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/>

The Current Cites database of citations now numbers over 1,000 and is searchable at <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/bibondemand.cgi>. This service is called "Bibliography on Demand" because it can be easily used to create printable or linkable bibliographies on information technology topics. Another service offered is full-text searching of all cited articles that are freely available in full-text. You can try it out at <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/articlesearch.html>.

CATALOGUING / METADATA

Davis, Marc, et. al. **MMM2: Mobile Media Metadata for Media Sharing.** Author's website (April 2005). (http://fusion.sims.berkeley.edu/GarageCinema/pubs/pdf/pdf_49DE284E-CF77-4385-934F1AC56079D0AD.pdf).
Information management for information that won't stay put – that's often the point at which many librarians say "that's not me." How people create and share their own information is certainly something that we need to be aware of, though, and the popularity of digital imaging can't be denied. With mobile phones becoming a global platform for sharing images, this work by Marc Davis and his colleagues deserves your attention. The brief paper, presented at ACM's CHI 2005 conference, describes a mobile metadata scheme for cameraphone pictures in which metadata information can be initiated at the point of capture, and then augmented through the process of sharing. That process is facilitated with a prototype mobile browser interface which can integrate preset lists of recipients with a "co-presence" list of Bluetooth-sensed mobile users. Thus, as the authors wrote, "sharing and metadata could be used in a mutually reinforcing way," which addresses a fundamental aspect of personal information usage that goes beyond cameraphones. It's not yet at the point where public adoption of the system has been assessed; readers should keep in mind that the stats showing field test success result from use by his own grad students. At Davis' website ("Garage Cinema Research: To Enable the Billions of Daily Media Consumers To Become Daily Media Producers") you'll find related work on personal media production, collaboration and management. – [*JR]

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Appleton, Leo. **Using electronic textbooks: promoting, placing and embedding**.
The Electronic Library 23 (1) (2005): 54-63.
The report of an initial project to integrate e-books within the health studies and sports sciences curricula at Edge Hill College, Liverpool, and further case studies. Edge Hill College received HEFCE funding for a number of projects, one of which was to establish and promote an initial collection of e-textbooks for use by students. NetLibrary was selected as the vendor. Academic staff were closely involved. Extensive training was provided and support offered in the form of user guides, an FAQ, a workbook etc. The project was evaluated at each stage, with the e-book collection being well received by students. The students' comments were combined with management information from the NetLibrary collection, which showed accessions per title and

which users were accessing what. The author believes that e-books need to be "embedded" in VLEs, i.e. that students should be required to consult particular e-resources and use them as learning tools for input into online activities. – [CME]

Barker, Philip. **Using e-books for knowledge management**. *The Electronic Library* 23 (1) (2005): 5-8.
An editorial introducing the articles (q.v.) in the special issue on e-books. The author opines that the ease with which electronic books can be designed, created and published means that they can play an important role in knowledge management and knowledge sharing, both on a personal and on an organisational basis. Present-day information technology allows the preservation for posterity and subsequent sharing of significant amounts of data and information relating to human experiences. The use of a GPS for planning and recording walks is offered as an example. – [CME]

Falk, Howard. **Open access gains momentum**. *The Electronic Library* 22 (6) (2004): 527-530.
A succinct and clear account of key recent developments in open access publishing in the USA and UK, up until the publication of the report, "Scientific publications: free for all?" of the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons. The author does not comment on the rights and wrongs of open access, merely records developments. A useful brief introduction to the subject. – [CME]

Herther, Nancy. **The e-book industry today: a bumpy road becomes an evolutionary path to market maturity**. *The Electronic Library* 23 (1) (2005): 45-53.
Based on an extensive literature review and twenty interviews with key figures, the author presents a brief but succinct survey of the current state of the e-book industry. She provides a brief history of the e-book and gives an account of the problematic issues such as standards (the current lack of a clear open standard for operating systems), digital rights, content, pricing, the 'device dilemma' (a device in need of content, and content in need of a protected method of distribution) which hinder the process of technological and market integration. While she does not offer any definition of the term "e-book", it is apparent that her focus is primarily on the e-book as an individual consumer product associated with dedicated e-book reading devices. Unfortunately she pays scant attention to the issues relating e-books and libraries (content, search features, usability and user acceptance, licensing models etc.), which limits the article's interest from a library perspective. The interviewers' responses are not directly cited or attributed. Missable unless you are interested in e-books as recreational products for the individual consumer market. – [CME]

