UK Online centres in rural areas

The Department for Education and Skills and the Countryside Commission have funded a report to evaluate the effectiveness of UK Online centres funded under the Capital Modernisation Fund (CMF). http://www.countryside.gov.uk/Publications/articles/Publication_tcm2-16046.asp

The report focuses on UK Online centres serving rural communities, and notes that the centres are not just places for accessing ICT, but community centres where local people gather and become more involved with their communities.

Sustainability of ICT systems funded under various national schemes, including the New Opportunities Fund, is an ongoing concern for the public sector. UK Online centres in rural areas are no exception - 76% do not have access to broadband. This means the centres are limited in what they can deliver e.g. learning opportunities, such as Learndirect, which require broadband connectivity. The report lists a series of recommendations – many involve finding new, sustainable sources of funding for rural UK Online centres. Easier said than done. However, the report also recommends "promoting the benefits and revenue generation potential of the e-government initiative" as a way of convincing government to dig deeper into their pockets or to attract a national sponsor.
Source: *Connecting the Countryside*. Electronic Public Information published by SPIN. January/February 2004. p.5 . http://www.spin.org.uk

Joined up websites for South West London

The London Boroughs of Hounslow, Kingston, Merton and Richmond have joined forces to develop a new website called www.livinlondon.gov.uk. The site, which was launched on 26 February 2004, provides information and services across borough boundaries. The site took three years to develop with £3.5m from the Treasury's 'Invest to Save Budget' (ISB). The site provides citizens with information which are local, but which are based outside their particular borough. Source http://www.kablenet.com/ 26 February 2004

Change of URL for Department of Health web site

The Department of Health website has changed its' address from 'doh' to 'dh' on 16 February http://www.dh.gov.uk/ involving the setting up of redirects for key areas of the site. However, not all documents will be included, and where a link fails users will have to conduct manual searches to find the required documents.

The new website is seen as having significant benefits for users, including improved navigation and search, more information about publications and a clear and consistent layout. In addition, accessibility has been addressed as the site currently meets W3C level 'A' standard, but the

Department of Health is working towards the RNIB's 'See it Right' standard.

The new web site uses a Content Management System (CMS) developed by the Office of the e-Envoy (OeE) for public bodies called 'Delivering on the Promise' or DotP – see http://fastlink.headstar.com/dotp1.

Source: E-Government Bulletin, Issue 154, 6 February 2004. http://www.headstar.com/egb

Current Awareness

Column editor: Jane Grogan; e-mail: Jane.Grogan@gchq.gsi.gov.uk

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.

CONTENT MANAGEMENT

Kugel, Robert D.. "Unstructured Information Management" *IntelligentBPM* (December 2003) http://www.intelligentbpm.com/feature/2003/12/0312feat2_1.shtml. - This white paper, from Ventana Research, offers a lucid explanation of what "unstructured information" actually means, and why it will consume a significant amount of IT resources in the coming years. Structured data is the easily classified stuff -- names, addresses, zip codes, SKU numbers, etc. Unstructured data "does not readily fit into structured databases except as binary large objects (BLOBs)." Examples given include e-mails, multimedia files, document files.... Although these objects may have some structure -- e.g., an e-mail address -- they are not easily classified for storage in a structured format that makes a typical database happy. As the amount of this unstructured data increases exponentially, solutions are being sought; XMLis a big help because of its flexible tagging system. If this data cannot be efficiently stored and retrieved, it has little or no utility. The white paper identifies six potential

components of a viable storage system: document management, Web content management, records management, digital rights management, collaboration, and image capture. All of these elements are emerging as critical, especially in light of today's more stringent regulatory environment (i.e., Sarbanes-Oxley) which dictates compliance standards for information retention. – [*SK]

