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This issue of eLucidate is edited by Michael Upshall, ConsultMU Ltd, Oxford, tel: 01865 453410, email: michael@consultmu.co.uk

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Membership and newsletter subscriptions are handled by the UKeiG Administrator: Christine Baker, The Old Chapel, Walden, West Burton, Leyburn, N Yorkshire, DL8 4LE, tel/fax: 01969 663749, email: cabaker@ukeig.org.uk

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A Librarian's Guide to Institutional Repositories

Joanna Barwick (Pilkington Library, Loughborough University) and Miggie Pickton (University of Northampton Library)

Introduction

Institutional repositories (IRs) are a recent feature of the UK academic landscape. You may already have one at your workplace (in which case you might be better to skip to the next article); you will probably have heard the term being bandied about by your colleagues; you might even have come across one when trawling the Web. But what is an IR? Should your institution have one? And if so, how would you go about creating it? These are some of the questions we hope to address in this short article.

What is an Institutional Repository?

Foster and Gibbons (2005) describe an IR as

> "an electronic system that captures, preserves, and provides access to the digital work products of a community".

The IR is a digital archive, owned and maintained at either departmental or institutional level. Essentially, it is a tool for collecting, storing and disseminating information.

The content of an IR may be purely scholarly (Crow, 2002) or may comprise administrative, teaching and research materials, both published and unpublished. All types of digital product may be stored – articles, reports, presentations, images, data, even multi-media items. Importantly, the IR is cumulative and perpetual – it houses a *permanent* record of work.

Since a primary goal of an IR is to disseminate the institution's intellectual product, it is important that content is accessible both within and outside the host institution. In technical terms, it should be both open and 'interoperable'. In practice, this means that IR material should be described by metadata that can be harvested by external software. The Open Archive Initiative (OAI) exists to develop and promote the standards that will facilitate this. Its Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) enables the sharing of

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metadata between services, and is the standard adopted by most IRs. Search engines such as OAIster (http://oaister.umdl.umich.edu/o/oaister/), ARC (http://arc.cs.odu.edu/), Citebase (http://www.citebase.org) and Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com/) then find and enable the retrieval of IR material.

Why have an Institutional repository?

The impetus for IRs came from an increasing awareness that the products of publicly funded academic research are therefore 'public goods' (Berry 2000, p38) and as such, should be made freely available. The principle of 'Open Access' (OA) has received much attention in the literature, most recently following the publication of the UK House of Commons Science and Technology Committee's report "Scientific Publications: Free for all?" (http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmselect/cmsctech/399/399.pdf) and the subsequent Research Council UK's position statement (http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/access/statement.pdf). The RCUK propose that their award holders should be mandated to make their outputs available in OA format – either in OA journals or in a digital repository.

So the principle of OA has official blessing and the IR provides a means of supporting this. But does the IR offer any benefits to the more immediate stakeholders – the institution and the contributors? A survey of the OA literature suggests it does:

To the institution, an IR offers:

- A means of increasing visibility and prestige. A high-profile IR may be used to support marketing activities to attract high quality staff, students and funding.
- The centralisation and storage of all types of institutional output, including unpublished or 'grey' literature.
- Support for learning and teaching. Links may be made with the virtual learning environment and the library catalogue (Day 2003). Shared material may be 're-purposed' and reused.
- Standardisation of institutional records. The compilation of an 'institutional CV' (Swan et al. 2005b, p.8) and of individual online CVs linked to the full text of articles (Harnad et al 2003) are possible outcomes.

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- Leverage of existing systems. By exploiting existing computer networks, IT services and library expertise, the IR enables these units to demonstrate greater efficiency (Yeates 2003, p.98).
- Improvements in administrative efficiency, especially if the IR is integrated with other institutional data management systems. Obligations regarding records management, health and safety record-keeping, and freedom of information may all be supported by the IR (Heery and Anderson 2005, p.5).
- Possible long-term cost savings. Some hope that the widespread adoption of IRs will ultimately enable savings to be made in subscriptions to academic journals. This however is unlikely to occur until a 'critical mass' of content is achieved (Pinfield 2002, p.262).

There are also benefits to authors:

- Increased dissemination and impact. Research has shown that the usage and citation of open-access material is greater than that of restricted access work (Antelman 2004, p.373, Kurtz 2004, p.1, and others).
- Storage and access to a wide range of materials, including digital representations of artwork, data sets, and audio-visual material. Compared with traditional print-based publication, the IR offers greater variety and flexibility; compared with personal or departmental websites, the IR offers greater security and longer term accessibility.
- Feedback and commentary. Some digital repositories permit the deposit of pre-publication 'preprints', enabling authors to assert priority and receive commentary.
- Provision of added value services such as hit counts on papers, personalised publication lists and citation analyses (Hubbard 2003, p.244, Pinfield 2002, p.262).

What are the snags?

Despite the clear benefits of IRs to both institutions and authors, the road to implementation has not always run smoothly. Some of the concerns raised have included:

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- Cost. The existence of free open-source software for creating IRs has meant that initial financial costs may not be high (Steele 2003, p.3). Ongoing costs, however, especially staff costs (time spent drafting policies, arranging licensing agreements, developing guidelines, publicising the repository, training and supporting users and creating metadata), may be significant (Crow 2002, p.28, Horwood et al. 2004, p.174).
- Difficulties with generating content. A successful IR depends on the willingness of authors to deposit their work. Authors' existing working practices, and their attitudes and concerns, sometimes militate against this.
- Sustaining support and commitment. The IR is a long-term commitment. Its maintenance must be an institutional strategic goal. Methods of long term digital preservation are as yet untested.
- Rights management. Materials placed in an IR are subject to intellectual property rights. These may be owned by the institution, the author, or in the case of a postprint, a publisher (Gadd et al. 2003a, p.245). Despite clear evidence that many journals publishers support self-archiving (EPrints.org, 2005) concerns over intellectual property rights are a major deterrent to many authors (Heery and Anderson 2005, p.13, Pickton and McKnight 2006).

The dual challenges in implementing an IR are to promote the benefits it offers, while allaying stakeholders' concerns.

Case study: The Loughborough University Repository

At Loughborough, we took into account the issues outlined above when considering creating and maintaining an IR, and in 2004, we decided to go ahead. Our project began with the assembly of a committee to oversee the development of the IR. Clearly, the implementation of an IR requires a wide range of skills; skills that we, as information professionals, already had amongst our colleagues. By drawing upon the skills of these individuals, the IR Steering Committee has helped to ensure the healthy growth of the new service.

In June 2005, Jo Barwick began an appointment as Support Services Librarian at the Pilkington Library. In the first year of her post, she will be responsible for the day-to-day

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coordination of development of the IR; with the view that, once established, the workload will be embedded into the general work of other Library staff.

Choosing the software

Under the guidance of our Systems Team Manager, Gary Brewerton, the different software options were investigated. There are now a wide range of open-source software products (the key players are E-Prints / DSpace/ Fedora); and there are some commercial options, for example BioMedCentral, as well as other packages being developed by library management systems companies. Open-source software is preferable (as it is free!); however, if your Library does not have the technical expertise in-house, a commercial package may be a better option. At Loughborough, we were fortunate to have sufficient technical support to opt for an open-source product, DSpace. This software offered a decent web interface yet still had the functionality to hold various file formats (including image and multi-media).

Gaining support (and funding)

It was crucial to our ongoing development to have support from a number of internal sources. Our University Librarian, Mary Morley and Support Services Manager, Jeff Brown, invested time in presenting the project to various university committees in the planning stages. This period was also used to identify 'early adopters' – departments that were happy to take part in the pilot stage of the service. (See Gathering Content, below)

Policy decisions

A number of things needed to be set in place before we started collecting material. We quickly established a structure for the collections within DSpace and made decisions on standards to ensure interoperability. (DSpace uses Dublin Core records and we have implemented LCSH.) We also drew up a licence for authors with the help of Steering Committee members, Lizzie Gadd and Charles Oppenheim. This licence was based upon the SHERPA model and Creative Commons.

