

Online

Column Editor: Joy Cadwallader
Information Officer
University of Wales, Aberystwyth

BRITISH LIBRARY

The British Library has launched a website of digital images of the Gutenberg Bible, consisting of the entire text of the two copies currently owned by the Library. Only 16 complete copies still exist of Europe's oldest surviving printed text produced by Johann Gutenberg in the 1450s, who devised the printing technique he used. This important collection of images have been produced collaboratively with Keio University, Japan and NTT Inc. using new digital technology for rare books, and the site is designed by the consultancy Oyster Partners. The website also contains background information on Gutenberg and his life and times.

CSA

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts are providing a new online bibliographic index service by subscription, the Design and Applied Arts Index (DAAI). It consists of more than 130,000 full bibliographic references with brief abstracts for articles drawn from over 500 journals and newspapers from 1973 onwards, covering topics as diverse as architecture, design for the elderly and disabled, multimedia, textiles, jewellery and vehicle design. The index is updated monthly. There are also two additional databases included in the product: "Education Directory" which is a set of course information and contact details for over 2,800 educational institutions world-wide offering courses in the Design and Applied Arts field, and "Periodicals Directory" which is an international directory of over 450 journals with content information and publishers' contact details.

FORBES.COM

The Internet media company for corporate information and analysis Forbes.com now lists the world's 2000 biggest companies based on sales, profits, assets and market value. The list can be sorted on these categories, as well as by the 51 countries and 27 industries it currently contains.

GETTY IMAGES

Getty Images has acquired two further collections: the Hulton Archive and Time Life Pictures. The Hulton Archive contains over 40 million stills photographs taken in the 19th and 20th century of historical and sociological interest, and the Time Life Pictures collection contains many world famous images such as the celebrated Alfred Eisenstaedt image of a sailor and

nurse kissing in Times Square on VJ Day at the end of WWII. Images can be searched for using keywords, concepts and image numbers, viewed as thumbnails and purchased online according to their respective license agreements.

NHS DIRECT AND THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

Information about common health problems, including advice on surgery and aftercare, and some chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes, is now available from the "Self-Help" area of the NHS Direct website. Intended for UK residents, the link to the Journal's "Best Treatments" website has resulted from consultation with the Department of Health and provides information for doctors and patients alike with an emphasis on plain English and raising patient awareness to help them make decisions about their treatment with health professionals.

OCLC PICA / NETLIBRARY

A collection of 15,000 netLibrary ebook titles have been purchased in a deal unprecedented in Europe. NoWAL, the North West Academic Libraries consortium, and Keele University will have access to the ebooks until June 2006 under an agreement aided by OCLC PICA. The ebooks will be available to a HE user population of over 165,000. Titles will be available on and off campus, and the Consortium will be able to add titles to the existing collection.

RDN

The JISC-funded Resource Discovery Network have enhanced the "World Guide" service in GEsources, their hub devoted to "Geography & Environment". The Guide contains collections of satellite images, interactive maps, articles and other information, including a "Country Comparison Tool" which provides an online comparison based on demographic, geographic and economic data of two countries chosen by the user.

THOMSON DERWENT

Thomson Derwent have announce the launch of their new patent alerting service. Derwent World Patents Index First View provides subscribed users with previews of the latest published patent documents before they reach the existing main database Derwent World Patents Index. DWPI First View is available through Dialog and STN International, and it contains bibliographic data for all new patent documents including abstracts and images plus English language abstracts for patents from some Far East countries and Russia.

Joy Cadwallader is Secretary of AberOLUG, and can be contacted by E-mail: Joy.Cadwallader@aber.ac.uk