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.

Catalogues / Cataloguing

Antelman, Kristin, Lynema, Emily and Andrew K. Pace. **Toward a Twenty-First Century Library Catalog** [Information Technology and Libraries](http://www.ala.org/ITALTemplate.cfm?Section=contentab&Template=/MembersOnly.cfm&ContentID=139162) 25(3)(September 2006): 128-139. (http://www.ala.org/ITALTemplate.cfm?Section=contentab&Template=/MembersOnly.cfm&ContentID=139162) – The North Carolina State University Library made a splash in the library world by extracting all the data from their library catalog and using software from Endeca to provide an entirely new kind of library catalog. This article outlines what they did and how they did it, reports on usability testing of their Endeca-based system and their legacy system in head-to-head tests, and outlines future directions. This is just the kind of gutsy leadership we need to demonstrate that there is an alternative to the classic dysfunctional relationship between library catalog vendors and libraries – [*RT]

Beyond the OPAC: Future Directions for Web-Based Catalogues Canberra: Australian Committee on Cataloging, 18 September 2006. (http://www.nla.gov.au/lis/stndrds/grps/acoc/papers2006.html) – There is rightfully a great deal of anguish and hand-wringing over the state of our library catalogs, and this set of papers, presentations, and podcasts are a prime example. Take, for example, the no-holds-barred talk entitled "OPACs and the real information marketplace: why providing a mediocre product at a high price no longer works" by Lloyd Sokvitne. But the focus is also on potential solutions, with presentations on resource description and access (RDA) and functional requirements for bibliographic retrieval (FRBR) – [*RT]

Collaborative Tools

Allan, Rob , Crouchley, Rob and Daw, Michael. **e-Collaboration Workshop: Access Grid, Portals and other VREs for the Social Sciences**. *Ariadne* (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/e-collab-rpt/) – Covers their one-day workshop reporting on the latest developments in e-Collaboration technology and applications, held on 28 June 2006. An online wiki is at http://www.grids.ac.uk/eResearch/ – [CP]

Caldwell, Tracey. **Who shares, wins**. *Information World Review* (230) (December 2006), 23-25 – Looks at social networking in the workplace, taking place outside the corporate or institutional systems, and the role of the information professional – to promote or try and control? – [CP]

Chillingworth, Mark. **Expert edition**. *Information World Review* (December 2006), 37-8 – Interview with Larry Sanger, Wikipedia co-founder, about the Citizendium project, which Sanger calls "an experimental new wiki that will combine public participation with gentle expert guidance." It will initially repackage content from Wikipedia, with contributions and corrections from academics and subject experts. The main difference between it and Wikipedia is that those who contribute content

will have to use their real name and that it will have expert editors. It will be non-profit to start with but Sanger is researching revenue models – [CP]

Guy, Marieke. **Wiki or won't he? A tale of public sector wikis**. *Ariadne* (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/guy/) – Considers technical and cultural barriers to participation as well as their potential. Has wikimania reached the public sector? Gives examples of some publicly accessibly voluntary, government, library and higher and further education wikis, and case studies of the interoperability focus community wiki and WebDevWiki – [CP]

Thomas, Kim. **A blog standard approach**. *Information World Review* (229) (November 2006) 16-18. (http://www.iwr.co.uk/information-world-review/features/2168470/blog-standard-approach) – Profile of Ruth Ward, Head of Knowledge Management (KM) at Allen & Overy, and how she has embraced Web 2.0 technologies, using websites that combine blog and wiki functionality. The KM team has launched three experimental sites: one for the professional support lawyers team exploring the use of the technology for communities such as cross-border teams who need to collaborate; a site for the environmental lawyers team to build their knowledge on a new EU directive, exploring use of technology for improving processes for creating knowledge about new legislation; and the third for publishing online newsletters. Such sites now number over 20 and the biggest serves about 150 people. Ward notes that it seems to speak powerfully to anybody who's not sufficiently techie to build their own intranet. Their future challenges are to ensure that as the information grows users can still find what they're looking for, so sites are tagged by administrators and users; and rolling out a site to the KM teams of key clients – [CP]