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Talja, Sanna and Maula, Hanni. "Reasons for the use and non-use of electronic journals and databases". *Journal of Documentation* 59 (6) 2003: 673-691. Discusses the part of a wider study on academic IT cultures that dealt with electronic journals and databases. Junior and senior researchers (n=44) from four disciplines (nursing science, literature and cultural studies, history and ecology/environmental science) were interviewed, using a qualitative approach. Relates the different approaches used by researchers to the need (or not) for directed searching, book versus article orientation of the source materials, domain size, and need for topical relevance. Results confirm that the target e-journal market are the disciplines where topical relevance is important, and directed searching the norm. – [CJU]

"XML and E-Journals" *OCLC Systems & Services* 19 (4) (November 2003) - This special issue focuses on the use of XML in electronic journals. Included are articles that review the history of article metadata standards, the history of XML, using XML for journal archiving, and using XML for scientific publishing. I'm not yet convinced that it is feasible to markup journal articles in XML, at least without the ability of common authoring tools such as Microsoft Word to output an article in a useful XML encoding. From this set of articles, it appears that I'm not the only doubting Thomas, as the editor (Judith Wuseman) of this collection remarks in the introduction that "The granularity with which e-journals should be marked up is debateable and there is more than one approach presented in this special issue". But as Wuseman herself puts it, "The papers in this special issue cover a breadth of opinion but there is a common theme, namely that XML and its related technologies can help to fulfill the promise of e-journals." – [*RT]

GENERAL

Albro, Edward N.. "The Linux Experiment" *PCWorld.com* (February 2004) http://www.pcworld.com/resource/printable/article/0,aid, 113746,00.asp. - Microsoft Windows...the operating system so many of us love to hate. But what are the alternatives? Macintosh? Do you really want to move to another hardware platform? How about Linux...or is that just for geeks? Well, no...but having a geek pal or two to hold your hand is not an entirely bad idea, according to the author of this article, who "went on a Microsoft-free diet for four weeks." Read about his adventures in the land of open source and learn from his experiences if you've ever considered taking Linux

out for a spin. Includes information on sorting through the different Linux distributions and choosing the best one for you. Points you to Web-based sources of assistance. Describes and evaluates some of the applications available for Linux. The author's verdict? He likes Linux computing, even if it requires more work on the part of the user. – [*SK]

Alvestrand, Viveka Celebrating success. *Information World Review*, Issue 198 January 2004. Page 12. CILIP Gala Awards Day – a review of the inaugural Diversity Awards given by CILIP in December 2003, with a list of the winners. – [LR]

Atkinson, Cliff. "Don Norman on PowerPoint Usability: Interview with Cliff Atkinson " *Sociable Media* (2004) http://www.sociablemedia.com/articles_norman.htm. - Rebuttal of sorts to Edward Tufte's condemnation of PowerPoint as reported in Current Cites for August. Don Norman argues from the get-go that "PowerPoint is NOT the problem"; it's the presenter. Norman cautions that the tool should be used sparingly: "The best talks I have ever heard had no slides at all. The best talks I have ever presented had no slides." – [*LRK]

Ayati, M. B, and Susan Carol Curzon. "How to Spot a CIO in Trouble" *EDUCAUSE Quarterly* 26(4) (2003): 18-23. http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eqm0343.pdf. - Catalog of "warning signs" that the head of IT will get the axe if left unresolved. Many of the points will be familiar to anyone who has felt themselves under the tyrannical yoke of an unresponsive Systems operation. Warning signs include "everything is always a crisis with them" and "we can count on them to fail", or my personal favorite, "I have students who are more up-to-date." – [*LRK]

Cohen, Cynthia F., Stanley J. Birkin, and Monica J. Garfield, et. al. "Managing Conflict in Software Testing" *Communications of the ACM* 47(1) (January 2004): 76-81. http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/962081.962083. - Developers are from Mars, testers are from Venus. That's the standard picture of these two groups, both essential to successful software development, who nonetheless are often known to work at cross purposes. The article does a good job of going over some of the differences: differences in attitude, role and approach. Better yet, it also offers excellent advice on diminishing these differences. Among the suggestions are developing common goals and expanded social contacts: "testers and developers who communicate only when problems occur lack a robust social fabric with which to smooth the process. Several testers and managers we interviewed indicated that social contact paved the way to better working relationships with developers." Note, this is one of several good articles in this month's CACM. – [*LRK]

