.S. focus is clear, with the 2000 U.S. Census topping the list by far -- beating out the Holy Bible by a substantial margin. But close on the heels of those come such works as Mother Goose (#3), The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (#7). and Garfield (yes, Garfield, at #18). But don't stop at surveying the list for your personal favorites, be sure to visit the About page that describes how they used the principles of FRBR to create the list, the Factoids page with a bunch of interesting facts about the list, and the Lagniappes page for a couple unexpected gifts. Rock on, OCLC! – [*RT]

Pickering, Bobby **Money moves in line with growing professional status.** *Information World Review*, Issue 208, December 2004. Page 10 IWR readers filled out a survey in September and October 2004 about industry issues and their jobs. The survey shows that salaries for information professionals are increasing as their

professional status increases. Changing your job spec and title, add strategic responsibility and things look considerably better in the salary stakes. – [LR]

Schneider, Jesper W., Borlund, Pia. **Introduction to bibliometrics for construction and maintenance of thesauri** *Journal of Documentation* 60 (5) (2004): 524-529. Discusses how it might be possible to use bibliometric approaches to help in the construction or extension of thesauri. There are various methods that could be used to identify terms, relationships between concepts and map the organisation of knowledge. Automated thesauri construction has largely been achieved from statistical co-occurrence analysis and linguistic context analysis, citation analysis has largely looked at relationships between documents. Various methods of visualisation help to identify research fronts (and possibly new terms). Explains the reasons for adopting Pathfinder Network Scaling and network scaling in trying to adapt bibliometric approaches to thesauri construction. - [CJU]

Thomas, Charles F. **Memory institutions as digital publishers: a case study on standards and interoperability** *OCLC Systems & Services* 20(3) (2004): 134-139. - Everyone loves standards. Who doesn't? Oftentimes however, they're presented as a sort of one-dimensional cure-all for all that ails us. The author of this article suggests a far more complicated picture. First there isn't only one set of standards but a proliferation, and the individual standards themselves aren't necessarily set in stone but are continually evolving. That's the reality. The author proposes a number of considerations, given this, so that we can make the "right standards choices". He even sees room, once core standards have been identified, for local innovations. – [*LRK]

INFORMATION ACCESS

David, Shay. **Opening the Sources of Accountability** *First Monday* 9(11) (1 November 2004) (http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_11/david/). - David takes a hard look at "FLOSS" (Free/Libre Open Source Systems) from the perspective of accountability. He argues that increasing accountability improves the value of FLOSS to society -- in essence, by their works ye shall know them. He goes on to say that open source computing has already fostered a collaborative culture that has brought some results, but the journey has just begun. Accountability in a digital society has taken on a life of its own, he argues, and he analyzes the open environment of FLOSS to find hidden meanings. Electronic voting and digital medical records are two excellent tests of his thesis, as correct and reliable information is critical for success in each case, yet trust is in short supply if recent history is any guide. He argues that code "visibility" -- a self-imposed standard of care and sensible licensing arrangements -- is a potential alternative to the liability remedies that some scholars offer as the safest bet. If developers can craft "sensible licensing agreements" and accommodate collaborative activity through social versus legal mechanisms, there is a reasonable hope that the barriers to accountability will diminish. He adds that developers should begin to think of ways to build a framework for moral and ethical deliberations to guide open source design, too. – [*TH]

Poynder, Richard. **Ten Years After** *Information Today* 21(9) (2004) (<http://www.infoday.com/it/oct04/poynder.shtml>). - No, this article is not about the famous rock band that shook Woodstock with "I'm Going Home." Rather, it's about how Stevan Harnad shook-up the scholarly publishing world in the ten years after his famous "subversive proposal." Poynder says that ". . . while Harnad cannot claim to have invented the OA movement, his phenomenal energy and determination, coupled with a highly focused view of what is needed, undoubtedly earns him the title of chief architect of open access." But this article is a not just a paean to Harnad's many notable accomplishments, it is also an interesting, very concise history of the open access movement that touches on its struggles as well as its triumphs. – [*CB]

