(web logs or "diaries"). But as this article explains, one of the best uses of RSS is in automatic web site updating. Broun, Senior Web Developer at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) provides an informative explanation of how they use RSS to automatically update their web site. He also explains how they are also producing RSS feeds themselves, so that others can discover what's new from NCI. – [*RT]

Ryan, Terry, Richard H. G. Field, and Lorne Olfman. "The Evolution of US State Government Home Pages from 1997 to 2002" Journal of Human-Computer Studies 59(4) (October 2003): 403-430. (http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6WGR-4938JRM-2/2/26fb7e232b69d72e2f09bedae366dc75). - If home page design is your shtick, you're going to love this article examining state government home pages over a five-year period. The authors made screenshots of the various home pages courtesy of the Wayback Machine. They then asked volunteers to group the pages however they thought fit. By analyzing patterns in the groupings, the authors came up with a set of criteria ("dimensions") such as navigation, layout and information density. They then developed additional categories of design from "Simple Rectangle" and "Long List" to Portal. Finally, they discuss how their set of measures relate to the original home pages over time, what was hot, what simply shrivelled up and died. (Available through ScienceDirect.) – [*LRK]

WEBLOGS

LePoer, Peter, and Judith Theodori. "The Design and Management of a Dynamically Created Intranet at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory" Intranet Professional: Managing Knowledge Ecosystems 6(5) (September/October 2003) (http://www.intranetstoday.com/Articles/?ArticleID=5510&IssueId=184). - This is a short article focusing on the development and maintenance of interactive resources on the intranet at the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University. After reading the article, it is evident that success in providing web based interactivity is the result of close collaboration between a librarian and an IT professional. The foundation of the system is a Microsoft SQL Server database at the back end, which when queried, dynamically generates content for their intranet websites. Library staffers maintain the database using a Microsoft Access 2000 front end. It is here that adding, editing and deleting occur via data entry forms. Microsoft Active Server Pages (ASP) are the "glue" which connect the front end interface with the back end database. Scripts running on the server, rather than the client, communicate information to the SQL Server. Based on user input they construct a SQL query, receive the desired content matching the query, then build HTML to dynamically generate standard

web pages. A 'User Favorites' feature, developed using cookies, and server-side and client-side scripts, further enhance the system. The Microsoft.Net platform is being considered for future developments. – [*MG]

Suitt, Halley. "A Blogger in Their Midst" Harvard Business Review 81(9) (September 2003): 30-40. (http://harvardbusinessonline.hbsp.harvard.edu/b02/en/common/item_detail.jhtml?id=R0309A). - Interesting case study in the September issue of the Harvard Business Review, for those who have access either online or receive the dead tree edition. Executives at a fictitious medical supply company learn that one of their employees ("Glove Girl") is commenting on their products and relationships with customers in her own weblog, which has developed quite a following. Largely because of Glove Girl, there has been a significant upsurge in the demand for their surgical gloves. And yet, some of her comments are edgy and not particularly flattering to the company. The executives are unsure what to do about this "unofficial" non-sanctioned communications vehicle. Weighing in with suggestions: David Weinberger, Pamela Samuelson, Ray Ozzie, Erin Motameni (VP of human resources, EMC). The author of the case study, Halley Suitt, maintains her own weblog. – [*SK]

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Book Review

Staying legal: a guide to issues and practice affecting the library, information and publishing sectors. 2nd edition.

Chris Armstrong and Laurence W. Bebbington, editors London; Facet Publishing, 2003. 288pp. 1856044386 £49.95

Since the first edition of this book was published in 1999 there have been a number of changes in the law which impact directly on our work as information professionals. This guide supports the need to be aware of the legal and regulatory framework in which we operate and the ongoing key developments in the area. Its aim is to provide an outline of some of the major areas of information work now increasingly affected by developments in the law.

Topics covered include the legal fundamentals applying to the law and information work; the means of accessing legal information (and the difficulties thereof); intellectual property issues covering copyright, trademarks and patents; contracts including IT outsourcing contracts and the licensing of electronic resources; data protection; cybercrime; self-regulation and the internet; and managing risks.

I turned first to Chapter 7 "Agreements, user licences and codes of practice" by Richard McCracken. Whereas all aspects of the law covered in this work are relevant, negotiating licences and ensuring compliance are now core aspects of our work and, as McCracken states, "if books as physical objects helped define the libraries of the past, then the current negotiation of licences attached to electronic works defines the libraries of the future." McCracken describes the fundamental difference between the outright ownership model and the minefield of defining licensing terms.

The chapter breaks down the areas covered in licensing contracts: the definition of the user population; where material can be accessed; how material can be used and how this relates to fair use; other usage issues such as rights to index materials and deep linking; exit strategies including ongoing access to archives and cancellation and renewal conditions.

My only issue with this otherwise comprehensive chapter is that, although it warns of the responsibilities librarians have to enforce compliance to licensing conditions by, for example, ensuring terms of use are publicised, it does not sufficiently emphasise the steps necessary to do this. I include a discussion during the licensing negotiation of the measures we have in place to attempt to ensure appropriate use of licensed products, followed up by a side letter to the supplier describing the same. This covers the design of the access control system used for the intranet, password changing and distribution policies, publicity work covering intellectual property and fair use issues, and methods for ensuring explicit user sign up to terms and conditions.

In Copyright in the information age Alison Coleman points out more than once that "copyright law is in a state of flux" and that any information more than twelve months old is likely to be unreliable. Rather than attempting to provide a definitive statement of the law at the moment of writing, the chapter focuses on describing some general principles.

These include what is protected by copyright, the rights of the copyright owner and the transfer and duration of these rights, and how these rights can be infringed. However the biggest impact of the EU directive coming into effect concerns the definition of

research and the limitation of the fair dealing provisions to private, that is non commercial, research and private study. How librarians are to deal with making this distinction in all the different types of circumstances in which we operate is an issue which the author throws open.

The final chapter by the editors discusses managing risk. They point out "while the internet and information and communications technologies present enormous opportunities, these opportunities are generally accompanied by substantial risks." The chapter describes the nature of these risks, legal, business and reputational; the need to identify and prioritise them and, of particular interest to the practising librarian, the means by which they can be controlled.

Strategies for risk management described in the chapter include technical approaches such as software and hardware solutions like filtering, monitoring and virus detection software, firewalls and encryption, and policy initiatives including development of IT and internet usage policies, email disclaimers and training and awareness. The book as a whole makes a valuable contribution to the last mentioned of these by greatly raising the awareness of the reader as to all that is required to fulfil the most basic workplace requirement of staying legal.

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