WriteNote

Whilst we are on the subject of working outside, ISI research Software have added the WriteNote software to the CHEST licence. WriteNote is a bibliographic software package aimed at undergraduates with access via IP authentication. Over the next few months there are plans for authenticating via Athens making access to this software beyond the "library" walls. The CHEST licence, software for the academic community, research councils and selected associated organisations, runs until 31 December 2007 with the last sign up date of December 2004.

Managing the references retrieved….
RefVIZ

RefVIZ is a software package which seeks to analyse references retrieved to provide evidence of connections amongst them. RefVIZ, working with Endnote, Reference Manager and Procite, analyses and groups references according to the thematic content. In turn, this provides visual overviews of the main topics covered in the references. This visual representation seeks to demonstrate how topics are interrelated possibly prompting additional areas for further research.

This is done by either organising references conceptually or highlighting related terms by presenting a review of which subjects tend to be discussed together by term or by group.
Further details from Adept Scientific on 01462 480055; or email refviz@adeptscience.co.uk; or on the website at http://www.adeptscience.co.uk/

SciPROOF

Another package is that of SciPROOF which is a technical authoring toolkit. It integrates with Microsoft Word and expands the native spellchecker from databases within the scientific, biomedical and chemical area. The Style Checker proofreads and suggests term styles, such as upper case characters for acronyms such a DNA, PCR, PAGE, etc.

While the Symbol Checker will flag unique characters such as Greek words or letters, often preceded or followed by a hyphen, and suggests the corresponding Greek symbol. There is a glossary and a direct link to PubMed, allowing the writer to instantly access definitions and references without leaving the Word document. The aim of the tool is to make the production of manuscripts more efficient and with the highest degree of accuracy.

Further information about sciPROOF available from Adept Scientific on 01462 480055; or email sciproof@adeptscience.co.uk; or on the website at http://sciproof.adeptscience.co.uk/

Ensuring YOUR references are retrieved…

A recent article by Christina Desai in C&RL News provides a tongue in cheek look at how to ensure references are retrieved such as writing controversial articles so that other authors react to your work, either to bolster their arguments or to disagree with your conclusions, researching appropriate subject headings and, of course, writing good articles based on solid research and reasoning!
Further tips can be found in
C M Desai : Ten tips for practitioners of citation analysis in the Library. C&RL News. January 2003 p21-23.

Public Sector News
f**rom Penny Garrod**

2003 and all that

2004 - another new year dawns so will try to capture and encapsulate some of the newsworthy items from the end of what was another 'challenging' (to use the politically correct term) year for public sector folk. But first a quick look at the bigger picture.

'Unity' could be the watchword for libraries in 2004, as Resource – the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries aim to erode the barriers between academic, public, government, health, research libraries etc. to make way for 'joined up' thinking and services on a grand scale.

Policy-makers at national and local government level have to be convinced that libraries have a key role to play in the delivery of services which 21st century citizens will value and use, and which meet current national, regional and local agendas. Moreover, libraries have to improve the way in which they convey this message to local authority chiefs and politicians in order to raise their profile and ensure adequate funding is made available to sustain existing services as well as develop new services and content.

The Common Information Environment (CIE)
Unity is to be achieved through joint activity and the sharing of information between key organisations. Therefore the JISC has set up the Common Information Environment Working Group to "promote educational excellence through technology in the public sector". The members of the group are:

- The JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee): http://www.jisc.ac.uk/
- The British Library: http://www.bl.uk/
- Grid: http://www.escience-grid.org.uk/
- NeLH – National Electronic Library for Health: http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/
- Resource: http://www.resource.gov.uk/

- UKOLN: http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/

These organisations will collaborate to develop an on-line information environment "based on common standards so that electronic resources and services can be made available to the widest possible audiences" (from the 'Memorandum of Understanding').

Appointment of new Chief Executive at Resource
The Chair of the Common Information Environment Working Group is Chris Batt OBE, who has recently been appointed Chief Executive of Resource. Chris has been Acting CEO since May 2003, and was previously Director of the Libraries and Information Society Team at Resource, where he was instrumental in implementing the People's Network project. Prior to joining Resource Chris was Director of Leisure Services at the London Borough of Croydon, and he has been at the forefront of ICT developments in libraries throughout his distinguished career. Assuming that Chris continues to chair the CIE Working Group suffice it to say ...watch this space.

Single Regional Agencies
The nine Resource regional agencies for museums, archives and libraries, many of which were set up in 2002, seem to be making good progress with website content. An overview of the agencies and the areas they each cover can be found on the Resource website via a clickable map of England: http://www.resource.gov.uk/action/regional/regionsmap.asp

There are direct links to the websites of each of the nine agencies, as well as key facts including the number of museums, libraries etc. within a region, which provide useful insights into the size and demographics of the respective regions.

The agencies have names which often ending in 'MLAC' e.g. SWMLAC – the South West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (hard to pronounce), or SEMLAC for the South East and EEMLAC for the East of England.

Their websites provide a wealth of information on the three domains, for example: newsletters; directories of museums, archives and libraries within the region; news of regional activities and projects, and Regional Development Agency news. SWMLAC provided a seasonal touch to their header in December by substituting a graphic of a Christmas tree for the 'A' in SWMLAC. The site also features tourism guides, and a gateway to newspapers and media within the region - useful stuff for information professionals, but would also be useful for people moving to an area, house-hunters and tourists. Perhaps they are missing a commercial opportunity here?