McFall, Ryan. **Electronic textbooks that transform how textbooks are used**.
The Electronic Library 23 (1) (2005): 72-81.
The author describes a project in which he developed and tested an experimental interactive electronic textbook, called the eText Reader, running on a Tablet PC, for an introductory computer science course. In his view conventional course texts, whether printed or electronic, have inherent limitations: there is a trade-off between size and depth of coverage, "local" activities such as discussion, laboratory work, writing essays, and solving set problems cannot be integrated into the content. The eText Reader not only provides for this, but also facilitates "active reading" techniques such as highlighting of text and note taking. The eText Reader also offers the facility to share annotations of the text among a group of students, thereby facilitating collaborative learning activities. The instructor can insert questions into the text, to which the students can respond directly. This work is at an early stage; one can anticipate that enhanced versions of the eText Reader will be developed and evaluated more comprehensively than was possible within this single study, and used to examine students' reading habits more generally. One to watch. – [CME]

McLuckie, Ann. **E-books in an academic library: implementation at the ETH Library, Zurich**. *The Electronic Library* 23 (1) (2005): 92-102.
The author describes how web-based e-books from a variety of publishers were implemented at the ETH Library and integrated into the collections. Other issues are discussed, such as usage statistics, discovery of new titles, and the future of e-books in academic libraries. She also provides a general discussion of usability issues and pricing models. A useful introductory article. – [CME].

Ramaiah, Chennupati K. **An overview of electronic books: a bibliography.** *The Electronic* Library 23 (1) (2005): 17-44.
A comprehensive bibliography of the published literature on e-books up until the end of 2004, including articles, books, conference proceedings and papers, specialist journals, and PhD theses. It covers e-books, e-books publishing, the impact of e-books on different types of user, e-book publishing techniques and trends, e-book user interfaces and other technologies related to e-publications. – [CME]

Rao, Sirigindi Subba. **Electronic books: their integration into library and information centers**. *The Electronic Library* 23 (1) (2005): 92-102.
A detailed technical survey of current e-book issues, including an overview of salient features, integration of e-books into library collections, e-book business models, and a look at the future. He provides a useful list of sources of free e-books. For the author, the critical issues for e-books are range and functionality. Content providers have yet to generate a critical mass of e-book content, while problems with e-book functionality prevent the widespread adoption of e-books at present. – [CME]

Su, Shiao-Feng. **Desirable search features of web-based scholarly e-book systems**. *The Electronic Library* 23 (1) (2005): 64-71.
The author considers web-based scholarly e-books that are PC and laptop-based, and which can be read on the computer monitor via a connection to the internet. Her focus is very specific: search features that are desirable in scholarly e-books, both for known-item searching and for browsing. The paper is a synthesis of research results and opinion regarding a range of such features that have been or could be implemented within e-book collections. It is suggested that the presence or absence of key search features may be critical to the adoption or otherwise of e-books, In the author's view, the designers of e-book systems should focus on providing search features that have been established through studies of information-seeking behaviour as being desirable, and on novel methods of integrating multimedia with text, rather than on imitating features of the printed book. Rigorous and useful. – [CME]

GENERAL

Augustyniak, R. H., Aguero, D.B. and Finley, A.M. **The IP's guide to the galaxy of portal planning.** Part One: Drafting a portal vision. *Online Information Review* 29 (3) (2005): 283-295.
As part of a four part series this article should prove to be of interest to anyone who is looking to set up a portal for their organisation. The authors explore types of portals based on their functionality; decision support, collaborative processing and those that combine both approaches. They also consider horizontal and vertical ('vortals') portals but focus on vertical portals using the Florida ExpertNet portal as a case study example. Florida ExpertNet focuses on research within Florida Universities and aims to provide information, collaboration and research tools. The role of portals as a tool in knowledge management is highlighted. The reader is taken through the stages in the design and development of a portal, through the need for a 'portal vision' as being the first step in creating a portal-definition document. It is suggested that the portal vision needs to be clearly linked to the mission statement as to who the portal should serve, what services/information will be provided and how. Clear objectives need to be

identified and a user needs analysis carried out. ‘Creative layout’ is considered important in order to ‘enable end users to be able to conceptualise the end product and its purpose’ and of course ensuring everyone is aware of the benefits of a portal aids promotion and acceptance. Key benefits are identified in relation to the case study and these can act as indicators as to what other organisations should consider highlighting of reference to their particular situation and needs. Overall I enjoyed this article, finding it of practical benefit, easy to read and look forward to promised follow-up articles. – [SM]

