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://sunsite.berkeley.edu/CurrentCites).

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

Catalogues / Cataloguing

Beccaria, Mike, and Scott, Dan. Fac-Back-OPAC: An Open Source Interface to Your Library System Computers in Libraries 27(9)(October 2007) (http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/oct07/Beccaria_Scott.shtml) – The advent of the Solr search server has spawned a number of experiments in "next-generation" library catalog systems, not least of which is the "Fac-Back-OPAC" described here. Designed as a backup catalog (setting aside for a moment why such a thing is needed), it actually provides functionality that most existing ILSs don't, such as faceted browsing (the "Fac" part of the name). This article briefly describes the system's features, the technology building blocks used, and what might be required by any other institution wishing to install and use this free open source system. Recommended for those who are technically inclined and want to try it out for themselves, or decision-makers who supervise such staff. – [*RT]

Special Section: Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 33(6) (August/September 2007) : 6-31. (http://www.asis.org/Bulletin/Aug-07/) – This special section of the Bulletin of the ASIST looks at a number of aspects of the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, a framework for bibliographic data published by IFLA. Although the paper itself is relatively old (1998), only recently have we seen library catalogs that have begun to implement some of the principles laid out in that report. From a somewhat gentle introduction to FRBR concepts by Pat Riva, to research-based issues and findings
by Shawne Miksa (of the MARC Content Designation Utilization (MCDU) Project) and others, there is likely something here for both the FRBR novice as well as the expert. – [*RT]

Digitisation projects / preservation

Chillingworth, Mark. Scanning the horizons of information's future. Information World Review 240 November 2007: 10-11 – Feature on Microsoft and British Library's ongoing joint digitization programme. Kristian Jensen, head of British and early printed collections comments on the more comprehensive coverage of this project relative to earlier selective archiving of materials in their earlier microfilm archiving programme. Issues such as copyright and technical demands are also covered. – [RH]

McDowell, Cat S. Evaluating Institutional Repository Deployment in American Academe Since Early 2005 D-Lib Magazine 13(9/10)(September/October 2007) (http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september07/mcdowell/09mcdowell.html) – In this article, the author provides a follow-up to the work done by Lynch and Lippincott in documenting the state of institutional repositories. While using a different methodology and a more rigorous definition of institutional repository than Lynch and Lippincott, the study finds many similar trends in how institutional repositories are being adopted and used. Perhaps not surprisingly, this study found that while new institutional repository deployments are leveling off, the most significant area of growth in deployments has been at smaller institutions. Other interesting findings include the observation that contributions to institutional repositories are still greatest, from both relative and absolute perspectives, at large research universities, but student work accounts for the majority of items in these institutional repositories; faculty contributions to institutional repositories still tend to be difficult to acquire. – [*FC]

Starita, Angela. Village Voices Print 61(5)(Sept/Oct 2007): 38-45. (http://www.printmag.com/design_articles/local_projects/tabid/253/Default.aspx) – When developing a component of increased interactivity in a site for information preservation and access, it's helpful to look beyond our standard boxes of library, archive, etc. This article takes us far beyond by looking at the work of Local Projects, a group that creates environments where information sources, the "voices" in the article title, are brought together in very interesting ways. Past projects have included the design of a travelling 'story collection booth' for StoryCorps, which is building an archive of oral histories by taking its apparatus to the people with the stories to tell, and Memory Maps, in which residents of New York City were able to add their place-specific tales to large-scale borough maps. Exhibition design is also part of their work: for the Museum of Chinese in the Americas they created a continuous ribbon-like digital screen that charts exchange
between China and the US over 167 years, and they are currently co-designing the permanent exhibition for the World Trade Center Memorial Museum. That museum's director believes that 9/11 is the most documented event in history, and Local Projects' principal Jake Barton says "We realized that the whole DNA of the project was the overlap of physical space with media space." In some form, the overlap of physical space with media space must be considered by all of us responsible for information places, and this article is helpful in reimagining those walls. – [*JR]