Public library projects become national services

A series of successful public library projects, that were developed with national funding (e.g. DCMS/Wolfson; New Opportunities Fund; People's Network Excellence Fund), are starting to be rolled out as part of a national portfolio of resources and services.

"Stories from the Web" is an innovative Reader Development Programme managed by Birmingham Libraries and hosted on the UKOLN website: www.storiesfromtheweb.org. The service has received recognition for its work by Resource and will be working in future with The Reading Agency http://www.readingagency.org.uk/ on a variety of activities for children.

At the end of 2003 thirty-seven library authorities had signed up to Stories from the Web, and the next phase involves adding new content to the website. Two new members of staff have been recruited to identify new titles, book extracts and poems for the target age groups of 8-11 years and 11-14 years.

SeamlessUK http://www.seamlessuk.info/ is a gateway or portal to local and national information developed by Essex County Council in partnership with Fretwell Downing and MDR Partners with New Opportunities Fund funding. The project is based on open systems (XML, Z39,50), fully accessible, and supports partnership working, with content provided by a range of organisations, including Age Concern, NHS Direct Online and the BBC. In the final months of 2003 a series of regional seminars were held to showcase the product and attract new subscribers to the service.

Ebooks and e-audio services

Ebooks featured in this column back in April 2003, and since then progress reports from both the London Borough of Richmond (which has had ebook services since March 2003), and Loughborough University/Co-East/Essex Libraries indicate that progress is being made.

The Loughborough/Co-East project has now started to loan out ebooks in Essex public libraries loaded onto Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), and project staff have had to negotiate with ebook suppliers who are new to the UK public library market. Further information on the Loughborough/Co-East is available at: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/dis/disresearch/e-booksinpublib/index.html

British Library lists rare books on Amazon

The British Library knows how to seize a good opportunity having teamed up with the mighty Amazon

recently. BL have added details of over 2.55 million BL bibliographic records to the Amazon.co.uk books catalogue, of which 1.7 million pre-date the 1970 introduction of the ISBN.

Amazon customers will have a wider choice of books, as specialist and antiquarian booksellers will be able to list their stock, which will include many old editions of popular titles as well as the esoteric. For example, the 1951 edition of Enid Blyton's The Enchanted Wood is mentioned in the news item detailed below. Who knows - I may be able to find those much loved 1950s editions of the Rupert Annual after all. For the full story see: http://www.bl.uk/cgi-bin/press.cgi?story=1391
Also: ZDNet UK News Nov 24th 2003:
http://news.zdnet.co.uk/

Reveal – launch of resource for Visually Impaired People

The Reveal website was launched in September 2003 providing much needed information about services and resources for visually impaired people. Reveal comprises a catalogue of resources and a register of suppliers. The catalogue lists books in Braille and Moon, audio books and digital talking books, tactile diagrams and a host of other accessible materials. Reveal includes details of who produces, loans or sells accessible materials, and information about the different kinds of accessible materials.

Reveal adheres to W3C accessibility guidelines and MARC 21 bibliographic standards, and is compatible with the Z39.50 protocol. Funders included: the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; Resource; the British Library; Lloyds TSB; the Ellerman Foundation; the National Library for the Blind, and the RNIB.

UKOLN, based at the University of Bath, http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/ was involved in the design of the overall Reveal strategy, and the development of the bibliographic standard and collection descriptions schema http://www.revealweb.org.uk/

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

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Coyle, Karen. "E-Books: It's About Evolution, Not Revolution" netConnect (Fall 2003): 8-12. (http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA323334). - Coyle has long tracked the e-book phenomenon, and is active in professional and industry groups such as the Open eBook Forum. Therefore, she knows whereof she speaks, and thus this is a piece that anyone interested in e-books should read. Beginning with the fall of the Rocket Reader, Coyle contrasts that debacle with the countervailing statistic that ebook sales are growing (albeit for different platforms). After a quick nod to public domain and university-based projects, Coyle surveys the commercial landscape and variant models for ebook publication and marketing, with an eye toward the particular needs of libraries. – [*RT]

Hane, Paula J. Stable and Poised for Growth: Interview with Mark Rowse. Information Today (USA) 20 (10) November 2003: p1, 22-28.
Mark Rowse is founder and CEO of Ingenta, founded 1998 as a public/private partnership with the University of Bath, now with 160 staff worldwide. The interview covers the company's technology investments and product initiatives, and industry trends. Ingenta has made key acquisitions and partnerships, and now has multiple revenue streams, but within a single vision – as a business serving the needs of publishers, and also helping libraries and users to access publisher content, via its e-journal access platform. The original STM and academic focus has been extended to the corporate market. Now profitable, Rowse promises more responsiveness to customers, investment in servers and enhanced digital rights management technology. A new 'e-book' business is being developed with Oxford University Press, also tools for publishers to upload their own content, and automated reference extraction. – [PL].

Lin, Nancy. ACLS History E-Book Project: Report on Technology Development and Production Workflow for XML Encoded E-Books New York: American Council of Learned Societies, 3 October 2003. (http://www.historyebook.org/heb-whitepaper-1.html). - The History E-Book Project of the American