services. Socially-produced information may be an excellent base-line input to an editorial process that could then produce a high-quality result.

Online

By Jan Litton, University of Wales, Aberystwyth (Aberystwyth Online User Group). Please send your submissions for the next edition to jrc@aber.ac.uk

Inderscience Journals Catalogue <http://www.inderscience.com/catalogue>

The 2006 Inderscience Journals Catalogue (now available) gives details of the 170 journals published in Engineering, Computing/ICT and Technology; Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development; Management and Business Administration; Healthcare, Sport and Leisure.

Inderscience have also started a free quarterly newsletter called HIGHLIGHTS, at http://www.inderscience.com/highlights featuring news, free trials, free articles, details of RSS, etc., with something special coming in February. Inderscience content (8,000 peer-reviewed articles) can be freely searched from http://www.inderscience.com/.

CSA Illumina http://www.csa.com/pais

The complete PAIS Archive is now available through CSA Illumina. This is a retrospective database supplementing PAIS International and contains more than one million records. The initial release of PAIS Archive provided backfiles to 1937 and this release extends access back to 1915. These sources cover topical public and social issues and the making and evaluating of public policy. They are worldwide in scope and include publications in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish that deal with public affairs.

CSA Research Databases <http://www.dialog.com>

Dialog are now offering an Alert subscription to the CSA research databases for customers in the corporate and government markets. Alerts subscriptions for the more than 30 databases of CSA scientific and technical research being added to Dialog will be available in coming months. These databases cover research in the fields of aeronautics, astronautics, engineering, environmental sciences, life sciences, materials, metals and alloys, space sciences, social/library sciences and technology, among others. When relevant new CSA research is added to the Dialog online service, the Alerts service will email the user.

Dictionary of National Biography <http://www.oup.com/oxforddnb>

The Dictionary of National Biography has a new theme – reference groups. Articles explain the membership, aims, and influence of historically defined groups across all periods of British history. At present there are thirty groups listed varying from the Amateur Athletic Association to the Kit Kat Club to the Suez group.

Edina <http://edina.ac.uk>

The Education Image Gallery has been updated for the current academic year and includes two improvements. So that users see the range of images available, fresh sets of images now appear throughout the service pages and every time a page is refreshed by a user, new images are displayed. The images represent the main subject areas

covered by EIG. To keep the content of EIG as up to date as possible, it will be updated on a monthly basis with approximately 200 of the latest Getty news and sport images from around the world.

Emerald
<http://www.emeraldinsight.com>

Emerald have acquired four new titles in the field of accounting and investment from four different publishers: The Journal of Accounting & Organizational Change; Journal of Human Resource Costing & Accounting; Journal of Investment Compliance and Qualitative Research in Accounting & Management. All journals will be available on Emerald Management Xtra – bringing the number of Emerald management journals to 115 and accounting and investment journals to eleven.

Emerald has also introduced a free content service for academic library newsletters. The Library Link Newsletter Fillers offers professionally written filler articles from the Library Link Newsletter Fillers service for Academic Librarians producing their own in-house newsletters. The articles are written to promote the use of the library while educating and informing readers on information quality, information literacy, the value of the library and on timely issues.

Index to Theses
<http://www.theses.com>

The Index to Theses has added a new sub-collection of Irish theses. This sub-collection looks and feels the same as the main site but restricts all searches to just those theses that come from Irish universities. They have also made improvements to the search facility by adding a button on every search page linking to a redesigned list of subject classifications and redesigning the advanced search page to include a

summary of the most useful field codes that allow you to target your searches at particular parts of the thesis, like author or subject classification.

Literature Online
<http://lion.chadwyck.co.uk>

Literature Online has added six new journals: Critical Inquiry, Daedalus, Hudson Review, Journal of British Studies, and Nineteenth-Century Literature, bringing their total number of titles to 174. A total of 27 journals have been added to Literature Online this year, covering subjects such as Native American, Caribbean and Australasian studies, Arthurian literature, fairy-tale studies, pedagogy and rhetoric, alongside journals devoted to canonical authors such as W.B. Yeats, T.S. Eliot and Joseph Conrad.

New toolbar for dyslexics
<http://www.textic.com>

The Textic toolbar has been designed to make reading the Web easier for users with dyslexia or other special needs. Once installed on a PC, the Textic toolbar can be used to alter the style of a web site to suit a user's particular needs. Background colour, text colour, text size, font style and colour can all be altered and the user has access to a thesaurus, dictionary and unique messaging 'keypad' especially tailored for use by dyslexia sufferers. Users can set the toolbar to one of seven 'comfort levels' ranging from 'big buttons' to choice of dyslexic friendly fonts and sizes.

World Digital Library
<http://www.microsoft.com>

Microsoft has formed an alliance with Yahoo, Hewlett-Packard and Adobe, called the Open Content Alliance (OCA) aimed at digitising books, academic materials and other publications for online publication. Microsoft plans to

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avoid any potential legal problems by concentrating initially on materials that are already out of copyright, and plans to digitize up to 150,000 books over the next year. They are in discussions with publishers to find ways to include other content without infringing copyright, which may involve users paying for content. OCA has the support of a number of leading libraries.

Internet

E-audio and Libraries

Susan Miles
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Following on from my column in the last issue examining the possibilities of podcasting in libraries, this one will look at the related area of e-audio and libraries. E-audio encompasses audio files, usually book readings, delivered in electronic format, often as MP3 files. Readers may be familiar with this concept via the free downloads offered by *The Times* newspaper over the summer. Essentially this is another evolutionary step for 'books on tape'.

In the UK, only two public library services have experimented with e-audio – Richmond upon Thames, and Blackburn with Darwen. In what originally started as individual project ideas, both public library services pooled some of their NOF People's Network Excellence Funding grants in 2003 and approached Audible Inc. with a proposal for a joint purchase/subscription to purchase a collection of Audible titles. The services have since developed in slightly different ways.

Blackburn and Darwen's project also included the loan of e-books and the creation of an internal listening post within their library to support music from local bands. Now, some two years later, while feedback has been positive, the lack of further funding and the effects of natural wastage on their collections of players means that the service is gradually tapering off.

In Richmond upon Thames, the situation seems more positive. The e-audio books service is offered within their 24/7 Internet library service and has a steady usage with a core of regular users taking out titles via the library-owned MP3 players. Interestingly, a couple of their regular users are visually impaired older users who really value the service and do not find the MP3 players too small or fiddly to operate, while commuters form another group of regular users. Peter Hey at Richmond acknowledges that because they started this service early on, service providers didn't really cater for libraries with library members wishing to do downloads onto their own MP3 devices.

In 2005, the landscape is has changed and providers are looking to be able to offer this service. NetLibrary offers a range of e-Audiobook collections for different types of libraries, and allows downloads onto library users' PCs or portable devices, for instance MP3 players or some types of phones. A licence is downloaded with the title, allowing three weeks of listening time, and once the licence has expired, the file can no longer be listened to but remains on the device.

In a very timely fashion, the use of iPods in public libraries became a hot topic at the Internet Librarian 2005 Conference held last week in Monterey, California. Ken Weil and Joe Latini from the South Huntingdon Public Library, Long Island, New York discussed their e-audio service, which started with downloading audio books to iPods or lending iPod shuffles for borrowers without their own