

## Current Awareness

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This column contains summaries of articles (print and electronic) about online services, CD-ROMs, networked information, electronic publishing, multimedia etc. including, with permission, abstracts identified with an \* next to the author initials, drawn from Current Cites, the monthly publication distributed electronically by the Library, University of California at Berkeley: <http://sunsite.Berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/>

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### CATALOGUING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Chen, Ya-ning and Chen, Shu-jian. "A metadata practice of the IFLA FRBR model. A case study for the National Palace Museum in Taipei." *Journal of Documentation* 60(2) (2004): 128-143.

Reviews the application of various experiments with the FRBR model, and discusses its application to Chinese painting and calligraphy at the National Palace Museum. Describes how the four layers (work, expression, manifestation and item) were applied, noting that the FRBR model was used to the support use of the CDWA metadata elements. Discusses the difficulties of reconciling generic (Dublin Core) formats with domain specific needs, and the problems of information granularity. - [CJU]

Eden, Bradford Lee, editor. "MARC and Metadata: METS, MODS, and MARCXML: Current and Future Implications" *Library Hi Tech* 22(1) (2004)

It's a brave new world for bibliographic description, which this special issue of *Library Hi Tech* makes readily apparent. With articles contributed by a wide range of experts on topics like METS, MODS, EAD, and MARC, there is something here for anyone interested in cataloging, metadata, and where the field is going. The editor of this issue, Brad Eden from the Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, lined up so many authors for this issue that the contributions have been split into two issues, with the second to follow in the summer. According to Brad, this next issue will look more to the future. [Full disclosure: I contributed a piece that will run in the next issue] – [\*RT]

Gadd, Elizabeth, Oppenheim, Charles and Proberts, Steve. **RoMEO Studies 5: IPR issues facing OAI data and service providers.** *Electronic Library* 22(2) 2004 121-138.

The Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting defines the roles of 'data providers' or (who disclose metadata: DPs) and 'service providers' (who "harvest" it into services: SPs). The purpose of the RoMEO project is to investigate the IPR issues relating to the self-archiving of research papers under the OAI-PMH, and the subsequent disclosure and harvesting of the metadata by DPs and SPs. The paper reports the results of two surveys of DPs and SPs regarding intellectual property issues. Both SPs and DPs sought a standardised way of describing the rights status of both documents and metadata. The authors promise that the sixth paper in their series (submitted to Program) will describe a solution to this issue. – [CE]

Hunter, Philip and Guy, Marieke. **Metadata for harvesting: the Open Archives Initiative, and how to find things on the Web.** *Electronic Library* 22(2) 2004 168-174.

The authors provide a very clear account of the origins, background and rationale of the OAI, and some account of the issues, both technical and non-technical (the type of information to be included, IPR matters, ease of installation of e-prints software) involved in establishing and managing university e-print archives. They also give a brief account of the technical issues relating to one particular implementation of metadata repurposing, which involved two e-journals published by UKOLN, Exploit Interactive and Cultivate Interactive. – [CE]

**Metadata Practices on the Cutting Edge** Washington, DC: National Information Standards Organization, 10 May 2004. ([http://www.niso.org/news/events\\_workshops/MD-2004\\_agenda.html](http://www.niso.org/news/events_workshops/MD-2004_agenda.html) ).

The PowerPoint presentations from this one-day workshop on emerging metadata practices are available at this web site. Topics include metadata quality, interoperability, linking metadata, metadata for image collections, RSS, MODS, METS, and MPEG-21. Contributors include representatives from OCLC, CrossRef, the Library of Congress, universities and the private sector. Given the wide range of presentations, if you're interested in metadata you can likely find something of interest here, but no single topic is explored in much depth, and you are sometimes left wondering what the speaker said about a particular slide if there are no accompanying notes. – [\*RT]

Miller, Dick R. **"XOBIS -- An Experimental Schema for Unifying Bibliographic and Authority Records"** *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* (forthcoming) ([http://elane.stanford.edu/laneauth/XOBIS\\_CCQ/XOBIS\\_CCQ.html](http://elane.stanford.edu/laneauth/XOBIS_CCQ/XOBIS_CCQ.html) ).