Beck, Ernest. **Customize This.** *I.D.* 52 (4) (June 2005): 57-59.
The ramifications of personally customizable information systems got some of the biggest buzz at the Library & Information Technology Association sessions within the American Library Association annual conference, which just took place in Chicago. If you're keeping tabs on the manifestations of digital DIY, read this article about product customization and individualized fabrication – and I don't mean lying, mean making. The technology exists for desktop prototyping and manufacturing on a small scale, inexpensively done, with tools which don't require extensive training for the end user. If for no other reason, information professionals should spend a few minutes just to absorb the zeitgeist and understand the younger clientele, who scoff at the old paradigm of products handed down from on high to a passive consumer. The article may serve as an appetizer for Neil Gershenfeld's recent book, FAB: The Coming Revolution on Your Desktop--From Personal Computers to Personal Fabrication, in which young kids in a Fab Lab design and manufacture toys, and a transmitter network is built to track a herd of reindeer in northern Norway. This is revolutionary in the same way that the localization of processes like publishing and sound mixing has been. A technologically precocious childhood friend of mine, the first person I knew in the 70's to utter the words "fiber optic cable," later explained her career in manufacturing by saying "Well, somebody's gotta make things." Looks like somebody can be just about anybody. – [*JR]

Brent, Doug. **Teaching as Performance in the Electronic Classroom.** *First Monday* 10 (4) (4 April 2005). (http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue10_4/brent/).
Brent takes an analytical look at the increasingly subtle and complex relationship between teaching and teaching technology. Pedagogy today, he argues, would be recognizable by teachers 500 years ago. Moreover, the culture of teaching retains a reticence to embrace technology. At the same time, new developments in online educational technology have a profound effect on notions of intellectual property. Drawing on Walter Ong's research on the alphabet, and Shoshana Zuboff's research on managerial knowledge as commodity, he depicts the challenge for teachers as a tension between the paradigm of knowledge as performance, and knowledge as thing. The performance paradigm emphasizes the human agents, whereas knowledge as "thing" (read: textual tools) follows longstanding emphases on curricula. Whichever social group wins the paradigm battle -- performance versus text -- will have great influence on the future relationship between classroom teaching and technology design. – [*TH]

Digital Library Federation Spring Forum 2005 Washington, DC: Digital Library Federation, April 2005. (http://www.diglib.org/forums/spring2005/2005springabstracts.htm)
Those interested in cutting edge library technologies, standards, and procedures would be well advised to pay attention to the presentations at the twice-yearly forums put on by the Digital Library Federation. This one is no exception, with presentations ranging from digital repositories to METS records and OAI harvesting. Library techies are sure to find something of interest here, as well as library administrators who want to know what's coming up next. – [*RT]

FRBR in 21st Century Catalogues: An Invitational Workshop Dublin, OH: OCLC, May 2005. (http://www.oclc.org/research/events/frbr-workshop/program.htm).
In May 2005 OCLC hosted an invitational workshop on the Functional Requirements of Bibliographic Records (FRBR) and the various methods and techniques of implementing the

concepts described in that report within library catalog systems. This web site offers PowerPoint slides from nearly all of the presenters at that workshop. – [*RT]
Gast, Matthew. **Top Ten 802.11 Myths of 2005.** *O'Reilly Wireless DevCenter* (2 May 2005). (http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/wireless/2005/05/02/80211myths.html).
Gast, author of 802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide, 2nd Edition, points out inaccuracies he sees in media coverage of wireless technologies. These include security issues, confusion over different flavors of 802.11x, and wireless LAN issues. Some of this stuff is a bit on the geeky side for the average reader, but the article is relatively brief and touches on things you may have heard about, such as AirSnort and WEP. – [*SK]

