eLucidate

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Online

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

CILIP and Emerald

http://www.cilip.org.uk/ and http://www.emeraldinsight.com/

The partnership announced between Emerald Publishing Group and CILIP in July has brought online, full-text access to five Emerald journal titles in the library and information field to all CILIP members. The title list includes *Vine* and *Interlending & Document Supply*, and coverage from 2005 onwards will be available.

EBSCO

http://www.ebsco.com/

EBSCO have announced a partnership with ABC-CLIO which is intended to enhance linking from ABC-CLIO citation databases. Subscribers to ABC-CLIO Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life will be able to link directly to full text in EBSCO full-text journal products to which they are also subscribed, such as Academic Search, without requiring a link resolver.

EBSCO have also released their new electronic resource Film & Television Literature Index. Soon to be available with full text, Film & Television Literature Index provides indexes and abstracts for over 300 publications, including records from the Film Literature Index (from the Film and Television Documentation Center, State University of New York–Albany) and their own. US and international coverage includes some titles printed in the middle of the 20th century as well as recent publications.

EDINA

http://edina.ac.uk/

EDINA have re-launched EMOL (Education Media OnLine), the JISC-funded collection of online film, as Film and Sound Online, with new features including browse by subject, "Showcase" to raise awareness of individual films, a "Lucky Dip", and a section on viewing and creating learning materials with Film and Sound Online content.

Elsevier

http://www.elsevier.com/

Elsevier's college edition of ScienceDirect will be extended to Europe this year. Aimed at non-research institutions, annual subscriptions will be available to journal title collections in social and behavioural sciences, health and life sciences and physical sciences.

Elsevier are also providing 12-months' free access for Qinghai University and Tibet University in China to Elsevier's online full-text platform ScienceDirect.

Google

http://www.google.com/

Google have begun providing downloads of out-of-print books in PDF format. Their library project partners Harvard, Michigan, Oxford and Stanford Universities and the New York Public Library have been joined by the University of California. UC will be providing 3,000 books a day for digitization. The University of Michigan has also begun linking records in their online catalogue Mirlyn to full-text titles (branded as Mbooks) digitized as part of their partnership with Google.

INTUTE

http://www.intute.ac.uk/

The enhanced and re-launched Resource Discovery Network, now known as INTUTE, offers personalised Web services to those registering for MyIntute. Registered users can store and export records and manage them by appending their own tags. Email alerts and saved searches are also available. Over two thousand users have registered for MyIntute since the launch in July. Many RSS feeds for news and new content are available for all.

NetLibrary

http://www.netlibrary.com/

NetLibrary, OCLC's e-content division, are to provide online access by subscription to three Chinese language databases: Taiwan Electronic Periodical Services (TEPS), the Chinese Electronic Periodical Services (CEPS) and the National Palace Museum (NPM) Online Database. The rights to sell annual subscriptions have been acquired by agreement with Airiti Inc., a Chinese e-content provider to libraries and other customers worldwide.

OCLC PICA: Aspire

http://www.oclcpica.org/

New content is now searchable within Aspire, the federated search system for Further Education in the UK. Powered by OCLC PICA ZPORTAL software, Aspire's new content includes ProQuest's KnowUK and Thomson Gale's Literature Resource Centre.

Thomson Scientific

http://scientific.thomson.com/

The Thomson Scientific and Healthcare arm of the Thomson Corporation have acquired the workflow management system ScholarOne. Thomson intends to use the software to increase the speed and efficiency of online journal content production as well as integrating it with existing Thomson products including Web of Knowledge, Web of Science and EndNote bibliographic referencing software. A major Web version of EndNote is also due for release from Thomson ResearchSoft.

Thomson Scientific has also announced a new consortium deal in France for access to ISI Web of Knowledge. A total of 47 academic and government institutions, led by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (INIST) and Couperin, and including universities and schools, will have access to Web of Science, ISI Proceedings, Index Chemicus and Medline for three years, in a $7.2 million contract with Thomson Scientific.

Internet

Learning 2.0 – take on a challenge!

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

More about Web 2.0, and a Library 2.0 self-directed learning program..

A couple of new developments have drawn my interest back to Web 2.0 themes once again and I would like to encourage you to take on a Learning 2.0 challenge.

ALA TechSource has recently published a Library Technology Report, "Web 2.0 & Libraries: best practices for social software", by Michael Stephens[1]. I have a copy on order, but until it arrives, here's a summary of the contents page. There are seven chapters, exploring Web 2.0 and libraries; blogs; RSS; instant messaging; wikis; Flickr; and putting your library "out there". The chapters are divided into several parts: describing the technology, implementing the technology in a library, and discussing best practices for that technology. The author, Michael Stephens, contributes to several blogs, including Tame The Web and ALA TechSource. His style is non-formal and engaging – I'm looking forward to reading the report.

Via an ALA TechSource blog post[2] I came across the Library 2.0 self-directed learning program created by Helene Blowers, Director of Public Services Technology at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, in North Carolina, USA. She took her inspiration from a combination of a desire to enable staff in a large library system to quickly get to grips with Web 2.0 technologies, and from remembering Stephan Abram's article "43 Things you (or I) might want to do this year"[3], which encouraged readers to try

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[1] Web 2.0 & Libraries: best practices for social software. Michael Stephens. *Library Technology Reports*, vol. 42, no. 4. July/August 2006. Purchase details available from: http://www.techsource.ala.org/ltr/web-20-and-libraries-best-practices-for-social-software.html [Accessed 1 September 2006]

[2] Stephens, M. (15 August 2006) "Steal this idea: Learning 2.0 at PLCMC". *ALA TechSource* [online] Available at: <http://www.techsource.ala.org/blog/2006/08/steal-this-idea-learning-20-at-plcmc.html> [Accessed 1 September 2006]

[3] 43 Things you (or I) might want to do this year. Stephan Abram. *Information Outlook*. vol. 10, no. 2, Feb 2006. PDF available from:

out various Web 2.0 type activities. The broader aim of the Learning 2.0 online learning program is that it "encourages staff to learn more about emerging technologies on the Web that are changing the way people, society and libraries access information and communicate with each other."

The resulting Web-based program[4] started on August 7th, and each week new task lists are activated. It is built around 23 self-discovery exercises, involving blogs, photo sharing, RSS feeds, with topics such as tagging, folksonomies and Technorati, wikis, and downloadable audio/visual to come in the remaining weeks. A brief tour of some of the staff participants' blogs shows people creating blogs, adding pictures, reconfiguring the default appearance of blogs, struggling with aspects of handling RSS feeds, and, best of all, engaging with the technologies.

This is where the challenge to eLucidate readers comes in – anyone can follow this learning program too. The TechSource blog post included an interview with Helene Blowers, asking her "Can other libraries use this model? Steal this idea so to speak? :-)". Her reply is encouraging, "By all means—I hope they will. The interesting thing about this program is it's entirely built upon the very same tools that participants are learning about: blogs, wikis, podcast, image- and video-hosting sites; the entire online learning program was built upon Web 2.0 tools and sites freely available on the Internet." You can see the "23 Learning 2.0 Things" here – http://plcmcl2-things.blogspot.com/.

