

of the Office of Public Sector Information, you may have noticed a change in the way they appear. From Statutory Instrument No. 2670, issued in September 2005, there are now three entries for each one. This is because there is now a web or html version, a pdf and explanatory notes. In fact, from October all new legislation is being provided as a pdf due to public demand. <http://www.opsi.gov.uk>

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Current Awareness

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This column contains summaries of articles (print and electronic) about information access and retrieval, electronic publishing, preservation and virtual libraries etc. including, with permission, abstracts identified with an * next to the author initials, drawn from *Current Cites*, the monthly publication distributed electronically by a team of Librarians and Library Staff and edited by Roy Tennant (<http://lists.webjunction.org/currentcites/>)

If you are interested in providing reviews for the Column, please contact Jane Grogan for further details.

Content Management

Austin, Marcus. **Big Blue sets its sights on market dominance.** Information World Review, 215

(July/August 2005): 8-11 – This article looks at how IBM has been buying into the Enterprise Content Management (ECM) sector. The author looks at the strategic acquisitions that have been made, and speaks to IBM about their plans to develop further in this sector, including the scope of ECM in searching and in e-mail management in the light of users everywhere requesting something 'as quick and easy to use as Google'. – [RN]

Education

Seaman, Scott. **Another Great Dissolution? The Privatization of Public Universities and the Academic Library.** – Journal of Academic Librarianship 31(4) (July 2005): 305-309. – Grim tidings are portrayed on the financial front as states gradually disengage from supporting institutions of higher learning. The changing financial environment, from public to private sources, begins then to change the nature and priorities of the institutions themselves. Needless to say, libraries are left with the short end of the stick. – [*LRK]

Electronic Publishing

Cole, Louise. "A Journey into E-Resource Administration Hell" *Serials Librarian* 49(1/2) (2005): 141-154. – Hair-raising jaunt through the "horrors" of managing e-resources, primarily subscription-based, that face an academic library in the 21st century. The author's tongue-in-cheek style makes palatable what otherwise must be a challenging situation. On display is a system so complicated that vendors can't tell what they hold, whether you're subscribed to it and, er, when it's expected to come back online. – [*LRK]

Correia, Ana Maria Ramalho and Teixeira, Jose Carlos. **Reforming**

scholarly publishing and knowledge communication; from the advent of the scholarly journal to the challenges of open access. Online Information Review 29 (4) 349 – 364.

This article is intended to provide an overview of the changes in scholarly publishing as a result of the rise in Internet technologies and considers issues surrounding self-archiving and the challenges that open access brings to information managers.

A review of the literature provides the reader with a brief history of scholarly publishing since the 17th century and the reasons for its growth. Challenges facing the publication of scholarly works are highlighted, including: the rapid advance of most scholarly fields, intellectual property transference from author to publisher, peer review and the impact of subscription prices on access to serials. The authors mention the new publishing models now afforded disciplines including; e-journals, hybrid-paper electronic journals; author self-posting of materials and e-print repositories. E-print repositories and existing services are discussed in more depth. Of interest to academics are the benefits of archiving works with e-print repositories such as rapid dissemination and the improved archiving of scientific data in varying formats such as multimedia. In addition the authors discuss how use of e-print repositories can reform scholarly communication through the use of additional features such as the potential for adding peer commentaries and observations; how organisations can use e-repositories to enhance visibility, prestige and to attract funding; and the value of e-print repositories to scholars in poorly resourced countries. The Open Archives Initiative, The Budapest Open Access Initiative and general issues surrounding open access journals are discussed as

regards their potential contribution to archiving and electronic scholarly dissemination. Finally information managers are suggested as having key roles to play. Roles include the setting up of open access repositories; ensuring archival stability; the promotion of discussion on the advantages of open access; devise performance indicators; advise on copyright and support potential authors.