LITA Blog (http://litablog.org/).
LITA's new weblog has blasted off in a big way with extensive coverage of the American Library Association's recent annual conference. Even the French blog BiblioAcid took notice. Here are some sample postings from the 80+ postings that currently available: "Eric Lease Morgan's Top Technology Trends, 2005"; "Giving Them 'Google-Like' Searching"; "Greenstone Digital Libraries: Installation to Production"; "Karen's Uber-Trend"; "Leo Klein's Top Technology Trends"; "LITA President's Program (Take Dos)"; "Marshall Breeding's Top Technology Trends"; "Radio Frequency Identification Technology in Libraries: Meeting with the RFID Experts"; "Tennant's Top Tech Trend Tidbit"; "Thomas Dowling's Non-Trends from the Trailing Edge"; and "Using Usage Data." – [*CB]

Pennock, Lea, and Rick Bunt. **Whose System Is It, Anyway? Partnering with Faculty in Administrative System Projects.** *EDUCAUSE Quarterly* 28 (2) (2005): 24-31. (http://www.educause.edu/apps/eq/eqm05/eqm052.asp).
Librarians are no strangers to projects that require buy-in from the institution at large. That's why this article about planning and implementing a new Student Information System at the University of Saskatchewan may strike a few chords. The authors report on a successful effort, still underway at the time of writing, of moving a large project forward in the unique circumstances of a large academic institution. They worked to get everyone on board, hired outside consultants when necessary, and generally tried to maintain a "perception of accomplishment, productivity and achievement". – [*LRK]

Shirky, Clay. **Ontology is Overrated: Categories, Links, and Tags.** *Clay Shirky's Writings About the Internet* (Spring 2005). (http://shirky.com/writings/ontology_overrated.html).
Shirky is not a librarian, but he has a lot to say about library classification schemes. And most of it isn't complimentary. "One of the biggest problems with categorizing things in advance," he states, "is that it forces the categorizers to take on two jobs that have historically been quite hard: mind reading, and fortune telling. It forces categorizers to guess what their users are thinking, and to make predictions about the future." Catalogers in particular will want to come to this piece with as open a mind as they can muster, and wait on interjecting until reading through the entire piece. Shirky is well worth reading, because even if you don't agree, simply thinking through his points and carefully will likely make you think of more possibilities than you came to this piece with. And that alone is worth the price of admission. – [*RT]

INFORMATION ACCESS/RETRIEVAL

Acharya, Anurag, Matt Cutts, and Jeffrey Dean, et. al. **Information Retrieval Based on Historical Data.** Washington, DC: US Patent and Trademark Office, 31 March 2005. (http://appft1.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PG01&p=1&u=%2Fnetahtml%2FPTO%2Fsrchnum.html&r=1&f=G&l=50&s1=%2220050071741%22.PGNR.&OS=DN/20050071741&RS=DN/20050071741).
We cite a lot of strange things in Current Cites, but this is the first time I recall citing a patent application. But perhaps we could be forgiven for doing so, since this is the application for the

ranking algorithm that has created the most successful Internet search engine so far, and an economic powerhouse that now rivals much older companies such as Time Warner. I'm not exactly sure what you can do with this -- legally, at least -- but it can make for some fascinating reading for anyone who has been wondering what, exactly, is under the hood of their favorite search engine. – [*RT]

Agosto, Denise E, and Sandra Hughes-Hassell. **People, Places, and Questions: An Investigation of the Everyday Life Information-Seeking Behaviors of Urban Young Adults.** *Library & Information Science Research* 27 (2) (Spring 2005): 141-163. (http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6W5R-4FPYWX3-2/2/c066b56a11c57e213175729bc0360d00).
Interesting look at the general information seeking behavior of 'urban', predominantly African-American, teens including their attitudes to libraries. Their information needs ranged from what to wear to how late the local Red Lobster was open. The authors report that teen attitudes to libraries wasn't all that favorable. Teens preferred friends, family and even TV as sources of information. Their communication device of choice was the cell-phone followed by the TV. The authors discuss interviews they conducted in some detail and suggest ways for libraries to do a better job at reaching out. – [*LRK]