I am taking up the challenge and you can follow my progress via my blog, Smilin' Librarian at http://smilinlibrarian.blogspot.com. So far I have completed tasks associated with weeks one and two, and am presently working through those from week three – photos and images. I am impressed by the use of audio tracks to introduce each week's topic and the tutorial on 7½ Habits of highly successful lifelong learners promotes self-reflection how to approach the program. It is evident that there has been a great deal of thought and effort given to the creation of this online learning program.

I would be very interested to hear from those of you who also decide to follow along.

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http://www.sirsi.com/Pdfs/Company/Abram/InfoTech_Feb2006.pdf [Accessed 1 September 2006]

[4] 'About the Learning 2.0 Project' [online] Available at <http://plcmcl2-about.blogspot.com/> [Accessed 1 September 2006]

Intranets

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

What constitutes a mature intranet: should it be based on external sites, or should it be based on the organisation's internal needs?

From here to maturity

As an intranet consultant you certainly get to see the world, even if it means travelling from London to Sydney for just four days at a time of severe security restrictions at Heathrow. (The money was good!) The only major problem occurred at 25,000 ft and 100 miles out from Sydney, when it became clear that virtually no one on the 747 had a pen to complete the landing card! While in Sydney I had the chance to talk intranets with James Robertson, MD of Step Two Designs, and by around the third latte, we got around to intranet maturity. This was prompted, from my perspective, from having recently read a report from the Enterprise Solutions group at Avenue A | Razorfish entitled "Corporate Intranet Best Practices". At the heart of this report is a six-stage maturity model that starts with Communication and Information Sharing, and then moves to Self-Service and then Collaboration. Stage Four is Enterprise Information Portals, then Digital Dashboards and finally a Consolidated Workplace Interface. You can read more about the model at http://intranetmaturity.com/

The model that Avenue A | Razorfish have developed is based on work with large corporate intranets they have carried out for their clients. There is much of interest in the report, but I'm not at all sure I can live with a maturity model that is based around technology. (Having said that, one of my clients read the report and had a real Eureka! moment, so perhaps I'm a minority of one.) Nevertheless I am sure that the report will be heavily downloaded by intranet managers trying to prove a point with their sponsoring manager. For all the millions of intranets there must now be in the world, it is surprising how little statistical information is known about them. Back in 2001 Melcrum Publishing, a UK consultancy (www.melcrum.com) released the results of a survey that they had sponsored into some of the quantitative metrics of intranets, such as the size of the budget and the number of people on the intranet team. James reminded me that he had carried out a similar survey about a year ago, details of which can be found in a summary of the results at http://www.steptwo.com.au/papers/kmc_intranetteams/index.html.

Flying back from Sydney gives lots of time for thought (especially when upgraded to Business – thanks BA!) and I started to ponder over what I'll call White's Intranet Paradox. The paradox can be stated thus – the more you manage to find out about how intranets are being used in other organisations, the greater the chance that your own intranet will fail to meet the requirements of your organisation. There has certainly been a lot of interest in benchmarking intranets over the last year or so ("Just how good is your intranet" at EContent March 2006), and I'm not changing my mind about the utility of benchmarking. But I have recently come across organisations that are now driving their intranet on the basis of what other organisations are doing, which is close to insanity.

When we speak about maturity, we do so with some norm in our mind. We see our children maturing, using what we would consider as adulthood as the norm. My concern with benchmarking and quantitative research into intranets is that the focus is looking outwards, and it should be looking inwards. Intranet maturity should be a function of how well the intranet supports the provision of information within the organisation, taking into account business objectives and user requirements. I might even go as far as to say that a fully mature intranet is invisible. It has become so much a part of the way that the organisation goes about its business, that no one even thinks to mention that such and such a piece of information is on the intranet. That to me is maturity.

Certainly lessons can be learned from case studies about other intranets, and indeed from benchmarking, but in the end an intranet has to be probably the most user-centric application in the organisation. This is because just about everyone in the organisation uses it almost everyday for just about anything. The only application that will be more frequently used in an organisation is the email system, and just possibly Microsoft Word (or equivalent).

It would be really good if we could find some organisation to designate 2007 as The Year of the Intranet User, but I'm afraid that it will just have to be me! All too often I find intranet managers who have never run surveys of their users, never set up some discussion groups to get some face-to-face response and make the assumption that now there is a CMS that enables each employee to contribute content then the content by definition must be useful. As James Robertson puts it "A key principle for intranet teams is: you can't usefully deliver information to users that you haven't personally met." Make 2007 the year you meet your users.

Public Sector News

Jane Inman, Technical Librarian, Environment and Economy, Warwickshire County Council (janeinman@warwickshire.gov.uk)

OPSI and National Archives to merge

Probably the major news in the public sector, for official publishing at least, was the announcement in June that the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) is to merge with the National Archives. It will all be known as the National Archives, and the change takes place in October 2006. OPSI was launched in July 2005 and incorporated HMSO, which has responsibility for crown copyright, legislation and official publishing. It is attached to the Cabinet Office, but the merger will mean it will in future sit within the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA).

Legislation

For those of you who need to access legislation the OPSI website at www.opsi.gov.uk has all Acts of Parliament since 1988 and Statutory Instruments from 1987. This site is well established and the URLs for individual documents are permanent so you can link to them with confidence. OPSI has recently introduced an RSS feed for new Acts and Statutory Instruments.

Of course the legislation on the site is not consolidated and we still await a freely available official statute law database. This database has been in development since the early 1990s but the latest date for public access is now September. The press has carried articles criticising the slowness the Department of Constitutional Affairs to deliver this service and the Department's refusal to release the raw data in response to a Freedom of Information

According to the DCA website an "on-line enquiry service for the statute law database was launched for government staff on 31 May 2006". The site also promises that they will "start developing a similar enquiry service for the general public later in 2006". This would be a real help for those of us who use legislation infrequently and may not have access to subscription services such as Lexis Nexis.

Information Asset Register

As well as information on the reuse of public sector information and Crown Copyright, the OPSI site is the home of the Government's information Asset Register known as Inforoute. It lists information resources held by the UK Government, but the focus is on

unpublished resources, so it complements any lists of departmental publications held on websites or issued as paper catalogues. http://www.opsi.gov.uk/iar/index.htm

Podcasts

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has not only provided webcasts of their Board meetings on their websites, but is also making available podcasts, which may be downloaded and listened to at your convenience. The reason they have taken this route is to ensure that the decisions made by the FSA are as open as possible and in this way they hope to reach a wide audience. http://www.food.gov.uk

It will be interesting to see if other public bodies follow suit.

On the FSA site http://www.eatwell.gov.uk you can savour the delights of Virtual Sam and her tips on healthy eating!

Statistics

Official statistics are under the microscope with the consultation on the independence of the Government's statistical service announced by the Chancellor in the Budget speech in March. The Treasury Select Committee responding to the consultation points out that a system where some statistics are produced by the Official of National Statistics and others by Government departments is confusing for all users.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmtreasy/1111/111102.htm

More specifically, crime statistics have come in for criticism recently, with the Statistics Commission saying the production of crime statistics must be separated from the policy work of the Home Office. Official statistics are available at http://www.statistics.gov.uk, and although the site comes in for a great deal of criticism, it does hold a wealth of information.