Trushina, Irina **Freedom of access: ethical dilemmas for Internet librarians.** *Electronic Library* 22(5) 416-421 This is an interesting but somewhat inconclusive article. The author begins by discussing the results of several surveys of national library association codes of ethics and their significance. According to the author, such codes provide a framework for professional values, a paradigm of library development within a country. Most proclaim the right of free access to information and confidentiality of private information as fundamental. However, this runs in parallel with improved blocking and filtering capabilities on the Internet, some of which actually permit breaches of privacy, since they allow the progress of web searches to be traced. According to the author, libraries must respect both the principles of freedom of information and of moral responsibility to their users, which can give rise to difficult ethical dilemmas. These have become more acute since September 11th 2001, particularly in the U.S. with the passage of anti-terrorist legislation such as the Patriot Act, which gives the FBI legal right of access to library records. She goes on to discuss possible justifications for Internet filtering. – [CME]

Wiki Wars Red Herring (14 October 2004) (<http://www.redherring.com/Article.aspx?a=10909>). - The Wikipedia is one of those venerable Internet resources that's always just sort of been there. A noble undertaking to create a free online encyclopedia, it is somewhat of a mixed bag, as any information professional will tell you. Some of the entries are eloquently written and contain high quality information. Other stuff...well...as this article points out, the Wikipedia has become "the latest battleground in the presidential election as users...squabble over entries related to President George W. Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry, the junior senator from Massachusetts." Since anyone is free to edit a Wiki article, you can see the potential for problems galore. And it's not just election-related material that is under a cloud. "Some users have even deliberately inserted errors into Wikipedia entries to test how quickly users can detect and remove them." Ugh! The article points out that "Wikipedia has become a popular online reference for students, academics, and even journalists." A friend passed along a legal document just this past week in which a real live sitting judge actually cited the Wikipedia. (See page 16.) Long story short, editors may be coming to the Wikipedia. Jimmy Wales, president of the Wikimedia Foundation, "said that next year he will begin using editors to review the web site's content for accuracy and allow users to rate contributions to the encyclopedia for their quality." - [*SK]

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Biever, C. **Rival engines finally catch up with Google.** *New Scientist* 184, 2474, 23 (20 Nov 2004) Whereas Google is still perceived to be the best Internet search engine, rivals such as MSN and Yahoo are said to have caught up and overtaken (respectively). Other engines are using link analysis to emulate Google's PageRank algorithm. Natural language queries are also supported. - [DJH]

Hernandez, Javier C.. **Google Offers Journal Searches** *The Harvard Crimson* (23 November 2004) (<http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=504709>). - Big, big news in both the search engine and academic library worlds this month. Google launched a new beta called Google Scholar, which "enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research." The buzz among information professionals, as well as the media, has been loud and raucous. One main issue -- If the average user thinks he or she is going to get free access to a wealth of full-text articles from academic journals, he or she is in for a rude awakening. Many of the results are citations, or citations and abstracts only. The searcher will have to pay to obtain the full article. Alternately, he or she could inquire at a public, special or academic library where affiliation permits full access to a set of proprietary online databases, and obtain the information being sought for free. Cheryl M. LaGuardia, head of instructional services for Harvard College libraries, notes in this article that Google Scholar seems to do a better job with science searches than humanities-related queries. She said she is looking forward to engaging CrossRef's technology "to blend the ease of Google with existing library systems." - [*SK]

Koshman, Sherry. **Comparing usability between a visualization and text-based system for information retrieval** *Journal of Documentation* 60 (5) (2004): 565-580. Assessed how expertise affected performance and perceived usability when using a text-based system (askSam) and a prototype visualization-based system for information retrieval (VIBE). There were 31 participants in total (15 novices, 12 online searching experts and 4 VIBE experts), and performance was rated on several searching tasks. Findings indicated little difference between novices and experts, and usability ratings were similar. There was a task effect, with one task apparently much easier with the VIBE than with the text-based system. Concludes that a VIBE system is not necessarily more intuitive, but some familiarisation will be necessary for any user. - [CJU]