Bridis, Ted. **Web Site Makes Gov't. Reports Available.** *ABC News* (from the Associated Press) (27 June 2005). (http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=884419&CMP=OTC-RSS Feeds0312).
Our taxes pay for them. They are not copyrighted or otherwise protected by law. But it's never been really easy to get our hands on Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports. CRS, which is part of the Library of Congress, maintains that it works specifically for Congress, which is why it doesn't automatically release its reports to the public as they are completed. But various entities have made a practice of collecting and aggregating these reports over the years, and the Internet has facilitated our access to them. The Center for Democracy and Technology, "a Washington-based civil liberties group," has just launched a website, Open CRS, that "links more than a half-dozen existing collections of nearly 8,000 reports from the Congressional Research Service and centrally indexes them so visitors can find reports containing specific terms or phrases." The site encourages visitors to ask for reports from their congressional representatives and to upload any reports they have available. It also maintains links to the larger online repositories of CRS reports...but not the new one recently launched by the University of North Texas Libraries. – [*SK]

Corrado, Edward M. **The Importance of Open Access, Open Source, and Open Standards for Libraries.** *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship* (42) (Spring 2005). (http://www.istl.org/05-spring/article2.html).
This is a good summary overview of three important concepts for libraries: open access to scholarly and research literature, software for which the source code is available for users to view and change, and standards that are developed and shared in a non-proprietary manner. Corrado argues that the confluence of these three "opens" provides synergistic benefits for libraries when used together. For those who want a gentle introduction to these "hot" topics, and find the religious fervor of some advocates off-putting, this is the piece to read. – [*RT]

Givler, Peter. **Association of American University Presses Letter to Google.** *Business Week Online* (20 May 2005). (http://www.businessweek.com/print/bwdaily/dnflash/may2005/nf20050523_9039.htm).
Google has received a great deal of notice for its "Print" and "Library" projects, which seek to digitize or obtain from publishers the full-text of books, then provide full-text searching and limited display of these works. Everyone agrees that the legality of such efforts is murky at best, and this latest salvo in the debate is one that Google can ignore only at its peril. There aren't many deeper pockets out there in the area of intellectual property law, and many a career can

be made on a high-profile suit alleging major copyright infringement. This AAUP letter outlines 16 sets of serious questions for Google management, and ones that may presage legal action if not adequately answered. It did not escape this reader that the AAUP letter includes a deadline of June 20, 2005 by which Google is expected to respond, and I doubt Google's legal counsel is so dense as to overlook that either. – [*RT]

Hagedorn, Katerina. **Looking for Pearls.** *Research Information* (16) (March/April 2005). (http://www.researchinformation.info/rimaraprl05oaister.html).
The Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting has made it possible to federate access to hundreds of content repositories world wide. But as the earliest and largest federation service, OAIster at the University of Michigan is the most experienced in the problems of unifying access to such a diverse range of content. Hagedorn identifies issues with the data they harvest, some normalization procedures they apply, and future plans for the service. – [*RT]

Hancock, Brian. **The Spectator Project: the eighteenth century mind in the twenty-first century machine**. *The Electronic Library* 23 (2) (2005): 173-180.
This is an account of the technical issues involved in setting-up the Spectator Project, a digital environment for the study of the *Tatler*, the *Spectator*, and the eighteenth-century periodical in general. The aim of the project was to provide the best possible access to the minds of the writers. The interface presents page images and the corresponding text, and includes a powerful search function (based on the Glimpse search engine), with a split screen facility which allows different issues to be compared. After a number of experiments the project workers settled on the DjVu file format as the most suitable for their purposes. – [CME]

Jacso, Peter. **Google Scholar: the Pros and the Cons.** *Online Information Review* 29 (2) (2005): 208-214.
In case you haven't heard enough about Google Scholar, here's an analysis of what it does and doesn't do. In fine librarian tradition, Jacso subjects the database to a battery of searches. He then compares these results with what he'd get using alternative sources. The picture isn't pretty. – [*LRK]

McDonald, J and Kebbell, Adrienne. **Access in an increasingly digital world.** *The Electronic Library* 22 (6) (2004): 498-508.
The authors identify the key issues for the National Library of New Zealand, and for other organisations providing digital content, as those of deciding on the priority content and then finding the best means of providing access to it. Work has focused on development of a single interface for the Library's bibliographic products (using Endeavor ENCompass) that supports the hybrid library concept, efforts to determine their economic and monetary value, of these products, and assessment of the potential market for them. Other projects have looked at consortium purchasing of electronic resources on a country-wide basis. Comparisons are made with the activities of other major national and research library services. Interesting – [CME].