Winder, Davey. **Online tools: blogs and wikis**. *Information World Review* (229)(November 2006) 28-31. (http://www.iwr.co.uk/information-world-review/features/2168443/online-tools-blogs-wikis) – Group tests of: Userland, Windows Live Writer (beta), Six Apart, Confluence, Project Forum and Social text.org – [CP]

Digital Libraries

Brogan, Martha L. [**Contexts and Contributions: Building the Distributed Library**](http://www.diglib.org/pubs/dlf106/) Washington, DC: Digital Library Federation, November 2006. (http://www.diglib.org/pubs/dlf106/) – This rather massive report (the PDF version runs to 282 pages) covers a lot of ground. This is as it should be, since these days there are a very large number of potentially interesting digital library projects. But therein also lies the difficulty. Although the broad sweep that Brogan lays out for us is amazing in itself, it is deucedly difficult to draw any generalized conclusions from such an exercise. There are many threads of activity that are advancing at varying rates of speed and in sometimes parallel, sometimes congruent, and sometimes tangential directions. Making sense of all this is perhaps an exercise in frustration, at least for those of puny intellect such as myself. Nope, probably best to look at it as a wild ride through an amazing array of interesting projects and glean from it what you can. My guess is that like the blind men encountering the elephant, our perception of this report will depend greatly on the part to which we affix our grasp. All of this should not be construed to be critical of the author – this is clearly an achievement of monumental scale, to have looked both broadly and deeply at such a wide array of digital projects and to have emerged with an amazing portrait of where we are at this point in time. Full disclosure: a couple of projects in which I am a participant or manager are highlighted – [*RT]

Colliers, Mel. **Strategic changes in higher education libraries with the advent of the digital library during the fourth decade of *Program*.** Program: electronic library and information systems 40 (4) (2006): 334-345 – Colliers' paper takes Jefcoate's paper as a starting point and goes on to explore the "digital library era" with reference to libraries in the Netherlands, Belgium and Great Britain. Colliers finds that the core business of academic libraries has rapidly changed, Websites are now the shop windows of libraries and digital delivery of current research information

has become the norm. Colliers predicts that e-learning will expand and given proposed digitisation initiatives, that there will be universal access to out of copyright materials within the next decade – [MT]

Han, Yan. **GROW: building a high-quality civil engineering learning object repository and portal**. *Ariadne* (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/yan-han/) – Overview of the Geotechnical, Rock and Water Digital Library. The author describes the design philosophy with regard to learning objects and the associated hierarchical structure of granularity – [CP]

Electronic Publishing

Whalley, Brian. **E-books for the future: here but hiding?** *Ariadne* (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/whalley/) – Outlines some developments in e-book technologies and links them to existing ways of presenting textbook information. Covers hardware relating to textbooks and quality academic publishing, such as reusable educational objects, digital asset repositories and management systems, personal learning environments, portal wikis and wiki-books. Speculates on what future e-textbooks might look like – [CP]

General

Access Conference 2006 Presentations Ottawa: University of Ottawa, October 2006.(http://www.access2006.uottawa.ca/?page_id=10) – The place to find out about the latest in library technology is the Canadian Access Conference. Always a good time, it has recently been discovered by library technologists south of the border to be a don't miss event. Thus it is a fruitful and interesting cross-fertilization between the latest developments in Canada and the US, as well as Europe and points more distant. This year was no different, and the presentations and podcasts available here are testimony to the fact. Representative titles include "Library Chatbots in Electronic Reference" (a definite hit, you really must see Stella in action) and "Faceted Search with Solr". So don't expect simple explanations of basic technologies, expect to find out about cutting-edge projects and the latest tools and technologies – [*RT]