**E-publishing**

Sandler, Mark, Kim Armstrong, and Bob Nardini. *Market Formation for E-Books: Diffusion, Confusion or Delusion?* *The Journal of Electronic Publishing* 10(3)(Fall 2007) ([http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.3336451.0010.310](http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.3336451.0010.310)) – A lively and knowledgeable overview of the factors affecting the market for e-books. On supply side, the impediments include convoluted marketing and pricing models offered by publishers that are not aligned with how libraries actually purchase books, and convoluted functionality that doesn't satisfy the needs and expectations of users. On the demand side, there is no consensus on the part of libraries about the decision making and budgeting structures needed to acquire e-books. Given all this lack of standardization, it is difficult to make the shift of resources required to move from a print to an e-book model. Yet the authors believe that the success of e-books is both desirable and inevitable. The "first wave" of e-book projects offers lessons about what works and what doesn't. Those e-book projects that have been successful have been characterized by a combination of low per-volume costs, simple pricing models, organizational trust, good functionality, and strong scholarly content. Moreover, the issues involved with e-books resemble those related to the shift from print to electronic journals, which has already reached a tipping point towards digital. That experience with journals can provide a framework for all stakeholders for developing successful e-book strategies. Also see the companion piece in the same issue of JEP, *What Happened to the E-book Revolution?: The Gradual Integration of E-books into Academic Libraries*, which provides an overview of recent literature about this topic. – [*BR]

**Education**

Foster, Nancy Fried, Gibbons, Susan and eds. *Studying Students: The Undergraduate Research Project at the University of Rochester* Chicago: ACRL, ALA, 2007. ([http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/downloadables/Foster-Gibbons_cmpd.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/downloadables/Foster-Gibbons_cmpd.pdf)) – This edited volume is the result of a research study conducted by University of Rochester River Campus Libraries staff to answer the question "What do students really do when they write their research papers?". With intriguing section titles such as "Night Owl Librarians: Shifting the Reference Clock," "Mapping Diaries, or Where Do They Go All
Day?", and "The Mommy Model of Service" there's likely to be something here for everyone who works in an academic library. In the conclusion Foster and Gibbons provide four representative approaches to the question posed by the study as epitomized by four anonymized students. Highly recommended for all academic libraries, since we can garner the benefit of this thorough set of studies without doing all the work. – [*RT]

Thomas, Kim. Tap into workflow. Information World Review 241 December: 16-18 – In-depth report and comment on the new wave of workflow tools being developed by information vendors. The opportunity for academic institutions to connect e-learning and content is discussed alongside a possible changing role for vendors in becoming educational providers. A variety of vendors such as Blackboard are considered. The article notes that there is currently no single supplier in the market who brings together all the elements of workflow solutions. – [RH]

General

ARL: A Bimonthly Report: Special Double Issue on University Publishing (252/253)(June/August 2007) (http://www.arl.org/resources/pubs/br/br252-253.shtml) – The most recent issue of the ARL Bimonthly Report follows up on the Ithaka report "University Publishing in a Digital Age" (issued in July) to focus on the state of university publishing, the evolving role of libraries in delivering publishing services, and the relationship between libraries, university presses and other stakeholders in the scholarly publishing enterprise. In addition to a summary of the original Ithaka report, the issue includes an overview of the "The Changing Environment of University Publishing" by Karla Hahn, and a response to the report by David Shulenberger, who calls for universities to develop research "distribution strategies" and provides a vision for what those strategies might include. A description of the University of Michigan's "commentable" version of the Ithaka report, and three case studies of library-based publishing initiatives (the Californial Digital Library, the Univeristy of Illinois, and Synergies, a multi-institutional Canadian effort) round out this issue. As a whole, the issue makes a compelling case for a more active role for libraries in scholarly publishing. – [*BR]