E-government transformed

Last November the Cabinet Office published *Transformational Government. Enabled by technology* (Cm 6883 November 2005) which you will find on the website of the Central Office of Information www.coi.gov.uk. The aim of the document was to see how technology can be used for:

* the transformation of public services for the benefit of citizens, businesses, taxpayers and front-line staff

- The efficiency of the corporate services and infrastructure of government organisations, thus freeing resources for the front-line.

There focus of e-government was the delivery of information and transactions mainly, but not exclusively, via the Web. t-government or t-gov as you will now see it called is, as far as I can see, about using technology to re-engineer the processes and create a more efficient and effective service

One aspect of this for local authorities is the simplified-sign on work being done under the Government Connect banner. To read more about Government Connect go to http://www.govconnect.gov.uk where you can see that it is aiming to provide "secure and effective online services", and the aim is for "all Local Authorities to actively benefit from GC Solutions by the end of 2007."

Alongside t-gov are some National e-Service Delivery Standards which I mentioned in the last issue of eLucidate. Currently the status of these standards is still unclear, but what is clear is that, unlike the case with e-government, there is no funding to support their delivery by local authorities. It will be very difficult to achieve these as they do not seem to have status, funding or targets attached to them http://www.nesds.gov.uk.

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. ALGIS welcomes anyone with an interest in public sector information who feels they would benefit from being part of a community working in the same area. For more information go to http://www.algis.org.uk.

Meeting Report: Business Information on the Internet

One-day UKe*i*G course held at University of Warwick Library, 12 July, 2006

As a part-time Subject Librarian for a user group that places a high value on the currency and accuracy of information, one of the main challenges I face is keeping up to date with information sources in my field. With this (and my resources budget) in mind, Karen Blakeman's course on Business Information on the Internet, with its emphasis on pay-as-you-go and free services, seemed a highly attractive proposition.

After reminding us of the highly volatile nature of information found on the Internet, Karen began by looking at several key starting points and portals for business information. Many of these were already very familiar to me – such as Biz/ed (*http://www.bized.ac.uk*), BUBL (*http://www.bubl.ac.uk)* and SOSIG (*http://www.sosig.ac.uk*) – but others were a pleasant surprise. I was unaware, for example, that Yahoo's finance section (*http://uk.finance.yahoo.com/*), although sometimes charging for information, nonetheless provides free access to historical share prices dating back five years, which can be downloaded to a spreadsheet.

Moving on to company data, Karen gave us some helpful background information to inform our searching. The amount of information available on a company can depend not only on its type (stock exchange listed, limited liability, private, partnership or sole trader), but also on the disclosure requirements of particular countries. Whereas it is relatively easy to find information on the first of these types of company (the 'big boys'), it can be impossible to find information on the other four. We were also warned not to trust a company's financial information unless it had been filed officially. Another quirk of financial reporting (this time in the USA), which amused me, is that when a company is labeled as 'foreign', it can simply mean that it is operating in another state. Karen has an extensive list of official company registers at *http://www.rba.co.uk/sources/registers.htm*, organized by country and by state. We also looked at Euroinfopool (*http://www.euroinfopool.com*), a priced service which provides information and credit reports on 18 million European companies in 15 European countries.

Karen then moved on to directories and direct marketing resources, reminding us that "there is no such thing as a comprehensive directory". Directories can be used to find information on smaller companies, although their coverage must be checked (they may be industry- or country-specific, or they may be limited to members of a trade association, or to advertisers). Again, Karen has a full list of directories on her website (*http://www.rba.co.uk/sources/directs.htm*), as does Yahoo (*http://uk.dir.yahoo.com/business_and_economy/directories/*). She also pointed us in the

direction of FreeDirectories (*http://www.freedirectories.com*), where you can search by keyword, industry, country, or general interest to find free directories or databases.

The next section on news, alerts, blogs and RSS was really interesting and certainly kept us all awake after our delicious lunch (thanks must go to Christine Baker for successfully accommodating all our dietary requirements!). Again, some words of caution from Karen regarding news sources. Firstly, although company websites are often a good source of news items, they are most likely to be biased, hence the need to consult independent news sources as well. Secondly, although most newspapers are on the Web, many lack an archive or satisfactory searching facilities. Three sites were suggested for locating the Web version of a newspaper or magazine: Abyz News Links (*http://www.abyznewslinks.com*), Online Newspapers (*http://www.onlinenewspapers.com*) and Journalism UK (*http://www.journalismuk.co.uk*). Sources for trade publications were also discussed, as were well-known multi-source services, such as BBC News (*http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/*), Yahoo News (*http://www.yahoo.com*), which claims to cover around 7,500 sources, and (perhaps) lesser known services such as Accoona News (*http://www.accoona.com*). Karen went on to discuss the benefits of using RSS instead of e-mail: it reduces in-box overload; it is easy to scan headlines and decide on relevance; you can unsubscribe yourself, and the user has more control over content). We were then taught how to set one up. This led smoothly on to a discussion of 'blogs' and how industry blogs, particularly those set up by 'industry gurus', can provide valuable insights into a particular sector.

The last section of the course dealt with statistics and market research. A key starting point was shown to be Official Statistics on the Web (*http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/subjects/stats/offstats/*), along with Market Research on the Web (*http://www.marketresearchontheweb.com*), a subscription service that is available at a discount to CILIP members. Free market research, government reports and content aggregators were discussed, and we were then given some useful tips on how to search effectively for market research using Google or Yahoo's advanced search screens (for example, include brand names in your search, and limit your search to a type of organisation or to a specific document format).

As I'm sure will be apparent from this report, I really appreciated the intelligent comments made by Karen, in an attempt to help us assess and evaluate the sources being discussed (which was one of her stated aims). It was also very helpful to have practical sessions throughout the day when we could test out the sources for ourselves (as we all know, this is impossible during the average working day). Karen Blakeman is undoubtedly passionate about her chosen field, and this came across repeatedly throughout the session. In fact, she was still passionately promoting sources when the rest of us were drooping with heat and information overload at the end of a very enjoyable and useful day.

[Karen Blakeman's website can be found at *http://www.rba.co.uk*]

Sarah Wookey, Subject Librarian for the School of Management at the University of Bath (*S.A.Wookey@bath.ac.uk)*

Meeting Report: Desktop Search Tools – Managing the Flight Deck

SOAS, London, 14 June 2006

Gary Horrocks, our UKeiG chairman, in his introduction to the day, highlighted the importance of the topic by pointing out that it can be easier to search for information on the whole of the World Wide Web than to find what's on your own PC! The meeting addressed search tools that could be used not only to search a personal desktop but also corporate intranets, and throughout the day consideration was given to both personal and corporate information management issues. The concept of desktop search is much wider than just finding Word documents or other kinds of saved files such as images. It encompasses e-mail folders, Web bookmarks, Web histories and even databases and corporate digital records. The new search tools available don't just look at file names, but some can search within documents, including the text in pdfs and the metadata attached to images etc.