Dudman, Jane; Jaques, Robert; and Chillingworth, Mark. A grand day out: special report of Online Information 2003. *Information World Review*, Issue

198, January 2004. Pages 6-11.
Gives a thorough review of the Online Exhibition, focusing on suppliers in knowledge management, finance and business information and content management. – [LR]

Kurbanoglu, S. Serap. "Self-efficacy: a concept closely linked to information literacy and lifelong learning". *Journal of Documentation* 59 (6) 2003: 635-646. Discusses how the concept of self-efficacy, the belief in ones ability to organise a course of action to attain a goal, might be applied to students' perceptions of their information and IT literacy. Undergraduates (n=179: 40 first year, 29 second year, 62 third year, 48 fourth year) in the Department of Information Management at Hacettepe University, Ankara were surveyed. Results suggested that students' perceived self-efficacy for some categories did not change significantly as they progressed. The IT literacy and information literacy scores appeared to correlate. - [CJU]

Marsh, Emily E. and White, Marilyn Domas. "A taxonomy of relationships between images and text". *Journal of Documentation* 59 (6) 2003: 647-672. Explains how a taxonomy of image-text relationships was developed, based on the ways the images and text interact (e.g. describe, reiterate, relate, condense, interpret). The results of a literature review were used to formulate a draft taxonomy which was then applied to 954 image text pairs found in 45 Web pages. Functions were divided into those with little relation to the text, those expressing close relation to the text and those which went beyond the text. Presents a range of interesting examples (from war crimes, through to radio waves and Dewie the turtle). The full taxonomy with scope notes is in an Appendix. – [CJU]

Pedley, Paul. Implementing an intranet in a global organisation. *Business Information Review* Vol 20(3) (2003): 136-143.
The article describes the design and implementation of a new Intranet for The Economist Group. Prior to 2002 the group had a number of small intranets which had disadvantages because no overall responsibility was taken for them. The new resource needed to be relevant to international offices and 970 staff. A consultant was appointed in January 2001 and a project board and steering group established. The new Intranet was launched in March 2002. The sections of the new Intranet included: a news page, a staff directory, a knowledge base, group resources, applications, links and a social section. Early on it was necessary to make enhancements to the home page including search boxes and a rolling list of news-items. It was also necessary to redesign the CMS which was overcomplicated and acted as a barrier to contributors. The new Intranet was successful: user numbers increased, the facilities for cross company document sharing improved and positive feedback was received. – [JW]

Pickering, Bobby. A pioneering spirit. *Information World Review*, Issue 198
January 2004. Page 14.

IWR's Professional of the Year Award 2003 went to Neil Infield, the outgoing president of SLA Europe. Bobby Pickering interviews Neil about his career and his innovative work as Head of Information for Hermes during the last 18 years. – [LR]

Pickering, Bobby. Back to the future. *Information World Review*, Issue 198
January 2004. Pages 17 – 22
Bobby Pickering look back at 2003, month by month, and highlights the top stories from the information industry. – [LR]

The 2003 OCLC Environmental Scan: Pattern Recognition   Dublin, OH: OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., 2004.
http://www.oclc.org/membership/escan/. - According to the OCLC web site, this report "was produced for OCLC's worldwide membership to examine the significant issues and trends impacting OCLC, libraries, museums, archives and other allied organizations, both now and in the future. The scan provides a high-level view of the information landscape, intended both to inform and stimulate discussion about future strategic directions." To produce it they reviewed the literature, performed research, and interviewed over 100 "knowledge experts" (full disclosure: I was one of them, go figure). Chock full of interesting statistics, challenging concepts, and good ideas, this 148 page glossy publication (or the version on the web site) is well worth studying. – [*RT]