Smith, Arthur. **Searching for NZ information in the virtual library**. *The Electronic Library* 22 (6) (2004): 492-497.
The article offers some findings about internet search tools that can be used to find information about New Zealand, and suggestions for how NZ librarians can make NZ information more accessible on the web. Very basic, obvious stuff; missable. – [CME]

LEGAL ISSUES

Electronic Frontier Foundation. **Legal Guide for Bloggers** San Francisco: Electronic Frontier Foundation, 2005. (http://www.eff.org/bloggers/lg/).
You're a blogger, not a journalist or publisher, right? Guess what? You have the same legal obligations as the big guys, but without the specialized training and the troop of lawyers to back you up. Bonne chance! If you live in the US, you need the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Legal Guide for Bloggers. Of course it "isn't a substitute for, nor does it constitute, legal advice," but are you really going to hire a lawyer to vet your blog? Bloglines recently announced that it indexes over 500 million blog entries. That's a lot of billable hours. So, here's what the EFF guide offers instead: "The Bloggers' FAQ on Election Law," "The Bloggers' FAQ on Intellectual Property," "The Bloggers' FAQ on Labor Law," "The Bloggers' FAQ on Online Defamation Law," "Overview of Legal Liability Issues," "The Bloggers' FAQ on Media Access," "The Bloggers' FAQ on Privacy," "The Bloggers' FAQ on the Reporter's Privilege," and "The Bloggers' FAQ on Section 230 Protections." Since it's free, it's way cheaper than getting a J.D., and it's in plain English. Sure, it looks a bit overwhelming; however, as the EFF says: "But here's the important part: None of this should stop you from blogging. Freedom of speech is the foundation of a functioning democracy, and Internet bullies shouldn't use the law to stifle legitimate free expression." – [*CB]

Poynder, Richard. **The Role of Digital Rights Management in Open Access.** *INDICARE Monitor* 2 (2) (2005). (http://www.indicare.org/tikiread_article.php?articleId=93).
This is a very important paper for librarians and open access advocates to read. The negative view of Digital Rights Management (DRM), which I confess to holding, is that it is like a silent, deadly cancer that one discovers too late. We are largely unaware of it because publishers have not widely chosen to utilize it to actively control scholarly articles yet. But, once DRM is put in place, it allows publishers to control how article files are used in fine-grained ways, regardless of whether they are on the publisher's server, the user's PC, or in an archive or institutional repository. Poynder suggests that DRM is like "a two-layered cake. . . . the first layer consists of metadata that define the usage rules (rights) associated with the content. Then on top of this can be placed an (optional) second layer of software-imposed limitations on copying, printing, viewing etc. (i.e. technical measures) in order to enforce the usage rules." To control self-archived articles, publishers would ask authors to archive DRM-protected copies, which "would potentially become a Trojan horse capable of transforming OA articles into 'pay-per-view objects'." Think this is unlikely? According to Poynder, Springer Science+Business Media currently "invites" authors to purchase the PDFs of their articles, which have been protected by DocuRights. Poynder does not say that Springer has activated particular restrictions, but they could at some future point. As long as a publisher controls the copyright to the article, not the author, the publisher can mandate that its DRM-protected copy of the article be the self-archived final copy, and it can choose what restrictions are activated. What if publishers could remotely turn on restrictions at will? SoftVault Systems holds patents that "specifically claim technology that enables the remote activation and disablement of digital content, such as audio, video, text, data and image files." So what to do? The SPARC Author's Addendum modifies "the publisher's agreement to make explicit the fact that the author is retaining sufficient rights to self-archive, and to also require that the publisher provides a free PDF version of the article--moreover, with no DRM functionality incorporated into it." Of course, authors can also attempt to retain copyright. But either strategy may imperil the publication of the author's paper. OK, enough gloom. Poynder also points out that DRM can be used for the author's benefit "to ensure correct author attribution, to certify document integrity and provenance, to prevent plagiarism, and indeed to enable creators assert their rights in ways that encourage--rather than restrict--access." (This issue also contains several other articles about DRM issues that will be of interest.) – [*CB]

