

Developments such as these take reference software beyond bibliographic citations (which have no copyright implications) into the legal world of copyright, database protection and other legal wrangling which will be covered in the next issue of elucidate.

Short Notes

More on "ID Cards, the National Identity Register and Data Protection"

Yesterday, I received a credit-card-like certificate from the Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA), which entitled me free prescriptions and glasses (and one or two other things) despite the fact that my salary is well in excess of the entitlement figure. When I enquired, the PPA claimed that their data were taken from the Inland Revenue who, by almost the same post, had just confirmed my correct salary to me!

If this is an example of government agencies sharing their data, it only serves to confirm the worries expressed in the recent discussion on this topic in LIS-CILIP and in my last Ex Cathedra.

UKOLUG and CILIP believe that there are information policy issues surrounding the National Identity Register, Data Protection and the sharing of information by government agencies, which are of concern to civil society, and we shall be working together to publish a response.

And yes, I did return the card!

Chris Armstrong
UKOLUG Vice-Chair

Cheap Microsoft software for NHS staff

NHS staff can take home some of the Microsoft Office applications that they are licensed to use at work, and that are covered by Software Assurance, such as Word, Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and FrontPage. Staff keen to get their hands on a copy of the latest edition software only need to pay a fulfilment fee to cover packaging, shipping and handling costs, which is around £17, compared with its normal retail price tag of around £400.

For more information:
<http://www.nhsia.nhs.uk/def/pages/inform/informish18/p6.asp#microsoft>

In the wake of the Libri report

Do you know of a public library which still uses the Browne issue system? Dalston library in Cumbria

(open 7 hours a week) does (although there is a PC with Internet access). Quaint might be the word...

Claire Pillar

Libri's recent report Who's in Charge published April 27th 2004 by Tim Coates as an analysis of "what is wrong with libraries today and a recipe for their renewal" (<http://www.libri.org.uk>) has attracted much media attention on the role of public libraries outside of the profession press. Amongst various accounts BBC noted on its website (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/3661831.stm>) the focus on the lack of relevance to the 21st Century Library user, concentrating on the themes of book and building provision. Meanwhile, commentators as varied as Will Hutton in the Observer (May 2 p28) and Janet Street-Porter in the Independent (April 29) have made high profile responses to the report in their respective columns. Again though much of the focus of the popular reaction has been mixture of a debate on Books, Library Management and Building.

So where does this leave the profile of Public Libraries and e-information in the popular consciousness and how significant is this in the context of public libraries? UKOLUG would be interested to hear the views of members on this via our newsletter or on our discussion list.

The contributor wishes to remain anonymous

Which chocolate bars would persuade our members leak their passwords...

Rolo - Do you love anyone enough to give them your password!!!

Milk Tray - because this lady loves Milk Tray

Smarties - because only Smarties have the answer!

Passwords - are they a polite Topic of conversation? Then again, I can Whispa it to you, as long as it is a secret be-Twix us... Aww, okay, my password is 'thorntonscontinentalsinalargebox' - with no spaces, don't forget...the Whole, Nut just the first part...

It has to be Flake, coz only the crumbliest flakiest worker would fall for the crumbliest flakiest chocolate bar... after all, if they were offered a lion bar, they might be lion about the password...

Whispa...

My thanks and congratulations to Alison Attard, Vicky Mitchell (and husband), and Marilyn Reid. A special mention goes to Karen Blakeman who when told that 'the editor's decision is final...' replied: "Oh Snickers!!!"