We heard first from David Graham from MSN-UK who gave us a preview of the beta version of Windows Live, which will shortly be launched to take over from Microsoft's existing desktop search offerings. Windows Live aims to bring together searches of the desktop, intranet and the external Web and David stressed the advantage of the "familiar interface". Windows live will create an index from your desktop and intranet files and also websites of your choosing, but unlike their current product, it does not slow down your computer when you want to work on it; instead, it pauses as soon as you start to work. Add-ins will also be included to support Mozilla Thunderbird (e-mail) and Open Office for those who prefer a less than total Microsoft experience.

In a lively question time, David confirmed that Boolean logic searches would be supported, and promised to take back some suggestions made, for example that checkboxes be included in results lists, for subsequent processing.

We were scheduled to hear next about Copernic Desktop Search from Martin Bouchard, but unfortunately this speaker did not materialize. Stephen Robertson of Microsoft research UK brought forward his offering "Research for Search." This was a more academic overview of the way in which search engines work and how they can be 'taught' to work more effectively. Search engine ranking algorithms are the key to good retrieval performance, and these can be optimised in different ways. Training by feedback from evaluation of search results can be very effective, but is also expensive. The big players in Web search, such as Google, invest heavily to make their Web search engine the best. In very large companies it might be feasible to employ search engine trainers to optimise enterprise search, but that is not going to happen in the desktop search environment, so alternatives are needed, for example autotraining. This is where more

research is needed, and Stephen was confident that ongoing research, both academic and commercial, would deliver these improvements in future, to make desktop search as effective as Web search.

In the ensuing question time it was it was pointed out that, unlike Web searching, where the use of metadata has been abandoned because of spamming, desktop or enterprise search could be improved by exploiting metadata. Retrieval and ranking could also be made more effective if meaningful file names and good folder management were used. Greater weight might be given to objects meaningfully named, and contained within suitably named folders, thus contradicting the sales pitch from some desktop search vendors that you can abandon good file management practices if you use their product – a reassuring point for information professionals who favour and advocate such systematic tidiness!

In the continued absence of our missing speaker, Karen Blakeman gave us a useful introduction to the UKeiG Wiki, and encouraged us all to take a look and experiment – if not on the real thing, then on the dog's breakfast!

After a tasty lunch and the UKeiG AGM, we resumed our desktop search theme with a presentation about ISYS search software from Terry Clift, General Manager of their Global operations. ISYS is a well established player in the market, having been operating since 1988, starting with a DOS version. Their product is pretty sophisticated and is aimed mainly at the enterprise market, using intranets. Terry demonstrated the current version, 7 and gave us a sneak preview of version 8. The software is able to handle massive volumes of data and indexes discriminatorily and in the background. Searching allows advanced techniques such as Boolean and proximity searching and can search for dates no matter the format in which they appear. Fuzzy matching and possible misspelling suggestions are included as well as multi-lingual support via Unicode, and metadata can be used intelligently. The results may be ranked by user-selectable preferences and categorised into types. Hits are highlighted and one can navigate from hit to hit. The demonstration showed how synonyms could be automatically searched and were highlighted in the hits shown, e.g. a search used the word "America", but the results included "USA" etc. Different tenses of the same word could also be detected.

Finally, Karen Blakeman gave us an overview of the good, the bad, and the ugly in desktop search tools, comparing eight different offerings from, Ask, Blinkx, Copernic, Exalead, Google, ISYS, Windows, and Yahoo. After outlining the features to look for, each product was explored with reference to these needs, and some were given the thumbs down, at least in their current version, if they didn't come up to scratch on these requirements. ISYS was considered supersonic business class (using the flight deck metaphor), and great for corporate intranets, but it is probably too pricey for personal use, while the current Windows desktop search was 'budget airline'. Of the free competitors,

Copernic and Exalead seemed to be the best bet at present, but the field is very fast moving. To keep up with developments we were all encouraged to keep an eye on the UKeiG Wiki.

A panel discussion followed, which continued the lively discussion, a feature of the whole day. I certainly found it to a highly enjoyable and informative day, and the active participation of so many seemed to indicate that I was not the only one to do so. All I need now is some time to try out some of the recommendations and keep up with the wiki.

Andria McGrath, Information Specialist at King's College London

Meeting Report: JISC Access Showcase Day

Institute of Civil Engineers, London, 18 July 2006

This day, hosted by JISC at the grand offices of the Institute of Civil Engineers in Westminster, aimed to bring a variety of stakeholders up to date with Shibboleth, the replacement to Athens for access management. The principle was clear: Shibboleth is here to stay, and is easier for users, but there's a lot of work for someone to set it up and to administer it. The audience, numbering around 150, included publishers and service providers, but comprised mainly librarians and information managers. The day was very useful in giving an insight into aspects of JISC's work in access management. However, it was rather a curious day in some respects. It was organised into four separate "discussion groups" (these were for the most part PowerPoint presentations with little time for questions) organised in three parallel tracks. This meant that any attendee could only attend four of the eleven available sessions (one session, demonstrations, was repeated). My account, therefore, is inevitably partial and reflects the sessions I attended.

Sarah Porter of JISC gave an overview of how access management will look for institutions. Athens will not be funded or supported by JISC beyond July 2008, although it will still be available. Instead, JISC and BECTA will create the "UK Access Management Federation", for accessing resources via Shibboleth. Institutions will then have three choices:

1. Become a full member of the UK federation, using community-supported tools (this means the institution has to devote IT skills to make it happen).
2. Ditto, but using paid-for support (which means the institution will have to pay an external supplier)
3. Continue subscribing to an outsourced identify provider, which will work through the federation on the institution's behalf (this means continuing to use Athens but paying a subscription for its use, and getting none of the benefits of Shibboleth).

She closed her presentation with a wonderful graphic roadmap, illustrating the stages for institutions to implementing federation management:

1. institutional audit
2. directory development (adding attributes about student and staff)
3. authentication development (choosing a system0
4. implement identity provider software (IdP)
5. join federation
6. institutional roll-out

JISC

Figure 1: The JISC Roadmap for institutions

It's clear there is a requirement for "institutional join-up", for departments within an institution to unite for access management.

The subsequent sessions varied widely in their need for technical understanding on the part of the audience. The morning session on "international developments", from Elsevier and others, made it clear that Elsevier has put lots of effort into developing Shibboleth access. What worried me was how much of a challenge it would be for a smaller information provider to do the equivalent work required to provide access. After all, Science Direct is a monster, with 2,000 journals, over 160 series of books, and 50 reference works. At that scale, Elsevier can afford to devote considerable time getting their access management sorted, but it was worrying to discover (for example) that there can be many, even hundreds, of federations,

What is a federation? Well, from the Internet2 site:

> A Shibboleth federation is a set of campus services, multiple universities, corporations, content providers, etc. who collectively exchange attributes using the SAML/Shibboleth protocols. Joining a federation is not necessary for the operation of the Shibboleth System, but it simplifies the process of interoperating with multiple identity and service providers without exchanging and managing technical information for each prospective partner.