This preprint of an article destined for *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* discusses an experimental XML schema for encoding bibliographic and authority data elements called the XML Organic Bibliographic Information Schema (XOBIS). More information is available on the XOBIS web site. This paper is based on an August 2003 presentation to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) Working Group in Berlin. Whether XOBIS itself ever goes anywhere or not, the concepts laid out by this proposal can inform and inspire us to consider the possibilities of a post-MARC world. – [\*RT]

## CONTENT MANAGEMENT

Nicolle, Lindsay **Councils juggle online services.** *Information World Review*, Issue 199, February 2004. Pages 14-15

To meet the e-government deadlines set for 2005, local councils need to focus on rolling out enterprise content management systems (ECMS). This means moving beyond simple websites and managing content such as e-commerce, emails, catalogues, audio and video, databases and an array of structured and unstructured data. Joined up government demands that this kind of content is integrated in local authority information systems that work seamlessly together. The article explores the costs and technical issues around implementing ECMS as well as the cultural barriers to change. There is also a quick overview of ECMS providers. – [LR]

White, Martin. **Content management software: Success factors for its selection and implementation.** *Business Information Review* Vol 21(1) (March 2004): 36-43.

The article describes the issues involved in the successful implementation of CMS. The author begins by relating how under-funded intranets based around Front Page and a central webmaster have led to the growth of decentralised models and the use of CMS. The author explains the key features of a CMS: content creation through templates; content review supported by work-flow; content versioning closely managed; content tagged and held in a repository; content re-purposed for delivery to specific audiences; site design framework independent of structure and comprehensive administration functions. Metadata and search are considered: most CMS's will include functionality to include Dublin Core, and in the UK there is support for the e-Government Metadata Standard. The author considers several technology options, including: products developed by an internal IT department; open source CMS products; commercial CMS products and corporate portal applications. Total cost, selection and implementation are explained. The author concludes by listing ten key factors for success: 1) understand the implications; 2) adequate preparation; 3) the total cost of implementation; 4) CMS implementation takes time; 5) write the specification in terms of business requirements; 6) careful vendor selection; 7) treat the implementation as a project, 8) manage expectations; 9) manage process change; 10) communicate the progress of the implementation. – [JW]

## ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Guterman, Lila. **"Scientific Societies' Publishing Arms Unite Against Open-Access Movement"** *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 50(29) (26 March 2004): A20.

<http://chronicle.com/cgi2-bin/printable.cgi?article=http://chronicle.com/prm/weekly/v50/i29/29a02001.htm>.

Reacting to the growing influence of the open access movement, a group of scholarly not-for-profit publishers has issued the "Washington D.C. Principles for Free Access to Science." This document supports free access to selected important articles, to all articles either immediately or after an embargo period as determined by publisher policy, to scientists in developing nations, to reference linking systems, and to search engines for

indexing. However, it does not support financing journals solely through author fees, and it does not address the issue of the relatively unfettered use of scholarly literature that the "Budapest Open Access Initiative" strongly advocates: "By 'open access' to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited." In addition to discussing the DC Principles, the article also briefly examines the new BioMed Central variable institutional fee structure (it was previously a flat fee determined by the size of the institution), which has its own controversial elements. – [\*CB]

Mackie, Morag. **"Filling Institutional Repositories: Practical Strategies from the DAEDALUS Project"** Ariadne (39) (2004) (<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue39/mackie/>).