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Gathering content and advocacy

Having identified six supportive 'early adopters', from June 2005 we started working closely with these departments to source content. We targeted individuals who were already uploading their research to their personal web-pages and people publishing in IR-friendly journals. This resulted in an initial set of around 250 papers. The service has now been more widely publicised: with a view to launching the service formally in June 2006. We are working with our academic librarians and their departmental contacts to encourage others to take advantage of the service. In some cases, this has been very successful, but others have been slower to accept the principles of OA and the benefits of IRs.

Challenges of implementation

Convincing academics of the benefits of an IR has proved to be the project's major challenge. Many are highly sceptical and view this as another demand on their already limited time. At present, we are not asking academics to self-archive; instead we are doing this for them within the Library. It was hoped this approach would encourage them to participate more freely. Other academics are concerned about quality issues, or uncertain of our assurances that publishers will allow them to deposit their work. All of these issues involve patience and our highly-tuned negotiating skills!

One major problem we had not anticipated was which version of the material we were to use. Most publishers, although they will allow authors to archive their work on IRs, will not allow them to use the publisher-produced PDF. This means that we will often have to ask academics to supply us with their own final version, which has led to confusion: many academics do not keep their final version (they do not need to as the publisher sends them a pretty PDF); with others, their final version is so different to the actual published version, they are concerned about quality issues of archiving a pre-published version. Convincing them of the "Harnad/Oppenheim" view, that any copy is better than no copy, can be difficult. We are now encouraging authors to hold on to their final version in the hope that we can change behaviours. Time will tell…

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Implementing an IR: recommendations

We recommend that anyone considering implementing an IR should take the following overlapping steps:

1. Conduct background research – including talking to the folk who have been through the process already
2. Establish agreement in principle from colleagues and departmental management
3. Gather a team of experts to draw upon (especially in the areas of technology, intellectual property, metadata, policy and advocacy)
4. Establish the principles which will underpin the IR
5. Recognise the resource implications (especially in staff time)
6. Win institutional support and commitment at the highest level
7. Identify short and long term sources of funding (sustainability is key)
8. Choose, acquire and install the software
9. Define IR policy and procedures (including content types and formats, task responsibilities, organisation of the IR, etc.)
10. Identify a group of sympathetic stakeholders with whom a pilot project may be undertaken
11. Conduct the pilot project
12. Review and refine IR policy and procedures
13. Know the answers – make sure your advocates are clear about the benefits of the IR and have solutions to all the potential objections
14. Proactively invite content from across the institution
15. Promote the IR relentlessly and tirelessly…

…then sit back and feel proud that you have contributed to the advancement of human knowledge.

Further information

To learn more about some of the concepts and issues raised in this article, please see the web sites below. Several of these also have links to other useful information.

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EPrints (http://www.eprints.org/) and **DSpace** (http://www.dspace.org) for the two most commonly implemented open source solutions for IRs.

Neil Jacobs' **Digital repositories in UK universities and colleges** (www.freepint.com/issues/160206.htm) for a recent view from the manager of the JISC Digital Repositories development programme.

The **Loughborough Institutional Repository** https://magpie.lboro.ac.uk/dspace/

Open Archives Forum (http://www.oaforum.org/) for straightforward descriptions of OAI and OAI-PMH.

Alma Swan's **JISC Open Access Briefing Paper** (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/ JISC-BP-OpenAccess-v1-final.pdf) for a succinct summary of open access publishing and the role of IRs.

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Internet

Social Software – Some Thoughts

Susan Miles (s.miles@kingston.ac.uk)

This article has been inspired by a chance comment during a conversation at the UKeiG stand at Online 2005, while viewing the new website. “Ooh! You’ve got a tag cloud!” I said, which elicited the response, “Is that what they’re called?”.

The drawing together of a number of recent developments leads me to think that a brief overview of social software would be valuable. For me, these trends include a project I’m working on that involves adding keywords to records of non-print based materials/objects; using del.icio.us to collect interesting bookmarks after my browser-based bookmark list failed, again, to move with me to another PC; and a recent discussion about which emerging technology trends might be adopted by the library service.

So, what is social software?

Social software is a phrase applied to web-based services that allow users to store, share, search and sort particular resource types. Two widely known ones are Flickr[1] for photo sharing, and deli.cio.us[2] for sharing webpage bookmarks. Both of these sites work in broadly similar ways – there are two aspects to them. Firstly, if you are a registered user you can collect photos/bookmarks, then add keywords (also known as metadata or tags) and share your collection; secondly, anyone can enter a keyword into the search box and see what comes back. It is also possible to browse a particular user’s tags, or browse by tags. Both these sites can provide a seamless experience while working on the web, since applets allow users to add to their collections while browsing.

Phil Bradley has put together an excellent list of this type of web service at http://www.philb.com/iwantto/share.htm.

Tags can also be displayed in a more visual form via Tag Clouds.

What does a tag cloud look like?

If you’ve never seen a tag cloud, the flickr one is here: http://www.flickr.com/photos/tags/.

Tag clouds are described in Wikipedia as: “A **tag cloud** (more traditionally known as a **weighted list** in the field of visual design) is a visual depiction of content tags used on a website. Often, more frequently used tags are depicted in a larger font or otherwise

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[1] Flickr. [webpage]. http://www.flickr.com [Accessed 6 March 2006]

[2] Del.icio.us. [webpage]. http://del.icio.us [Accessed 6 March 2006]

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emphasized, while the displayed order is generally alphabetical. Thus both finding a tag by alphabet and by popularity is possible. Selecting a single tag within a tag cloud will generally lead to a collection of items that are associated with that tag."[3]

All those tags without a controlled vocabulary!?

To those of us used to working in the defined world of thesauri and controlled vocabularies, the idea of the general public adding their own metadata and keywords to objects can seem to be inviting disaster and chaos. However, a recent research paper[4] by Marieke Guy at UKOLN examines tagging patterns in both del.icio.us and Flickr, and draws some interesting conclusions.

Their random sampling of tags from both sites indicated that only ten to fifteen percent of tags sampled were single-use tags. This probably contradicts what one might, intuitively expect from user based tagging. They conclude that there is now a movement within these sites for users' tagging behaviour to start to converge on some frequently and heavily used tags. There are a range of issues with tags that will be familiar to readers – misspellings, use of plurals rather than singular terms, the use of punctuation to indicate hierarchy in multiword strings, synonyms and homonyms, and 'nonsense' tags used by groups of friends. Guy discovered that somewhere around a third of tags they examined were 'malformed'. It is entirely possible that over time, these sites will develop mechanisms to overcome some of these issues while retaining the richness of language and ideas within the tag collections.

How does all this apply to libraries?

Connotea[5] is an example of seeing the potential of a site and adapting it for a particular audience, in this case scientists. Connotea is a free online reference management and social bookmarking service for scientists, developed by Nature Publishing Group's New Technology Team. They took the open source code from del.icio.us and developed the Connotea site. Some of the features they have introduced, which extend the del.icio.us offering, include

- recognising URLs from common archives and importing bibliographic data – resources supported include Blackwell Synergy, PubMed Central, Science, Wiley Interscience, Highwire press publications, Amazon, HubMed, D-Lib magazine and institutional repositories using the EPrints software.
- enabling the creation of user groups, which allow a research team to manage their reference lists collaboratively and selectively view recommendations generated only from within the team.

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[3] Tag cloud. [webpage]. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tag_cloud [Accessed 6 March 2006]

[4] Guy, M., Tonkin, E. (2006) Folksonomies: tidying up tags? D-Lib Magazine, 12(1). [Online]. <doi: 10.1045/january2006-guy> [Accessed 6 March 2006]

[5] Connotea. [webpage]. http://www.connotea.org [Accessed 6 March 2006]

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- enabling a researcher to use an OpenURL resolver, perhaps via a library service, to link to an institution's holdings of a reference in their Connotea collection.
- enabling the import and export of references in RIS format to other reference management software.

Services such as RSS feeds for any results, search and bookmarklets are also available. It is possible to create multi-word tags in Connotea, however the software does not distinguish between upper- and lower-case. This can be seen from their tag cloud on the home page, as both 'Avian Flu' and 'avian flu' are present.