Tillett, Barbara. What is FRBR? A Conceptual Model for the Bibliographic Universe   Washington, DC: Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service, September/October 2003. - At ALA Midwinter 2004 in San Diego, I picked up this piece as a color glossy reprint at the Library of Congress booth. When I returned home I fruitlessly searched their web site for a PDF, or even a way to order a paper copy. But since it is a reprint of a *Technicalities* article (September/October 2003, vol. 25, no. 5), perhaps you can find it there. And find it you should, if you don't know anything about IFLA's Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (known as FRBR, pronounced "ferber"). In this piece Tillett (who was involved with creating FRBR) explains FRBR concepts simply and understandably. However, it may not be possible to understand the full implication of FRBR without looking at a system that implements some of it concepts. Luckily, there is such a system available from the Research Libraries Group (RLG), called redlightgreen.com. So after reading Tillett's piece, go bang on redlightgreen.com and get a better sense of some possible implications for library systems. You may find, as I have, that FRBR presents us with some compelling possibilities. – [*RT]

Wittenborg, Karin, Chris Ferguson, and Michael A. Keller. Reflecting on Leadership   Washington, DC: Council on Library and Information Resources, December 2003.
http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub123abst.html. -

I will admit to writing this review having read only part of this intriguing publication. But the part I have read is well worth paying the $15 to buy it, let alone firing up your web browser and getting it for free in either HTML or PDF. These very personal statements about leadership are likely to inspire a mix of emotions and thoughts in you. You will find comments with which you strongly agree, others that may challenge your preconceptions, and still others that will cast light on areas of the profession and your place in it that you have perhaps not considered before. Come to be enlightened, encouraged, and informed, but stay to be challenged to think about your own career and what role leadership plays in it. – [*RT]

INFORMATION ACCESS/RETRIEVAL

Beard, Jill et al. (2003) ASK: a virtual enquiry desk - a case study. *Electronic Library* 21(6) 601-608
This very interesting case study documents a five-year-long virtual enquiry desk project at the University of Bournemouth, a large 'new' university with a large number of undergraduate students requiring remote access to learning facilities. This was one of the first university virtual reference desk projects in the UK. At the time it was conceived of in 1997, the aim was to provide 24-hour access to a searchable archive rather than just to implement an enquiry service based on email. This was intended to function as a resource for non-professional library staff as well as for users. The paper describes the team working across the newly-merged academic services department (in terms of IT support, publicity, training and professional development) that was involved, and the method by which the project was evaluated. Enough technical "nitty-gritty" is provided to lend realism, without becoming tedious. – [CE]

Brown, Cecelia, Teri J. Murphy, and Mark Nanny. "Turning Techno-Savvy into Info-Savvy: Authentically Integrating Information Literacy into the College Curriculum" *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 29(6) (November 2003): 386-398.
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6W50-4B6SHHP-5/1/e0d34964b0b4c84cbcd66197a7e68b2b.
- Information literacy is most successful when it directly relates to the individual information needs of each student. That's the conclusion of a case study presented here looking at information seeking behavior of college students majoring in education. Among a number of great points made throughout the article is this gem: "It is no longer effective to provide a laundry list of information resources that librarians believe to be 'good for' students, but rather, instruction must focus on the learning styles and preferences of the target population. Others have also suggested that to successfully foster and promote information literacy librarians must first understand how people learn. " – [*LRK]

