

Online Resource Update

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

Course pack copyright

Legal action begun by Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press and Sage Publications against Georgia State University (GSU) in 2008 over copyright may have completed its final round. The publishers accused GSU of systematically encouraging staff to provide unlicensed course reading packs for their students. Earlier this year Judge Orinda Evans found for the publishers in only four of the forty-eight charges; a similar outcome to an earlier round in the same action in 2012 when they won just five of ninety-nine. On July 27th this year Judge Evans ruled that, “the publishers’ failure to make their case efficiently warranted a fee award” ([Publishers Weekly](#)), which could lose the publishers and their partners, the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) and the Association of American Publishers (AAP), millions in legal costs.

Elsevier

News broke on August 30th that the major academic journal publisher Elsevier had been granted a US patent for “Online peer review and method”. Such was the interest on social media that Tom Reller, Head of Corporate Relations at Elsevier tweeted, “There is no need for concern regarding the patent. It’s simply meant to protect our own proprietary waterfall system from being copied”. The waterfall system is the offering of a paper to other journals if it has been rejected from the one it was originally submitted to, with the author’s consent. This [blog](#) by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) notes that the waterfall process had been written about three years before the patent application. It also describes the difficulties that universities have with the high subscription fees charged by Elsevier for journals that researchers at the same universities contribute to or peer-review for, the “bundling” of must-have titles, and how universities are trying to break free from this publishing model by adopting open access policies. The blog does say, “as a practical matter, the patent will be difficult to enforce”; if it wasn’t Elsevier there might not be so much concern.

The Folger Institute

The Folger Institute has launched a new and freely available online resource focussing on 403 plays, “written primarily by authors other than Shakespeare that were performed between 1576 and 1642, and which were printed by 1660” ([Folger press release](#)). [A Digital Anthology of Early Modern English Drama](#) provides descriptions of each play including the dates of first publication and first performance, the players and the theatre (where available). The bibliographic referencing includes links to the Folger record, the library

catalogue indexing the original publication, the EEBO Text Creation Project XML, and STC and Wing numbers (where available). I looked up *Dr Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe and discovered the first performance was given by the Admiral's (Nottingham's) Men; from the play description I can click through to a list of plays performed by the same players including Marlowe's *Tamburlaine the Great*. In the Featured Plays section there is a note to say that single playbooks will be made available to read online or download, "over a two-year period (2016-2017)".

The Harvard Art Museums

As part of their preparations to mark the centennial anniversary in 2019 of the founding of the highly influential Bauhaus school of art and design, the Harvard Art Museums have launched the [Bauhaus Special Collection](#) (BSC). This freely-available online resource comprises 32,000 records of Bauhaus related, "paintings, textiles, and photographs to periodicals and class notes" held in Harvard's Busch-Reisinger Museum. There are many sections to browse and search in the online resource including architecture, furniture, typography, painting and sculpture with many contributions by Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus and later a professor at Harvard after fleeing from Nazi Germany. Of course this will be a very useful resource for scholars but also an engaging site for anyone who loves beautiful things.

Jisc: research metrics

A UK partnership is taking shape, "to promote the responsible use of research metrics" ([JISC press release](#)), and will be chaired by Professor David Price, vice-provost (research) at UCL. The partners comprise [HEFCE](#), [RCUK](#), Wellcome, [UUK](#) and Jisc with an agenda derived from [The Metric Tide](#), an independent report published in 2015 which describes terms of reference by which the notion of "responsible metrics" can be understood. There is a focus on collecting appropriate metrics and, "recognising that quantitative evaluation should support - but not supplant - qualitative, expert assessment". One task awaiting the forum is advising UK HE funding bodies on, "how quantitative indicators might be used in assessing research outputs and environments", as part of their work towards the next round of the [REF](#).

Thomson Reuters/ONEm Communications

In a move to deliver their news to mobile users who do not own a smartphone, Thomson Reuters (TR) have partnered with ONEm Communications whose global ONEm service, "enables the mobile operator's subscriber interactive access to a rich knowledge base of content via voice and SMS" ([TR Press release](#)). TR will provide their top news stories, business, entertainment and sport in seven languages by text and in English, Arabic, Spanish and Russian by audio. The service will begin, "in the coming months", via thirty mobile operators including SMART Group who provide a mobile service in Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi.