

2008

A Look at The Informed Librarian Online

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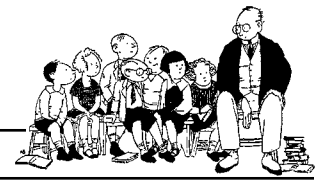
Robbins, Elaine (2008) "A Look at The Informed Librarian Online," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 20: Iss. 2, Article 26.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2753>

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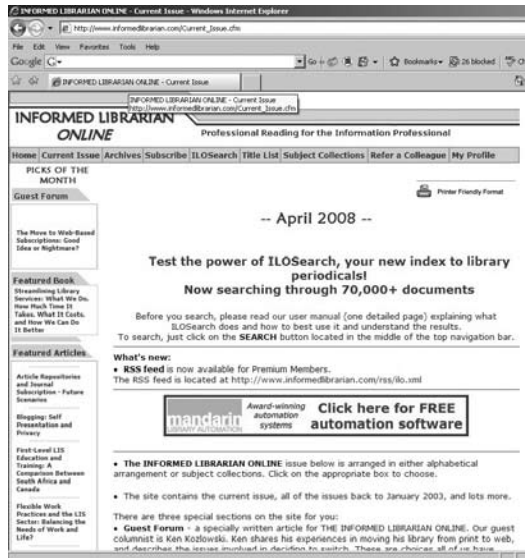
by Elaine Robbins (College of Charleston) <robbinse@cofc.edu>



I had the opportunity to look at this unique resource recently and wanted to let you know about it. Launched in 2003, **The Informed Librarian Online** <http://www.informedlibrarian.com/> is an “awareness service” for librarians and other information professionals that allows one to access their professional reading from his or her desktop via the online issue. In essence, it saves time by searching over 300 library and information science journals, newspapers, magazines, and electronic publications and selecting articles on

through the Website is equally as navigable and presents a consistent look and feel throughout the Webpages. In the March 2008 version for premium members, there are links to 12 full-text Featured Articles (such as **John Cullen’s** “Professionalizing knowledge sharing and communications: Changing roles for a changing profession” appearing in the March 2008 issue of *Business and Information Review*) as well as other articles and reports of interest on topics as varied as job satisfaction and e-journal archiving. The Featured Book of the April 2008 issue is **Richard M. Dougherty’s** *Streamlining Library Services: What we do, how much time it takes, what it costs, and how we can do it better?* (<http://www.informedlibrarian.com/featuredBook.cfm?FILE=fbk0804.cfm>); links to this and other Featured Books include information on ordering and, often, as is the case with the April book, discounts for subscribers. Alternatively, the free membership

includes a monthly email notification of new online issue availability in addition to limited access to the current issue with only selected hyperlinked items such as the Featured Book and Guest Forum. I was given entrance to the site as a premium member and received the full benefits of membership; perhaps free members may identify Featured Articles that interest them in the current issue, and, if their institution subscribes to that journal, he or she could access them. Otherwise, free membership would seemingly lead to a premium membership subscription as it entices the user to discover what they are missing!



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The Informed Librarian Online <http://www.informedlibrarian.com/> is provided by **Infosources Publishing** <http://www.infosourcespub.com/> located in Teaneck, New Jersey which publishes basic reference sources for legal researchers and information professionals. Since 1981, they have been publishing popular annual directories such as *The Internet Guide for the Legal Researcher*.

From topics such as the issues facing academic libraries to the usability of newspapers’ Websites, **The Informed Librarian Online** attempts to present a well-rounded selection of articles from which to choose, some issues certainly will be more relevant to one user than another, but unlimited access to the archives and searchability by subject area is helpful.

Elaine Robbins is a Reference Librarian and Interlibrary Loan Librarian at the College of Charleston’s Adlestone Library in Charleston, SC. She received a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina in 2007. She also has experience working in the Special Collections and Digital Collections Departments at Adlestone Library.
A detailed review will be published in an upcoming issue of *The Charleston Advisor*.
<<http://www.against-the-grain.com>>