

Online

Joy Cadwallader, Aberystwyth University (Aberystwyth Online User Group)

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

What was the result of the Google Books Settlement? New image and text collections

Britain from the Air

[Britain from the Air](#)

100 high-quality aerial photographs of natural and man-made British landmarks, some showing floods or snow, are now freely available online. The Britain from the Air site has been created using the Ordnance Survey's mapping service OS OpenSpace; visitors to the site can choose photos by location or feature and find further descriptive information. Britain from the Air opened as a street gallery exhibition in Bath in September 2010, created jointly by the Royal Geographical Society and WeCommunic8. The exhibition is closing for relocation to Oxford where it will be available from June-September.

Colwiz

[colwiz](#)

Scientists at Oxford University have launched an impressive free, cloud-based research application

that is intended to provide researchers "an integrated suite of tools custom-built for fast and efficient management of the research process" (Professor David Gavaghan). Described as the "killer app" in the [press release](#), colwiz (Collective Wizdom) is suitable for Windows, Mac and Linux, and includes tools for importing and exporting references, scheduling, task management, collaborating and publishing. The Colwiz project won development funding through a competition held by ISIS Innovations, an Oxford University-owned limited company for commercialising research products.

Early Modern Theatres Online

[Early Modern Theatres Online \(EMLoT\)](#)

This site was down when I went to check it out, so I'm relying on Southampton University's [press release](#) for details. A product of collaboration between Southampton University, Kings College London and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), EMLoT has been created by

finding and transcribing primary documents “relating to eight early theatres north of the Thames, which operated outside the capital’s city walls”, in the 16th and 17th centuries. Stories of rivalry between the theatres, vandalism, riot, kidnap, and murder have emerged. The project may be extended to include theatres south of the river, which would include the Globe.

e-Book mania

The information press and the popular press is ebook-crazy with many stories about the plethora of products, platforms, consortia, licenses, ebook readers and apps etc which just seem to indicate a “no rules” approach right now. HarperCollins have caused much blogging, tweeting etc with their 26 loan limit on an e-book licence, which is apparently based on the notion that a printed book needs replacing after 26 loans (see *Library Journal’s* [piece](#) on this). The Internet Archive and partner libraries in the US have launched an [e-book lending library](#) of over 80,000 books, which library users “borrow” when visiting their own library. The Independent has reported on what may be [the world’s first airport e-book library](#) at Taiwan. Then came the big news ...

Google Books Settlement

After more than year of fact-finding and deliberation, on Tuesday 22nd March New York District Judge Denny Chin found against Google in the matter of the revised Google Book Settlement. Rather than authors being required to opt-out to prevent Google scanning and exploiting their work without permission, Judge Chin recommends an opt-in instead. He has called for a “status conference” on April 25th. INFOdocket, the new

information market blog from library heroes Gary Price and Shirl Kennedy, posted a [fascinating digest of news and views](#) from all sides following the decision.

Journal Tables of Contents

[JournalTOCS](#)

The free table of contents service JournalTOCs based at Heriot Watt University has enjoyed two recent enhancements: RSS feeds for incoming TOC entries matching custom search terms and follower counts for journal titles. Also a free institutional trial for the JournalTOCs customisation service is available (until the end of April) which comprises indexing for up to 15,000 journals subscribed to by the institution, and a range of features including full-text linking, email alerts, saved searches and export to reference software. See the custom service for Heriot Watt (WattJournals) and find pricing information at: <http://www.journaltoocs.ac.uk/index.php?action=librarians>

Knowledge Bases and Related Tools

[Knowledge Bases And Related Tools \(KBART\)](#)

The UK Serials Group (UKSG) and the National Information Standards Organisation (NISO) have announced that another 30 publishers are able to create metadata that meets the NISO RP-9-2010 standard. In their [press release](#) UKSG and KBART also described the second phase of the KBART project to “improve the library user’s experience when using link resolvers and their related knowledge bases, and will specifically address consortia-specific metadata transfer, open access

metadata, and enhanced support for e-books and conference proceedings" (Sarah Pearson).

The OED

[Oxford English Dictionary \(OED\)](#)

Wassup! The OED have included OMG, LOL and FYI (and wassup) in their [most recent update](#). Among other instances they cite usage of the "laugh out loud" form of LOL in the Usenet news group comp.misc in 1990. They also quote earlier usage of LOL as a short form for "little old lady", in the US.

Research Libraries UK

[Research Libraries UK \(RLUK\)](#)

The headline "[Cash-strapped libraries threaten to end journal subscription deals over rising costs](#)," (Kadhun Shubber) heralds an excellent article in the Imperial College London (ICL) union magazine *Felix* describing the efforts of RLUK and their current leader ICL library director Deborah Shorley's efforts to "pressure big publishers to end

up-front payments, to allow them to pay in sterling and to reduce their subscription fees by 15%". Contingencies include individual subscriptions to "must-have" journal titles and use of the British Library electronic document delivery service, should RLUK member libraries find themselves doing the previously unthinkable and walking away from the big bundled journal deals. In a climate of budget cuts, rising subscriptions and big profits for publishers, the stakes for UK higher education libraries are high.

Meanwhile Cornell University Library have [announced](#) that they won't sign off on new or renewed licenses which have confidentiality clauses for "pricing information or other information that does not constitute a trade secret", as they feel it drives "anti-competitive conduct" by some publishers.