"Keeping Found Things Found: Web Tools Don't Always Mesh With How People Work" *Ascribe: The Public Interest Newswire* (17 December 2003)

http://www.ascribe.org/cgi-bin/spew4th.pl?ascribeid=20031217.055425&time=07%2028%20PST&year=2003&public=1. - "People have devised many tricks - such as sending e-mails to themselves or jotting on sticky notes - for keeping track of Web pages, but William Jones and Harry Bruce at the University of Washington's Information School and Susan Dumais of Microsoft Research have found that often people don't use any of them when it comes time to revisit a Web page. Instead, they rely on their ability to find the Web page all over again." Keeping Found Things Found is a National Science Foundation-funded research project ongoing at the University of Washington's Information School that seeks to learn how people actually work with the information they find on the Web. Eventually -- according to this press release which describes the project -- the researchers hope to develop information seeking and management tools that are actually useful to end users. A collection of Keeping Found Things Found presentations and papers is available online. – [*SK]

Kloss, Louise and Zhang, Yin An evaluative study of a real-time online reference service. *Electronic Library* 21 (6) 565-575
Unlike the University of Bournemouth service, the online reference service provided within the Northeastern Ohio Library Association (NOLA) system operates in real time using "chat" software. Usually with this system, the readers type queries, while the librarians type responses while simultaneously searching the Web for answers. When appropriate sites are found, the librarian then "pushes" the pages into the reader's browser. This evaluative study gathered system usage data, readers' evaluations, and librarians' responses to a questionnaire survey. Readers in general were very positive about the service, while the librarians involved were acutely aware of its limitations, particularly in respect of the lack of in-depth searching that is possible in real time and the limitations of "chat" software as a communication channel. The librarians involved continued to use print resources with the virtual setting. The authors express the need for a more detailed follow-up study at a later date when the library staff had gained more experience. – [CE]

Orlowski, Andrew. "A Quantum Theory of Internet Value" *The Register* (18 December 2003)
http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/6/34586.html. - Google "sucks," according to this IT columnist. This in spite of its impending (as of this writing) rollout of Google Print, which is more or less like Amazon.com's Search Inside the Book tool. It's not Google's fault that it sucks, the writer says, because Google's "aggressive, but essentially dumb robots" simply cannot "see" most of the Web. The intial promise of the Internet -- that everyman would be easily connected to the entire world of information -- has not been fulfilled. Why? "Information costs money." What a concept! "Taxonomies also have been proved to have value...." Another concept! And, says this columnist, librarians and archivists know this better than anyone. He

wonders why no one has seriously looked into "how come our 'Internet' went AWOL, while we weren't looking?" Has it been totally overpowered by garbage and hucksterism? And why haven't such "fads" as portals and blogging been enough to save it? Or maybe the Internet as we perceived it back in 1994 never actually existed. What is important, the author says, are the "information archives" we have now. And if you doubt this, he suggests, "ask a librarian, while you can still find one." – [*SK]

Stacy-Bates, Kristine. ""E-mail Reference Responses from Academic ARL Libraries: An Unobtrusive Study". " *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 43(1) (Fall 2003): 59-70. - The article discusses an effort to determine e-mail reference quality by looking at the query responses. To do this, the author sent (relatively simple) reference questions to all 111 academic libraries in ARL. The responses "generally met orexceeded" expectations though accuracy varied. The author suggests making accuracy of response and consistent identification of the librarian making the response (e.g. name and job title) part of standard e-mail reference guidelines. – [*LRK]

Van Brakel, Pieter (2003) Information portals: a strategy for importing external content. *Electronic Library* 21(6) 591-600
This paper provides useful clarification of the terminology used in describing and classifying portals. It is the author's contention that the critical issue is the integration of external content into portals. A portal should not be termed such unless it provides customisation and personalisation functions which provide a level of 'value adding'. An 'information portal' is characterised by the incorporation of four building blocks of information dissemination and content: channelled information, pushed information, customisation and personalisation. Portal developers should rely on the expertise of information professionals within the organisation as regards evaluation of external information sources, their availability, and the needs of users. – [CE]