Sheat, Kathy. **Libraries, copyright and the global digital environment.** *The Electronic Library* 22 (6) (2004): 487-491.
The article examines recent proposals for updating the New Zealand Copyright Act 1994 to cover digital reproduction and to bring it into line with the WIPO Copyright Treaty. The author argues that they fail to meet the Berne Convention's criteria for appropriateness of "fair use" exceptions to exclusive rights. The article is of general interest for anyone who keeps a watch on developments in copyright law. – [CME]

PRESERVATION

Beagrie, Neil. **Plenty of Room at the Bottom? Personal Digital Libraries and Collections**. *D-Lib Magazine* 11 (6) (June 2005). (http://www.dlib.org/dlib/june05/beagrie/06beagrie.html).
Here's something we don't think enough about: where will all those digital photos and videos end up? What about the blog entries that generations to come will spend a lifetime producing? The totality of our individual digital output is what the author calls our "personal digital collection". This collection, our digital legacy in fact, will become as important as traditional personal papers have been in the past. Serious consideration is required then to preserve and give access to these collections. The author goes through a number of interesting ideas and implications. – [*LRK]

Data Dictionary for Preservation Metadata: Final Report of the PREMIS Working Group. Dublin, OH: OCLC and RLG, May 2005. (http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/pmwg/premis-final.pdf).
This data dictionary is the culminating deliverable by a large, distinguished, and international group of individuals participating in the Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies (PREMIS) working group, sponsored by OCLC and RLG. As stated in the introduction, "The Data Dictionary defines and describes an implementable set of core preservation metadata with broad applicability to digital preservation respositories." – [*RT]

Marks P. **It's groundhog day for inventions**. *New Scientist* 186, 2493, 26 (2 April 2005).
An Australian patent was granted for a "circular transportation facilitation device" – clearly reinventing the wheel. The article argues that the patenting system will become less efficient due to incomplete conversion of the paper search collections to electronic archives. – [DJH]

Sternstein, Aliya. **'Tomahtoes' Get in the Way of Saving E-Records.** *Federal Computer Week* (23 May 2005). (http://www.fcw.com/article88936-05-23-05-Print).
"When it comes to managing electronic records, technologists may say 'tomato,' but archivists will say 'tomahto.' The differences may seem subtle, but they often result in a breakdown in communications that undermines the effort to protect e-records." This is an interesting take on the disconnect between archivists and historians when it comes to the retention and preservation of electronic records, such as back-up tapes, e-mail, electronic calendars, etc. In particular, it discusses the uproar after the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) placed a notice in the Federal Register that it planned "to get rid of Clinton-era backup tapes." Of course, a large part of the whole e-records conundrum is that fact that the original software/media/hardware used to create the records may not be around anymore, which essentially renders the information inaccessible. Which brings IT people into the mix. Better communication among all parties concerned is obviously vital. – [*SK]

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Falk, Howard. **The temple of the computer**. *The Electronic Library* 23 (2) (2005): 244-248.
A brief survey of how large American public libraries are delivering electronic services to their readers, leading to an increase in library use. These include provision of facilities to support

portable computers, provision of electronic books and digital audio books, use of weblogs to promote library services, and use of RFID for book circulation and security functions. – [CME]

Sharp, Sandra. **Fast forward to the future: e-enabling in Leeds libraries**. *The Electronic Library* 23 (2) (2005): 237-243.
An overview of how libraries in Leeds have implemented the People's Network initiative within the city. Developments have included rollout of the Talis Information Environment, (a product comprising an LMS with advanced features, a Z39.50- compliant resource discovery portal, cataloguing database and EDI service), the development of new electronic content for local history (Leodis, a photographic database of images of life in the city through the ages, and Discovering Leeds, a general local history resource) the provision for free access to IT and e-learning facilities for deprived communities, and the development of community web sites. – [CME]

VIRTUAL LIBRARIES

Blumenthal, Ralph. **College Libraries Set Aside Books in a Digital Age.** *The New York Times* (13 May 2005). (http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/14/education/14library.html).
As of mid-July, the undergraduate library at the University of Texas-Austin will be devoid of books. It is being transformed into "a 24-hour electronic information commons, a fast-spreading phenomenon that is transforming research and study on campuses around the country." The reason this is a "fast-spreading phenomenon" is that undergraduate libraries are becoming superfluous in an age when so much full-text material has migrated online, and "top research libraries" are no longer restricted only to graduate students and faculty. The information commons, like others of its type, will be "staffed with Internet-expert librarians, teachers and technicians." And yet, according to the article, "Library staff members said they were taken by surprise when told last month of the conversion, which is how the news first emerged." Apparently no jobs were lost, however, and the books were not discarded, but rather redistributed to other university libraries. The article says librarians in general are in favor of this trend, because it allows them to provide the kind of service their users are increasingly demanding. – [*SK]

