

Current Awareness

Column editor: Clare Sinclair

Do you feel news from the world of information passes you by? That you can't keep up with the rapidly-changing e-publishing sector? Don't worry – we have solved the problem for you. This column is created by a team of information specialists based both in the US and the UK. They check a range of leading periodicals to make sure you are kept informed about the latest developments of relevance from them. Subjects covered include e-publishing, information access and retrieval, electronic publishing, preservation and virtual libraries.

E-publishing/legal issues

Cairns, Michael. **A Database of Riches: Measuring the Options for Google's Book Settlement** (22 April 2010)(http://www.scribd.com/full/30334705?access_key=key-23rh5w2lwcdmcmzph2k4) – Everybody has been waiting patiently to see if Judge Chin will accept the proposed amended settlement of the lawsuit brought by authors and publishers against Google, but with his recent confirmation to the Court of Appeals, it is unclear if Judge Chin will decide himself or turn the whole mess over to a new judge. In the interim, we have to continue to make educated guesses about what the Google database, if it is approved, will look like. In this new report, Michael Cairns, a former president of R.R. Bowker and a publishing consultant, who earlier tried to calculate the number of orphan works in the Google database, turns his attention to the business model for the institutional subscription. It is the first public analysis that tries to estimate how much a yearly subscription might cost. One can question his assumptions about likely subscription prices or whether the market penetration he anticipates would meet the settlement's requirement for wide acceptance of the product, but I was struck by his calculation of how relatively low subscription prices for the database of out-of-print books would generate huge windfall profits for the rights holders. He estimates \$260 million in total revenues per year, 70% of which, or \$182 million, would go to the rights owners. It suggests that a low subscription/high market penetration business model, rather than the high subscription/limited sales model normally adopted when marketing to libraries, would generate the greatest revenues. - PH*

Anderson, Ivy. **Model Language for Author Rights in Library Content Licenses** *Research Library Issues* (269)(April 2010)(<http://publications.arl.org/pageview/rli/s68n7/12>). – University authors are a bit like people who accept software click-through licenses: they blithely sign

their publishing agreements, assuming that they retain all the rights they want, and don't bother reading the fine detail to see if they have actually signed away their immortal souls. Librarians know better, and so have been at the forefront of initiatives that encourage authors to amend their publication contracts and adopt campus-wide open-access mandates that automatically preserve some important rights for authors. An ARL ad hoc working group is at work on a third, very promising approach. Since libraries already negotiate with publishers licenses for content (licenses that are worth hundreds of thousands of dollars), why not require as part of that content license that institutional authors retain needed rights, regardless of what their publication agreement might say? This article presents the group's draft model license that does just that. It is a clever way of exerting libraries' market power, and if widely adopted, could have an even greater transformative impact than the so-called "green open access" campaign. Comment on the draft now, and start thinking about how to include it in future content license negotiations. - PH*

Information retrieval

Brynko, Barbara. **The Power of the Semantic Web**, *Information Today* 27 (5) (May 2010): 10 – Overview of some work being carried out by the National Network of Scientists in the US on the creation of a semantic-Web application offering access to their research. Explains some of the principles behind semantic technologies including construction of ontologies.- MDS

Security

Shapiro, Stuart S. **Privacy By Design: Moving From Art to Practice** *Communications of the ACM* 53(6)(June 2010): 27-29. (<http://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2010/6/92470-privacy-by-design-moving-from-art-to-practice/fulltext>) – What with all the privacy problems Facebook has been having, a quick reading of this article might be in order. The argument here is that you start out with principles of security and privacy, building them into the system from the beginning and not as an afterthought once the product is nearly complete. Standards still need to be developed, particularly for privacy, but the author ends the piece arguing for "a firmer grasp of the obvious". - LRK*

Social networking

Lazar, Bart A. **Drafting social networking policies**, *Information Today* 27 (5) (2010): 20 – Useful follow-up to an earlier article on what organisations should think about when drafting policies for staff use of social networking sites. Although it is written from a US perspective where, it could be argued, the dangers of litigation are more than in the UK, there is some sensible advice such as the importance of disclosure by authors of blog posts and commentaries.- MDS

Virtual libraries

Hastings, Robin. **A Year With Google Apps** *Computers in Libraries* 30(4)(May 2010): 12-16.
– At a time when many libraries are struggling to make ends meet, an article such as this that may save libraries money is welcome indeed. In this frank piece, Hastings takes us through the steps she took to transition her library staff from Microsoft Exchange and Office to Google Apps. In particular, it helps the rest of us a lot for her to note what they were able to migrate successfully (almost everything) and what they weren't (not much, in the end). Some things to note: going from using folders to manage email to using labels can be a conceptual and behavioral barrier, although certainly not an insurmountable one. Hastings wisely notes the importance of training in a transition like this, and another lesson was to not force people to use the technology as you would use it (they'll find their own way to use it). There are many libraries that should consider this path, and this article is a great place to start in looking into this option. - RT*

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