Loban, Bryn. **Between Rhizomes and Trees: P2P Information Systems** *First Monday* 9(10) (4 October 2004) (http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_10/loban/). - Loban offers a comprehensive overview of information retrieval that relies on "Peer-to-Peer"(P2P)information systems -- more famously known for music file sharing. He evaluates five desktop P2P information systems: Napster with its clones (OpenNap and eDonkey), and Gnutella and FastTrack (more famously known as Kazaa). What's good about this article is that it gives the reader a very detailed explanation of what P2P is all about: its "self-organizing" characteristics, the emergence of hierarchies of users, etc. We cite it here because recent regulatory events in California draw new attention to P2P file sharing, which also forms the basis for many digital preservation strategies (such as LOCKSS, or Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe). While the author's goal is to compare these various systems and offer suggestions for further study, he simultaneously maps online life in the P2P environment, which comes at a good moment in time for digital librarians who are concerned with "persistent" resource building. He concludes with an evaluation of "ethics" in the P2P community, which, of course, draws upon the very public battles of music file sharing. This article is a good overview piece for anyone who wants to check in on - [*TH]

Novotny, Eric. **I Don't Think I Click: A Protocol Analysis Study of Use of a Library Online Catalog in the Internet Age.** *College and Research Libraries* 65(6) (November 2004): 525-563. - There's something magical about interface design. The research done to determine user behavior that leads to design decisions is positively fascinating. This time round we have a group at Penn State testing the proficiency of users on their brand new OPAC. The users were divided into two groups, "experienced" and "first-time". Results confirm other studies in this area, namely, that when confronting an OPAC, users both experienced and not, assume they're in front of something similar to Google. They go for keywords by default, expect results ranked by relevancy (as opposed to chronology), make no use of Boolean Operators, have no idea of what information is actually indexed, and lack the curiosity or time to "learn the system". "We can either abandon this population," the author stresses, "or design systems that do not require expert knowledge to be used effectively." – [*LRK]

Pressman-Levy, Nancy. **Searching RedLightGreen at Princeton University Library** *RLG Focus* (69) (August 2004) (http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=17921#article4). - If you haven't yet used the RedLightGreen system from the Research Libraries Group, then stop reading this screed and go try it out. RLG took their Eureka system, a rather huge library catalog, and actually made it usable by normal human beings. There is, in other words, hope for the rest of us that our library catalogs do not need to be as obtuse and painful to use as they are now. This piece by the coordinator of RedLightGreen testing at Princeton discusses how the system has been used by Princeton students to great success, and in so doing she covers all the innovations that RedLightGreen has introduced. As Pressman-Levy puts it, "The staff and the students exploring RedLightGreen at Princeton gave high marks to all of these special features." Whether or not we point our users to this system, there is much to learn here that we can nonetheless apply to our own (sadly inadequate) systems. – [*RT]

Robertson, Stephen. **Understanding inverse document frequency: on theoretical arguments for IDF** *Journal of Documentation* 60 (5) (2004): 503-520. Discusses various attempts to improve on the term weighting function introduced by Karen Sparck Jones in 1972. Considers the heuristic and theoretical attempts to justify the approach, and describes the Okapi BM25 weighting function, explaining the meaning of 'eliteness'. Shannon's information theory is problematic in explaining the success of term weighting functions, but a relevance weighting theory is more successful. In this anniversary issue of the *Journal of Documentation*, the article is preceded by a reprint of the original 1972 article, and followed by a reply by Karen Sparck Jones to Stephen Robertson's paper. - [CJU]