Brindley, Lynne J. **Joint funding councils' libraries review group (the "Follett") report: the contribution of the information technology sub-committee.** Program: electronic library and information systems 40 (4) (2006): 311-314 – Originally published back in 1994, this paper outlined the plans for development of electronic library services in the UK academic environment. The recommendations made then included the electronic delivery of documents, making teaching materials available online, resource sharing and integrating information access and delivery. It is important to note that without the work of the information technology sub-committee, many of the services and facilities we take for granted today may not have emerged in the form they have. This theme is taken up by Derek Law, who charts the development of nationally organised e-resources for higher education in the 1990s – [MT]

Carnevale, Dan. **E-Mail Is for Old People** The Chronicle of Higher Education (6 October 2006): A27. (http://chronicle.com/weekly/v53/i07/07a02701.htm) – OMG, old people still use *e-mail!* Not teens. According to this article: "A 2005 report from the Pew Internet and American Life Project, called 'Teens and Technology', found that teenagers preferred new technology, like instant messaging or text messaging, for talking to friends, and use e-mail to communicate with 'old people.' Along the same lines, students interviewed for this article say they still depend on e-mail to communicate with their professors. But many of the students say they would rather send text messages to friends, to reach them wherever they are, than send e-mail messages that might not be seen until hours later. Chat, Facebook, MySpace, podcasts, RSS feeds, and vodcasts are also popular ways to reach the younger crowd, and colleges and universities are trying to adapt to changing communication preferences – [*CB]

Chapman, Ann. **RDA: a new international standard**. *Ariadne* (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/chapman/) – Gives the background to the planned move from Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR) to the Resource Description and Access (RDA), which incorporates a conceptual model of entities, relationships and attributes that are independent of communications formats or data structure – [CP]

Frumkin, Jeremy. **In Our Cages with Golden Bars** OCLC Systems & Services 22(4)(2006): 247-248 – This is a short piece about doing away with the "golden bars" of a cage that Frumkin believes we impose on ourselves when developing new systems. It's about expertise and where to position it. As Frumkin says, "We need to forego our own need to push our library expertise onto our users, and instead use that expertise to do the heavy lifting for our users." – [*LRK]

Huerster, Bob. **Evolving information science in a Web worl**d. *Searcher* 14(9) (2006): 44-46 – Huerster indicates that the proliferation of research sources on the Web has raised the bar for all information professionals. Huerster states that it is now more important than ever that librarians use their skills to identify and evaluate key research sources for their users. It is argued that modern information professionals should now be honing their analytical and communication skills, if they are to survive and thrive in an increasingly competitive market – [MT]

Macklin, Tony. **How we built www.ask.com** .*Net* issue 152 August 2006: 102-103 – This is a short but interesting item on how Ask Jeeves became Ask and the reasons why it was felt necessary to change the brand. The article takes you through the processes the company went through to make these changes. An example of this was the creation of two prototype sites. These were used to determine users' reactions to the look and feel of Ask.com – [JW]

Smith, Laura. **Information first, technology second**. *Information World Review* (230) (December 2006), 26-27,29 – Profile of the Information Management Professional (IMP) Group, which emphasises that it is the quality of the information rather than the sophistication of the technology that really matters. It promotes information management as a professional discipline. Discusses why it is needed in both public and private sectors. While technology has its place, there is a need for a better understanding of how to get the information right in the first place – [CP]

Tourte, Greg and Tonkin, Emma. **Video streaming of events**. *Ariadne* (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/tourte-tonkin/) – Describes the set-up and use of video streaming technology at the 2006 Institutional Web Management Workshop. They worked to a tight budget and overcame constraints of licensing, the type of filming involved and other factors – [CP]