Final thoughts

These types of sites are fascinating and have an appeal for easily sharing resources with others. Connotea has shown that these ideas can be reused in an academic environment and I would anticipate that the visual representation of tagging patterns may creep into other database-like offerings. Would it be useful to see the keywords or controlled vocabulary terms from the results of a bibliographic database search displayed in a tag-cloud-like manner?

Further Reading

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Intranets

Martin White, Intranet Focus Ltd (martin.white@intranetfocus.com)

A couple of months ago I received an invitation to provide consulting support to a professional association here in the UK as they went out to tender for a CMS. The document provided a very clear analysis of the requirements of the association, but then I came across a disquieting statement to the effect that the association was going to purchase a CMS for its website (including the provision of a shopping basket for publications, and the opportunity for members to update their personal information) and that, at some time in the near future, it planned to migrate its intranet into the Web CMS. In my view there are some significant risks associated with specifying a CMS for either a Web application or an intranet and then assuming that it will be an ideal solution for the other. Of course the driving force behind consolidation decisions is usually an economic one: just one licence fee to pay and as a plus, everyone can be trained up on the same software. The reality is different.

I always advocate to my clients that the only way to select a CMS that will meet the requirements of a website and an intranet is to develop the specifications for both and then look at the tradeoffs that have to be made to accommodate the requirements of the two applications in the same CMS. One of the games I play in my CMS workshops is to ask delegates to give me a list of the similarities and differences between the content management requirements of a website and an intranet. They start off thinking I'm slightly mad and then find the list of differences is substantially longer than the list of similarities.

In most organizations, only a limited number of people will be using the Web CMS to publish pages to the website. Although I have come across organizations that do allow all staff to be publishers, these are the exceptions rather than the rule. Because a limited number of employees need to publish using the CMS, it is very likely that they will be able to cope with a complex process and be able to manage graphics and the like because they use the system almost every day. Metadata on a website is also probably less of an issue because the usual objective is to get a good position on a search engine site. Providing users with good search functionality within the site itself is usually (and wrongly) not seen as a priority. One other difference between a website and an intranet is that external link management is usually less of an issue with a website, as the last thing a Web manager wants to do is to push a visitor off to another site.

Now let me look at the situation from an intranet point of view. Even if the plans are not to make every member of staff a publisher, there will certainly be a much wider range of contributors to an intranet than a website. This range is not only in terms of skills but also in terms of the frequency of use. Intranet contributors may only be using the CMS on a very occasional basis, perhaps monthly at best. They will be looking for very good Help functionality, preferably contextually generated. Accessibility will be more of an issue, because some publishers may have limited sight or poor control of a mouse. There will usually need to be easy ways of creating forms and tables, and the volume of text to be added to an intranet will usually be substantially greater, mostly through the conversion of Microsoft Word files.

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Two other major differences are that there will almost certainly need to be good search functionality in an intranet application (either built-in or third-party), and this also means that metadata management has to be top-rate. File types may vary and will almost certainly include PDFs and PowerPoint files, which will be less common on a website. And the list goes on.

I am not saying for a moment that there are no CMS products that can support both a website and an intranet. I have been involved in some successful installations of this sort. But in these cases the organization has set out clear requirements statements for both applications and then found that, in their particular case, it was possible to implement a single CMS. Usually White's Law of CMS products applies: all the products can meet 80% of your requirements. Unfortunately it is a different 80%!

As with any CMS implementation, the amount of work that is undertaken prior to the implementation always has a direct impact on the success of the selection and implementation process. It cannot be rushed and must be carried out with an open mind – if not with an open chequebook. To the finance department the benefits of purchasing just one CMS are usually quite overwhelming. Then again, how often does the finance department staff contribute either to a website or to an intranet?

Caveat implementor, as they say in Rome

P.S. I have just been looking through a truly excellent report on intranet search by James Robertson, the Managing Director of Step Two Designs, based in Sydney, Australia. Do consider buying it. At around £120 it is excellent value for money. More details at http://www.steptwo.com.au/products/search/index.html

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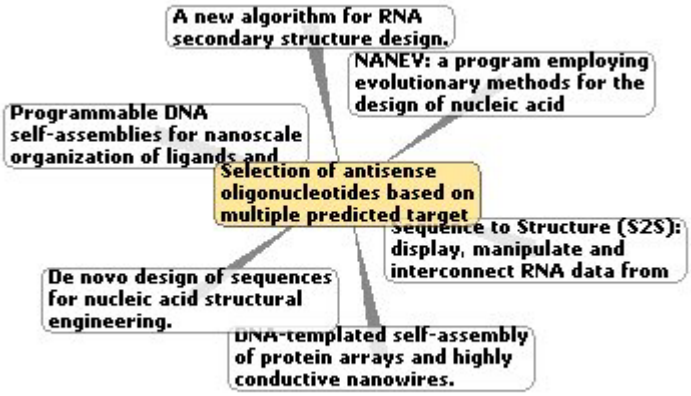
Reference Management

Tracy Kent (t.k.kent@bham.ac.uk)

Many readers of this column find the evaluation template of reference software a useful tool for comparing the features of a number of packages at a glance. The best-known of these is now in its *12th* updated version, and can be found at http://www.burioni.it/forum/ors-bfs/text/index.html. For each of the major packages, the evaluation template considers features such database structure, searching capabilities, database integrity features such as thesaurus or term lists, outputting options for repurposing the references and how useful the documentation is.

Social Bookmarking

Social Bookmarking software is becoming quite prolific, and there are many tools out there which support such a service. These include academic-type services such as **CiteULike** (http://www.citeulike.org). which provides a service to help share, store and organise academic papers. The service extracts the required reference details. Usefully, for some articles there are links to related articles, which use a Java program to display linked references like this, so that the service moves from being just a bookmarking service to resource discovery. The service also provides a grouping or networking service for users based on particular subjects. CiteULike also lets you add a DOI (Document Object Identifier) to the article provided you are logged in and you have the article in your collection. References can be exported direct to Endnote or BibTex. :



CourseCafé (http://www.coursecafe.com). This is a book marking service specifically designed for students, which provides tags and saves Web content related to course work and homework topics. Set up by recent graduates “who still have the scars to show from the countless number of hours spent on the Web”!

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ClipMarks http://clipmarks.com. With this service, you simply click on the item or, more usefully perhaps, part of the item you actually want and then save. Just hope you save enough to be useful!

Others seem to invent their own language – such as “to Riff” which is to provide a rant or rave about something! The riff website seems to include lots of tagged references – sometimes with links to purchase the aforementioned reference but with a social bent. To contribute simply go to **Riffs** at http://www.riffs.com/.

My Web2 (http://myweb2.search.yahoo.com) and **My Stuff** (http://mystuff.ask.com). MyWeb2 is a service from Yahoo that also provides, free at the moment, the option to save and share book marks similar to the My Stuff pages via the Ask.com service (formerly Ask Jeeves), which also offers a web archiving feature. In the case of My Stuff, however, it provides a link back to the latest version of the page you searched, rather than the actual page you archived. Both only allow saving of results from within the search engines attached, unless you have downloaded the appropriate tool bar – this would log you into the service before saving the results.

Onfolio (http://www.onfolio.com) allows for bookmarks to be stored but also prompts for users to describe and add comments and for managing all electronic documents. You can then synchronise your references with Endnote. Usefully Onfolio also allows you to manage RSS feeds and to send references to your blog. Further you can save emails into the software for repurposing which is an added feature and the search facility is pretty good. It does integrate into the tool bar.

Finally **Technorati** (http://www.technorati.com/) performs searches on blogs that are often (though not always) more up to date than Web pages. It tracks materials from some of the social bookmarking services such as del.icio.us or furl, and the pages are displayed with a tag cloud (a visual description of content) to give a representative view. The service also provides a watch list based on your search terms, to keep track of blogs in your area. Go on, give it a try!