Overall an informative article providing background details on the issues surrounding open access. Information managers interested in considering or developing open access resources will be able to identify and follow up points for further investigation. – [SM]

Dudman, Jane. **Sons in the key of life** Information World Review, 215 (July/August 2005): 14-15. – An interview with John Jarvis, the MD of Wiley UK. He talks about the history of this family-run US publishing company. The interview also looks at Wiley's plans to digitise all of its journals this year, and the future, generally, of e-publishing. – [RN]

Hayward, Eira. **On-line competition forces legal publishing shake up** Information World Review, 216 (September 2005): 12-13. – An overview of some of the changes in the legal publishing industry, and the moves to provide more data in an electronic format for both the larger players (LexisNexis Butterworths and Sweet & Maxwell) as well as the smaller legal publishers. There are brief mentions of some future developments within the area, and also the rather worrying statement that lawyers widely use Google as their first port of call when conducting research, rather than reliable, verified subscription sources. – [RN]

General

Benczúr, David. **Environmental scanning: how developed is information acquisition in Western European companies.** Information Research 11(1), 2005. [Available at <http://InformationR.net/ir/11-1/paper241.html>]. – Benczúr looks for an answer to whether the impact of the Internet and other Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) on Competitive Intelligence is still unknown or too insignificant to consider. Based on a literature survey of empirical reports, hypotheses were established and tested on an existing database containing information on more than 500 firms collected over two years. The field study showed that firms are still underdeveloped, but higher sales, better information technology development, environmental uncertainty and an organization turned outwards were correlated with a higher level of development. [IF]

Caldwell, Tracey. **Resolution to Persistence** Information World Review, 217 (October 2005): 20-21. – Tracey Caldwell looks at linking technologies, discussing initiatives such as OpenURL as used by Edina, the JISC-funded national data centre. It also discusses cross publisher linking with CrossRef and the increasing awareness and use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOI). – [RN]

In Depth: Libraries Chronicle of Higher Education (30 September 2005) (<http://chronicle.com/indepth/libraries/>). – This is a special Chronicle supplement on libraries containing a package of stories, most of which are available to subscribers only: Thoughtful Designs: "As they renovate old libraries and plan new ones, colleges consider the purpose of the buildings — and how to make them popular." Evolving Roles: "Today's reference librarians need IT

and pedagogical skills. Institutions are adapting in various ways", says W. Lee Hisle. The Beauty of Browsing: "Fred D. White doesn't want stacks closed and mechanized. He wants to hold books in his hand and see where they take him." Should Librarians Get Tenure? Yes, It's Crucial to Their Jobs: "College librarians are crucial partners in teaching and research, and they should be eligible for tenure like their faculty colleagues, says Catherine Murray-Rust." (This one is available free to non-subscribers.) Should Librarians Get Tenure? No, It Can Hamper Their Roles: "Librarians should be involved in college governance, but, writes Deborah A. Carver, they don't face the academic-freedom issues that professors do, and don't need tenure." (This one is available free to non-subscribers.) – [*SK]

Information Access/Retrieval

Almasy, Edward. **Tools for creating your own resource portal: CWIS and the Scout Portal Toolkit.** Library Trends 53(4). – Edward Almasy, co-director of the Internet Scout Project, is also dedicated to facilitating the development of easily searchable subject gateway systems for the academic community and beyond. In "Tools for creating your own resource portal: CWIS and the Scout Portal Toolkit," Almasy describes a user-friendly means for building high-quality subject gateways. He and his colleagues have developed the Scout Portal Toolkit (SPT) and the Collection Workflow Integration System (CWIS). The two software packages are very easy to maintain and operate and easy for non-technical staff to download, set up, and populate with metadata. – [IF]

