Online

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

CILIP & LACA

http://www.cilip.org.uk/

A new agreement allows librarians to copy from Ordnance Survey mapping.

LACA has successfully concluded a new agreement with Ordnance Survey to replace the defunct and long expired 'BRICMICS Agreement'. This Agreement regularises and clarifies the conditions under which librarians and archivists may copy mapping for users. It takes effect from 1st November 2006, and will be reviewed in December 2009. An agreement was necessary because maps are treated by copyright law as artistic works and are not covered by section 39(1) of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 which relates to the copying of published copyright works by librarians and archivists.

EduBlogs

http://edublogs.org/

Offers free blogs for teachers, trainers, lecturers, librarians and other education professionals. They also offer free blogs for students. The website is undergoing a complete revamp in January 2007 to improve their service.

Google

http://www.google.com/

Google Answers In 2007 – New Service, 365 Answers. Google Answers is gone, but it lives on in archives and new services. XooxleAnswers is a new service started by David Sarokin, who was a Google Answers researcher under the name *pafalafa-ga* (to search his archived questions and answers, modify *pafalafa-ga inurl:answers site:google.com* with the keywords of your choice at Google). His new service is available at http://xooxleanswers.com/default.aspx . The site contains some already-answered questions as well as some additional details on the service.

The Guardian

http://education.guardian.co.uk/universityteachinginspection/story/0,,1935806,00.html

Reports that undergraduates at different universities are being awarded degrees in the same subjects after spending wildly varying times in lectures, seminars and private study. Researchers at the Higher Education Policy Institute who studied responses from 15,000 students to a web-based survey last year say the extent of the '"remarkable" differences raises questions about what it means to have a degree from an English university "if a degree can apparently be obtained with such very different levels of effort".

JISC News

http://www.jisc.org.uk/

OpenDOAR listing surveys over 1,000 repositories. OpenDOAR, the Directory of Open Access Repositories, has now surveyed over 1000 candidate sites worldwide for inclusion in its list. This has produced a quality-assured list of some 760 repositories. A key feature of OpenDOAR http://www.opendoar.org/ is that all of the repositories listed have been visited by project staff, tested and assessed by hand. Around a quarter of candidate sites are currently declined as being broken, empty, out of scope, etc. This gives a far higher quality assurance to the listings than

results gathered by automatic harvesting. OpenDOAR is funded by JISC, the Open Society Institute (OSI), the Consortium of Research Libraries (CURL) and SPARCEurope.

NetLibrary

http://www.netlibrary.com/

NetLibrary, a division of OCLC, a leading platform for eContent to libraries worldwide, now offers a selection of eAudiobooks from Blackstone Audio. Librarians will be able to select from a growing catalogue of more than 1,600 Blackstone Audio titles, and order now for delivery in February 2007. NetLibrary will also waive access fees on purchase of all Blackstone Audio titles made before March 31, 2007.

Library users will be able to search for, preview, download and listen to Blackstone Audio titles through the NetLibrary platform via the Internet. Users can download up to ten high-quality, portable eAudiobooks, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. eAudiobooks will download or play on any desktop or laptop running supported media software programs and operating systems.

The Online Education DataBase

http://oedb.org/library/

has put ResearchBuzz in their Top 100 Blog List (http://oedb.org/library/features/top-100-education-blogs/). Education blogs are becoming a means for educators, students, and education administrators to interact more effectively. Technorati (http://technorati.com/) currently tracks 63.1 million blogs, of which some 5,000 are about education.