Filling an institutional repository with scholarly articles can be a tough job. This article discusses a variety of innovative strategies used by the DAEDALUS Project at the University of Glasgow to encourage faculty to contribute articles and to support the effort to do so. Initially, the project built support by giving presentations, offering a conference on open access, and including key faculty members on an advisory board. When this did not result in the desired contribution levels, project staff focused on contacting faculty who had personal publication Web sites or who had published articles in either open access journals or journals that clearly permitted archiving. Inevitably, it was unclear whether a subset of articles that faculty wanted to contribute could be legally stored, and project staff needed to contact publishers for clarification in these cases. Unfortunately, the project has been given "significant amounts of content that cannot be added because of restrictive publisher copyright agreements." – [\*CB]

## GENERAL

Bausenbach, Ardie. **"Character Sets and Character Encoding: A Brief Introduction"** RLG DigiNews 8(2) (15 April 2004) ([http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page\\_ID=17068&Printable=1&Article\\_ID=992](http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=17068&Printable=1&Article_ID=992)).

Anyone who has worked with computers long enough has run into the character encoding issue. Even if you are able to get a non-English character to display appropriately on your computer, sending the file to someone else is likely to spell disaster for anything beyond the 256 characters identified in the ASCII character set. But thankfully help is near, in the form of Unicode. This excellent overview piece lays the groundwork and explains the issues related to depicting nearly 100,000 separate characters (about 70,000 of which are Chinese) from 55 writing systems. As Bausenbach explains, we are far from character encoding nirvana, but we're on the right track and making progress. Highly recommended for anyone needing a primer or refresher on these issues. – [\*RT]

Boutin, Paul. **"Can E-Mail Be Saved?"** InfoWorld (16) (19 April 2004): 40-53. ([http://www.infoworld.com/article/04/04/16/16FEfuturemail\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/04/04/16/16FEfuturemail_1.html)).

"Battered by junk and reeling under makeshift fixes, e-mail is ripe for reinvention. Here's how six of the industry's most provocative thinkers envision a brighter day.... Our six experts gave us six different answers. But all of them agreed that positive identification, rather than rejiggered economics, is the key to clearing the clutter from the e-mail channel in the enterprise." Ideas from Eric Allman (author of Sendmail); Bill Warner (developer of the Wildfire voice system); Eric Hahn (former Netscape CTO; now CEO of own startup, Proofpoint); Ray Ozzie (creator of Lotus Notes; founder/CEO of Groove Networks); Dave Winer (chairman/founder of Userland and uberblogger); Brewster Kahle (creator of WAIS, Alexa; now head of The Internet Archive). – [\*SK]

Christiansen, Lars, Mindy Stompler, and Lyn Thaxton. **"A Report on Librarian-Faculty Relations from a Sociological Perspective"** Journal of Academic Librarianship 30(2) (March 2004): 116-121. (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6W50-4BP9R8V-1/2/c8ce5b45547451e8e5cbea5cb70e5927>).

Results from a literature review and survey focusing on librarian-faculty relations. The study reveals a tale of unrequited love, so to speak, with much interest in faculty by librarians but "little or no concern" coming from the other direction. – [\*LRK]

Jones, William. "Finders, Keepers? **The Present and Future Perfect in Support of Personal Information Management** " First Monday 9(3) (1 March 2004)

([http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9\\_3/jones/index.html](http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_3/jones/index.html) ).

Jones explores the impact of decisions to keep or discard the kind of personal data that accretes daily in our inboxes and Blogs -- spam, email, the weather, sports news and more -- together with critical information that has a longer term value. Since what seems mundane today may have strategic value tomorrow, this isn't such a lightweight matter, he says. What follows is interesting deconstruction of the process of parsing through 'stuff', which we often do unconsciously. Even though many information users don't focus on their habits, how we handle extraneous information is an essential part of personal information management, he argues. Bad decisions come in many flavors; keeping too much stuff can be as costly in time as keeping minimal backfiles. What's more, the wrong information competes for attention with more appropriate sources as tasks change during the day. He assesses decision support strategies such as reducing 'false positives' (keeping useless information), and avoiding 'misses' (not keeping useful information). This article is an interesting analysis of how the processes that surround the information cascade combine to take a substantial bite of our time. – [\*TH]

Pickering, Bobby. **LexisNexis prepares for battle ahead.** Information World Review, Issue 199, February 2004. Page 10

Interview with Helen Mumford, MD at LexisNexis UK. She talks about the challenges that LexisNexis is facing. – [LR]

Press, Larry. "**The Internet in Developing Nations: Grand Challenges**" First Monday 9(4) (5 April 2004)

([http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9\\_4/press/index.html](http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_4/press/index.html) ).