Biever, C. **Sex, lies and cyberpower** New Scientist 2515 (2005):117. – A proposal in 2000 to suffix pornography

web sites with an .xxx domain has opened up a hornet's nest of concerns over how the Internet is controlled. Initially the idea won backing from US politicians and ICANN, the US-based organisation that approves domain names. However, civil liberty groups, conservative organisations and many foreign governments have since raised objections. Initial opposition to the .xxx on moral grounds has now grown into a game of political football. The US Department of Commerce is opposed to the .xxx and has the power to overrule ICANN's decision, though till now it has never done this. If ICANN bows to such pressure, observers will see this as evidence that ICANN is too strongly influenced by the US government, and have expressed greater concerns as to who has ultimate control over the governance of the Internet itself. It is a testing time for ICANN and its independent status. Their final decision was due mid-September. – [LF]

Ebersole, Samuel. **On their own: students' academic use of the commercialized Web.** *Library Trends* 53(4). – Samuel Ebersole considers school students' use of search engines. He found that students' research is influenced by commercial sources and that students do not have sufficient help in negotiating the Web environment. He considers developments that may be of particular interest to parents and students. – [IF]

Enochsson, AnnBritt. **The development of children's Web searching skills – a non-linear model.** *Information Research* 11(1) 2005. – Enochsson used an ethnographic approach to determine the various skills required for information seeking on the Internet in an educational setting. She took a socio-cultural perspective in considering students' perspectives on the possibilities and difficulties in using the

Internet. NUD*IST software is used for the qualitative analyses of interviews and questionnaires. These are supplemented with log analysis. Students regard six skills as fundamental: language, knowledge about the technology, knowledge about different ways of information seeking, how search engines work, setting goals and being critical.- [IF]

Enterprise Search and Knowledge Retrieval *Information World Review*, 217 (October 2005): 29-30. – A sector update providing a focus on some of the key providers in the search and retrieval market. This looks at their main products, key users, and new developments. The companies covered are: Autonomy, Convera, Endeca, Fast Search & Transfer (FAST), Google, Solcara and Verity. – [RN]

Fabos, Bettina (ed). **Library Trends** 53(4), edited by Bettina Fabos, addresses Web content within the context of Internet commercialization and democracy, and includes a wealth of information for UKeiG members. With input from a variety of disciplines such as communication studies, informatics, information management, research programming, computer science, engineering, and library science the problem of search engine commercialization as well as solutions to the problem are addressed. According to Fabos the ongoing work toward subject gateway development based on free, open source software, provides a limited but growing counter reaction to the commercialization of "the universe of knowledge." It is especially important that librarians and citizens should work together to ensure democratic access to information that is

not clouded by the commercial interests of search engines. – [IF]

Frechette, Julie. **Cyber-democracy or cyber-hegemony? Exploring the political and economic structures of the Internet as an alternative source of information.** Library Trends 53(4). – Julie Frechette investigates Web filtering software, which public officials are currently pushing in public libraries and schools. She argues that unlike measures to block or filter online information, students need to be empowered to analyse, evaluate and judge the information they receive. – [IF]

Griffiths, Jillian and Brophy, Peter. **Student searching behavior and the Web: use of academic resources and Google.** Library Trends 53(4). – Jillian Griffiths and Peter Brophy discuss student searching tendencies at college level: students depend heavily on search engines rather than other academic resources, and not surprisingly, Google is the favourite. They consider students' perceptions of ease of use, success, time taken to search and reasons for stopping a search. – [IF]

Jones, Paul. **Strategies and technologies of sharing in contributor-run archives.** Library Trends 53(4). – Paul Jones illustrates the important developments in the collaborative subject gateway movement. He discusses contributor-run archives such as the Linux Documentation Project, the Degree Confluence Project, and Etree.org – all technologically inventive portals supported by passionate volunteers who cooperate to build these open source services. These are based on the input of experts and public citizens, with no librarians being involved. – [IF]

