Online

Joy Cadwallader, Aberystwyth University (Aberystwyth Online User Group)

Please send your submissions for the next edition to jrc@aber.ac.uk.

Mobile apps from the British Library; the end of Delicious? A UK national library catalogue

British Library

http://www.bl.uk/

The British Library has launched its first app for the iPhone, iPad and Android, which they have developed with Toura (www.toura.com). Called Treasures it showcases "over 100 unique or rare items" in the British Library, using high-quality images enhanced with audio and video. Content is browsable by subject, and include poems, maps, manuscripts, sketches and musical scores. It is available for £2.39 for iPhone, iPod Touch and Android, and Treasures HD is available for the iPad for £3.49.

Delicious

http://www.delicious.com/

Following conflicting reports in the information press, it has emerged that the link-aggregating service Delicious is not due to close. The Delicious blog http://blog.delicious.com/ apologises for the mixed messages and states "we believe there is an ideal home for Delicious outside of the company", which suggests that Yahoo intends to sell Delicious. Rumours had emerged following staff lay-offs announced by Yahoo and a leaked slide that labelled Delicious and a number of other Yahoo services as "Sunset" (see this post at TechCrunch).

Gale Cengage

http://www.gale.cengage.co.uk/

Gale Cengage have augmented their Historical Newspapers Collection with the Picture Post Historical Archive, 1938-1957. A popular and populist newspaper, Picture Post campaigned on a number of issues, including the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany. Picture Post publisher Edward G Hulton is also remembered for the Hulton Picture Library, which is now part of Getty Images. The Picture Post archive includes 50,000 searchable pages, which subscribers will be able to cross-search with other Gale historical newspapers in Gale NewsVault, due in 2011.
Partners JSTOR and the University of California Press have launched the Current Scholarship Programme, which allows participating libraries to access current issues of journals on the JSTOR site, beginning with 174 titles from 19 publishers this year, alongside the existing archives. The launch also includes some new journals and other titles not previously available online. Content formats such as full-text HTML journals and multimedia-enhanced content are now also available.

Nature Publishing Group

http://www.nature.com/

Some Nature Publishing Group (NPG) articles can now be "view-only" rented for $3.99 for 24 hours through the DeepDyve platform. The content archive extends to 2008, and so far comprises Nature, Nature Biotechnology, Nature Cell Biology, Nature Medicine, and Nature Chemical Biology. iPhone users can also view the content through the nature.com iPhone app and the new nature.com Reader for iPad app. Rental buttons will be added to the nature.com site. DeepDyve is also offering 30-day and annual subs for another range of titles on the nature.com iPhone and iPad apps, with a week’s access model also due soon. Nature is available free through the iPad app until the end of February and the iPad app is free from the iTunes App store.

OCLC

http://www.oclc.org/

An announcement from The Combined Regions and OCLC outlines plans to provide a catalogue search of 50 million books and other items in 80% of UK public libraries. A proof of concept for a combined national public library catalogue for the UK will be ready for viewing by libraries in March this year. The catalogue would be built from data already held in WorldCat and gathered from 149 UK local authorities.

World Oral Literature Project

http://www.oralliterature.org/

The World Oral Literature Project at Cambridge University has launched the Database of Endangered Languages and Cultures. The Database sources data from UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger, Ethnologue Online, 2010 and Cambridge’s Professor William Sutherland’s Red List, which takes internationally accepted criteria for measuring extinction threat e.g. to birds or animals, and applies them to languages. The database has been funded by a Small Research Grant from the British Academy, and the Charles E. Chadwyck-Healey Charitable Trust. Search results list (where available) the extinction threat, the estimated number of speakers, a map of the language distribution, and links to language resources and sound recordings. The Project site notes “of the world’s over 6,000 living languages, around half will cease to be used as spoken vernaculars by the end of this century”.

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