Caldwell, Tracey. If you can't beat them, join them. Information World Review 240 November 2007: 14-16 – In a study of how organisations are turning to business analysts to solve information and strategy issues, changing roles and the challenges for information professional are considered. The move to organisations requiring more complex contextual information and how an analyst's role might sit now between a marketing and IT function is noted. Article includes comment from a variety of organisations including CILIP and TFPL. – [RH]
Doctorow, Cory. *Scroogled Radar* (October 2007) (http://www.radaronline.com/from-the-magazine/2007/09/google_fiction_evil_dangerous_surveillance_control_1.php) – This cautionary tale by popular science fiction writer Cory Doctorow poses the question, "Google controls your e-mail, your videos, your calendar, your searches ... What if it controlled your life?" Beyond being an enjoyably scary, snap-crackling good story, "Scroogled" should have every librarian thinking twice about embracing a company whose bottom line has been "don't be evil"—a position quite distinct from "do be good." – [*KGS]

**Draft Report of the Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control** Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 30 November 2007 (http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/draft-report.html) – I am citing this draft report virtually sight unseen given its likely interest for our readers and the fact that we are publishing this issue the day of its release. Comments on the draft are being solicited through December 15, 2007. Their findings are grouped around five central themes: 1. Increase the efficiency of bibliographic production for all libraries through increased cooperation and increased sharing of bibliographic records, and by maximizing the use of data produced throughout the entire "supply chain" for information resources; 2. Transfer effort into higher-value activity. In particular, expand the possibilities for knowledge creation by "exposing" rare and unique materials held by libraries that are currently hidden from view and, thus, underused; 3. Position our technology for the future by recognizing that the World Wide Web is both our technology platform and the appropriate platform for the delivery of our standards. Recognize that people are not the only users of the data we produce in the name of bibliographic control, but so too are machine applications that interact with those data over the network in a variety of ways; 4. Position our community for the future by facilitating the incorporation of evaluative and other user-supplied information into our resource descriptions. Work to realize the potential of the FRBR framework for revealing and capitalizing on the various relationships that exist among information resources; 5. Strengthen the library profession through education and the development of metrics that will inform decision-making now and in the future." I urge you to read it, digest, and (if so moved) comment on it. – [*RT]

**The Ecar Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology, 2007** Boulder, CO: EDUCAUSE, October 2007 (http://connect.educause.edu/library/abstract/TheECARStudyofUnderg/45075?time=1191080166) – No matter how far you've taken your library into providing high tech, it probably isn't far enough, based on the findings of the "longitudinal extension of the 2004, 2005, and 2006 ... studies of students and information technology" from the Educause Center for Applied Research. Cell phone use is now nearly at 100 percent saturation, laptop ownership is up sharply to almost 75 percent, and student expectations are high. These

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students live and work on the Web; it is not a tool to them, but part of their lifestyle. As often happens in these higher-ed studies, community colleges are under-represented, so take conclusions about that huge (and hugely-neglected) area of higher ed with a grain of salt. Despite that limitation, this report needs to be required reading for any strategic planning process for libraries -- technology-focused or not. – [*KGS]

Information Access

After Years of Effort, Mandatory NIH Public Access Policy Passes Congress Library Journal Academic Newswire 25 October 2007 (http://www.libraryjournal.com/info/CA6494533.html#news1) – Open-access advocates got good news in October when the U.S. Senate passed the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill with the NIH open access mandate intact. Given that publishers opposed to the mandate lobbied strongly against it and two last-minute amendments to the bill that would have weakened or killed the mandate were introduced then withdrawn by Sen. James Inhofe, its passage intact was hardly certain. Nonetheless, the mandate survived, and it reads as follows: "The Director of the National Institutes of Health shall require that all investigators funded by the NIH submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication: Provided, That the NIH shall implement the public access policy in a manner consistent with copyright law." It is likely that publisher resistance will continue during the reconciliation process, and President Bush may veto the bill for reasons unrelated to the mandate. However, OA advocates are optimistic that, given the mandates’ show of strength so far, it will become law in the future. – [*CB]

Albanese, Andrew Richard. Down with E-Reserves Library Journal, 1 October 2007 – My experience with library reserve materials goes back to my first library job -- the Reserve Book Room in the basement of Olin Library at Wesleyan University. They didn't automate the reserve room until the summer after I graduated. So I spent four years in the world of checking out articles and books by hand, and I have to say that the shelf-reading of folders of article copies was truly maddening. Reading articles like Albanese's "Down with E-Reserves" reminds me of how far we've come in the last decade with reserve materials, and how far we still have to go. Most of us feel like we're living in a world of "if it's online, it's free, right?", but the Association of American Publishers (AAP) would beg to differ. Libraries and institutions of all sizes are measuring their risk with what they can put online for e-reserves, and for what audience. When larger state universities can have up to 2,000 students looking at a single article online for a multi-section class, can fair use stand up in court? Albanese recognizes the lack of leadership on the issue, and hits the heart of the problem when he writes, "Being too restrictive can impinge on the educa-
tional mission allowed by law, while being too aggressive can lead to a potential lawsuit."
– [*KC]

Brynko, Barbara. The Financial Times introduces new corporate content license
Information Today November 2007: 20 – The challenges and opportunities presented by
the Internet to news publishers are considered in this piece with a focus on a new
charging scheme by the FT for corporate customers. The new arrangement seems to be
an attempt by the FT to deal more directly with large customers of its online content while
also allowing aggregators such as Factiva to offer unembargoed feeds of its data to their
customers who have one of the new FT contracts. The new arrangements are due to
come into force in April 2008. – [MDS]

Hane, Paula J. Ad-supported content steals news headlines Information Today
November 2007: 7 – This short piece highlights the struggles of established news
publishers to adapt to the world of online news where readers increasingly expect free
content. The author points our the strange decision of The New York Times to make
archive content from 1851 to 1922 free while charging for content from between 1923 and 1986. – [MDS]

5(10)(October 16, 2007) (http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0050285) – "Open
access" does not just mean "free access." It also means, at least in its most tasty flavor,
no restrictions on the immediate and unrestricted reuse and redistribution of the material,
which is important for individual reuse as well as automated harvesting and data mining
activities. As such activities become more widespread, the issue of reuse rights will
become more important. This editorial cites the licenses and use policies of several
publishers and argues that publishers -- either through a lack of understanding, or
through intentional obfuscation -- are making claims to provide open access content that
don't stand up to a strict definition of the term. The author calls on publishers to tighten
their definition and application of the term open access and be more clear about the
restrictions applied to their articles. In the meantime, authors need to be aware of the fine
print, especially when they are paying fees for what they think is "open access." For more
on this issue, and the relative merits of gold vs green open access with regard to reuse
rights, check out the recent discussions in the blogs of Peter Suber, Peter Murray-Rust,
Stevan Harnad and Klaus Graf. – [*BR]

Information Management

Caldwell, Tracey. Lies and cover-ups mask UK’s document mayhem. Information

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World Review 240 November 2007: 1 – News coverage of a study by Dynamic Markets, ‘Document Mayhem’, which analysed document usage and storage in organisations. The public sector is noted as being ahead of the private sector in implementing successful information systems with implementation deadlines being seen as a factor in this phenomena. – [RH]

Griffin, Daniel. Take control of the information joystick. Information World Review 241 December: 20-21 – Thomas Cook’s approach to managing information in relation to critical incidents is investigated in this article. Their application of online technology to crisis management is discussed. This includes Solcara’s incident management and search platform Crisis Control Centre. Some of the drivers behind this organisation’s approach to managing business continuity information are examined. The demands of a growing business are seen to be important in this context. – [RH]

