Current Awareness

Column Editor: Jane Grogan

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

Wolven, Robert. **In Search of a New Model** netConnect (15 January 2008) (http://www.libraryjournal.com/index.asp?layout=articlePrint&articleID=CA6514921) – Robert Wolven of Columbia University, who is well-respected for his thoughtful contributions on issues of importance to the profession, does not disappoint in this netConnect piece. Taking on library cataloging in an age of transformative change, he begins by describing our existing "consensus model" of cataloging, considers whether cataloging has changed in recent years, then moves swiftly into considering where we need to go in the future. For my money, this is one piece you simply shouldn't miss, not with all the current ferment around cataloging and how we should be doing it – [*RT]

Digitisation projects / preservation

Bailey, Jr., Charles W. **Institutional Repositories, Tout de Suite** (2008) (http://www.digital-scholarship.org/ts/irtoutsuite.pdf) – If you've been looking for a good, introductory bibliography on institutional repositories, this is it. In 10 pages, Bailey provides sources that can answer questions related to what institutional repositories are, why institutions might want one, what self-archiving is, author's rights, software for implementing repositories, issues related to obtaining repository deposits, general information on how to find repositories, as well as suggestions for further reading. Highly recommended for the person just getting into repositories or for those occasions where you need to bring someone up to speed quickly – [*FC]

Editor's note: Bailey's article was also published in the last issue of *eLucidate* (January 2008).

Ferreira, Miguel; Rodrigues, Eloy and Baptista, Ana Alice. **Carrots and Sticks: Some Ideas on How to Create a Successful Institutional Repository** D-Lib Magazine 14(1/2) (January/February 2008) (http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january08/ferreira/01ferreira.html) – Anyone who has implemented an institutional repository knows the story: you build it and mostly they don't come. It's one thing to have an IR, it's quite another to fill it. There have been a number of previous articles on this phenomenon and what to do about it, but this institution in Portugal has landed on a strategy that has worked for them -- you dangle the money carrot. That is, the Dean of the University of Minho would award financial incentives to academic departments for depositing their research output in the repository. They also used other strategies, most notably adding additional functions onto their DSpace platform, but the financial incentive appears to have been the most effective according to this article. Recommended for anyone laboring to fill their repository – [*RT]

Morgan, Eric Lease. **Today's Digital Information Landscape** Musings on Information and Librarianship (01 December 2007) (http://infomotions.com/musings/digital-landscape/) – Eric Lease Morgan of the University Libraries of Notre Dame wrote a lecture for the University of North Texas on the landscape of today's library in a digital world. He puts into words something that I've

recently addressed in a workshop for cataloging electronic resources: "Libraries are still about the processes of collection, preservation, organization, dissemination, and sometimes evaluation of data and information. While the mediums, environments, and tools have dramatically changed, the problems and services the profession addresses remain the same." In this lecture, Morgan brings together XML, indexing, social software, and open source catalogs and repositories. A great introduction to the issues that technical services departments are facing right now. I wish I could have attended this lecture and listened to the question and answer period! – [*KC]

E-publishing

Borgman, Christine L. ***Scholarship in the Digital Age: Information, Infrastructure, and the Internet Cambridge*** MA: MIT Press, 2007 – In this book, [Christine L. Borgman](), Professor in the Department of Information Studies at UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Science, provides a detailed and up-to-date analysis of the scholarly communication system and the issues that it faces. It is a masterful work of scholarship that is unique in its clarity, coherence, and breadth and depth of treatment of this important topic. As a scholarly treatise, it is not a book for the casual reader; however, it offers rich rewards. Borgman pays particular attention to data, and, with the emergence of e-science and other e-disciplines and the massive datasets that they can generate, this is a challenging area that will only grow in importance. Inside Higher Education has published an [interview]() with Borgman, where she discusses her book. Highly recommended – [*[CB]()]

Johnson, Richard K., and Luther, Judy. ***The E-only Tipping Point for Journals: What's Ahead in the Print-to-Electronic Transition Zone*** Washington, DC: Association of Research Libraries, 2007([http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/Electronic_Transition.pdf]()) – Based on interviews with librarians at research libraries and representatives of various publishing industry sectors (excluding commercial publishers), a literature review, and their own extensive experience, the well-known authors of this report predict that the end is near for the print journal: "The role of the printed journal in the institutional marketplace faces a steep decline in the coming 5 to 10 years. Print journals will exist mainly to address specialized needs, users, or business opportunities. Financial imperatives will draw libraries first, and ultimately publishers also, toward a tipping point where it no longer makes sense to subscribe to or publish printed versions of most journals." – [*[CB]()]