While the title of this article may seem more grandiose than grand, Press makes a compelling case for wiring the rural regions of the world. He argues that a model for effective deployment already exists, simply by following the strategies of NSFNet as it enabled American universities to connect to the Internet. Of course, it's not that simple; people everywhere would need to "buy in", and cultural perceptions and cross cultural communication remain hurdles at a fundamental level. Most importantly, Press argues, the maintenance of newly networked ports in remote regions must necessarily lie in the hands of the village leaders, not a distant oversight agency. This is a timely article insofar as it illustrates how satellite technologies, wireless networks, and portable energy systems (such as solar technology) can combine to help remote regions and tribal societies "leapfrog" to the network era. What remains is the challenge of securing a long-term commitment to investing funds globally in support of rural networking. – [\*TH]

Tebbutt, David. **We are the champions.** Information World Review, Issue 199, February 2004. Pages 20-21

Interviews with three senior information professionals – Bob Boiko, Lynne Brindley and Richard McDermott. They talk about key industry issues such as content management, digitisation and communities of practice. – [LR]

TechWebNews. "**Average PC Plagued With 28 Pieces Of Spyware**" InformationWeek (15 April 2004)

(<http://informationweek.securitypipeline.com/news/18901641> ).

If you're responsible for public access PCs, this recently released report by ISP EarthLink and WebRoot Software will not be terribly shocking to you. During the first quarter of this year, the two companies examined more than one million computer systems and unearthed more than 29 million instances of spyware. Most of this nasty stuff was ad-related -- e.g., pop-up windows, ad tracking, etc. -- but more than 360,000 system monitors (which spy on user activity) and Trojans (which masquerade as something benign but which are actually destructive) were detected. "If spread equally across the scanned systems, that means one in three computers contains a system monitor or a Trojan horse." View the Earthlink Spyware Audit here. – [\*SK]

## **INFORMATION ACCESS/RETRIEVAL**

Arnold, Stephen. **Data as pure as spring water.** Information World Review, Issue 199, February 2004. Pages 17-18

The article talks about the changes happening with online information providers. These include the threat from free online services, the declining financial performance of the big players and the rapid emergence of RSS – Really Simple Syndication. This is the automatic filtering of content in real-time and the generation of a customised news-feed. The new industry buzzword is "stovepipe" which means an information stream that bypasses an intermediary. Thus trend is gaining adherents in financial services, chemical and pharmaceutical



companies and many government offices in the USA, Canada and France. The article goes on to explain more about RSS and the impact it could have. – [LR]

Fallows, James. **"The Twilight of the Information Middlemen"** The New York Times (16 May 2004) (<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/16/business/yourmoney/16tech.html>).

"Information is both invaluable and impossible to value," declares James Fallows, in this engaging essay about how "the Internet's most fascinating impact has been on those who have decided not to charge for their work." Many publishers realize the value of giving away content for free -- there is the possibility of attracting additional paying subscribers and also, those who freeload can be included in circulation figures, making the publication that much more attractive to advertisers. Fallows identifies "two information sources that make us collectively richer and exist only because of fairly recent changes in the Internet" -- blogs and taxpayer-funded data. Blogs, he fully realizes, run the gamut from "a nightmare vision of a publishing house's 'slush pile' come to life" to "an intensified version of insider journalism." And "taxpayer money," he points out, "is still behind a surprising amount of crucial data: nearly all weather observations and the supercomputer-based models that create forecasts; most basic scientific research; most research into disease causes and cures." As a specific example, he mentions Dr. Harold Varmus, who as head of the National Institutes of Health, spearheaded the creation of PubMed Central "as a publicly accessible repository of medical research articles." And he notes such conflicts of interest that result, for example, in commercial weather data providers lobbying Congress to restrict what the National Weather Service puts out for free on its Internet sites. – [\*SK]

Hane, Paula. **"Science.gov 2.0 Launches with New Relevance Ranking Technology"** Information Today NewsBreaks (24 May 2004) (<http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/nb040524-1.shtml>).