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Mphidi, Hamilton and Snyman, Retha . **The utilisation of an intranet as a knowledge management tool in academic libraries.** *Electronic Library* 22(5) 393-400 The article focuses on three academic libraries in South Africa using intranets, with a view to determining the extent to which they use them as a knowledge management tool. They compared definitions of KM in the literature with those given by staff in the respective libraries, and evaluated the content of the library intranets against a checklist of content types derived from an extensive literature survey. They found that the definitions of KM given by library staff corresponded closely with those in the literature, indicating a generally high level of awareness of KM and its organisational value. However, the content of two of the intranets did not include the core information as defined in the literature, although they did include additional information unique to the activities of libraries. Staff in the three libraries used their intranets for different purposes. The levels of use of the intranets related directly to the usefulness and currency of their contents. – [CE]

Tebbutt, David **Creating the right culture.** *Information World Review*, Issue 208, December 2004. Pages 43-44 Article about how the success of knowledge management is about creating an enlightened culture in which knowledge workers interact with information and communities, building on an IT infrastructure to create value for the organisation. – [LR]

PRESERVATION

Flood, Gary **Don't let the fear factor blind you.** *Information World Review*, Issue 208, December 2004. Pages 39-41 Article focusing on the importance of records management, especially as more information becomes electronic. – [LR]

OCLC/RLG PREMIS Working Group, . **Implementing Preservation Repositories for Digital Materials: Current Practice and Emerging Trends in the Cultural Heritage Community** Dublin, OH: OCLC, 2004. (<http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/pmwg/surveyreport.pdf>). - This report by the joint OCLC/RLG Working

Group Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies (PREMIS) is based on a survey about existing practices in digital preservation of forty-eight organizations conducted in late 2003 and early 2004. There were a number of specific survey findings that informed the following trends and conclusions: "store metadata redundantly in an XML or relational database and with the content data objects. Use the METS format for structural metadata and as a container for descriptive and administrative metadata; use Z39.87/MIX for technical metadata for still images. Use the OAIS model as a framework and starting point for designing the preservation repository, but retain the flexibility to add functions and services that go beyond the model. Maintain multiple versions (originals and at least some normalized or migrated versions) in the repository, and store complete metadata for all versions. Choose multiple strategies for digital preservation." Highly recommended for anyone interested in digital preservation. – [*RT]

SECURITY

Carnevale, Dan. **Don't Judge a College by Its Internet Address** *Chronicle of Higher Education* 51(14) (26 November 2004): A29. (<http://chronicle.com/free/v51/i14/14a02901.htm>). - True or false: If a college or university has an Internet address that ends in .edu, it must be a bona fide, accredited institution of higher learning. Uh, not actually...and potential students could well be suckered into signing on with a diploma mill, since a startling number of unaccredited institutions have found virtual homes in the .edu domain. Educause, overseen by the U.S. Department of Education, is the administrator for the .edu domain. But at the top of the food chain is the U.S. Department of Commerce, which makes the rules as to who can get a .edu address. Part of the problem is that many of these unaccredited entities were given .edu addresses by Network Solutions, the domain registration company that assigned the addresses before Educause took over. Educause maintains it "would be too costly and difficult" to track down and revoke the .edu registrations of these unaccredited institutions. Also, accreditation itself is fluid -- an institution could easily lose its accreditation...or vice versa. At any rate, the director of policy and networking programs says Educause "does not have the authority to take away .edu addresses from institutions that were granted them before Educause took over, even if the institutions lose their accreditation or change their names." Many college officials say that since so many unaccredited institutions have .edu addresses, more effort should be made to educate the public about how to determine the accreditation status of a particular institution. The State of Oregon Office of Degree Authorization keeps a comprehensive list of unaccredited institutions, as does the State of Michigan (pdf). – [*SK]

Knight, W. **Zombie networks fuel cybercrime.** *New Scientist* 184, 272, 28 (6 November 2004) The distributed denial of service attack on Google, Yahoo and Microsoft in June used dormant "bots" planted in tens of thousands of PCs around the World. Networks of bots (netbots) are offered for hire by hacking groups. - [DJH]