Education

Horizon Report: 2008 Edition Austin, TX: The New Media Consortium & the Educause Learning Initiative, 2008. ([http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2008-Horizon-Report.pdf]()) – The Horizon Project brings together a group of knowledgeable individuals (36 for this year, including Cliff Lynch of CNI) to discuss, research, and decide on which technologies will become important in "learning-focused organizations" in three time horizons: 1) a year or less, 2) two to three years, and 3) four to five years. The process for coming up with this list of technologies seems thorough and thoughtful, and is highlighted both in prefatory comments as well as in a section of the report devoted to describing the methodology. There are two technologies identified in each time horizon: 1) One year or less: grassroots video and collaboration webs, 2) Two to three years: mobile broadband and data mashups, and 3) Four to five years: collective intelligence and social operating systems. Each technology is highlighted with an overview, its relevance for the educational enterprise, examples of the technology in use in learning environments, and further reading. Although weighing in at only 33 printed pages, one could spend days reading about and exploring these technologies. The report also discusses "megatrends" that have become evident after five years of producing these reports. Highly recommended – [*[RT]()]

General

Breakthrough Ideas for 2008 Harvard Business Review 86(2) (February 2008) (http://harvardbusinessonline.hbsp.harvard.edu/flatmm/hbrextras/200802/list/) – Though not about libraries or librarians, there is nevertheless much for the modern librarian to chew on in this wide-ranging list of 20 transformations signaling a "gathering upheaval in the way businesses function and how leaders guide them." Many of the topics and themes are technological and relate to new channels for communication and the flow of information--social networking, online gaming, virtual worlds, the metaverse, metadata and privacy, P2P networks, and cybercrime, among others (open access, alas, is not mentioned). Libraries have certainly begun to recognize the importance and value of many of these technologies and issues, but it is instructive to get a snapshot of how they are emerging in other contexts. Libraries might also do well to ponder some of the non-technological ideas presented here, focusing on improving the effectiveness of organizations and the quality of the workplace through "novel operational models, alternate realities for accomplishing work and interacting with customers, the exaltation of collaborative technologies, and updated metrics for evaluating performance." Topics range from a discussion of the importance of exercise (with the suggestion that stationary bicycles be put under every workstation so employees can exercise their legs while catching up on e-mail) to new models for decision-making and the changing role of experts within the organization – [*BR]

Caldwell, Tracey: **Numbers game hots up** *Information World Review* 243 February 2008: 14-16 – An in-depth analysis of the emerging models of citation metrics is undertaken in this feature as such figures grow in importance for journals institutions and individuals. The number of times a journal is cited by researchers is noted as becoming shorthand for the value of that journal. Established operators such as Thomson Scientific with their Web of Science product are considered alongside newcomers like Google Scholar and Scopus. The merits of coverage, timeliness, quality and the overall approach to interpreting metrics are all considered in this three page article – [RH]

Code4Lib Journal (1)(17 December 2007) – This is the inaugural issue of the Code4Lib Journal, and if the beginning is any indication it will definitely be worth following for anyone interested in the topics we try to cover in Current Cites. Largely written by the library coders who are building new kinds of systems and infrastructure for libraries, you can't get any closer to the technology action without getting hit with shards of subroutines. The articles in this first include "Beyond OPAC 2.0: Library Catalog as Versatile Discovery Platform", "Facet-Based Search and Navigation With LCSH: Problems and Opportunities," "The Rutgers Workflow Management System: Migrating a Digital Object Management Utility to Open Source, "Communicat: The Next Generation Catalog That Almost Was"," "Connecting the Real to the Representational: Historical Demographic Data in the Town of Pullman, 1880-1940,". Add an editorial introduction, a book review, and a column, and there is much here to edify and entertain not just the geekiest among us, but civilians too. May it live long and prosper – [*RT]

Rossner, Mike; Van Epps, Heather and Hill, Emma. **Show Me the Data** The Journal of Cell Biology 179(6)(17 December 2007) (http://www.jcb.org/cgi/doi/10.1083/jcb.200711140) – As the authors note, the journal impact factors calculated and published by Thomson Scientific have a considerable influence on the scientific community, influencing grant applications as well as hiring, salary and tenure decisions. Yet the community has little understanding of how those impact factors are determined. Criticisms of impact factors are nothing new (and are summarized here), but this editorial goes beyond that to raise serious questions about the integrity of the underlying data itself. Unable to independently validate the accuracy of Thomson's calculations, the authors discovered numerous errors in the incomplete data provided by Thomson. In the end, they were unable to assess properly the reliability of impact factors because the full data remains hidden. This editorial

is both a rejection of Thomson Scientific's "ill-defined and manifestly unscientific" numbers, and a call for more open and transparent access to citation data – [*BR]