Koch, Alison L; Arfken, C.L.; Dickson, M.W.; Agius, E. & Mitchel, J.K. **Variables associated with environmental scanning among clinicians at substance abuse treatment clinics.** Information Research, 11(1) 2005. [Available at <http://InformationR.net/ir/11-1/paper244.html>]. – The authors aimed to identify variables associated with higher levels of environmental scanning among substance abuse treatment clinicians. A cross-sectional survey was administered to 162 clinicians at fifteen substance abuse treatment clinics in Michigan, which were selected based upon treatment modality, population served, geographic location, and affiliation with the Clinical Trials Network. Environmental scanning was measured by frequency of use of the Internet, journals, seminars or conferences, and people at other treatment clinics for new substance abuse treatment information. Clinicians were asked for their perceptions of their clinic's openness to new treatment techniques and support for acquiring new information, access to and satisfaction with information sources at work, as well as if they feel it is their job to keep up to date with current treatment research. Additional measures included whether they intended to quit their jobs and whether they were emotionally drained from work. Positive associations were found between environmental scanning and perceived clinic support for acquiring new information, perceived clinic openness to new treatment techniques, access to e-mail and Internet at work, and satisfaction with resources. Turnover intention and being emotionally drained were negatively associated with environmental scanning. The authors conclude that individual and organizational level variables were associated with higher levels of environmental scanning activity. Although the causal directions of these

associations are not known, the findings suggest ways to increase environmental scanning among clinicians. – [IF]

Kourtell, Liana. **Scanning the business external environment for information.** Information Research, 11(1) 2005. [Available at <http://InformationR.net/ir/11-1/paper242.html>]. – Examines the business external environment scanning theory for information in the context of Greece. By means of a questionnaire the relationships between the general and task business environment, perceived uncertainty, scanning strategy, and sources of information with respect to type of environment, size and industry are explored. The sample covered 144 private organizations operating in North Greece. Perceived uncertainty of the general and task business external environment factors depend on the type of the environment, size of organization, and industry where the organizations operate. Organizations adapt their scanning strategy to the complexity of the environment, and personal sources of information seem to be more important than impersonal sources. External sources of information are equally important with internal sources; and higher levels of environmental uncertainty are associated with higher levels of scanning the various sources. Kourtell concludes that business external environment scanning of information is influenced by the characteristics of the organizations themselves and by the characteristics of the external environment within which the organizations operate. – [IF]

Lavoie, Brian, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, and Lorcan Dempsey. **Anatomy of Aggregate Collections: The Example of Google Print for Libraries.** D-Lib Magazine 11(9) (September 2005) (<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september05/la>

[voie/09lavoie.html](http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september05/la)). – Google's plan to digitize parts of the collections of four large research libraries, and the entire collection of one has certainly raised some important questions. In this interesting piece, OCLC staff looks at five aspects of the project based on what they know of the collections from information in WorldCat: coverage, language, copyright, works, and convergence. They found that the combined collections of the 'Google 5' libraries cover approximately one-third of the items in the entire WorldCat database. Of that one-third, 61% of the items were held by only one library of the Google 5; only 3% were held by all five. There are other intriguing findings, not the least of which is that over 80% of the books to be digitized are still under copyright. This piece is essential reading for anyone interested in the Google Library project. – [*RT]

Liu, Xiaoming et al. **Lessons learned with Arc, an OAI-PMH Service Provider.** Library Trends 53(4). – The authors discuss the success of Arc, the first end-user OAI-PMH service provider. The searchable repository can serve as a model of future academic Web searching. – [IF]

Shreeves, Sarah et al. **Current developments and future trends for the OAI protocol for metadata harvesting.** Library Trends 53(4). – Sarah Shreeves, Thomas Habing, Kat Hagedorn, and Jeffrey Young report on the latest developments and future directions within the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) community. – [IF]

Singh, Rachael. **Market Research and Business Intelligence** Information World Review, 215 (July/August 2005): 16-17. – A useful run-down of key market research and business intelligence resources. The reviews cover Aroq, Business Monitor