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Online

By Elizabeth Kensler, University of Wales, Aberystwyth (Aberystwyth Online User Group). Please send your submissions for the next edition to jrc@aber.ac.uk

askSam Systems: US Governmental and legislative resources

http://www.asksam.com/eBooks/

Freely available online US Governmental and legislative resources via Ask Sam. Users can browse individual titles and/or search within the full text. It includes:

- State of the Union Addresses of the American Presidents from 1790-2006.
- USA Patriot Act as passed by Congress
- 9/11 Commission Report

Britannica Online vs. Wikipedia

http://blogs.nature.com/wp/nascent/

Nature magazine recently commissioned an investigation that compared Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org) (a free online encyclopedia that anyone can edit) and Britannica Online's (http://www.britannica.com) coverage of science. Results showed that error rates were similar in both encyclopedias. The report, associated comments and link are available via Nascent - Nature's blog on web technology and science (under Recent Posts see Comparing Wikipedia and Britannica)

EBSCO: Free Access to LISTA

http://www.libraryresearch.com

EBSCO Publishing have provided free access to their LISTA (Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts) database. LISTA indexes more than 600 periodicals plus books, research reports, and proceedings in subjects such as librarianship, classification, cataloguing, online information retrieval and information management with coverage back to the mid-1960s.

Emerald and JISC: Table of Contents by Really Simple Syndication (TOCRoSS)

http://www.emeraldinsight.com

Emerald Group Publishing is leading a JISC (http://www.jisc.ac.uk) project to develop an RSS service that can feed e-journal table-of-content information automatically into library

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catalogues. This will enable users to search for and locate article level information in e-journals via their library catalogue. The project aims to develop open-source software that will be made freely available to libraries, publishers and library management system developers.

JISC: Digital repositories programme wiki and discussion list

http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/repositories/digirep/

JISC have set up a discussion list, jisc-repositories, and UKOLN are hosting a wiki called DigiRep to share information on implementation and development of digital repositories in the UK. JISC's Digital Repositories Programme aims to coordinate development of digital repositories in the UK and share experience in this growing area.

National Geographic Map Machine

http://mapmachine.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine

The Map Machine provides access to a wide range of interactive online maps that can be searched and downloaded. Covers political, satellite (including a Satellite Map of Mars), environmental (such as the World Earthquake Map) and aerial photographic maps, as well as more standard geographical maps.

OpenDOAR - The Directory of Open Access Repositories

http://www.opendoar.org/

The OpenDOAR service aims to categorise and list open-access research collections held in digital repositories worldwide. The project is a collaboration between the University of Nottingham and University of Lund, Sweden. The service will cover institutional and subject-based repositories as well as archive collections of funding agencies such as the Wellcome Trust. As well as a means of monitoring the development and future trends of open access repositories, the service can be used by researchers to locate open-access research material as well as being a definitive source for service providers.

PubMedCentral: The Biochemical Journal – 100 years of content now available online

http://www.biochemj.org/

The entire back run (1906-2006) of content of the *Biochemical Journal* has been digitised thanks to funding from JISC and the Wellcome Trust. The archive, hosted by PubMedCentral, is freely available to all users in perpetuity. Access to the current year's content is restricted to subscribers. This online availability is part of the "Medical journals backfiles digitisation project", a partnership between JISC, the Wellcome Trust and the

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US National Library of Medicine which aims to digitise complete backfiles from "important and historically significant" British and American medical journals.

RDN - Internet tutorial for Learners of English as a Second Language (ESOL)

http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/fe/tutorial/esol

The Resource Discovery Network (RDN) has launched a new eLearning tutorial for ESOL students designed to help them develop their Internet research skills (part of their Virtual Training Suite). The tutorial aims to show ESOL students how to access selected web resources successfully, which can help them learn English and find out more about the UK.

Reference Online: access for all (in England) to online reference resources

http://www.mla.gov.uk/website/programmes/online_initiatives/reference_online/Reference_Online/

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has negotiated deals for 26 online resources covering general reference materials, online newspapers, and business and financial information resources for all public libraries in England. MLA's new service, Reference Online, will enable public libraries to provide their users access to a greater number of online resources that can be accessed from home or office.

Scottish Distributed Digital Library

http://scone.strath.ac.uk/sddl/index.htm

A database of freely available collections of digital texts, images, and sounds, with Scottish themes. There are 121 collections listed to date, which can be browsed individually by name or subject. This service also provides links to freely available Scottish interest e-books via the Scotland's Culture website http://www.scotlandsculture.org/.

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Meeting Report: RSS, Blogs and Wikis: tools for dissemination and collaboration

Workshop Leader: Karen Blakeman

Netskills Training Suite, University of Newcastle, 22 February 2006

Report by Clare Allan

I really didn't know much of anything about these technologies: RSS, blogs and wikis. I had read blogs, so had a rough idea of what they were, but if someone had mentioned a "blogroll[6]" to me I would have been stumped, and vaguely wondered whether this was a term that ought to be used in polite conversation.

This was a very useful workshop, and I think timely also. It was only in the last issue of eLucidate (Vol. 3 Issue 1, January/February 2006, pages 5-6) that Susan Miles reported on the paper by Brian Kelly at Internet Librarian, Email Must Die!, where Brian suggested that library users will soon be expecting communication via alternative methods, such as RSS, and so saying we'd be well advised to explore them now. I wasn't the only person thinking that I ought to be exploring further: there was an interestingly broad range of participants at this workshop, not only university librarians like myself, but also representatives from publishers and public bodies.

The day was a good blend of theory and practice, with a smooth transition from one to the other. Karen Blakeman spent time defining and explaining each of the technologies, in a simple, clear way, and then encouraged us to have a go ourselves. Before I knew it, I was creating a blog and sending out news in RSS! There was a wide range of experience within the group, from complete novices to fairly experienced users who already had blogs of their own up and running. I had thought this would pose quite a problem for our trainer, but actually the workshop was structured in such a way that it was flexible enough for people to pick and choose what they spent time on, with practical exercises that could be worked through for each topic, or those who wanted could jump ahead and work at their own pace. Occasionally there was a slightly esoteric question asked that perhaps left some of the group feeling lost, and towards the end of the day I, at least, was starting to feel a little overwhelmed with a sense of information overload, but in the main it was a happy mix.

One of the really enjoyable aspects of the workshop was the way that Karen gave an infectious feeling of the excitement that working with a fairly new, blossoming idea can bring. Having learnt what these tools are it would have been good to capitalise on this

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[6] Blogroll: A blogroll is a collection of links to other weblogs. […] To UK bloggers 'blogroll' sounds like 'bog roll' — a slang term for toilet tissue — leading to speculation that the name derived from the long, list-like nature (and dubious quality) of some inter-blog link lists. (From Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blogroll)

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feeling and have a little more time within the day to discuss what suggestions people had for using them “back in the real world”. This is one of the challenges, and is probably another workshop in itself! However, there was plenty of documentation provided, and an excellent handout on further reading and resources, so you can imagine what I’ll be doing for the next wee while. Who knows, perhaps in the not too distant future you’ll be reading my blogroll.

Clare Allan is Information Officer at Stirling University Library.

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Current Awareness

Column editor: Jane Grogan (Jane.Grogan@gchq.gsi.gov.uk)

This column contains summaries of articles (print and electronic) about information access and retrieval, electronic publishing, preservation and virtual libraries etc. including, with permission, abstracts identified with an * next to the author initials, drawn from *Current Cites*, the monthly publication distributed electronically by a team of Librarians and Library Staff and edited by Roy Tennant (http://lists.webjunction.org/currentcites/).

If you are interested in providing reviews for the column, please contact Jane Grogan for further details.

