

## Online

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### EBSCO

EBSCO have added two new H.W Wilson Company databases - Current Biography Illustrated and Book Review Digest. Current Biography Illustrated offers the content of the printed monthly magazine, Current Biography, produced by the H.W. Wilson Company, in searchable, electronic format. This database offers up-to-date biographies written since 1940. Book Review Digest is a reference database that provides review excerpts and book summaries for current English-language fiction and non fiction books for all ages. Abstracting and indexing are included for more than 112,000 books, with more than 8,000 new records from 109 periodicals added each year.

### EDINA

EDINA has announced that for the subscription year starting 1st August 2004 it will be offering a service to the CAB Abstracts database for UK FE and HE institutions. The database CAB Abstracts is a bibliographic database compiled by CABI Publishing. It covers the significant research and development literature in the fields of agriculture, forestry, aspects of human health, human nutrition, animal health and the management and conservation of natural resources.

### Emerald

Emerald Group Publishing Limited announces the launch of Emerald Management Xtra, the largest, most comprehensive collection of peer-reviewed management journals and online support created to meet the specific needs of educators, students, researchers, librarians and deans in the higher education management field. Building on the success of its highly regarded Emerald Fulltext and Emerald Management Reviews databases, Emerald Management Xtra combines core content from over 100 Emerald selected journals with practical working tools and resources. These include Conference Central, a regularly updated Research Register, Resources for librarians, Teaching Tips, and numerous book reviews, case studies, and interviews. The renowned Emerald Literati Club has been integrated as well, offering unparalleled resources for academic publishing.

## JISC

JISC and the publisher Thomson Gale has signed an agreement, which will mean all colleges in the UK will be able to gain access to the free content of twenty-one top electronic reference titles in perpetuity. The titles include the Gale Encyclopaedia of Psychology, the Worldmark Encyclopaedia of the Nations, the six-volume Gale Encyclopaedia of Science, and many others. They have been specially chosen by representatives of the FE community for their quality and their relevance to the curriculum.

### ProQuest

ProQuest Information and Learning has released the latest version of the award-winning ProQuest® online information service. Many new features are included in the release. ProQuest Smart Search query analysis provides help on the fly for more and better results. Enhanced email capabilities allow users to track their results as well as share them with colleagues. Advanced browsing gives better access to non-periodical content.

As in previous releases of ProQuest, all of the enhancements were developed to help professional and novice researchers accomplish their research goals quickly with pinpoint accuracy. ProQuest Information and Learning and MyFamily.com are partnering to produce a new tool to support genealogy research in libraries. The Web-based database Ancestry Library Edition will replace and supersede the current library product offering, AncestryPlus, which will be phased out over the coming year. Ancestry Library Edition will be available effective August 30, 2004.

### Science Direct

Elsevier has announced the addition of twelve prestigious reference works to its premier electronic resource, ScienceDirect®. The titles span life, physical, social and health sciences and include prestigious titles such as Treatise on Geochemistry, Comprehensive, Coordination Chemistry II and Encyclopaedia of Physical Science and Technology. These additions increase total number of Elsevier Reference Works available on ScienceDirect to 27.

### SWETS

July 19, 2004 Swets Information Services announced today that it has recently succeeded in signing seven new publishers to SwetsWise Online Content. SwetsWise now carries a total of 8,325 full text e-journals from 309 publishers, with more than 90% of the top STM publishers participating. July 02, 2004 Swets Information Services, one of the world's

largest providers of subscription and information management solutions, announced today that BioMed Central's Open Access journals will be included in SwetsWise.

## **Internet News**

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### **Introduction**

I would like to introduce myself as your new internet column editor. My background, for the last twelve years, has been as a database designer of bibliographic databases, primarily in the SilverPlatter format. Following my redundancy earlier this year, I will be starting a new career in a secondary school Learning Resource Centre this September.

Peter Chapman suggested a slight change of focus for the column with the change in editor, a return to a focus on a single topic per column. Starting something new can always be a little daunting, and so I was interested in the subject of the upcoming UKOLUG one day course in November, 'An Introduction to Web Usability and Accessibility'.

Quite coincidentally, after this discussion with Peter, an article appeared in FreePint discussing usability. "Usability - ignore it at your peril!" by Sarah Agarwal covers the usability side of things so well, that I just refer you to it if you're looking for an introduction to the subject.

So, coming back to accessibility, the more I have researched this, the broader and deeper the subject becomes. So this column is by its nature a fairly high level overview of the subject area.

### **Web Accessibility**

Web Accessibility is becoming more of a hot topic currently with many countries enacting legislation to overcome disability discrimination; for instance, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in England, Scotland and Wales; the Employment Equality Act (1998) and the Equal Status Act (2000) in Ireland; and the Section 508 amendment to the Rehabilitation Act in 1998 in the US, which requires Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities.

This quote "The power of the Web is in its universality. Access by everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect." -- Tim Berners-Lee, W3C Director and inventor of the World Wide Web

-- captures the essence of why this is an important and essential aspect of website development and management for all of us.

In England, the RNIB is leading the way with the provision of information about how to make websites accessible. Their 'See it Right' award is made to websites which have been audited and found to be accessible. The directory of 'See it Right' accessible websites is at [http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public\\_seeitrightlogo.hcsp#TopOfPage](http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public_seeitrightlogo.hcsp#TopOfPage).

One website which has achieved the award is by Waitrose, and if you visit their site at <http://www.waitrose.com/> there is a footer link to accessibility, which provides a clear overview of how the site can be used. A case study explaining how this was achieved is also provided at [www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public\\_waitrose.hcsp#TopOfPage](http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public_waitrose.hcsp#TopOfPage).

By now you may reasonably be wondering how you can check how your site, professional or personal, would measure up to the various standards set by w3 or Section508. There are a dizzying number of different validators and checkers out there, some freely available and some purchased software. An extensive list of checkers and validators of various types is listed at [www.w3.org/WAI/ER/existingtools.html#General](http://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/existingtools.html#General) and also at [www.section508.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Content&ID=122&View=Print](http://www.section508.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Content&ID=122&View=Print).

As an experiment I used one web page and tested it for compliance using two different accessibility checkers. Bobby™ is a comprehensive web accessibility software tool designed to help expose and repair barriers to accessibility and encourage compliance with existing accessibility guidelines. There is a free portal service at <http://bobby.watchfire.com/bobby/html/en/index.jsp>, which enables you to test one web page at a time.

I picked a different validator, Hermish.com, from the section508 list of checkers and validators, this also works on one web page at a time. I entered <http://www.cilip.org.uk/about/about.html> into each tool and both returned a comprehensive on screen report detailing where and why the web page falls short of the Priority 1, 2 and 3 accessibility checkpoints established in W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0.

In addition, the report from Hermish.com can also include the page's source code and it highlights the particular html instances of the problems it has