International, Datamonitor, Economist Intelligence Unit, Euromonitor International, Global Insight, KeyNote, Marketresearch.com, Snapdata International Group and Thomson Dialog. Each review gives an overview of the providers and covers new products and services, reference sites and any other new initiatives. – [RN]

Sullivan, Danny. **"End of Size Wars? Google Stays Most Comprehensive But Drops Home Page Count"** SearchEngineWatch (27 September 2005) (<http://searchenginewatch.com/searchday/article.php/3551586>). – Sullivan reports that Google has removed the "page count" figure from its home page, although it still claims to offer "the most comprehensive collection of web documents available to searchers." Since, as he points out, this move "divorces the notion of page counting as a way to 'prove' comprehensiveness," it will help to quell, somewhat, the ongoing "search engine wars." Search engines have touted the size of their databases "as a quick, effective way to give the impression they were more relevant," which is simply not true. As every information profession knows, bigger is not always better; relevancy of search results is what really counts. Another important factor is duplication of content. What good, really, is a huge database that returns a large percentage of duplicate results? Sullivan provides an overview of some of the more recent battles in the ongoing search engine war, as well as reviewing some studies on the accuracy (or lack thereof) of individual search engine database size claims. And there is considerable question how worthwhile these sort of comparisons are, anyhow. "Quality includes comprehensiveness. So if someone devises a test of real queries, things that don't involve rare words but

instead rare information on the web, that's of interest." – [*SK]

Thomas, Kim. **Local sites for local people** Information World Review, 217 (October 2005): 17-19. – A look at the implementation of the e-Government Interoperability Framework (e-GIF) within local councils as their December 2005 deadline comes closer. The idea behind e-GIF is to provide 'joined-up' systems for citizens to alleviate issues of them not knowing where to locate local information. E-GIF will allow databases belonging to, for example, the police and social services to work together to provide an integrated service for information provision. To enable this there are a series of standards to which councils should adhere, but the concern is that in the rush to ensure online access is available, not all of the standards are being met. The article includes a case study of the portal 'Dorset-for-you'. – [RN]

Walker, Jill. **Links and Power: The Political Economy of Linking on the Web** Library Trends 53(4). – Jill Walker presents search engines as commercial entities that reinforce the most powerfully funded information. – [IF]

Winder, Davey. **A Wider View** Information World Review, 216, (September 2005): 18-20. – A discussion of the market for Enterprise Search technology providers and the future developments for this area. It touches on the limits of simple desktop search providers such as Google, and the advanced needs of users for better enterprise search functionality and the industry's attempts to meet those requirements. There are some interesting notes on semantic search and search linguistics, apparently the next step forward for enterprise search, as well as some discussion of the growth of folksonomies. – [RN]

Winder, Davey. **News in Views**
Information World Review, 217 (October
2005): 25-27. – A look at five RSS news
aggregators; BottomFeeder,
NetNewsWire, Newsgator, NewzCrawler
and FeedforAll. Discusses the way the
services work and outlines their pros
and cons. – [RN]

Legal Issues

Band, Jonathan. **The Google Print
Library Project: A Copyright
Analysis.** E-Commerce Law & Policy
(8) (2005)
(<http://www.policybandwidth.com/doc/googleprint.pdf>). – This analysis by a noted
copyright lawyer examines how the
Google Print program works and
dissects its copyright implications. It
concludes: "By limiting the search
results to a few sentences before and
after the search term, the program will
not conflict with the normal exploitation
of works nor unreasonably prejudice the
legitimate interests of rights holders. To
the contrary, it often will often increase
demand for copyrighted works." (The
article link is to a preprint.) – [*CB]