Information Access

Gierveld, Heleen. **Considering a marketing and communications approach for an institutional repository**. *Ariadne* (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/gierveld/) – Proposes a market-oriented approach to increase the rate of deposit to an Institutional Repository. Tackles the conundrum that although the benefits of an IR may be clear to librarians, IRs have not as yet proved to be particularly attractive to authors. Target audiences and their needs are central, and Gierveld examines the trends and external factors affecting scientists working in this area, and translates the librarian's notions of an IR into a product and language fitting the needs of scientists. Presents a social marketing strategy suitable for projects that aim to change the behaviour of the target audience for a benefit beyond its direct interest – [CP]

Jefcoate, Graham. *Gabriel*: **Gateway to Europe's national libraries.** Program: electronic library and information systems 40 (4) (2006): 325-333 – First published in 1996, this paper looked at *Gabriel*, the "*GA*teway and *BRI*dge to *E*urope's national *Li*braries". Gabriel served as a single point of access to the online services of the national libraries within the Conference of European

National Libraries(CENL). The Gabriel project became a model for European wide collaboration/networking, and was incorporated into The European Library in the Summer of 2005 (see http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/index.html) – [MT]

Law, Derek. **Remembering history: the work of the information services sub-committee of the joint information systems committee in the UK** Program: electronic library and information systems 40 (4) (2006): 315-324 – Law's comprehensive historical account emphasises that the principles established in the early days by the ISSC still remain pertinent today. Law stresses that resources should be free at the point of use, subscription not transaction based, universally available and appropriate for different ability levels, have some commonality in their user interfaces and be backed with appropriate mass instruction programmes – [MT]

Masako, Suzuki and Sugita, Shigeki. **From nought to a thousand: the HUSCAP project**. *Ariadne* (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/suzuki-sugita/) – Describes Hokkaido University's efforts to populate its institutional repository with internal and peer-reviewed journal articles written by researchers at the university, having started with digitised collections of faculty journal back issues. Face-to-face contact with their target audience has proved key to raising awareness. The authors evaluate the methods they used to collect e-prints and how it is accessed. They conclude it is more important and effective to secure fresh digital literature produced day by day before it is lost, than to focus only on compiling past works; to help researchers understand the IR aims, and recruit repeat submitters, it may be effective to notify them how much their papers in the IR are read – [CP]

McDonald, Robert H., and Chuck Thomas. **Disconnects between Library Culture and Millennial Generation Values** EDUCAUSE Quarterly 29(4)(2006): 4-6. (http://www.educause.edu/apps/eq/eqm06/eqm0640.asp?bhcp=1) – Are research libraries reaching Millennials? The authors don't think so, and they examine how current library cultural values, technologies, and policies are barriers to libraries seizing new opportunities to serve this important user group. For example, they note: "Dogmatic library protection of privacy inhibits library support for file-sharing, work-sharing, and online trust-based transactions that are increasingly common in online environments, thus limiting seamless integration of Web-based services." Whether you agree or not, this article is worth a read – [*CB]

Nizami, Bela. **Apex: digitizing newspapers past to provide a philosophical world view.** EContent November (2006): 14-15 – This paper suggests that the digitisation of the world's historical newspapers could allow greater access to information and be beneficial to international relations. APEX has now digitised millions of newspaper articles from the 18th to the 21st century, and hopes to make these available worldwide via the Internet within the next decade. See http://www.apexcovantage.com – [MT]

Sale, Arthur. **The Patchwork Mandate** UTas ePrints (2006) (http://eprints.utas.edu.au/410/) – You can't get your university administration to mandate deposit of e-prints in your institutional repository. There are voluntary deposit strategies, but Sale notes: "The 'everything else' policies are not worth talking about for long. In the absence of mandates, every encouragement policy known to humanity fails to convince more than 15% to 20% of researchers to invest the five minutes of time needed to deposit their publications. The percentage does not grow with time." What to do? The answer: work to get departmental mandates – [*CB]

Suber, Peter. **Open Access and Quality** SPARC Open Access Newsletter (102)(2006) (http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/newsletter/10-02-06.htm#quality) – Are online open-access journals of lower quality than "toll-access" journals? Peter Suber examines this question methodically, mustering and refuting the arguments supporting the notion that OA journals are inferior to