VRD 2003 Online Proceedings Syracuse, NY: The Virtual Reference Desk, November 2003. http://www.vrd2003.org/proceedings/. - If you're interested in digital reference, you should be all over this. Likewise, if you're not, you may have better things to do. These are (mostly) PowerPoint presentations from the 2003 Virtual Reference Desk Conference held in Austin, Texas in November. Presentations are grouped under the topic areas of Technology, Evaluation, Management, Staffing and Training, User Behavior, Information Literacy, Collaboration, General, and Vendor Demonstrations. – [*RT]

INTERNET USE

Cass, Stephen. "A Fountain of Knowledge" *IEEE Spectrum Online* (January 2004)
http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/WEBONLY/publicfeature/jan04/0104comp1.html. - IBM's WebFountain -- "half a football field's worth of rack-mounted processors, routers, and disk drives running a huge menagerie of

programs" -- works to convert the vast sea of unstructured information roiling across the Internet into a structured format that is capable of being analyzed. The primary intent here is to package this information so it can be used by companies to make smarter, more timely business decisions. In a nutshell, IBM's technology "transforms unlabeled data into XML-labeled data." Software programs called "annotators" scan all the raw data looking for recognizable words and phrases and add appropriate XML tags. What this does is create more data -- the article indicates that by the time the annotators are through with a document, it can be 10 times the size of the original. Yikes. Fasincating stuff here. Using this technology, IBM researchers have already discovered that 30% of the Web is porn and 30% is duplicated information. 50,000,000 pages are changed or added to the Web each day. And although 65% of all Web pages are currently written in English, English pages will be in the minority by 2010. – [*SK]

Loo, Alfred et al. Internet surfing for the blind: a prototype. *Electronic Library* 21(6) 576-586
Those of us who have studies web accessibility issues are likely to have encountered screen readers as a method of providing access to Internet resources for people with visual impairments. Readers in the UK, however, do not generally have to deal with the problem addressed by the project documented in this study, that of providing access to mixed Chinese and English content within individual pages. No commercially-available screen reader for Chinese characters yet exists. The paper describes, in considerable technical detail, the development of a prototype system (named VocalSurf) for reading mixed Chinese and English content. The 'sound engine' of VocalSurf is able to determine the language of the content, and to process it accordingly. The authors suggest possible other uses (hands-free browsing for people with hand disabilities, translation from Chinese to English, use by young children) for their system. – [CE]

Margulius, David L.. "Trouble on the Net" *InfoWorld* (24 November 2003)
http://www.infoworld.com/pdf/special_report/2003/46SRInternet.pdf. - "The founders of the Internet sought to minimize intelligence at its core and insure end-to-end connectivity. Today, a host of challengers, including commercial interests and security concerns threatens that vision. What can be done?" Some interesting tidbits from this article: 1) The number of "average daily queries" to the Net's DNS services is "up fivefold since 2000." The number doubles every 18 months; 2) "Internet traffic is growing at a faster rate than Moore's Law predicts...."; 3) IPv6, the so-called "next generation Internet," has gotten off to a slow start in the U.S. Says Symantec CTO Rob Clyde, "That whole product upgrade cycle is likely to be very complex. Everything has to be changed. It will probably take the government driving IPv6."; 4) VeriSign has invested more than $100 million in the DNS system and provided "100% availability for six years." Note: Large PDF file -- 5.63MB – [*SK]

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Buckley, Rob Beyond knowledge. *Information Age* November 2003 61-64
The article describes a shift in the Knowledge Management (KM) software market from standalone KM systems to products which integrate KM with Content Management Systems. Companies are expressing frustration because, despite the surge in enthusiasm surrounding KM in the mid 1990's, their tacit knowledge is not being captured. Consequently vendors are focussing on enterprise portals, categorisation systems and search engines to close the "knowledge gap". The Knowledge Management Institute feels that Taxonomies aiding document location, will be a key area in the next few years. The article contains opinions on the KM software market by corporate leaders and analysts. – [JW]