Kohno, Tadayoshi, et. al. **Analysis of an Electronic Voting System** *IEEE Computer Society: Proceedings of the 2004 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy* (May 2004) - Not one of our usual topics, but this critique of an information technology is of obvious importance. If you're the type of person who gets asked the tech questions, "Why don't people trust e-voting?" has a more than adequate response in this paper. The authors thoroughly pick apart the Diebold AccuVote-TS DRE (direct recording electronic) system, which has a substantial share of the e-voting market. From the hackability of the voter card which the voter inserts into the reader, to the ease of access to administrator functions, to tampering with system configuration, to the ability to tell the machine to stop accepting votes, it's clear that current security in this and other e-voting systems is probably more wide open than your library's circulation files. Most of the analysis centers on elements of the source code, but each cause and effect is described in plain English which non-coders find accessible. This is a stellar example of the public service performed by exposing security flaws and the subject is treated with the serious tone which it deserves, without a trace of the mayhem glee common to the work of the 2600 crowd. The scariest thing about this long list of attacks, whether you find them likely or unlikely to ever be used, is that it only takes one to call into question the reliability of a machine or even of an entire polling place. And after the breach is discovered, the chance of getting back to an accurate count of one person - one vote is slim to none. – [*JR]

WEB DESIGN

Kennedy, Peter. **Dynamic web pages and the library catalogue.** *Electronic Library* 22(6) 480-486 This is an interesting account of the development of a home-grown dynamic web publishing application which uses the database (Sybase RDBMS) of the University of Canterbury (New Zealand) library's integrated library system (Horizon) as a means of maintaining dynamic pages on the library's web site, particularly subject portals. The

approach taken meant three things: 1) all electronic resources needed to be catalogued (they were anyway); 2) the catalogue records needed to have local tags added to cover detail not included in the MARC record; 3) additional database tables would be needed to control the manipulation and display of data by PHP. The author describes in considerable detail the MARC cataloguing issues involved. Presumably this project was initiated before library system vendors made available commercially products that would fulfil such a function. One wonders whether the system described could be developed as a library portal product. – [CE]

van der Kuil, Annemiek, and Martin Feijen. **The Dawning of the Dutch Network of Digital Academic REpositories (DARE): A Shared Experience** *Ariadne* (41) (2004) (<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue41/vanderkuil/>). - Funded by a government grant, the SURF Programme Digital Academic Repositories (DARE) is establishing institutional repositories at Dutch universities and harvesting metadata from them using the OAI-PMH protocol to create a demonstrator portal called DAREnet. Participating universities are utilizing diverse software, including ARNO, DSpace, i-Tor, and proprietary software. The project uses Dublin Core metadata (version 1.0). The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Royal Library) will preserve data from the participating institutional repositories. The project has dealt with a variety of issues, such as how can digital objects (vs. metadata) be harvested, what should the dc:identifier link to (e.g., the digital object or the repository record for the object), how should objects be identified (OpenURL, the CNRI handle, or DOI), and other issues. – [*CB]

WEBLOGS

Caldwell, Tracey **Hear the call of the blogosphere** *Information World Review*, Issue 208, December 2004. Pages 28-30 Article about the growth of web-logs (blogs) and how some information specialists are using the technology to pull the growing amounts information together. – [LR]

Clyde, Laurel A **Weblogs – are you serious?** *Electronic Library* 22(5) 2004 390-392 The author conducted an informal survey of librarians' opinions about blogs and blogging, and also undertook a search for library weblogs. She encountered little interest in weblogs as a potential source of information or means of communication for libraries. Her view is that "while weblogs may be a natural for some librarians...they are not yet a natural for libraries, though weblogs have found niches in the library and information science environment. Her search (conducted in late 2003) found only 54 library weblogs, created by just 50 libraries. She suggests that libraries are putting themselves at a disadvantage through not taking advantage of the medium. – [CME]

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