Shneiderman, Ben. **Creativity Support Tools: Accelerating Discovery and Innovation** [Communications of the ACM](#) 50(12): 20-32. (http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/1323688.1323689) – Shneiderman, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Maryland and author of the classic "Designing the User Interface", sees a promising future in programming and visualization tools. He identifies a shift from tools that simply aid productivity to tools that promote creativity itself. These new "creativity support tools" can lead to forms of expression and collaboration not previously possible. The only catch is that in order to build these tools, we need to better understand what creativity is and how it can be measured. No small task. But the benefit is an environment, as Shneiderman puts it, where "eager novices are performing like seasoned masters and the grandmasters are producing startling results" – [*[LRK](#)]

Information Retrieval

Breeding, Marshall. **Perceptions 2007: An International Survey of Library Automation** (January 9, 2008) (http://www.librarytechnology.org/perceptions2007.pl) – This electronic only publication provides a snapshot of the perceptions of library systems and library system vendors from a library point of view. By investigating various dimensions of customer satisfaction through questions to libraries about their current systems, their ILS (integrated library system) vendor, customer support services of vendors, and the likelihood the library would purchase another ILS from their current vendor, Breeding provides a perspective on library systems that isn't often discussed. Used in conjunction with Breeding's annual "Automated Systems Marketplace" article in Library Journal (http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6429251.html), these two pieces provide a comprehensive look at the state of ILS' marketplace today – [*[FC](#)]

Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future Centre for Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future, University College London. (11 January 2008) (http://www.bl.uk/news/pdf/googlegen.pdf) – A very interesting study of the "Google generation" (those born after 1993) and how they are likely to access and use digital resources in the future. The report is full of very valuable insights that in some cases support the stereotypes of the "Google generation" and in other cases force us to reconsider our assumptions. The report includes a glimpse as to what the information environment might be like in 2017 and highlights the challenges that are ahead for information professionals. This piece makes for an excellent text around which to engage the library staff in discussions about how your library will need to adapt to the rising "Google generation." – [*[SG](#)]

Solomon, Marc. **The case for knowledge planners** *Searcher* 16 (1) (2008): 24-59 – This article argues that users are being swamped by the massive amounts of information made available to them by organisational systems and networks. It is suggested that information professionals can become 'knowledge planners' and address their users' current/future needs by beginning to look more closely at information supply and demand chains. Information professionals should look carefully at what content is being supplied on their intranet/portals and what it is their users are spending time looking at. Top tips to improve things for users are to prominently display commonly required items, ensure vital documents are boosted up results lists and mark important documents with users' own tags – [MT]

Vidor, Constance. **Museum and library websites.** *Searcher* 16 (2) (2008): 18-21 – The article takes a look at the websites of a number of internationally renowned museums and libraries that provide learning resources relating to art, history and culture. Two of the sites examined are the British Museum, www.britishmuseum.org and the British Library Learning site, www.bl.uk/learning/index.html. The article argues that although museum websites provide excel-

lent learning resources, these resources can often be difficult to find using search engines. It is argued that better communication between information professionals and museum content providers could lead to more effective site indexing – [MT]

Knowledge Management / Social Networking

Farkas, Meredith. **The Bloggers Among Us: A survey of the library blogosphere shows the mainstreaming of the medium** Library Journal (15 December 2007) (http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6510669.html) – Farkas, a long-time and well-respected library blogger, surveyed library bloggers (also called by some the "biblioblogosphere") to get a better sense of who is blogging and why. Having performed a previous survey, she compares numbers to detect trends. To no one's surprise, Farkas found many more bloggers than before, and women have begun to close the blogging gap with their male counterparts. The number of public librarians blogging has also increased in comparison to academic librarians. Many more statistics as well as insights gleaned from the data can be found in this article that tells us a lot about who we are as a blogging community – [*RT]

Mattison, David. **The Freebase experience** *Searcher* 16 (2) (2008): 26-58 – This article reviews www.freebase.com, which is a collaborative content distribution system similar to Wikipedia. The article argues that the system is easy to use and that compared to Wikipedia it is much more straightforward to create structural relationships between and among information on Freebase. The information on Freebase is licensed under Creative Commons and is available for commercial and non-commercial usage if the source is appropriately attributed – [MT]

Tebbutt, David. **Social Computing without tears** *Information World Review* 243 February 2008: 10-12 –This three page feature investigates the relationship between social computing activities within organisations and information technology professionals. Starting from a definition of social computing as 'connecting and collaborating activities within an organisation supported by IT' the article considers views from the industry, looks at the decisions facing users in selecting social software systems and typical IT professionals reactions to implementing social software. How social computing activities develop through smaller projects or 'skunk works' is considered – [RH]