LEGAL ISSUES

Boynton, Robert S.. "The Tyranny of Copyright?" *The New York Times* (25 January 2004)
http://www.nytimes.com/2004/01/25/magazine/25COPYRIGHT.html. - Students at Swarthmore College acquired several thousand emails and other correspondence among employees at Diebold Election Systems, the largest maker of electronic voting machine in the United States. Included were candid discussions about Siebold software and network vulnerabilities to hackers. The students felt, that this information should be available to the public via the internet, given the debacle of the 2000 presidential election. After posting the information, the students soon encountered the gag effect of the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act (D.M.C.A.). In an effort to protect intellectual property, this law, as well as others, are stifling the free expression of information, by holding the ISP liable for materials posted by its subscribers. Diebold confronted Swarthmore, charging that the students were infringing on copyright, and demanded that the material be removed from the students' Web page, on the Swarthmore College server. The College complied. This action, as well as numerous other well publicized lawsuits, have led to the organization of a protest movement known as Copy Left. They argue that the laws designed to protect intellectual property are in effect hampering free expression, creativity, and could utimately erode democratic freedoms. The battle that is emerging transcends the courts. It is a battle of different views of society. – [*MG]

PRESERVATION

Barton, Mary R., and Julie Harford Walker. "Building a Business Plan for DSpace, MIT Libraries' Digital Institutional Repository" *Journal of Digital Information* 4(2) (2003)
http://jodi.ecs.soton.ac.uk/Articles/v04/i02/Barton/. - Currently, there is a great deal of interest in institutional repositories, but little is known about their costs. This article outlines MIT's business plan for its well-known DSpace repository. Not considering software

development and system implementation costs, the authors conservatively estimate a budget of $285,000 for FY 2003. The bulk of the costs are for staff ($225,000), with smaller allocations for operating expenses ($25,000) and system hardware expansion ($35,000). MIT's DSpace service offerings have two components: core services (basic repository functions) and premium services (e.g., digitization and e-format conversion, metadata support, expanded user storage space, and user alerts and reports). While core services are free, MIT reserves the right to potentially charge for premium services. For further information see: MIT Libraries' DSpace Business Plan Project-- Final Report to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (http://libraries.mit.edu/dspace-fed-test/implement/mellon.pdf),which indicates that system development costs "included $1.8 million for development as well as 3 FTE HP staff and approximately $400,000 in system equipment." – [*CB]

Crow, Raym. A Guide to Institutional Repository Software. 2nd ed   New York: Open Society Institute, 2004.
http://www.soros.org/openaccess/pdf/OSI_Guide_to_Institutional_Repository_Software_v2.pdf. - If you need a quick overview of institutional repository software options, try this brief guide from the Open Society Institute. It describes software that: (1) is open source, (2) conforms to the latest version of the OAI metadata harvesting protocols, and (3) is currently available for use. This includes ARNO, CDSware, DSpace, Eprints, Fedora, i-Tor, and MyCoRe. Each system is overviewed in a separate section, and then the features of all systems are compared in a detailed, lengthy table. – [*CB]

Digital Preservation Management: Implementing Short-Term Strategies for Long-Term Problems   Ithaca, NY: Cornell University, September 2003.
http://www.library.cornell.edu/iris/tutorial/dpm/. - From the same folks who brought us Moving Theory Into Practice: Digital Imaging Tutorial" comes yet another informative, engaging, and slick presentation of essential information on an important topic. Built to support a workshop of the same name, this online tutorial is well worth the time of anyone interested in digital preservation. Anne Kenney and company clearly know their stuff, and they have applied their award-winning style in presenting a complex mixture of organizational and technical information to great effect. Be sure to check out their "Chamber of Horrors: Obsolete and Endangered Media" and "Timeline: Digital Technology and Preservation", both very useful in their own right. – [*RT]