TA journals. Along the way, the reader learns interesting facts, such as "the Kaufman-Wills report showed that more subscription journals charge author-side fees than OA journals." In his conclusion, he notes: "If the same squeamishness about online dissemination had infected print dissemination in the age of Gutenberg, on the ground that real scholarship was inscribed by hand on goatskin, then every kind of knowledge would have been held back." – [*CB]

Warr, Wendy. **Next gen science**. *Information World Review* (229)(November 2006) 38-39 – Personal view of the STM-related topics discussed at this year's ICIC, including a comparison of Scopus, Web of Science and electronic laboratory notebooks – [CP]

Workshop on e-Research, Digital Repositories and Portals. Ariadne (49) (October 2006) – Report on a two-day workshop held at the University of Lancaster 6-7 September 2006. http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/escience-lancaster-rpt/ – [CP]

Information Retrieval

Ballard, Stephanie & Henry, Marcia. **Citation searching.** *Searcher* 14 (9) (2006): 24-33 – An overview is provided of the range of health, social science and education databases that now allow users to undertake searching of backward-in-time cited references and forward-in-time citing references. The article provides a brief history of citation indexing, and goes on to look at current development in the field. The authors conclude that an exhaustive search for cited references still requires one to search more than one appropriate resource. A list of useful websites and further reading about citation searching is supplied at the end of the paper – [MT]

Bennett, David E. **Immaculate Catalogues, Indexes and Monsters Too...** Ariadne (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/cig-2006-rpt/) – Report on the CILIP Cataloguing and Indexing Group Annual Conference, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, 13-15 September 2006. Themes included novel methods for automated image compression and indexing, searching and retrieval methods, and reviews of user-operability studies of image retrieval search interfaces. The development of the Research Development and Access (RDA) protocol was also covered. The author concludes that cutting-edge information and computer science research promises to simplify information searching and provide high-quality semantic, concept-orientated descriptions for all materials, together with more detailed and consistent indexing. Presentations are available at http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/CIG-2006/programme – [CP]

Bradley, Phil. **Search engines: is Google building on shaky foundations?** Ariadne (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/search-engines/) – Looks at recent offerings from Google, while comparing them against many of the products and services that he has covered previously in Ariadne . He points out the high degree to which Google has penetrated the search engine market and the degree to which users make use of its search services – [CP]

Chang Daphne & Keil, Helen. **Need another tool for your toolbox**. *Searcher* 14(9) (2006): 39-43 – This article looks at the development and introduction of a library toolbar by staff at Stanford University's Jackson Library. The toolbar can be downloaded onto Web browsers and allows staff and students at Stanford to access quickly a customisable set of popular library resources, such as the catalogue or e-journals. To market and promote the toolbar, a competition was run to name the toolbar and the winning entry chosen was FastJack. The library toolbar provides users with a prominent reminder of the library resources, and brings users back to the service with a single click, allowing the library to capture and retain customers. One month after the official release of FastJack, website usage statistics showed a jump of about 50% for total site visits compared to the previous month, and to the same month in the previous year. FastJack can be viewed at http://www.gsb.stanford.edu/library/toolbar/index.html – [MT]

Pickering, Bobby. [Sector update]. **Why news aggregator vendors must adapt** *Information World Review* (229)(November 2006) 22, 24-27 – Covers recent developments including Google News Archive search, with views on developments from Factiva, LexisNexis, ProQuest and Thomson Learning. Includes customer perspectives and developments in delivering information to customers especially in the area of reputation and brand monitoring, and use of Web 2.0 interactivity – [CP]