Digital Libraries

Glazer, Becky (2006) **Digital Library Curriculum Project Collegiate Times** (26 January 2006)(http://www.collegiatetimes.com/news/1/ARTICLE/6358/2006-01-26.html?sid=945afea211a7d357e7fa7b5878cf28c6) – Digital libraries have such a high profile in our profession these days that it is sometimes easy to forget how new this concept is. Which means, as this article points out, that there really is a dearth of adequately trained individuals to build and maintain these repositories. This year, however, the University of North Carolina and Virginia Tech are jointly developing "a quality educational curriculum on the development and preservation of digital libraries", thanks to three years' funding from a National Science Foundation grant. Virginia Tech has a top-quality computer science program and UNC's SLIS is ranked number one by **U.S. News and World Report**, which should make for an excellent collaboration. The project includes the development of both online and off-line course modules as well as supplementary course materials. – [*SK]

IEEE Technical Committee on Digital Libraries Bulletin 2(1)(2005) (http://www.ieee-tcdl.org/Bulletin/v2n1/) – This special issue of the IEEE TCDL Bulletin presents brief summaries of poster sessions and demos from the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2005). Example articles include “aDORe, A Modular and Standards-Based Digital Object Repository at the Los Alamos National Laboratory”, “If You Harvest arXiv.org, Will They Come?”, “Metadata for Phonograph Records: Facilitating New Forms of Use and Access to Analog Sound Recordings”, “The Musica Colonial Project”, and “Video Recommendations for the Open Video Project”. This issue is a good way to get a quick look at current developments in the digital library field. – [*CB]

Stevens, Norman D. (2006) **The Fully Electronic Academic Library College & Research Libraries** Vol 67 (1) January 2006: 5-14 – This hugely entertaining and satirical article describes the planning process and creates a frighteningly convincing scenario for the creation of the first academic library to contain digital-only resources. In 2000, The Molesworth Institute (dedicated to the promotion of library humour) was approached by the Board of the Trustees “of the [fictitious] newly established Ezra Beesley University (EBU) to develop a plan for the creation of its library.” The article describes in detail the collections, the budget, the staffing, the library building and security which this new library will require. The library will be relatively cheap to build and

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run because of the savings involved in running an electronic-only library. The technological and economic rationale for the decisions the planning group make are brilliantly seductive and the organizational structure an absolute hoot. An amusing, yet refreshing, presentation of the spurious arguments for digital-only libraries. – [AS]

Electronic Publishing

Liu, Ziming (2005) **Reading Behavior in the Digital Environment: Changes in Reading Behavior Over the Past Ten Years Journal of Documentation** 61(6)(2005): 700-712 (http://www.emeraldinsight.com/info/journals/jd/jd.jsp) – Interesting study on the changes in reading behavior due to increased use of digital information. People highlight less but search more; people read linearly less but show intense concentration once sections are found that interest them. While considerably more research is needed, this article is a good introduction to the field. – [*LRK]

Rubino, Ken (2006) **Self-Publishing: The Internet Makes It Easier to Go from Idea to Print Link-Up Digital** (15 January 2006)(http://www.infotoday.com/linkup/lud011506-rubino.shtml) – One of my staff recently sent a customer my way. A lieutenant colonel on the cusp of retirement. He wanted to write a book. My new book came out recently. Therefore I could help this man, right? Actually I could – since I'd just stumbled across this article on the **Information Today** website. Lots of people want to write books. Most of them will never get around to it. And of those who do come up with a completed manuscript, relatively few will make it over the hurdles of the traditional publishing process. But that doesn't matter nearly as much as it used to; self-publishing flourishes in myriad forms on the Internet, as this article points out. From the humble weblog to full-service self-publishing companies – the opportunities are out there, waiting for the aspiring author to click on them. Naturally, there are caveats; Rubino, "a professional photographer and occasional freelance writer" discusses some of them, offers advice about what to look for when choosing a self-publishing company and provides websites you can browse for more information. He recommends Books Just Books as a good starting point for the would-be self-published author. – [*SK]

Teachout, Terry (2006) **A Hundred Books in Your Pocket The Wall Street Journal** (21 January 2006) (http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB113779027926552261.html?mod=todays_free_feature) – As you can probably guess from the title, this article is about e-books – more specifically, Sony's announcement of a new paperback-sized e-book reader that will use E Ink, a state-of-the-art display technology that is supposed to be like reading from paper (obviously the gold standard). Even more interesting, perhaps, is Sony's intention to open a new iTunes-like store for downloadable e-books. Three major publishers – HarperCollins, Random House and Simon & Schuster – have signed on; "HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster are plan to make their entire backlists available for downloading as soon as they negotiate royalty rights with the authors." The author thinks this will be what causes Sony's reader – due for release this spring – to take off. Like the wildly popular iPod and iTunes, this is "what marketers call an 'end to end' solution to the problem of the e-book" – one-stop shopping for content, as it were. The author seems to feel quite strongly that the printed book, as "a technology," is circling the drain. "Like all technologies," he says, "it has a finite life span, and its time is almost up." – [*SK]

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General

Caldwell, Tracey (2006) **Breaking down the walls Information World Review** 221, February 2006: 14-15 – This piece looks at convergence in universities between libraries and IT departments, and how this has proved favourable or in some cases problematic in various institutions. – [RN]

Crawford, Walt **Library 2.0 and 'Library 2.0'** *Cites & Insights: Crawford at Large* 6(2)(2006): 1-32 (http://cites.boisestate.edu/civ6i2.pdf) – Library 2.0 is all the buzz, but what is it really? That's the question that Walt Crawford set out to answer. The result is a 32-page essay that includes 62 views, seven definitions, many perspectives by library bloggers and others, and, of course, Crawford's incisive analysis of it all. By far, this is the definitive piece on this rather amorphous topic. Crawford draws a distinction between Library 2.0, the conceptual aggregate that embodies a variety of software and service innovations, and "Library 2.0," the "bandwagon." He favors the former, but feels the latter "carries too much baggage." This is Crawford at his best, and, love it or hate it, it's a stimulating article that informs and provokes serious thought. (See also his follow-up article.) – [*CB]

Goedeken, Edward A. (2005) **The Serials Librarian: A Brief History and Assessment Serials Librarian** 49 (4)(2005): 159-175 (http://www.haworthpressinc.com/store/product.asp?sku=J123) – Serious navel-gazing is going on by the journal, **The Serials Librarian**, as it features this study of its own articles from 1976 to the present. The author of the study tabulates subjects covered, authors, geographic areas, etc. Perennial favorites as far as topics are concerned include collection development and cataloging. Other topics seem to come and go. In the beginning there was much interest in bibliographic utilities like OCLC and RLIN; automation was also popular though interest seemed to wane as "librarians became more comfortable with computers and their role in libraries." Not surprisingly, E-journals, once a "curiosity", now demand closer attention. This is a good look at the continuity of serials librarianship from a statistical point of view. – [*LRK]

Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources Dublin, OH: OCLC, December 2005 (http://www.oclc.org/reports/2005perceptions.htm) – This report "summarizes findings of an international study on information-seeking habits and preferences. "The survey was an attempt to learn more about library use, awareness of and use of library electronic resources, and the library "brand", among other things. "The findings indicate," states the report, "that information consumers view libraries as places to borrow print books, but they are unaware of the rich electronic content they can access through libraries." Although there are some bright spots, the report finds a rather depressing set of opinions about libraries. We clearly need to do better on a variety of fronts, but certainly with customer service and the marketing of our services to our users. – [*RT]

Pickering, Bobby (2006) **A World Without the Waffle Information World Review** 220, January 2006: 27 – A brief review of Euromonitor's new Country Insight Database. – [RN]

Thomas, Kim (2006) **Moveable Feast** *Information World Review* 220 January 2006: 19-20 – This item looks at the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society's use of PDAs for museum visitors, streaming them information relating to the guided tours or Mackintosh's life. It goes on to discuss the take up of PDAs in business generally, and the apparent successes of podcasting in comparison to other mobile content delivery ideas. – [RN]

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Information Access

Sandler, Mark (2005) **Disruptive Beneficence: The Google Print Program and the Future of Libraries Internet Reference Services Quarterly** 10(3/4)(2005): 5-22 (http://www.haworthpressinc.com/store/product.asp?sku=J136) – One of several articles in this special issue looking at the impact, for better or worse, both pro and contra, of Google on Libraries. In this piece we have the Collection Development Officer of UMich, a Google-Print Library, explaining the agreement between it and Google as a "work in progress, not fully formed in anyone's mind". Nevertheless, it's important, argues the author, to focus not on Google but on libraries and what they want to do with digitized material, the goal being at Michigan as elsewhere "to provide online access in perpetuity to its collections". Google can't do everything anyway. This includes local collections and other specialized material. "At best," the author observes, "Google Print will be a massive collection of undifferentiated books." Libraries will still be needed to fill in the gaps and to provide innovative services online and in-person that the competition, including Google, simply can't supply. – [*LRK]

Suber, Peter (2006) **The U.S. CURES Act Would Mandate OA SPARC Open Access Newsletter** (93)(2006) (http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/newsletter/01-02-06.htm#cures) – In this article, Suber overviews and analyzes the American Center for CURES Act of 2005 (S.2104). This important bill would mandate open access to all research funded in whole or part by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is roughly half of all non-classified federally funded research. Deposit of the final, peer-reviewed versions of articles would be required when they were accepted, and any access embargo periods could only last six months. Non-compliance by grantees could result in the denial of future funding. Government employees' articles would also covered by the bill. – [*CB]

Information Management

Guy, Marieke, and Tonkin, Emma (2006) **Folksonomies: Tidying Up Tags?** *D-Lib Magazine* 12(1)(http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january06/guy/01guy.html) – Short "seat-of-the-pants" examination of user-generated folksonomies as practiced at del.icio.us and flikr. The authors identify a "natural tendency towards the convergence of tags". That said, there seems to be a great variation in spelling and use of punctuation with upwards of a third of the terms. The authors discuss ways to improve both the system and the practices of people using the system. At the same time, they're mindful of the benefits that an open system despite its irregularities can have. – [*LRK]

Kroski, Ellyssa (2005) **The Hive Mind: Folksonomies and User-Based Tagging** Infotangle [Blog] (7 December 2005)(http://infotangle.blogsome.com/2005/12/07/the-hive-mind-folksonomies-and-user-based-tagging/) – "Folksonomies" (loose taxonomies created by uncoordinated individuals) have been getting a lot of press lately, what with sites like Flickr.com, del.icio.us, and others (http://unalog.com/) allowing their users to "tag" photos or bookmarks with whatever descriptive terms come into their head. The idea is that this practice can lead to a taxonomy of sorts generated simply through usage. In other words, it's an idiotic idea whose time has apparently come. But setting aside my personal biases, this piece is one of the best I've seen on both the good and the bad of

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folksonomies. Although this is a blog posting (the first by this author), it is written much more like a journal article, and like such it has a rather awesome list of references. – [*RT]

Information Retrieval

Chillingworth, Mark (2006) **Racing ahead in the fast lane Information World Review** 221, February 2006: 11-12 – Fast Search & Transfer is building its profile in the global enterprise search market. Here Mark speaks to their senior management about the current market and their own place in it. – [RN]

Chillingworth, Mark (2006) **Factiva ups ante in news aggregation Information World Review** 221, February 2006: 25 – Factiva's news aggregator, Search 2.0 is currently in beta testing. This article provides a brief review of the end-user focussed search service. – [RN]

Chillingworth, Mark (2006) **PA's Political argy-bargy Information World Review** 221, February 2006: 27 – Another brief site review, this time for a subscriber service that allows users to search across televised parliamentary debates. – [RN]

Sadeh, Tamar (2006) **Google Scholar Versus Metasearch Systems HEP Libraries Webzine** (12)(February 2006) (http://library.cern.ch/HEPLW/12/papers/1/) – The advent of Google Scholar has made many question whether libraries need expensive metasearching systems to unify searching of multiple sources. This thoughtful and informative article addresses this question, and even attempts to clarify the confusing terminology by drawing clear distinctions between "metasearching" (just-in-time unification, such as most library metasearch tools) and "federated searching" (just-in-case unification like Google Scholar). Although the author is an employee of ExLibris (vendor of the MetaLib metasearching tool), and naturally uses MetaLib as an example system, what she discusses is generally applicable to the metasearching environment as a whole. She also reviews other metasearching efforts such as Elsevier's Scirus system. Those who are knowledgeable about the issues will not be surprised that Sadeh does not come down on the side of Google, nor against it. Rather, she acknowledges the utility of both Google Scholar and library-based metasearch services when each is appropriate, as well as carefully watching developments in industry as a whole. This is altogether the best overview of Google Scholar, other large federated search systems such as Scirus, and library-based metasearch tools I've seen. Full disclosure: as a MetaLib customer I have worked with Ms. Sadeh and some of my work is cited in her article. – [*RT]

Sector Update: Company, business and financial data Information World Review 221, February 2006: 21-23 – Brief reviews of some key data providers in this sector, giving an overview of their current services as well as any new developments on the horizon. The services covered are: Biogs, Bureau Van Dijk, Companies House, D&B, Equifax, Hemscott, ICC Information, Kompass publishers, OneSource Information Services, Perfect Information, RM Online, Thomson Financial. – [RN]

University of California Libraries Bibliographic Services Task Force (2005) **Rethinking How We Provide Bibliographic Services for the University of California** Oakland, CA: University of California, December 2005 (http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/sopag/BSTF/Final.pdf) – In a no-holds-barred

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report by this University of California task force, much of the existing library bibliographic infrastructure is blasted as being out-of-date and inadequate. "The current Library catalog," states the report, "is poorly designed for the tasks of finding, discovering, and selecting the growing set of resources available in our libraries." But it doesn't stop there, in either uncovering deficiencies nor in recommending potentially fruitful directions. The thrust of the report can perhaps be perceived by the headings under which the recommendations for further action are grouped: "Enhancing Search and Retrieval," "Rearchitecting the OPAC," "Adopting New Cataloging Practices," and "Supporting Continuing Improvement." Although this report is specific to the UC environment, I suspect that many institutions find themselves in a similar situation and therefore reviewing this report carefully is likely to be instructive. Full disclosure: I am a UC employee and was interviewed by the task force in the process of producing this report. – [*RT]

Knowledge Management

Noveck, Beth Simone (2005) **A Democracy of Groups First Monday** 10(11)(7 November 2005)(http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue10_11/noveck/) – Noveck argues that the critical mass of new display technologies and collaborative software has reached a point where small groups of like-minded persons can work together with much greater impact on work and society. With these new visual display technologies, groups can now create meaningful online community, and utilize much-improved self-governance tools. While the mainstream of cultural and media researchers are interested in the relationship between the individual and the state, there is far less attention given to the rapidly evolving relationship of collaborative, grass-roots democracy in the online sphere of public life. Noveck makes two arguments, which fuel an interesting analysis of the state of online community in 2005. First, she argues that technologies of collaboration will increasingly fuel collective action (think of moveon.org). But the pace of growth will accelerate because of emerging tools for "collective visualization:" the ability to hold full-scale meetings in cyberspace. Her second argument flows from the first, calling for a legislative overhaul that empowers the process of decentralized, group-based decision making. Groups can now have "body" as well as "soul" – in essence, following the principles of the law of corporations. – [*TH]

Legal Issues

Google Free to Cache: Court Red Herring (26 January 2006) (http://www.redherring.com/Article.aspx?a=15493&hed=Google+Free+to+Cache%3A+Court&sector=Industries&subsector=InternetAndServices#) – Guess what? It's not the end of the world as we know it. A federal district court in Nevada has ruled in Field v. Google that Google's Website indexing practices don't violate copyright law. Just imagine if the ruling had gone the other way. Time to get permission from billions of Website owners (and any other copyright owners with material on those Websites) before indexing them. Ouch! In a related press release from EFF (http://www.eff.org/news/archives/2006_01.php#004345) Fred von Lohmann, senior staff attorney, says: "The ruling should also help Google in defending against the lawsuit brought by book publishers over its Google Library Project, as well as assisting organizations like the Internet Archive that rely on caching." I don't know about you, but I feel fine about this copyright ruling (for a change). – [*CB]

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Metadata

Coyle, Karen (2005) **Descriptive Metadata for Copyright Status** *First Monday* 10(10)(3 October 2005)(http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue10_10/coyle/) – The author, a well-known commentator on digital library issues, has taken up a bite-sized topic: metadata for the copyright status of items in digital libraries. She delivers a succinct, but complete proposed strategy, complete with tables, grids and comparative information that buttresses her arguments. She comments that the discussion of intellectual property rights has heretofore focused on access and usage, which lie in the hands of the rights holder. It would be useful, she argues, to have a corresponding set of descriptive data that outline copyright status. She proposes a manageably-sized set of descriptive data elements that might accompany digital materials to inform potential users of the copyright status of the item. She suggests that it is possible to expand upon the well-articulated language of such sources as the Open Digital Rights Language of the Open Mobile Alliance, and the Creative Commons. The absence of well-articulated statements that define the full parameters of access places a heavier burden on users who seek to know what they can – and cannot do. Digital rights management has focused a lot on the copyright "don'ts" – Coyle presents a modest, but powerful argument for making the copyright "dos" easier to find and understand. – [*TH]

Preservation

Sale, Arthur (2005) **Comparison of IR Content Policies in Australia** (http://eprints.comp.utas.edu.au:81/archive/00000230/) – In this e-print, Arthur Sale, Professor of Computing at the University of Tasmania, analyzes e-print deposit activity at seven Australian universities for 2004 and 2005 publications (there is partial 2005 data through early December). In brief, he found that mandating deposit resulted in much higher levels of activity than either voluntary deposit without special support for authors by repository staff or with such support. The one university with mandated deposit (Queensland University of Technology) had four times the deposit rate of the closest voluntary deposit university for 2005 publications. No voluntary deposit university had a rate higher than 10% for 2005 publications; QUT's rate is about 40%, and it is projected to be near 60% by the end of 2005. The author concludes: "It is well overdue for DEST to rule that postprints of all research that Australian universities report to DEST must be deposited in an institutional repository, to take effect say for 2007. The costs to the universities are ridiculously small; the benefits from increased global research impact, and enabling Australians to access the research they fund through the public purse, are enormous." (DEST is the Australian Department of Science Education and Technology.) – [*CB]

Contributors to Current Cites * :

Charles W. Bailey, Jr., Terry Huwe, Shirl Kennedy, Leo Robert Klein, Jim Ronningen, Roy Tennant

Contributors:

Peter Chapman, Ann Dixon, Catherine Ebenezer, Linda Fawcett, Ina Fourie, Linda Kerr, Ida Kwan, Shona McTavish, Ruth Ng, Shirley Parker-Munn, Liz Reiner, Ann Smith, Christine Urquhart, James Watson.

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Public Sector News

Jane Inman, Technical Librarian, Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy, Warwickshire County Council (janeinman@warwickshire.gov.uk)

E-government

The e-government targets for local government, to be 100% e-enabled by the end of 2005, were at 97% by 31 December 2005. A summary analysis of the status of authorities was published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in February and may be found on the local e-government web site: *Implementing Electronic Government Return 2005 (IEG5) "Meeting the targets for e-government" Summary analysis of IEG5 results (December 2005).*

The emphasis now is on take-up and transformation. The Government published its IT strategy *Transformational government enabled by technology* in November, and in the foreword, Tony Blair says technology should be used to give citizens choice, and within public services to 'join up and share services rather than duplicate'. Consultation on this document closed on 3rd February, and an action plan is now expected to be published detailing how technology will be used to improve public services.

SOCITM, the Society of Council Information Technology Management has produced two reports looking at transformation.

To address the take-up of local e-government services the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has planned a campaign that will launch in March 2006 and run at a national level until May. In May and June the campaign will take on a regional focus and by July a 'toolbox of research and creative material' will be made available to all authorities for local branded activity.

As part of this a new Local Directgov system was launched on the Directgov web site (www.direct.gov.uk) From there you can now access basic local authority services such as renewing your library books, disposing of household waste, paying your council tax on line, paying and appealing against a parking fine or having graffiti removed.

A formal request for a fuller set of data has been sent to all English Local Authorities and has to be supplied by 17th March 2006. This is a long list which can viewed at http://www.localegov.gov.uk/en/1/1138185507885.html

Information about the local e-government programme generally is on the ODPM's local e-government site www.localegov.gov.uk

E-Planning

Targets had been set for local authorities to deliver planning services electronically, and the deadline for these was also December 31 2005.

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All planning authorities were set criteria to meet and their compliance was checked by the ODPM. The authorities included districts, boroughs, unitaries (including the Welsh and Scottish unitaries), English counties, Scottish joint structure plan teams and the national parks of England and Wales, The checking work was done by a firm of planning consultants called Peter Pendleton Associates, and the criteria became known as the Pendleton Criteria. The results can be seen on their web site http://www.pendleton-assoc.com.

The Planning Portal was developed as one of the e-government National Projects and was designed to offer a one-stop-shop for planning information and services. All district level local planning authorities have now signed up to the Planning Portal, and of those 387 authorities, 377 are accepting applications submitted online via the Planning Portal while another ten will accept the form downloaded, completed and posted.

A map based National Planning Register is offered which, it claims, allows you to search for planning applications anywhere in England and Wales. In practice it as yet covers only 80% of applications and 40% of decisions. It should also be remembered that the applications managed by the English counties are not included on the Planning Portal yet. These are land use applications for waste and minerals as well as applications for development of an authority's own property such as schools.

The Portal carries links to planning policy documents back to February 2005. These are arranged by date, which will not be particularly helpful in finding them over time as the list grows.

Public Sector News is supplied by ALGIS (The Affiliation of Local Government Information Specialists) which represents information professionals providing information services to local authority staff and elected members. Jane Inman is currently Chair of ALGIS. For more information go to www.algis.org.uk

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Book Review: The New Walford Guide to Reference Resources

Ray Lester. London: Facet Publishing; 2005. 848pp. £149.95. ISBN 1-85604-495-5

As the new Computer Science and Physics & Astronomy librarian I awaited my review copy of the new Walford with some trepidation. Do I need such a lengthy (and indeed heavy) tome in this age of the Internet when surely everything is on Google (isn't it?).

The volume itself is split into three broad subject areas (Science, Medicine and Technology). Each area is then subdivided into more discrete areas (including my new subject area of physics and astronomy, with Computer Science being detailed under ICT). Each section has corresponding subject specialists who have been responsible for pulling entries together. Each entry is introduced by the specialist to give some idea of the issues involved in the discipline, including the dominance of specific types of materials. However the different subjects did deal with this in different ways and some standardisation of the purpose of this section (especially as the volume is written with a wider audience in mind) would have been useful. The details of these are then extended in the body of the text.

The book, now in its ninth edition, is better designed for browsing by being based around subjects, rather than using the universal decimal classification system. To aid browsing there is a topic index (which includes some topics too specialised to have a sub-section of their own) and an author/title index, which includes corporate bodies. Cross-referencing is included as appropriate, and duplication is minimal.

I did question why such a volume was needed, but upon working my way through the content, it became very apparent. The range of materials listed strikes a balance between electronic and printed information resources. The materials covered range from basic introductions to the subject (something I needed…) to dictionaries, research centres and associations. There are also some new categories, of discovering print and electronic resources (abstracting and indexing services); digital data, image and text collections (including eprints) and a section on keeping up to date. The resource descriptions were well written and give an indication of coverage, links and usefulness. Although there were some weblogs and newsfeeds listed these were not nearly as comprehensive as I would have liked in some subject areas. I was slightly disappointed that there seemed to be no mention made of some services like the subject-based citation indexes or to Zetoc, both of which have a valuable role in keeping you up to date. Both these services are fairly central to supporting a basic reference enquiry and providing up-to-date information. The list of reference types were not listed in alphabetical order, which was an irritation but only a small one!

The coverage is international in scope and there are many resources drawn from non-English language sites and services. These have the origin and language of the sources listed which is useful. However you have to stumble across these and an index for these non English language materials might have proved a useful addition. There is a list of 50 good websites to try first within the introductory section but there was no indication why these sites were chosen and not others. Was this just an extension of the marketing – and am I just being picky?

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I found it a useful volume to help familiarise myself with basic resources in a new subject area and to begin the process of updating a limited reference collection (limited both on budget and space!) and helping me to know that the resources I have chosen are key to these disciplines. As an eInformation Group member I await the electronic version so I can check the holdings of my library directly, to see if we do indeed have many of these useful reference materials.

Tracy Kent, Academic Support Consultant, Birmingham University Library

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Book Review: Peopleware: Productive Projects and Teams

Tom di Marco and Timothy Lister. New York: Dorset House, 1987 (revised edition 1999). 238pp. ISBN 0-932633-43-9

Editor's note: this is the first in an occasional series of reviews of classic titles. "Classic", because the books reviewed continue to be worth reading, several years after their first publication. In the world of professional publishing, that is rare. We welcome any suggestions for similar classic titles for review.

It's rare to find a professional book that makes you laugh out loud: *Peopleware*, is an example. I noticed people on the train staring at me as I raced through it. Written by two management consultants who specialise in project management, their wide-ranging books is of great interest to anyone who has ever been fascinated and infuriated by corporate culture and by crass management.

The authors' knack is to describe features of the contemporary corporate environment with an engaging wit that makes the reader see them freshly. Yes, you find yourself agreeing with the authors, why do we do that?

For example, I laughed at the chapter on the telephone, the great interrupter of concentration. The authors describe an episode where an imaginary Alexander Graham Bell proposes his new invention, the telephone, to a company board. "Ah, that's the beauty of the BellOPhone", he says proudly. "No matter what you are involved in at the time it rings, no mater how engrossed you are, you drop everything to answer it"

Not surprisingly, the company rejects such a disruptive innovation out of hand. It's true: if the telephone were invented today, companies would never allow it in their buildings. The telephone is just one of the authors' many targets, dismissed so abruptly that you only remember with shame that you ever introduced them to your suffering team – or had them introduced by a well-meaning but misguided boss. Management by objectives, performance bonuses, motivational posters, Parkinson's Law, even the term "professional" is roundly condemned when it is used to impose a dull conformity on corporate activity. Next time you hear the word used, think of the authors' definition: "*professional* means unsurprising. You will be considered professional to the extent you look, act, and think like everyone else, a perfect drone." As in, for example "it's simply not professional to wear a tie like that!"

Yet it would be a mistake to think of this as an entertainment, or simply a swipe at obvious targets. It is full of fascinating suggestions and ideas for managing projects and teams in organisations. Although the authors specialise in software development, almost none of the book is specific to developing software and would apply to any organisation

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with more than two or three staff. As the authors emphasise throughout, software development is almost never a technical problem, but a human one. It's just part of the work you try to do, with more or less success, in an office environment that sometimes seems to be calculated to prevent you concentrating.

Repeatedly as I read the book I found myself surprised that I had accepted without question this or that common practice that is grounded in no good principle whatever. On hiring new staff, for example: we wouldn't dream of hiring a juggler without seeing him or her juggle, so why hire a programmer (or other member of a professional team) without getting some demonstration of their professional ability? Perhaps less widely used is the authors' suggested technique that an interview should include the colleagues who the candidate is going to work with: that he or she talks through a proposal or demonstration with the future colleagues.

I have some criticisms. The authors ignore their own recommendations for ignoring unverified research and opinions when they discuss architecture and working environment. Their insistence on closed spaces is today perhaps as formulaic as the insistence in the seventies and eighties on open-space office environments: in truth, neither is perfect. Their potty proposal, for "organic architecture" and "meta-plan" for a building, sounds romantically utopian and impractical. However, it is no bad thing to read a book that inspires you to agree or to disagree with enthusiasm. You forgive de Marco and Lister for a couple of wacky suggestions in return for the number of times they hit the bulls eye. On overtime, for example: "we don't work overtime so much to get the work done on time as to shield ourselves from blame when the work inevitably doesn't get done on time."

Read this book for a very healthy review of the assumptions you use when you manage; just be prepared to cause some discussion, or unrest when you implement the results. Managers don't give up the principles they work by without a struggle. In fact the authors suggest you implement changes one at a time: humans cannot cope with too much change.

Michael Upshall

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Press Releases & News

Journal Supply Chain Efficiency Improvement Pilot Project gets underway

January 20, 2006

The British Library, HighWire Press, Ringgold Inc., Swets Information Services B.V. and a group of HighWire-affiliated publishers announced today the launch of a joint initiative in 2006 to explore the creation, prototype implementation and value of a common institutional identifier that can be used throughout the entire industry, from purchaser to end user.

The start of every calendar year is a turbulent time for all parties involved with the journal supply chain, with missing issues, lost access to electronic journals and problems relating to the setting up of initial access. Many problems occur because of communication breakdowns somewhere along that chain. Although each company or organization involved has its own way of recognizing customers, users, clients and subscriptions, one of the aims of this project is that, in the creation and utilization of a standard institutional identifier, these problems will be eliminated, mitigated or at least diagnosed earlier.

As qualified representatives of all stages in the chain, the participants in the pilot project share the belief that integration and standardization are of paramount importance to the successful flow of information. The project will set up real use-case scenarios to discover whether or not the creation of such a standard identifier for institutions will be beneficial to all parties involved and test implementation strategies. The pilot will be limited to the UK customers of all the participants. The British Library will be working with the pilot to look at the implications of providing access to electronic archives. The role of HighWire Press is as a technical advisor at the request of the HighWire-hosted publishers involved in the project. Ringgold have been working with publishers for over three years to create a database of institutions and their metadata, which will form a key basis of the pilot. Swets' role will be to oversee how a standard identifier will affect the workflow between the publishers and consumers of information.

Regular reports and findings discovered during the project will be published online, with comments from the project participants, at http://www.JournalSupplyChain.org.

About The British Library

The British Library (http://www.bl.uk) is the national library of the United Kingdom. It provides world-class information services to the academic, business, research and scientific communities and offers unparalleled access to the world's largest and most comprehensive research collection.

About HighWire Press

HighWire Press (http://www.highwire.org), a division of the Stanford University Libraries, is a not-for-profit electronic journal developing and hosting service, producing the

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definitive online versions of high-impact, peer-reviewed journals and other scholarly content.

About Ringgold Inc.

Ringgold provides support for suppliers and publishers, helping them define products and services, fitted to the working environments of potential buyers. It was formed in 2005 from the merger of Information Power Ltd based in Oxford, UK OpenRFP based in Portland, USA and Biblio Tech based in Bristol, UK.

About Swets Information Services

Swets is the world's leading subscription services company, connecting the supply and demand chain that exists between publishers and institutions, libraries and information centres. The company provides services for customers from academic, government, corporate and medical institutions. Swets has been operating successfully for over 100 years. The company has offices in over 20 countries, servicing clients and publishers from over 160 nations.

SAGE announces new offer to NESli2 institutions for 2006

January 19, 2006

SAGE Publications is pleased to announce a new offer for NESli2 institutions in 2006. The offer, which is open to all UK research institutes and institutes of further education, has been developed in response to the dialogue that SAGE continues to have with librarians and faculty at UK academic institutions.

The new offering from SAGE is called SAGE Premier, and provides a single, easy route for institutions to 389 full text titles, all via the SAGE Journals Online platform hosted by HighWire. Currently, 11 UK institutions have opted to purchase SAGE Premier via NESLi2 for 2006. A full list of the titles available via SAGE Premier can be viewed at http://www.sagepub.co.uk/PDF/Journals/2006_SAGE_Premier_Title_list.pdf.

The new NESli2 offer for SAGE Premier will initially run from January to December 2006, with a view to expanding it to longer term, multi-year deals. The previous NESli2 offer for access to the SAGE Full-Text Collections hosted by CSA is still available and institutions that have already signed up will continue to have access to SAGE titles via their current access routes.

About NESli2

NESLi2 is the UK's national initiative for the licensing of electronic journals on behalf of the higher and further education and research communities, 2003-2006. NESLi2 is a product of the JISC and underwritten by the Higher Education Funding Council for England on behalf of the Funding Bodies. http://www.nesli2.ac.uk

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SAGE and CSA sign agreement with Canadian Research Knowledge Network

February 17, 2006

SAGE Publications and CSA have entered into a three-year agreement with Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) to provide CRKN members a comprehensive offering of SAGE titles known as SAGE Collections Plus.

SAGE Collections Plus combines the 10 SAGE Full-Text Collections (through the CSA Illumina platform) with the SAGE journals not included in the SAGE Full-Text Collections (through the SAGE Journals Online platform powered by HighWire Press). The 70 CRKN members represent the majority of academic research libraries at universities in Canada, thereby providing significant new multi disciplinary research material to Canadian academic researchers.

With SAGE Collections Plus, the CRKN consortium will have access to 220 SAGE journals accessible on CSA's Illumina platform and 162 additional SAGE journals accessible on SAGE Journals Online. The ten databases include 87,000+ articles, book reviews and editorials, with all the original graphics and tables, as well as up to 59 years of back issues.