As I understood it, a major advantage of Shibboleth is that you no longer have to answer the question "who are you?" since your personal identify is irrelevant. All that is necessary is that the system knows which institution you are from – hence the need a WAYF (where are you from) message. This sounds good, but Elsevier pointed out several problems with implementation:

- implementation is technically challenging;
- There is often no central source of IDs for all users within an institution.
- there is no WAYF of WAYFs
- there is no standardisation of federations

The benefits of Shibboleth are described as inter-institutional and international interaction, but it looked from this presentation there is quite a challenge, at least to publishers, to get Shibboleth implemented.

The Elsevier session was followed by a presentation called "Shibboleth 2 and beyond", but I found this presentation of little value since I was struggling to grasp the implications of Shibboleth itself. More valuable was a session on how to become a service provider. Intriguingly, this talk didn't contemplate working with Shibboleth without having enrolled in a federation. And the process of becoming a service provider involved several stages.

The afternoon sessions included an interesting overview from James Farnhill on JISC's research programme provided a clear picture of JISC's role in developing information access in higher education. This research is focused on four areas:

1. community engagement and support
2. knowledge organisation and semantic services
3. grid services and tools
4. E-information security.

The final session, on JISC Collections and Services, was also useful. Liam Earney from JISC Collections asked us not to give him any technical questions on Shibboleth, which was refreshing (and welcome, at the end of a hot day). He revealed that JISC Collections is to be spun off as a separate company, which makes sense, since the users it can serve don't overlap exactly with the UK higher education community – for example, overseas members of an HE institution. Higher education is increasingly global, and most institutions will have some kind of distance-learning or overseas affiliate for whom they want to provide the same resources they do for the UK. Questions for Liam unsurprisingly included the frequently asked "what constitutes a valid user?", and I suspect with a new role from JISC Collections, this one should become easier to answer.

Overall, a useful if sometimes challenging day. Oh, and I came away with a new definition of "middleware". One of the services provided by JISC to implement the move to Shibboleth is MATU, the Middleware Assisted Take-up service. Asked to define middleware, one speaker wittily responded with "underwhelming when it works, overwhelming when it doesn't".

Michael Upshall

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, 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.

Education

Frade, Patricia A., and Allyson Washburn. **"The University Library: The Center of a University Education?"** portal: Libraries in the Academy 6(3)(2006): 327-346. (http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/portal_libraries_and_the_academy/v006/6.3frade.html). – Apparently the death of (academic) libraries is premature if the results of usage patterns at BYU can be extended to libraries in general. The authors discuss a survey of library usage from 2001-2002 plus follow-up work they've conducted since. The verdict: Stats are up! Not only are the library and its resources heavily used but the trend is up as well, thanks to extending hours and implementing such popular new services as an "Information Commons". The popularity of these new services are helpful in giving us a glimpse into the library environment of the future. – [*LRK]

Tempelman-Kluit, Nadaleen. **Multimedia Learning Theories and Online Instruction.** College & Research Libraries Vol 67 (4) July 2006: 364-369 – For the majority of readers this article will provide an interesting, and brief, overview of multimedia learning theories. After outlining these theories, the author makes an evaluation and comparison of two versions of the online tutorial *How to Find an Article,* which are available from New York University Libraries. One version of the tutorial is traditional and available in HTML (http://library.nyu.edu/research/tutorials/article/) and the other version is available in streaming audio and video (http://library.nyu.edu/research/tutorials/movie/article/). The comparison between the two tutorials suggest that the streaming audio and video tutorial is more effective as a teaching tool. – [AS]

General

Buchanan, A., Robert. **Accuracy of Cited References: The Role of Citation Databases.** College & Research Libraries Vol 67 (4) July 2006: 292-303 – This article describes a study into the number of errors in the citation databases Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) and SciFinder Scholar (SFS) in three core journals within the subject area of chemistry. The study examines how frequently data entry errors occur and how often the databases correct errors by authors. The results of this study cannot be generalized to all of the chemical literature, but the results and comparisons between the databases are interesting and the discussion of the types of errors which can and do occur is revealing.

The methodology includes examining 5,640 articles in SCIE and 5,648 articles in SFS that were identified from 204 reference lists in the journals *Inorganic Chemistry*, *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics* and *Tetrahedron Letters*. The breakdown and discussion of the results is detailed and indicate that the average percent of all data entry errors was 3.5 percent in SCIE, and 1.7 percent in SFS. SCIE corrected 46 percent of author errors and SFS corrected 16 percent of author errors. – [AS]

Farkas, Meredith. "**Continuous Learning: Making it a Priority Without Breaking the Bank**" *TechEssence* (23 July 2006)(http://techessence.info/node/65) – I had not intended to cite blog postings or summaries of library technologies being posted at TechEssence.info given my deep involvement with that site. So be as wary of this review as you wish, but I urge you to do yourself a favor and check out this piece. Meredith Farkas of Information Wants to be Free fame does her usual insightful, spot-on job with this topic and given that "continuous learning" is also what *Current Cites* is all about, I couldn't pass it up. Neither should you. – [*RT]

"**Nature Peer Review Trial and Debate**" *Nature* (2006) (http://www.nature.com/nature/peerreview/index.html) – *Nature* is offering another of its stimulating Web debates, this time dealing with the important issue of peer review. Like other Web debates *Nature* has offered, this one is a series of short position papers that express a wide range of views. However, this time, *Nature* is trying something new as well: an optional open peer-review process for its authors on a trial basis. Of particular note in the debate section are: "Certification in a Digital Era"; "Evolving Peer Review for the Internet"; "An Open, Two-Stage Peer-Review Journal"; "Opening Up the Process"; "Reviving a Culture of Scientific Debate"; and "Wisdom of the Crowds." – [*CB]

Taiga Forum Presentations Chicago, IL: Taiga Forum, June 2006.(http://www.taigaforum.org/program.html) – The Taiga Forum was a two-day invitation-only event in March 2006 for AULs and library Assistant Directors to consider the many changes and challenges affecting libraries today. Among the program presentations you will find such gems as Dale Flecker's admonishment that "What hits you from left-field is likely as important as what you have been staring at." Speakers included library leaders such as Jim Neal, Karen Calhoun, Lorcan Dempsey and others, as well as library "outsiders" like Paul Duguid and Rick Lugg. Although PowerPoint presentation "mining" can be challenging, at least one includes notes to help flesh out the slides, and you can likely get at least the thrust of the remarks from the slides themselves. – [*RT]