Digital Library Federation Fall Forum 2003 Washington, DC: Digital Library Federation, November 2003.
http://www.diglib.org/forums/fall2003/fallforum03.htm. - A tremendous amount of innovation is going on in libraries these days, the world over. For those of us in the United States, however, one of the best sources for finding out about cutting-edge developments is at the

twice-yearly DLF Forums. Although only members and invited guests can attend, the rest of us can virtually attend by reviewing the many interesting presentations that are available online shortly after the end of the meeting. I won't attempt to list the topic areas of the presentations, which vary widely, but will leave you with the assertion that if you are interested in digital library issues of any stripe, there is likely something of interest here for you. – [*RT]

It's About Time: Research Challenges in Digital Archiving and Long-Term Preservation   Washington, DC: The National Science Foundation and the Library of Congress, August 2003. http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/index.php?nav=3&subnav=11. - I'm old enough to remember that for a while the preservation of print materials was all the rage. The issue of books crumbling into dust was at the forefront of everyone's awareness within the profession, and at least to some degree, without. Therefore government money to fund print preservation activities was relatively easy to obtain -- particularly for large research libraries. Now, although the print preservation problem has not suddenly disappeared, it is the preservation of digital materials that is all the rage. So it certainly isn't surprising to see this report, which comes out of a workshop co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Library of Congress. If you're involved with digital library research or -- god help you -- in digital preservation itself, this report is essential reading. The rest of us can probably skip it. – [*RT]

LeFurgy, William G.. "PDF/A: Developing a File Format for Long-Term Preservation" *RLG DigiNews* 7(6) (15 December 2003) http://www.rlg.org/preserv/diginews/diginews7-6.html#feature1. - The number of files in Adobe Acrobat format (also known as PDF for Portable Document Format) is astounding. This file format has been embraced by the U.S. Government, journal and book publishers, and indeed just about anyone who wishes to have more control over how something displays on screen than can be attained by HTML. And although PDF is a somewhat open format (with the specification openly published), it nonetheless remains in the control of a commercial company, and therein lies the preservation rub. "Adobe controls its development and is under no obligation to continue publishing the specification for future versions. The format includes some features that are incompatible with preservation purposes," states the author. Therefore, there is a move afoot, which this piece outlines, to specify a stable subset of the PDF format upon which librarians, archivists, and others can rely as a method to preserve digital information over the long haul. Given the number of PDFs that were created while you were reading this, such a development can only be good news. – [*RT]

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Meetings Reports

Online Information 2003

Each year, for the past very many years, I have found myself in London at the beginning of December for one reason or another and have spent some time at the annual Online Information meeting. In 2003 I had no other reason to be in London but decided that I would 'treat' myself to the full works and attend Online Information for the whole three days. I should add that the organisers, Learned Information and Imark Communications are very supportive in offering press passes which enables attendance at the conference sessions for those, such as myself, editors of library and information science, or related, journals.

The content of Online evolves from year to year, although its format has not changed greatly over the years. There is a fee-paying conference with refereed papers and an exhibition which is basically free for all.

This year the format for the conference was to have one or more keynote talks at the start of each day followed by, usually two, parallel tracks on specific subjects with three or four speakers in each track. In total there were over 60 presentations over the three days, and more than 40 of these appeared in printed proceedings available for full conference delegates; a web version of the proceedings is also available for delegates. Specific topics covered included information architecture (IA), content management (CM), the impact of weblogs, and the future of virtual reference; these complemented hardy favourites such as search tools and techniques, quality searching and networking. I found the standard of the papers this year to be generally high. There were some very 'big' names amongst the speakers.

On the first day, Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library presented a paper entitled "Powering the world's knowledge: the future for libraries and information professionals" in which, inter alia, she described the challenges facing the BL in the implementation of the forthcoming legal deposit of electronic publications. Peter Morville, described in the conference book as a "founding father of the field of information architecture" and co-author of a major book on IA, Information Architecture for the World Wide Web, provided a good introduction to this topic for people, like me, for whom it was new.