Information Retrieval

Arnold, Erik. How To Conduct Search Analytics Searcher 15 (10) (2007): 40-43 – The article argues that now online search engines are the primary interface to information, poor quality search engines on websites will spell doom for companies. The paper suggests that more than half of major websites still fail in terms of their search usability and goes on explain how analysing search logs could help remedy this. A small sample analysis in the article demonstrates that users will typically use one or two search terms and only click on the top five results in a search listing. Search engine log files can be easily imported into a program such as Excel, and when examined can quickly illustrate user preferences. Once users’ search preferences are uncovered, a number of techniques can be employed to improve the usability of a website. Websites can be redesigned to prominently display the most commonly sought information and content can be rewritten with users preferred search terms in mind. Content and terms that are frequently searched for can be manually boosted higher up a results listing by overriding the natural search results. Finally, by rewriting their common queries/misspellings behind the scenes, you can redirect a user’s search to pages that you feel are more relevant to their needs. The article has been made freely available at http://www.crmbuyer.com/story/60373.html. – [MT]

Greene, Kate. Searching Video Lectures MIT Technology Review (26 November 2007) (http://www.technologyreview.com/Infotech/19747/). This article describes the breakthrough MIT Lecture Browser that provides full-featured searching and browsing of audio and video content. Using automated transcription, indexing, and the ability to drop the user into a particular portion of the digital file, the Lecture Browser can get users directly to the parts that interest them. When a user has navigated to a point of interest, the
system follows along in the transcribed text in sync with the audio or video similar to the bouncing ball of a karaoke machine. Users of digital audio and video content have never had it so good. – [*RT]

Herther, Nancy K. Thomson Scientific And The Citation Indexes Searcher 15 (10) (2007): 8-17 – This article features an interview with two senior executives at Thomson Scientific, and provides detailed information about the content and coverage of their database products. The primary focus of the article is on Web of Science and the three major citation indexes within it: Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) and the Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI). The three citation indexes are shown to cover around 9,200 journal titles that Thomson suggest to make up the top tier of research across these academic domains. Thomson are no longer the only provider of citation data, and the author argues that products like Scopus and Google Scholar are beginning to challenge their traditional market dominance. Given the increasing competition, the author suggests that Thomson would be wise to provide better guidance to/information about the citation indexes to their users. It is argued that there should be more information about the journals selected for inclusion, that the download limit of 150 records no longer adequate and that the list of experts who can help users is too difficult too locate http://scientific.thomson.com/press/experts. The article concludes that now bibliographic management software has made references so easy to manage, the development of citation manipulation software is a potential goldmine for developers. Current citation manipulation packages under development include Eugene Garfield’s own Hist-Cite http://www.histcite.com and Bibexcel http://www.umu.se/inforsk/Bibexcel. – [MT]

Mayr, Philipp and Walter, Anne-Kathrin. An Exploratory Study Of Google Scholar Online Information Review December 2007 31(6): 814-830 – This paper compares the results from a search of Google Scholar (GS) with other more established academic journal databases. The study shows a weakness in the GS results related to coverage and currency of articles but is more positive about the citation analysis capabilities of GS and the free materials that are linked to in the results. The authors point to a paradox whereby open-access journals are under-represented in the GS results compared to other paid-for databases. This is surprising when the access to these journals is free and links to them can be found in search results from the standard Google search engine. – [MDS]

Knowledge Management / Social Networking

07/neal.html – This special section of four articles plus a substantive introduction by the guest editor focus on user tagging and what has been called "folksonomies", or user-created taxonomies. The articles are an interesting mix of simple explanations of why users tag, tag usage in Flickr, and others that seek to explain various tagging systems and how they may or may not be useful in retrieval. – [*RT]


This review of social bookmarking looks at the culture of collaboration before going on to analyse key services in this field; including del.icio.us, stumbleupon, magnolia and furl. The move away from hierarchical folder structures and the ‘wisdom of crowds’ is considered in terms of their benefits to users. Social bookmarking, described as a shared Web page linking resource, is differentiated here from social news distributions services such as Digg and Reddit – [RH]