Information Access

DiPerna, Paul. "**K-12 Encounters the Internet**" *First Monday* 11(5) (1 May 2006)(http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue11_5/diperna/index.html) – DiPerna takes a fresh look at the unintended consequences of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, or NCLB). Much has been written about the pressure the law places on school districts that can't afford to comply with it, but DiPerna's article takes another angle, exploring the potential of the Internet as a positive influence. "The convergence of NCLB realities with the Internet's ever-expanding capabilities offers a window of opportunity to build a social network website service that is suited for K-12," he says. He explores three questions: how K-12 information is presented on the Internet; what in fact are the needs of K-12 teaching environments for Internet-based information; and whether a Social Networking Web (SNW) site could help meet these needs. He makes an important overall point: it's not enough to just throw technology dollars at the schools and expect them to make good use of them. It's critical that an effective culture for learning about how to use technology also takes root, and that it involves everyone: students, teachers and parents. SNWs (think of them as www.myspace.com for school) could save time and energy by reducing overall e-mail load. They could also generate more meaningful statistics on Web usage, and they could foster new and creative zones for informal learning. If SNW platforms are embraced by youth for fun, it follows that their potential may carry benefit for K-12 teaching as well. This article provides a good overview of the challenges of bringing technology to bear in the K-12 arena, and also provides some creative thinking about the teaching process. – [*TH]

Hane, Paula J. "**OCLC to Open WorldCat Searching to the World**" *NewsBreaks* (17 July 2006)(http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/nb060717-1.shtml) – Big news at the American Library Association Annual Conference was that OCLC was going to open up WorldCat for free searching by anyone. This formerly licensed-only resource has the combined holdings information thousands of libraries worldwide and is the premier source for information on library held materials. Set to be unveiled in "beta" form sometime in August 2006 at WorldCat.org, the service will include all 70-plus million records in the database with an easy-to-use interface and the ability to add a search box to your own website. In this article Hane provides an overview of the offering based on information from Chip Nilges, Vice President, OCLC New Services. – [*RT]

Jacobs, Neil, ed. **Open Access: Key Strategic, Technical and Economic Aspects** Oxford: Chandos, 2006. (http://www.chandospublishing.com/catalogue/record_detail.php?recordID=103) – If you want to know about open access, look no further. Editor Neil Jacobs has assembled a stellar group of OA experts to write chapters on pertinent OA topics that are organized into five major sections: "Open Access – History, Definitions and Rationale"; "Open Access and Researchers"; "Open Access and Other Participants"; "The Position Around the World"; and "The Future." The book itself isn't OA, but Peter Suber has identified links to self-archived chapters in his "Self-Archived Chapters in the Neil Jacobs Anthology on OA" *Open Access News* posting. – [*CB]

Lombardi, Candace. "**U.C. System Signs on to Microsoft Book-Scan Project**" *CNET News.com* (9 June 2006) (http://news.com.com/U.C.+system+signs+on+to+Microsoft+book-scan+project/2100-

1025_3-6082258.html) – Microsoft's Windows Live Book Search got a big boost this month when the University of California System and the University of Toronto Libraries agreed to allow it to digitize out-of-copyright books and other material from their collections. UC has over 34 million volumes in its libraries, while Toronto has more than 15 million volumes. In contrast to Google Book Search, Windows Live Book Search takes an "opt-in" approach to digitizing works still under copyright through its Windows Live Books Publisher Program. Because it scans in-copyright books without permission, Google has been sued for copyright infringement by both authors and publishers, including a French publisher. However, Google asserts that its program is justified under fair use provisions since it shows only brief excerpts from books. Moreover, Google will remove books at the request of publishers. More details on the Windows Live Book Search deal can be found in Microsoft's press release. – [*CB]

Roberts, Micheal M. "**Lessons for the Future Internet: Learning from the Past**" *EDUCAUSE Review* 41(4)(July/August 2006): 16-25. (http://www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm06/erm0640.asp) – Short but sweet review of what it took to get the Internet to its current stage of development by someone who's been involved with it since the Eighties. This is a healthy reminder that the openness and flexibility of the system didn't happen by accident, and yet it's precisely these qualities that have made it a rip-roaring success. On the recent attempt by the Telcos to create what essentially are vertically integrated systems, the author has this to say: "Silos may be fine for grain, but as a business strategy on the Internet, they are headed for the trash heap." I wish I could be as confident. – [*LRK]

Information Retrieval

Bailey, Annette. "**LibX – A Firefox Extension for Enhanced Library Access**" *Library Hi Tech* 24(2)(2006): 290-304 – Part of outreach in the digital world is adapting software and resources that our patrons already use in order to highlight library material. Some software is easier to customize for this purpose than others. In this article, we have an excellent example of the library at Virginia Tech creating an extremely innovative "extention" or add-on software for the open source Firefox Browser. This extention, which they call "LibX", allows the user to search for library books and articles through a customized box at the top of the browser window. It allows for contextual searches depending on whether there's an ISBN/ISSN number on a given webpage. It also adds a tiny graphic, which they call 'cues', to pages on Google, Yahoo, Amazon and B&N that link to catalog records. The article briefly goes over alternative approaches and privacy concerns as part of its thorough discussion of this utility. If you don't know your 'zippi' from your 'zool', this is a good place to start for some great ideas. – [*LRK]

Bakkalbasi, Nisa, Kathleen Bauer, and Janis Glover, *et. al.*"**Three Options for Citation Tracking: Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science**" *Biomedical Digital Libraries* 3(7)(2006)(http://www.bio-diglib.com/content/3/1/7) – You want a citation database that gives you the highest number of citations possible for articles. Should you use Google Scholar, Scopus, or Web of Science? This article is "an observational study examining these three databases; comparing citation counts for articles from two disciplines (oncology and condensed matter physics) and two years (1993 and 2003)." Its findings: which database is best depends upon the discipline and the year of publication. – [*CB]

Highsmith, Anne L., and Bennett Claire Ponsford. "**Notes on MetaLib Implementation at Texas A&M University**" *Serials Review* (28 July 2006) – Interesting look at the implementation of a federated search system, in this case MetaLib (ExLibris) at Texas A&M University. The library quite wisely set up an "implementation committee" and after several weeks of configuration, tested it on various user groups. The authors discuss the reception the final product received among library staff, and they end with a number of suggestions to improve the system. (Note: Article in Press, Corrected Proof) – [*LRK]

Teets, Michael, and Peter Murray. "**Metasearch Authentication and Access Management**" *D-Lib Magazine* 12(6) (June 2006) (http://www.dlib.org/dlib/june06/teets/06teets.html) – Those laboring in the metasearch (aka federated search, cross-database search, etc.) world know how difficult authentication issues can be – especially if when working in a consortial environment. This paper reports on the work of the NISO Metasearch Initiative's Access Management Task Group (one of three groups) to make this easier and more effective. The group surveyed the authentication and authorization methods currently being used, developed use cases, considered environmental factors, ranked the various methods against the use cases and environmental factors, aggregated and modeled the rankings, and made recommendations based on their findings. Their key findings were that in the present environment, IP-authentication with a proxy server and good old username and password are the two most effective methods for authentication. – [*RT]

Michael Reilly **Internet search engines go on trial** *New Scientist*, 19 August 2006, p24-25 – How search engines work and whether they are biasing their results are the subject of recent lawsuits in the US, which, if successful, would do us all a disservice, argue some. Under intense, and renewed discussion, is whether the page-ranking method results in popular pages becoming more popular, while less popular sites stay low in the rankings. Google and co dispute the accusation, claiming search engines mitigate any bias rather than amplify it. – [LF]