Science.gov, originally launched in December 2002, calls itself "a gateway to information resources at the U.S. government science agencies." It offers links to authoritative science websites and databases of technical reports, conference proceedings, etc. A new iteration, Science.gov 2.0, was launched this month and, according to Paula Hane, it offers "additional content, technological enhancements, and a newly-developed relevancy ranking technology that helps patrons get to the best documents quickly." You can now access 30 science-oriented databases, up from 10 via the original Science.gov, and 1,700 websites, for a total of 47 million web pages. When you search, your results are "presented in relevancy ranked order," thanks to QuickRank technology developed by Deep Web Technologies. Hane goes on to describe how this works, and pinpoints a particular weakness: "QuickRank filtering is based on placement of key words: if a keyword is not in a prime location in the document, it's likely the result won't be ranked." Gary Price, editor of the ResourceShelf points out another weakness, that "...direct links to citations found via this metasearch tool are not available. This could cause problems in trying to get back to a citation or including it in a bibliography." Science.gov 3.0, due out in another year, will include more sophisticated relevancy ranking, better Boolean capabilities, field searching options and an alert service. – [\*SK]

McKeown, Roy. **Accessing the virtual museum: bringing the museum information into cyberspace.** The New Review of Information Networking Vol 9 (2003): 40-53.

The article describes the efforts of London's Petrie Museum to make their collection available over the internet. The author describes the problems in the delivery of museum information over the web: museum sites need to deliver representations of three-dimensional images with background information. The museum's collections include: 80 000 objects, archaeological sources, excavation reports, bibliographic references to the sources, photographic material and Flinders Petrie's papers. All material is now accessible over the web. The author describes the evolution of the searching interface from a limited simple search to using an in-house designed thesaurus for advanced searching and browsing. The interface offers access to photographs of the item, descriptive information about it and bibliographic references to it. It also gives the facility to create a username and password, allowing users to personalise searches and create subsets within the collection. The web surrogates offer an enhanced user experience, presenting more data and more objects than can be made practically available at any one time in the museum. The interface uses a back end database based on MySQL and php. Some materials collected by Flinders Petrie are not housed in the Petrie museum, these have also been included in the web project under the CoVES (Consortium for Virtual Egypt and Sudan) co-operative project, the author describes the partnership projects and the benefits gained. The author finishes by describing the Petrie's efforts to broaden access to its web interface and to Egyptology generally by including OAI and Dublin Core descriptions to the collection. – [JW]

O'Brien, D **The latest news direct to your PC.** New Scientist 182 (2449) , 24 (29 May 2004)  
This short article discusses RSS (Really Simple Syndication) newsfeeds. News harvesting software increases the ease of news current awareness, but there are implications for bandwidth consumption. - [DJH]

Udell, Jon. **"Firefox Fills the IE Void"** InfoWorld (19 March 2004 )  
([http://www.infoworld.com/article/04/03/19/12OPstrategic\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/04/03/19/12OPstrategic_1.html) ).

Encomium on the open-source cross-platform Mozilla web browser currently known, perhaps inelegantly, as 'Firefox'. If you haven't had a chance to test-drive Firefox, Jon Udall goes over many of the reasons why you should. Feel free to download it at mozilla.org and while you're at it, have a look at the email application 'Thunderbird' too. – [\*LRK]

Vakkari, Pertti, Jones, Susan, MacFarlane, Andy, Sormunen, Eero. **"Query exhaustivity, relevance feedback and search success in automatic and interactive query expansion."** Journal of Documentation 60 (2) (2004): 109-127.