Schachter, Joshua. **We could grow del.icio.us into something that stores, categorises and shares all aspects of your digital life**. *.Net* 153 September 2006: 32-33 – Joshua Schachter is the creator of del.icio.us. Yahoo has now bought del.icio.us. Although the article does not add anything to the use of del.icio.us, it is interesting to know how it came about from a simple idea to manage bookmarks better – [JW]

Tebbutt, David. **Beyond search**. *Information World Review* (229)(November 2006) 20-23 (http://www.iwr.co.uk/information-world-review/features/2169331/beyond-search) – Muses on what course search engines will take in future, and the role of information professionals in the fuzzy world of discovery, with search becoming an expected part of the workplace infrastructure. Innovative features from search engine companies include just-in-time stored searches – [CP]

Winder, Davey. **Podcasting and news aggregation tools**. *Information World Review* (230) (December 2006), 40-43 – Podcasting tools reviewed: MT-Podcast, FeedForAll Mac, ProfCast 2.0 for the Mac. News aggregators reviews: NewsVine, NewsNow and Google News – [CP]

Legal Issues

Bailey, Charles W., Jr. **Strong Copyright + DRM + Weak Net Neutrality = Digital Dystopia?** Information Technology and Libraries 25(3)(September 2006): 116-127 (http://www.ala.org//ITALTemplate.cfm?Section=contentab&Template=/MembersOnly.cfm&ContentID=139346) – Our very own Charles Bailey, Jr. addresses the confluence of a few related trends that threaten the very nature of the Internet. Stronger and longer US copyright law has locked up more intellectual property than ever before. Coupled with better digital rights management (DRM) techniques, those who purchase content can do less and less with it. The potential loss of "net neutrality" (where the network is equal to all) and the potential rise of net "haves" and "have nots" in addition to the trends noted above would indeed seem to point to a dystopian future for the Internet. Bailey also makes note of ways in which some are fighting back, discusses the impact of these issues on libraries, and concludes with a call for those who believe the Internet has enabled "an extraordinary explosion of innovation, creativity, and information dissemination" or potentially see the Internet ironically come to resemble the pre-Internet online services of the past – [*RT]

Caldwell, Tracey. **The digital copyright balance**. *Information World Review* (229) (November 2006) 12 – The British Library is calling for a balance between the rights of creators and public access in its intellectual property manifesto, which it launched and debated at the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences. The manifesto makes six recommendations for reform. The Gowers Review of current intellectual-property policies is due in November 2006 – [CP]

Dudman, Jane. **Jack of all trades, master of the org**. *Information World Review* (229)(November 2006) 24-26. (http://www.iwr.co.uk/information-world-review/features/2168447/jack-trades-master-org) Profile of Suw Chapman, executive director of the Open Rights Group (http://www.openrightsgroup.org/) which raises awareness of issues such as privacy, identity, data protection, access to knowledge and copyright reform – [CP]

Korn, Naomi and Charles Oppenheim. **Creative commons licences in higher and further education: do we care?** Ariadne (49) (October 2006) (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/korn-oppenheim/) – Discusses the history and merits of using creative commons licences, which seem to be empowering rights holders with the knowledge and tools to decide under what terms they will allow third parties to use their work, while permitting users easy and user-friendly means to use content lawfully without the need to request permission. Critics point to issues surrounding the ethics, legality and politics of their use. The authors look into instances that may encourage higher- and further-education institutions to reconsider using Creative Commons Licences – [CP]

Metadata

Allinson, Julie, Heery, Rachel, Johnston, Pete and Russell, Rosemary. **DC 2006: Metadata for Knowledge and Learning.** Ariadne (49) (October 2006) – (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/dc-2006-rpt/) Report on DC 2006, the sixth international conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications (3-6 October 2006): presentations are on the conference website (http://dc2006.ucol.mx/program.htm). Key themes included vocabularies, frameworks and models, metadata interoperability, education and application experience – [CP]