Deb, Subrata and Kar, Debal. **Setting up an electronic library: the case of TERI.**
The Electronic Library 23 (2) (2005): 189-199.
The paper describes the setting up of an electronic library for TERI, The Energy and Resources Institute, a major research library in India in the fields of energy, environment, transport, biotechnology and sustainable development, which produces a variety of specialist bibliographic databases and current awareness services. Electronic resources within the library are either served locally ("physical electronic library") or linked to via the internet ("virtual electronic library"). Candidate resources are identified by information and library staff, then ranked for quality by specialists. The locally served material includes e-books, e-journals, the library catalogue, the bibliographic databases, and TERI's own publications. The virtual collection includes a directory of electronic journals and a range of reference resources. Access to the collection is available at researchers' desktops via a local area network (TERInet), with access for branch offices and mobile users being provided via Citrix metaframe software. An interesting case study once one adjusts to the rather strange English style. – [CME]

Fox, Robert. **Psychology of Virtual Architecture**. *OCLC Systems &* Services 21 (2) (2005): 100-104.
The author finds similarities between the architecture of a library's physical plant and its online presence. Indeed he goes so far as to say, "the web is the abstract counterpart to the physical architecture of a library." Questions such as graphic design and layout are fundamental to both manifestations; So is being user-friendly and satisfying task-oriented user needs. As the author

sees it, 'we are attempting via the web site to guide our patrons to their desired information goal using the shortest path possible while attempting to create an experience that is at least marginally satisfying while reducing frustration.' – [*LRK]

King, Julia. **The Paperless Hospital – Really!** *Computerworld* (13 June 2005). (http://www.computerworld.com/managementtopics/management/project/story/0,10801,102387,00.html).
This article describes the "all electronic environment" at Baptist Medical Center South (BMCS), a "small, 92-bed community hospital" in Jacksonville, FL. Much larger, more prestigious hospitals have failed spectacularly in their efforts to go all-electronic, but BMCS adopted that culture right from the very beginning -- first by getting buy-in from area physicians. "Today, physicians at the brand-new hospital make their rounds toting wireless devices to check lab results, view X-rays, update charts, order prescriptions and send and receive e-mail." A key element here is the hospital's 10-person informatics group of "technology-savvy clinicians," headed by a registered nurse. The groups communications the needs of doctors and nurses to the 65-member IT staff. "Having wireless access to previous test results in a fully electronic medical record is especially valuable to doctors in the emergency room, says physician Ted Glasser." All in all, very cool. Worth reading. – [*SK]

Sale, Arthur. **De-unifying a Digital Library.** *First Monday* 10 (5) (2 May 2005). (http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue10_5/sale/).
Sale describes the University of Tasmania's decision to create a single, unified digital library for all its research output, including articles, conference papers, higher degree theses, and faculty research data. He describes the repository approach, which mirrors several others underway around the world, but goes further, creating a single online environment for all users. This sounds a lot like many past efforts to create "integrated library systems," portals and other single-platform Web environments. It differs insofar as it doubles an as open access venture, offering, if it passes the test of time, an enterprise-level solution to other universities who have programming FTE but might be short on cash. – [*TH]

WEB DESIGN

Houghton, Sarah. **I've Been Framed! Designing a Library Web Site Within a Government Frame**. *Computers in Libraries* 25 (6) (June 2005): 6-8, 48.
With all the talk about ERP's (or Enterprise-wide systems), this article about what libraries can do to fit in comes at just the right time. The author stresses that this kind of arrangement can be far from ideal. Indeed, many of her recommendations involve finding ways to contrast the library's material from the surrounding non-library navigation/context. She recommends working with the host institution wherever possible though her "best solution" is simply to break out of the institutional shackles and set up an independent site. This last of course may not always be possible. – [*LRK]

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