Examined how searchers' selection of the search terms used to express the aspects of the topic, and their relevance assessments for feedback, are related to the number of relevant documents and the degree of relevance of documents retrieved by successive automatic and interactive query expansions. The sample group was composed of 26 information science students, who were previously not familiar with the OKAPI system used in the study. All students searched for four TREC topics, half using automatic and half using interactive query expansion. Results indicated that the initial query formulation was important – more terms, covering more of the facets of the search, yielded more relevant results. Interactive query expansion was more successful in retrieving relevant documents, than automatic query expansion, but this success was not always recognised by the searchers themselves. - [CJU]

## VIRTUAL LIBRARIES

**Digital Library Federation Spring Forum 2004** Washington, DC: Digital Library Federation, April 2004.  
(<http://www.diglib.org/forums/Spring2004/springforum04abs.htm> ).

Although you don't get to hear the speakers, or chat with them in the hall, or nosh on a deep-fried, sugar-dusted beignet, the presentation slides are the next best thing to being at the Digital Library Federation 2004 Spring Forum in New Orleans. David Seaman, the DLF Executive Director, made a concerted effort to "harvest" all of the presentations then and there, and put them up on the web literally within hours of their presentation. And you are hearing about them through Current Cites no more than a week after they were presented. Now that's current. But besides being current, these presentations often describe cutting-edge digital library projects, from extending the OAI harvesting protocol to accommodate distributed full-text searching of math monographs to XML-based book publishing and beyond, there is something here for just about everyone who is interested in where libraries are going. But although the meeting was held in The Big Easy, it was clear from a number of presentations that building digital libraries would be better characterized as The Big Difficult. – [\*RT]

Ford, Nigel. **"Towards a model of learning for educational informatics."** Journal of Documentation 60(2) (2004): 183-225.

Examines theories of learning, and relates these to studies of information behaviour. Several studies of information behaviour have tried to related learning styles, or cognitive styles to searching preferences. Ford reviews these and collates them to form a model of learning-related information behaviour. For those involved in VLE design, this article does not provide an easy guide to the best procedures to use for information skills modules, but that is because the evidence suggests the situation is complex, and the simple guide does not exist. - [CJU]

## WEB DESIGN

Fenton, Roger and Armstrong, Chris. **CIQM website quality survey 2004: .gov.uk sites.** Centre for Information Quality Management. April 2004.

This annual survey aims to provide data on the quality of websites in a specific domain. The survey was conducted on a random set of websites and compared to the results of the 2003 survey. 60 websites were surveyed in total. The survey looked at features including having a direct link to the author or webmaster, page dating, validation certificates, low-graphics or text-only alternatives, breadcrumb trails (navigation tools), metadata and corrupt links. The survey identified the need for improvement in a number of areas such as

reducing the number of corrupt links and the need for more pages with breadcrumb trails. Of the sites surveyed, the local authority sites performed best. – [JCG]

Knemeyer, Dirk. "**Jared Spool : The InfoDesign Interview**" InfoDesign (April 2004)

([http://www.informationdesign.org/special/spool\\_interview.php](http://www.informationdesign.org/special/spool_interview.php)).

Jared Spool is a hero of mine. He showed me that you could be an advocate of usability and a sensible human being at the same time. He did this by limiting himself to conclusions based on a thoughtful analysis of the facts together with enough flexibility to realize that different situations sometimes call for different approaches. All of these characteristics are on display in this infoDesign interview. – [\*LRK]

Michael, Sara. "**Making Government Accessible -- Online**" Federal Computer Week 18(11) (29 April 2004): 21-30. (<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0419/feat-access-04-19-04.asp>).

Federal Computer Week and SSB Technologies, a developer of web-accessibility software and services, took a look at U.S. e-government initiatives with an eye toward whether these services were usable by disabled citizens. The results were not encouraging. "As the e-government initiatives near completion and gain a broader audience, none of the Web sites evaluated in our recent review were found to be entirely accessible to citizens with disabilities, as required by Section 508. Agencies clearly are committed to the spirit of the law but are struggling with the details." The article discusses Section 508 compliance and related requirements, accessibility pitfalls, and development and evaluation tools. – [\*SK]

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