

Thomson Gale <<http://www.gale.com/>>

Thomson Gale has announced a groundbreaking library advocacy initiative that will enable libraries to capitalize on Internet search engines as a means of connecting library users with authoritative content. This unique initiative will increase peoples' awareness and usage of the library resources that users are entitled to, and at the same time provide them with direct access to more high-value information than ever before through Internet search.

With AccessMyLibrary.com, when searchers select a Thomson Gale article from a search engine's result list, they will be given the option to connect to their local library and freely access the selected article. Users will need to have their library card number or other identification to connect to the library. The library's address and phone number will also be provided so that users can contact their library to obtain a card or to learn more about the library's resources.

E-Resources – experiences and developments

**Informal UKeig London Evening Meeting
Wednesday 21 September 2005 at 6.30pm**

**Venue: To be confirmed, Central London
Charge: Free**

E-resources are becoming ever more widely used, but are still very much a developing area in many aspects of their procurement and delivery. This informal meeting will be an opportunity to discuss developments in the area, as well as the issues it raises for the LIS professional with colleagues.

If you would like to attend or wish to know more please contact:
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Internet News

Column Editor: Susan Miles

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The 6th June saw a gathering of over 550 industry leaders from the Internet and Web worlds in New York for the 9th Annual Webby Awards. In addition to the 60+ Webby Awards themselves, there were Special Achievement awards for a number of individuals.

The Webby Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to former Vice President Al Gore, for the pivotal role he has played in the development of the internet over the past three decades; the Webby Person of the Year was Craig Newmark of craigslist – <http://www.craigslist.org>. Founded ten years ago by Craig Newmark as a way to keep friends up to date with events in the Bay Area, craigslist today helps more than 8 million people in nearly 120 cities and 21 countries find jobs, apartments, and lovers. The Webby Artist of the Year award went to The Kleptones – <http://www.kleptones.com>, a British band who are using the web to pioneer not only a new musical genre, but also to create innovative new ways to promote and distribute music online. The Webby Breakout of the Year Award went to Flickr – <http://www.flickr.com>, not just

an online photo hosting website, but also a site using the latest web developments, from "tagging" and moblogging to grassroots copyright reform and social networking (folksonomies).

The Webby Awards have been called the "Oscars of the Internet" by the *New York Times*, and are seen as the leading international award for excellence in Web design, creativity, usability and functionality. They are organised by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences which is dedicated to the creative, technical, and professional progress of the internet and interactive media. Membership of the Academy is by invitation only, and there are over 500 members consisting of leading experts in a diverse range of fields, such as musician David Bowie, Virgin Group founder Richard Branson, business guru and author Tom Peters, The Body Shop president Anita Roddick, fashion designer Max Azria, "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening and Scott Adams, the Dilbert cartoonist.

This year over 4,000 entries from the US and over 40 countries worldwide were received by the Academy. There are over 60 categories organised into eight broad groupings: Connections, Entertainment, Features, Living, Marketplace, Media, Services, Society. There is a shortlist of 5 nominee sites for each category; each of these could receive either or both of two awards: the Academy vote will choose a single Winner that will receive a Webby Award. A public, online vote will select a winner to receive Webby People's Voice Award; over 200,000 ballots were cast during this vote. The complete list of nominees and winners can be found at, <http://www.webbyawards.com/webbys/current.php>.

An innovation for this year's Webby Awards is the creation of the designation 'Webby Worthy'. A Webby Worthy site is one which did make it onto the nominee list and is notable in some way. Less than 20% of the 4,000+ nominations received were deemed to be 'Webby Worthy'. A complete list of these can be found at, http://www.webbyawards.com/webbys/current_worthy.php.

The British were well represented with wins for several BBC sites; Jamie Oliver and Eddie Izzard fan web sites, Alexander McQueen and UK Vogue, Guardian Unlimited, and Virgin Radio. A purely personal selection from the list of winners: <http://www.bookcrossing.com>; <http://www.headlinehistory.co.uk> (which had my 6 year old son riveted), and <http://www.merckhomeedition.com> which is a really easy to navigate electronic version of the book

There are six criteria for judging each nominated web site, content; structure and navigation; visual design; functionality; interactivity and overall experience. The criteria are explained in some detail at <http://www.webbyawards.com/webbys/criteria.php>, but their key points may be useful for your own website evaluations.

Content – should be engaging, relevant, and appropriate for the audience. If it's clear and concise and it works in the medium; it always leaves you wanting more.

Structure and Navigation – sites with good structure and navigation are consistent, intuitive and transparent. They allow you to form a mental model of the information provided, where to find things, and what to expect when you click.

Visual design – good visual design is high quality, appropriate, and relevant for the audience and the message it is supporting.

Functionality – this is the use of technology on the site. Good functionality means the site works well. It loads quickly, has live links, and any new technology used is functional and relevant for the intended audience. The site should work cross-platform and be browser independent. Highly functional sites anticipate the diversity of user requirements from file size, to file format and

download speed. The most functional sites also take into consideration those with special access needs. Good functionality makes the experience centre stage and the technology invisible.

Interactivity – interactive elements are what separate the Web from other media. It is input/output, as in searches, chat rooms, e-commerce and gaming or notification agents, peer-to-peer applications and real-time feedback. It is make your own, distribute your own, or speak your mind so others can see, hear or respond.

Overall experience – all those intangibles which entice the user to revisit, sign-up for e-mail newsletters, bookmark the site and tell others about it.

If you would like to be involved with nominations for the 2006 Awards, the call for entries will start in September. One way to be alerted to the start of this is to sign-up for the 011 newsletter, via the Webby website at <http://www.webbyawards.com/>.

Finally, a little future gazing, make of it what you will! Tiffany Shlain, founder and creative director of The Webby Awards, has written a piece previewing some of 2005's technology trends, which can be read at http://www.webbyawards.com/Webby_Trends_2005.pdf. She says to watch for software that can transform your digital video camera into a barcode scanner and enable you to create a digital library of all of your books, CDs and movies, including cover images and liner notes. You have been warned!

Intranets

Martin White, Intranet Focus Ltd.

Over the last few months a number of web sites have disappeared and new ones have been launched or revised. I thought readers might find it useful to have this lightly annotated list of what I feel are the best of the intranet, search and content management web sites. In fact most of the intranet-specific web sites have vanished.

Boxes and Arrows

<http://www.boxesandarrows.com>

This unusual web site is not strictly about content management systems but about information architecture and the design of effective web and intranet sites. It is more like an electronic journal as the site is a collection of peer-reviewed papers but the result is that the quality of the content is very high.

CMPros

<http://www.cmprofessionals.org/>

CMPros was set up in October 2004 with membership open to anyone with an interest in content management. The driving force behind the organisation has been Bob Doyle, who also runs the CMS Review site. There is an excellent Resources section on the site, and access does not require membership of CM Pros.

CMS Review

<http://www.cmsreview.com>

The mission of the site is to give the resources needed to choose a content management system. Over the last year this site has grown into probably the most comprehensive resource there is on content management systems, including news aggregation software, and software