Knowledge Management

Rutkoff, Aaron. "**Social Networking for Bookworms**" *The Wall Street Journal* (27 June 2006)(http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB115109622468789252-i8U6LIHU7ChfgbxG1oZ_iunOIWE_20060727.html) – This article discusses LibraryThing, "a website where members can create library-quality catalogs of the books they own and display their collection to fellow online bookshelf browsers." Since its launch last August by creator Tim Spalding, "a computer programmer and bibliophile," the site has acquired close to 48,000 registered members "and a user-created catalog that includes more than 3.6 million volumes," which theoretically makes it "the 58th largest library in the U.S." The site is easy to use; registration is free and simple – just pick a username and password. No personal info required. Then enter the authors, titles or ISBNs from the books in your personal library. "The LibraryThing search engine, which is connected to Amazon.com, the Library of Congress and 45 other libraries around the world (via the Z39.50 protocol), returns likely matches." You can enter your first 200 titles for free; unlimited use costs $10 annually or $25 for a lifetime membership. The social networking aspect comes in via LibraryThing's "book-recommendation engine," which offers suggestions based on the

collections of "likeminded readers." The article refers to LibraryThing as "a sort of MySpace for bookworms." – [*SK]

Reference Services

Lupien, Pascal. " **Virtual Reference in the Age of Pop-Up Blockers, Firewalls, and Service Pack 2**" *ONLINE Magazine* 30(4)(July/August 2006) (http://www.infotoday.com/online/jul06/Lupien.shtml) – In this cover story, Lupien identifies a "minefield of obstacles" to providing virtual reference services with full-featured commercial virtual reference software. Such applications can provide a sophisticated interaction with the library user, including such things as screen sharing and co-browsing, but this high level of interaction comes at a price. The full cost of this type of interaction is identified here, with such problems as pop-up blockers, users sequestered behind firewalls, and operating system upgrades getting in the way. All of this Lupien uses as an introduction to Instant Messaging (IM) as a possible substitute or replacement, while acknowledging that it provides many fewer features for both the user and the library. – [*RT]

Security

Potter, Bruce. "**Wireless Hotspots: Petri Dish of Wireless Security**" *Communications of the ACM* 49(6)(June 2006): 51-56 – In a nutshell, this article's message is don't use a public wireless hotspot at all if you don't want to run the risk of getting hacked. Potter drives home the point by comparing the effective security measures of enterprise systems with the porous security of open environments. A centrally controlled enterprise network can utilize authentication schemes like the Extensible Authentication Protocol, which presents system designers with choices such as simple username & password, or the tighter security of bidirectional certificate-based authentication. In contrast, the "any port in a storm" nature of hotspot access leaves the OSI layer 2 (data link) vulnerable; layer 3 solutions placed on top of that weakness, such as firewalls or virtual private networks, aren't solving the problem. Eavesdroppers within range can configure wireless-enabled PDAs to run interception programs automatically, and (among other things) harvest personal data. These attacks are rarely detectable by the victim. Of course there aren't hackers lurking at every cafe table, but it only takes one spill of your data to make your life a real mess. – [*JR]

General

Buderi, Robert. "**Searching for the next big hit**" *New Scientist*, 2 September 2006, p24-25 – Interview with Usama Fayyad, Yahoo's senior V.P. of Research, on the establishment of three research labs to develop 'the new sciences of the Internet'. Ideas under investigation include greater interaction via gadgets such as mobile phones, television and even cars, as well as the phenomena of online communities. With so much user-generated data at their disposal the boffins at Yahoo have plenty to keep them busy. – [LF]

Marks, Paul. "**Cities race to reap the rewards of wireless net for all**" New Scientist, 25 March 2006, p28 – City-wide Wi-Fi hotspots are planned for many US cities, funded by City councils determined to bridge the digital divide. Here in the UK the City of London is also investing in Wi-Fi access within its streets and open spaces for all workers, residents and business visitors. As expected, the major telecoms are non-too pleased at this threat to their wired broadband services, while independent analysts identify the lack of interoperability standards as a major technological hurdle, which could, in some cases, impact long-term support. However, with coverage expected to increase massively in the next five years, the social benefits could be immense. – [LF]

Web Design

Buckley, Rob. "**The best Firefox extensions for developers**" *.Net* issue150, June 2006: 86-89 – These are geared to developers but Linkchecker, Clear Cache Button and Mozilla Accessibility Extension may be of interest to the general user of Firefox. The author rates the best 15 extensions that are developer friendly. – [JW]

Hall, Christian. "**How to make your site accessible**" *.Net* issue 151, July 2006: 84-89 – PAS 78 : Guide to Good Practice in Commissioning Accessible websites is a set of guidelines for planning the development of accessible sites. These guidelines give principles of good practice to obtain quality accessible sites from the commissioning to testing stages. They provide a framework to achieve accessible sites. PAS 78 is endorsed by the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) and available from the BSI (British Standards Institution). There are approximately 6.8 million disabled people/customers in the U.K. The vision for the Web was access for all; this somehow got lost in the speed of development of the Web and lack of enforceable guidelines and rules. PAS 78 puts the planning and the vision back. This article clarifies what is meant by accessibility. – [JW]

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Book Review: ABC of Health Informatics

**Frank Sullivan and Jeremy C Wyatt. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2006.
ISBN: 0727918508. http://www.blackwellmedicine.com**

At 46 pages (and that includes the index and glossary!), the aim of this slim volume is to provide an introduction to health informatics to clinicians and students. Focused on how information technology can help clinicians in treating patients, *The ABC of Health Informatics* provides accessible, user-friendly information in a simple format.

The book follows a logical structure. The first chapter explores the nature of information with a very helpful checklist on what type of clinical information should be kept and how to use it. The second chapter then goes on to explore the electronic medical information now directly available to patients, for example through patient portals. Subsequent chapters chart the use of information by clinicians during consultation, through the management of clinical problems and during referral and follow-up. An excellent section on decision-support tools provides a quick overview of screening tools and clinical practice guidelines.

Concluding chapters look at learning in the workplace, using information to improve service delivery and the future of e-health. Services that help clinicians answer clinical questions at the workplace are mentioned such as the ATTRACT service and Clinical Evidence. Secondary use of data is outlined and highlights the need to present data in a meaningful way, so that it can contribute to the improvement of healthcare services.

Each chapter is short and illustrated with graphics and tables, making it an ideal book to dip into for 'bite-size information'. Patient case studies are drawn on to illustrate how clinical information is used, and to highlight ways in which information use can improve patient care and experience. References are given at the end of each chapter enabling the reader to continue learning about a topic if desired. A glossary of health informatics terms is also provided at the end of the book.

This is an ideal book to read if you are interested in gaining an introduction to how information technology can be used by the clinician to improve patient care. However, further reading will be needed if you want to acquire an in-depth knowledge of health informatics. I found this to be a very useful overview of the use of clinical information, which I would recommend to every healthcare library.