Legal issues

Patry, William. **What Does It Mean to Be Pro-IP?** The Patry Copyright Blog (10 December 2007) (http://williampatry.blogspot.com/2007/12/what-does-it-mean-to-be-pro-ip.html) – In the U.S. House of Representatives, Reps. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Lamar Smith (R-TX), Howard Berman (D-CA), and nine other House members have introduced the "Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2007" (PRO IP). In this lengthy posting on the PRO IP bill, noted copyright lawyer William Patry provides a trenchant analysis of its main provisions. Examining the proposed statutory damages changes in Sec. 104, Patry says: "Under this approach, for one CD the minimum award for non-innocent infringement must be $18,750, for a CD that sells in some stores at an inflated price of $18.99 and may be had for much less from amazon.com or iTunes. The maximum amount of $150,000 then becomes three million, seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars per CD. Now multiple that times a mere ten albums, and one gets a glimpse at the staggering amount that will be routinely sought, not just in suits filed, but more importantly in thousands for cease and desist letters, where grandmothers and parents are shaken down for the acts of their wayward offspring." – [*CB]

Veitch, Martin. **E-records get back on track** *Information World Review* 243 February 2008: 19 – With development of the MoReq2, the latest version of the Model Requirement for Electronic Records Management specification, this article investigates both the legal and technical developments reported as having boosted records management systems – [RH]

Williams, Peter ; **Copyright bows to digital onslaught** *Information World Review* 243 February 2008: 6 – The government's intention to consult on copyright law, following the radical changes proposed in the Gowers review of intellectual property, is reported here. The move towards contract law governing digital media rights, effectively undermining copyright law, is commented on. Lynne Brindley, chief executive of the British Library, is amongst the experts quoted noting the limited focus of the copyright debate on 'teenagers, music and consumer industries' – [RH]

Security

Smith, Laura. **Data bombshell engulfs MoD**, *Information World Review* 243 February 2008: 1 – News item reports on the recent data loss by the Ministry of Defence with personal details of thousands of individuals being stolen. The story notes the various reviews currently taking place into the handling of government information. These include the Poynter review and Thomas Review, both expected to be published this spring – [RH]

Virtual libraries

Kwon, Nahyun, and Gregory, Vicki L. **The Effects of Librarians' Behavioral Performance on User Satisfaction in Chat Reference Services** Reference & User Services Quarterly 42(2) (Winter 2007): 137-148. (http://rusq.org/2008/01/06/the-effects-of-librarians-behavioral-performance-on-user-satisfaction-in-chat-reference-services-2/) – OMG! The librarian's a bot! No, this article doesn't say anything of the sort but reading about effective virtual reference librarian behavior can certainly send one's thoughts in that direction. The user satisfaction survey results shown here support the assertion that following RUSA (Reference and User Services Association) guidelines for approachability, interest, listening/inquiring, searching and follow-up makes for a better reference interaction online as it does in person. But when the interface isn't face to face, following these guidelines without any additional personalization keeps automated response firmly in the realm of possibility. (Or perhaps virtual reference outsourcing to Bangalore is a more immediate concern.) Worth reading as a refresher on benchmark behavior for reference librarians, but also one must read between the lines: what value does the librarian add that can't be had faster and cheaper by other means? – [*JR]

Virtual Reference Services Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 34(2) (December/January 2008) (http://www.asis.org/Bulletin/Dec-07/Bulletin_DecJan08.pdf) – This special section of the Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology addresses the issues affecting virtual reference services in libraries. We are still asking: who's using these services, who's not using these services, and why? Joe Janes gives us insight into the frustrations of virtual reference, including the confusion of license agreements, staffing levels, and marketing. R. David Lankes introduces us to "StoryStarters," a site that connected experts and bloggers with question askers. For evaluating online reference services, we turn to Jeffery Pomerantz. He looks at evaluation from the perspective of library staff and library users. Pnina Shachaf provides us with an environmental scan of professional and ethical standards and how they are (or are not) applied to virtual reference services. In the last article in the section, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Marie L. Radford, and Timothy J. Dickey join together to study the non-users of virtual reference services while working together on an IMLS project called Seeking Sunchonicity. They found that non-users value personal relationships and privacy in their reference transactions, and weren't sure if virtual reference would fill these requirements for them. In all, this special section of the ASIST Bulletin is a must for those librarians considering a virtual reference service, as well as those with established programs – [*KC]

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