Smallwood, Robert. **DRM in ERM:
Know Your Rights Providers**
EContent: Digital Content Strategies &
Solutions 28(9) (September 2005): 34-
41.
(<http://www.econtentmag.com/?ArticleID=13481>). – Digital rights management is
a hot-button issue among information
providers, discussed in the same
context as fair use, and the author
points out that it usually refers to
"protections of digital entertainment files
in the business-to-consumer
marketplace." Though DRM and ERM,
or enterprise rights management, aren't
entirely distinct from each other, ERM
is the subject here so we're looking at the
management and protection of
confidential information both inside and
outside an organization's firewall. IT

managers, CIOs and others with the
responsibility for securing intellectual
property will benefit from Smallwood's
overview of current security tools and
the companies that are developing
them. He provides context, relating the
systems to platforms and commonly
used office software, and interesting
sidelights such as the particular hoops
to jump through in China, where
encryption may be illegal but business
information theft is on the rise. For those
of us who have to be more concerned
with defending access to what the public
has a right to, perhaps "know your
enemy" is a bit strong, but the article
increases awareness of what may need
to be monitored for inappropriate use or
overuse. There are two sidebars, one
describing recent developments in
standards for DRM/ERM software, and
the other profiling the holders of patents
behind some of the products described
in the main body of the article. – [*JR]

Metadata

Kelly, Brian et al. **Gateway
standardization: a quality assurance
framework for metadata.** Library
Trends 53(4). Brian Kelly, Amanda
Closier, and Debra Hiom discuss the
various strategies for streamlining
metadata when adding new resources
and maintaining subject gateways once
they are built. They have developed a
toolkit that works as a straightforward
self-assessment tool for subject
gateway developers. – [IF]

Preservation

Rosenthal, David S. H., Thomas
Robertson, and Tom Lipkis, et.
al. **Requirements for Digital
Preservation Systems: A Bottom-Up
Approach** (September 2005)
(<http://www.arxiv.org/abs/cs.DL/0509018>). – This paper inspects threats to
digital preservation repositories from

internal issues such as the failure of storage media, hardware, software, operator error, natural disaster, external attack, economic failure, organizational failure, and others. The authors then suggest strategies to address these issues, such as replication, transparency, migration, diversity, audit, sloth (yes, sloth), and others. The paper ends with some specific recommendations for repositories, many of them focused on open disclosure of internal policies and procedures. – [*RT]

Virtual Libraries

Mitchell, Steve. **Collaboration enabling Internet resource collection-building software and technologies.** Library Trends 53(4). – Steve Mitchell discusses a virtual library collection-building software platform in this article. – [IF]

Weblogs And Wikis

Caldwell, Tracey. **Pen a blog buster** Information World Review, 216 (September 2005): 16-17. – Blogs continue to be on the up and up, and this article looks in particular at their use within academic libraries. It touches on issues against the use of web logs, noting the high-profile doubts of Michael Gorman of the ALA amongst others, but also focuses on libraries where blogs have been successfully introduced and promoted, including Warwick University and a case study of their use at Loughborough University. – [RN]

Farkas, Meredith. **"Survey of the Biblioblogosphere: Results"** Information Wants to Be Free (12 September 2005) (<http://meredith.wolfwater.com/wordpress/index.php/2005/09/12/survey-of-the-biblioblogosphere-results/>). – Who are

the library bloggers? If you think they are mainly under 30, the results of this survey may surprise you. For example, 16.4% were 41 to 50, 8.5% were 51 to 60, and 3% were over 60. OK, the research design may not pass *JAS/ST* standards, but this is a fascinating glimpse into what is going on in the biblioblogosphere in terms of blogger demographics, attitudes, behaviours, and motivations. – [*CB]

Gerry McKiernan, **"WikimediaWorlds. Part I. Wikipedia,"** Library Hi Tech = News 22, no. 8 (September/October 2005): 46-54. Purpose – This article is part 1 of a two-part series on wikis. Part 1 focuses on Wikipedia. Design/methodology/approach – The article is prepared by a library professional and provides a summary of the main features. Findings – A wiki is a piece of server software that allows users to freely create and edit web page content using any web browser. Wiki supports hyperlinks and has a simple text syntax for creating new pages and crosslinks between internal pages on the fly. – [Publisher]

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