Winder, Davey. Back to basics – The Wiki. Information World Review 241 December :32-35 – This article provides a beginners’ guide to the benefits and potential pitfalls of Wikis. Citing rapid content growth within a collaborative environment as a selling point of Wikis the article also notes the importance of housekeeping, designating clear responsibilities and developing policies. The bottom-up approach of Wikis is contrasted with the top-down perspective of Content Management Systems. – [RH]

Legal Issues

Griffin, Daniel. No easy cure for patent problem Information World Review 241 December 2007: 13 – Discussions of the Information Retrieval Facility in Vienna are reported in relation to the topic of Patents information. Issues of standardisation, language, patent searching techniques and optical character recognition are all considered, particularly in how such topics present barriers to effective information retrieval. – [RH]

Haigh, Maria. Downloading Communism: File Sharing as Samizdat in Ukraine Libri 57(3)(September 2007): 165-178 (http://www.librijournal.org/2007-3toc.html) – Ukrainian file sharing practices and attitudes towards piracy and international copyright measures may seem like a rather specialized topic, but this article (titled after a popular, satirical poster) illuminates some of the dynamics of intellectual property issues in a globalized world. Going beyond the legal and economic discussions, the author shows that the Ukraine’s high rate of piracy and the public’s dismissive attitudes towards copyright are bound up with Ukraine’s national identity, and reflect two distinctive features of its cultural heritage – on the one hand, the Soviet Union’s disregard for international copyright.
norms, and on the other hand, the cultural tradition of Samizdat -- the clandestine (and dangerous) copying and distribution of suppressed literature, often done through a underground, person-to-person network. When the U.S. wielded trading power with Ukraine to defend the intellectual property interests of the American entertainment industry, Ukrainians saw this as yet another heavy-handed attempt at foreign intervention. There are unstated parallels here with open access, open source, and other related issues, which the author plans to explore in future articles. The full text of the published article will be available one year after publication, but the author's draft (PDF) is available online now. – [*BR]

Security

Caldwell, Tracey. HMRC data fiasco sparks call for reform from experts Information World Review 241 December 2007: 1 – News item investigates the implications for information management surrounding HM Revenue and Customs recent loss of CDs containing the personal data of 25 million child-benefit recipients. Issues of cost versus information security are discussed, with comment from senior officials at CILIP, Aslib, TFPL and records management applications supplier Tower Software. – [RH]

De Rosa, Cathy, Joanne Cantrell, and Andy Havens, et. al. Sharing, Privacy and Trust in Our Networked World: A Report to the OCLC Membership Dublin, OH: OCLC, 2007. (http://www.oclc.org/reports/sharing/default.htm) – This report is based on a major survey of the attitudes and perceptions regarding sharing, privacy, and trust on the network of people in Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Like its major predecessors Environmental Scan: Pattern Recognition (2003) and Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources (2005), it is a weighty document printed in full-color on glossy paper to do justice to all of the tables, piecharts, pictures, and diagrams. However, it is also freely available as a downloadable PDF file, either by individual section or in its entirety. It is chock-full of interesting findings, and well worth spending a lot of time with it, which is almost required given its scope. One tidbit of note, although not all that surprising, is that respondents want to have their privacy protected by default, but also want to have the option to give up that privacy when they wish -- for example, to gain the benefits of social networking. Note: I am employed by OCLC, although I did not have anything to do with this report. – [*RT]

Editor's note: this report was reviewed in the November 2007 edition of Elucidate.

Smith, Laura. Spotlight on the spy in the surf. Information World Review 240 November 2007: 18-20 –The EU data-projection watch group Article 29 are considered in relation their current battle with Google in relation to the latter's current policy on storing
customer account information. Issues of privacy and the practices of some other search engines are covered. Comment is included from the Chair of Article 29, Peter Schaar and the UK’s Information Commissioner office. – [RH]

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