Digital Library Federation/Aquifer Implementation Guidelines for Shareable MODS Records Washington, DC: Digital Library Federation, November 2006. (http://www.diglib.org/aquifer/dlfmodsimplementationguidelines_finalnov2006.PDF) – Although this document is specifically aimed at participants in the Digital Library Federation Aquifer project, it is chock full of good advice for any organization wanting to expose or share their metadata to other institutions -- for example, via the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). Note, however, that this document is quite specific on how metadata should be encoded using the Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) format. Related (and more generally applicable) work can be found at the Digital Library Federation and NSDL OAI and Shareable Metadata Best Practices Working Group website – [*RT]

Preservation

Dudman, Jane. **Meet the CEO**. *Information World Review* (230) (December 2006), 18-20 – Profile of Natalie Ceeney of the National Archives, which recently merged with the Office of Public Sector Information. The National Archives handles records management and OPSI looks after crown copyright and re-use. *A New Vision for the National Archive* is a five-year plan setting out three key aims: leading and transforming information management, guaranteeing the survival of today's information and bringing history to life for everyone. Other developments include digitisation on demand and its in-house digital preservation system – [CP]

Entlich, Richard, and Ellie Buckley. **Digging Up Bits of the Past: Hands-on With Obsolescence** *RLG DigiNews* 10(5)(15 October 2006) (http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=20987#article1) – This is the fascinating tale of the File Format and Media Migration Pilot Service (FFMM) at the Cornell University Library, complete with macabre tales of bringing data back from the dead. The service offered to recover data from obsolete storage media and file formats for the Cornell University community, and their experiences are both disturbing and insightful. Their case-studies of rescuing data from the clutches of ancient operating systems, applications, and storage media are a cautionary tale for anyone responsible for information in digital form. The last time I checked, that was darn near all of us, whether we have digital content in library collections, or on our own personal floppy disks – [*RT]

Security

[25 Terrifying Information Technology Horror Stories](http://www.cio.com/specialreports/horror.html) *CIO* (31 October 2006)(http://www.cio.com/specialreports/horror.html) – "Not for the squeamish," we are warned, but you can learn something here from the misfortunes (and, sometimes, the heroism) of others. ERP nightmares at universities, data breaches, scary outdated federal systems, hurricanes, power outages, terrorism, government regulation compliance ... All in all, a good seasonal read for those of us who nursemaid technology on a daily basis – [*SK]

Web Design

Humbert, S.I. & Tilley E.A. **Redesigning a** website **in-house to improve information literacy: experiences of a small library.** *Program: Electronic Library and Information Systems* 40 (4) (2006): 334-346-360 – This paper demonstrates what can be done to redesign and improve the accessibility/usability of a website, within a small academic library with extremely limited funds. To be standards-compliant, it was recommended to write the pages using HyperText Mark-up Language for the page structure and Cascading Style Sheets for the formatting. Librarians should remember they often have considerable subject expertise; detailed knowledge of their user's needs and a willingness to listen to feedback. These factors are often more important to good website design, than large amounts of funding – [MT]

Nielsen, Jakob **The Jakob Nielson experience** *.Net* issue 157 December 2006: 38-44 – This article reflects on the usability of websites. He notes a general lack of improvement in usability since 2000. In his latest review of 25, websites the main problems identified relate to navigation and search problems and poorly designed pages that do not provide the required information. Users bring expectations to websites. They expect to be able to search and gather results and perform as their favourite search engine performs. Investment in good search software is essential. Improve page titles to help the search engine identify the correct location and create good navigation. Test your site with your users but with real queries. The top ten mistakes gleaned from readers of his e-mail newsletter are: 1) legibility: font sizes and contrast between text and back-ground is inappropriate; 2) non-standard links; 3) inappropriate use of Flash; 4) content too verbose; 5) poor search facilities; 6) browser incompatibility; 7) problems with forms; 8) no contact information; 9) frozen layouts with fixed widths; 10) pop-ups. Overall, an interesting article giving simple advice on how to improve the user's experience of doing business on the Internet – [JW]

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