

He is positive, as the potential for greater access to information has been created by the very technologies which have made it possible and perhaps even necessary to restrict that same access.

The most interesting section for me was that on data protection and personal privacy, reflecting on the use and holding of personal data by the public and private sector. He does not mention the amount of information held on 'loyalty' cards, perhaps of concern when £1 in every £8 spent on shopping is spent at Tesco supermarkets. He is correct in stating that intellectual property, data protection and freedom of information all exemplify different aspects of the three-way relationship between information itself, that state and the individual citizen. The state's role here has been to intervene in the chain of communication between the source and the user of information.

The final section on the information professional notes that the disaggregation and recombination of skills...is typical of the changes brought by computers in the information world; traditional boundaries are being eroded and there is convergence between traditionally separate activities.

I hope this book will have further editions. There are so many developments of relevance. Perhaps the next edition will find newspapers declining even further; in this edition Feather talks about media finding ways to survive as newspapers in a society in which they are not the preferred news medium. Personally I hope ID cards do not get adopted here, but if they do get through, Feather will no doubt have a useful perspective on them. There will also be in place by then the electronic patient record for the health service (assuming this will be one of the public sector IT projects that succeeds). This includes the concept of an electronic "sealed envelope" into which will be placed any information that patients want to be kept confidential.

Feather sees the critical test of freedom of information in the UK as "whether the ingrained culture of secrecy in British government will change; early indications are not uniformly encouraging. He mentions that a new argument is that the control of flows of information is an essential weapon in the 'war' [sic] against international terrorism and criminality. In the scholarly publishing world there is the development of open access journals.

Rather than a bibliography of endless sources, there is a useful note on further reading. This guides the novice to the best books on the various topics discussed as well as what to read regularly.

As with all Facet books, the production is of a very high standard; well typeset with elegant fonts, and sturdy binding even in paperback. The index is decent, although it misses knowledge management, which is discussed briefly and some readers may wonder about

- are we in a knowledge economy or an information society?

Facet Publishing's website includes a sample chapter at time of writing: Chapter 5: information rich and information poor

[<http://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/286.pdf>]

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**The Academic Library 2nd ed.**  
**Peter Brophy. London: Facet Publishing, 2005**  
**ISBN 1-85604-527-7 248pp**

This introductory textbook is described as providing "a comprehensive overview of the changing functions of higher education libraries and the organisational cultures in which they operate". Topics include the historical context, the library within the institution; the increasingly heterogeneous user population; the impact of ICT, library systems and networks; resource and access management issues; performance indicators and the measurement of impact; the academic library building; human resources and professional matters; and future trends.

The approach taken for much of the book is primarily historical and focused on the UK. For example chapter 5 "The impact and opportunities of ICT" is devoted to a summary of the many government funded e-lib projects of the nineties, many of which are listed by name. However I looked in vain in the index for a reference to open url, SFX, deep linking or link resolver or indeed metasearch, cross searching or single search. However these techniques are widely used in academic libraries today to provide direct access to content in multiple sources. This functionality is also a key selling point for major library management systems yet no reference to it is made in chapter 8 "Library systems".

Also not to be found in the index was any mention of Google or indeed search engines as a concept. However any discussion of undergraduates or information skills must be incomplete without recognition of the impact widespread access to the internet and to search tools must have.

After so much history I turned with particular interest to the last chapter "The academic library of the future". Brophy identifies headline trends in the context of the opportunities and threats they offer. The section on information resources discusses the future of electronic v. print, the development of eprint repositories and their impact on the publishing industry, the role of electronic books for textbooks and scholarly monographs and the concept of learning object repositories. Then he touches on the future impact of household gadgetry, televisions and games monitors

(with a passing mention of the electronic fridge) and mobile communication devices as delivery mechanisms. In terms of the users of the academic library Brophy points to the increase in higher education with the prospect of a fifty percent graduate population.

The concept of lifelong learning and the continual need to update knowledge and skills must bring with it a requirement for information services. Virtual learning environments are meeting some of these needs. However the expensive failure of the e-university project and the recognition that most learners do not like entirely online learning indicate that the model for providing mass support for learning in the future has not been as yet developed and certainly the role of the academic library as we know it in this is not yet known. However in case the reader is disheartened by this uncertainty, Brophy concludes by reminding us that libraries are services with the aim of enhancing learning. He states that it seems "inconceivable that centres of information handling expertise and guides to ever-burgeoning information resources of the world will not be needed". Let us hope this is so.

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## **Books waiting for review**

**The following books from Facet Publishing are waiting for reviewers - please contact [Peter Chapman](#) if you would like to do any of them.**

Pedley (ed) **Managing digital rights a practitioner's guide**

Melling (ed) **Supporting e-learning a guide for library and information managers**

## **Press Releases**

### **Emerald 2004 Statistics Show Usage Continues to Climb**

Emerald Group Publishing, Ltd. has released its 2004 usage statistics, showing a seventeen percent increase in usage by customers worldwide. On average over 600,000 articles were downloaded each month, affirming market demand for Emerald content in all areas of management information.

Not surprisingly, the most popular spot on the Emerald Website is a weekly sample of two free journals. Widely known as Journals of the Week, this feature offers existing and potential customers full access to a rotating range of titles from the Emerald portfolio. The journal that experienced the highest number of article downloads in 2004 was the European Journal of Marketing.

For fourth consecutive year, the top-ranking article in the Emerald database was "From Marketing Mix to Relationship Marketing: Towards a Paradigm Shift in Marketing" by Christian Grönroos. It was published in Management Decision, which ranked number one among all journals in 2003.\*

"Usage statistics have emerged as an industry standard for companies who wish to understand their customers," said Gill Crawford, Head of Corporate Communications for Emerald. "Additionally, librarians and information professionals will find these statistics a critical tool for evaluating and planning their service subject coverage."

Usage statistics are also valuable indicators for journal editors and members of the research community. Authors wishing to write articles for 2005 publication will benefit from focusing their efforts on management, marketing, and motivation, as well as knowledge management and business intelligence topics. Researchers looking for areas to investigate will be well served to consider these hot topic areas to ensure their findings yield useful results with immediate insights.

Reflecting Emerald's international customer base, top usage came in from Europe, Malaysia, and Australia, lending a global perspective to the statistics and subject interest areas.

\*The top download Grönroos article can be viewed at <http://images.emeraldinsight.com/emerald/pdfs/gronroos.pdf> until 22 April 2005.