Karen Field, Learning Laboratory Manager, National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare, NHS Wales

Press Releases & News

OCLC acquires DiMeMa

OCLC Online Computer Library Center has acquired DiMeMa (Digital Media Management), an organization that developed and supports CONTENTdm, the leading digital management software for libraries distributed by OCLC.

CONTENTdm software offers tools to store, manage and deliver digital collections such as historical documents, photos, newspapers, audio and video on the Web. OCLC has been the exclusive distributor of CONTENTdm software to libraries, cultural heritage organizations and other nonprofit organizations since 2002.

CONTENTdm is a digital collection management solution that offers scalable tools for archiving collections of any size.Metadata for these digital collections can be added to WorldCat, the world's largest database of items held in libraries. Once in WorldCat, these collection items can be found by searching the database, or searching the Web. Items in WorldCat can now be discovered through WorldCat.org, a new search site that also offers a downloadable search box, and through popular search engines like Google and Yahoo! as part of the OCLC Open WorldCat program.

To see some digital collections managed with CONTENTdm software, visit: http://www.contentdm.com/customers/.

Taylor & Francis Group Announces Launch of Beta Version of New Online Platform – informaworld

9 August 2006 – Taylor & Francis Group (including Routledge, Taylor & Francis & Psychology announces the imminent launch of the beta version of its new online platform – informaworld. informaworld will host the company's eJournals, online journal archive collections, eBooks and eReference Works. For the first time Taylor & Francis' subscribers will be able to search across all T&F content, regardless of format, giving them increased access to a wealth of information to assist in their research.

informaworld will run in parallel with T&F's existing online platforms while customers are invited to try out the beta site and provide feedback. Access will be transferred to informaworld from Metapress once users are satisfied with the new site to ensure a smooth transition and minimal disruption to all.

informaworld offers many enhanced and new features for the benefit of both the Library and the Researcher including:

- Automatic enabling of access to subscriptions with e-mail confirmation

- COUNTER 2 compliant usage statistics

- Compatibility with all Link Resolvers

- Ability to incorporate your Library's logo

- Easy access by IP range, username and password, ATHENS (Shibboleth to follow) and proxy server

- Comprehensive reference and forward citation linking

- Compatibility with bibliographic software Improved alerts by search term, citation, subject and issue

- Related articles feature Intuitive search interface with comprehensive help notes

Trexy`s new Feature puts Searchers in the Driver`s Seat

San Jose, 9 August 2006. Trexy.com announced the launch of its new 'Add Engine' feature today enabling users to add search engines in real time, increasing the number of engines that search trails can be created on.

The new 'Add Engine' feature is a mechanism for extending the range of search engines that Trexy is able to recognise. This feature allows the user to individually suggest engines and add them to Trexy's database by the use of a simple, two-step online form.

Trexy's CEO and Inventor, Nigel Hamilton said: "Trexy currently works with over 3,000 online search engines, but these engines are just the tip of the iceberg. We wanted to give Trexy users the power to remember their searches on any engine, no matter how big or small."

Trexy is the first search engine to interoperate with thousands of other search engines to remember and share individual search trails. A search trail is the click path a searcher creates after entering a keyword or phrase into a search engine and browsing the Web for an answer.

"We've designed Trexy to complement a user's current searching habits. The more engines we can connect to, the more search trail information that can be created across a broader spectrum of online databases helping users to remember and find the most relevant results online," he said.

About Trexy.com

Trexy is a unique search technology that allows users to remember and share their searches and the Web pages they visit by creating search trails. Trexy.com is inspired by scientist and visionary, Dr. Vannevar Bush, who in the 1940's shared his vision of creating a collective memory by recording peoples' trails through information. Bush dreamt of a device called a "Memex" – an enhanced supplement to personal and community memory created by trailblazers: "those who find delight in the task of establishing useful trails through the enormous mass of the common record." Free to use, Trexy's toolbar called the TrailBar, works with Firefox and IE browsers.

Intute: the Best of the Web

London. 13th July 2006. Intute was launched today at an event held at the Wellcome Trust. Intute is the new face of the Resource Discovery Network (RDN), and is a free national service enabling lecturers, researchers and students to discover and access quality Internet resources. Intute exists to advance education and research by promoting the most intelligent use of the Internet.

Caroline Williams, Executive Director of Intute said, "The environment in which we operate is rapidly changing. Issues of trust and quality are real concerns for our users, and we have responded to this by creating a new service which takes the best of the RDN and streamlines it into one easy to use interface." She explains, "The Intute database makes it possible to discover the best and most relevant resources on the Internet. You can explore and discover trusted information, assured that it has been evaluated by subject specialists."

Intute is hosted by MIMAS at The University of Manchester, and is a collaboration between a whole host of partners and contributors. At the heart of the organisation is a consortium of seven universities. Intute is funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), with support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Intute is freely available at http://www.intute.ac.uk

SLA Europe Information Professional 2006

The Board of SLA Europe is delighted to announce that the winner of the 2006 SLA Europe Information Professional Award (SLA Europe IP) is Marie-Madeleine Salmon, Head of Information Center, Publicis, France. The SLA Europe IP Award is now in its 13th year. It recognises individuals working in Europe who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the information profession. Past winners include Steve Borley, Royal Bank of Scotland (UK), Margareta Nelke of Tetra Pak (Sweden) and Will Hann, founder of FreePint (UK).

Marie-Madeleine Salmon receives the Award for her promotion of the use of marketing techniques by information professionals, in particular to communicate the value of information departments in their organisations. Announcing the winner of the Award, SLA

Europe President Gillian Voisey said, "Marie-Madeleine is a well-known figure in the information industry in France and with this Award we recognise the contribution that she has made to the information professional community".

UnityUK membership tops 100

In excess of 100 library authorities have already signed up to become members of UnityUK: the next generation resource sharing and interlibrary loan service from The Combined Regions (TCR). UnityUK is a part-financed project by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund delivered through the South Yorkshire Objective 1 Programme. In the four months since the launch, 90% of members have been trained, and four regional user groups have been scheduled. More than 50% of subscribers have already used the service to place a request.

County Councils, Metropolitan Boroughs and Unitary authorities are all represented among the UnityUK membership list and library authorities large and small have all signed up for the new TCR service. The geographic spread of UnityUK users is impressive and the service is already being used by libraries across England, Scotland and Wales.

As part of the ongoing development of the service, from mid July 2006 UnityUK subscribers will be able to access the former UnityWeb catalogue, complete with 40 million holdings, and use the information for searching and placing requests.

UnityUK will, for the first time, deliver a national network for resource sharing for the UK as it brings together the union catalogues of The Combined Regions and LinkUK and one integrated service is expected in mid 2007. The new service uses the latest resource sharing technology from world leaders OCLC PICA who also host and manage the new service.

The 78 LinkUK libraries also use OCLC PICA software to share resources and the integration project between UnityUK and the LinkUK libraries is due to start during the summer 2006. Early adopters among the LinkUK libraries will use both services as part the integration project to ensure that the UnityUK service is developed in line with the LinkUK libraries requirements.

More than 175 library authorities across the UK use OCLC PICA software to share resources and manage requesting.

http://www.unity-uk.com