WEBWORTHY

Pamela M. Rose

University at Buffalo, pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3196

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
time: participants take paid leave to attend classes in appropriate schools or colleges and become certified with diplomas or degrees; (2) formal education with half release time: participants are fully paid but work part-time to receive formal training from programs of adult education; formal testing after self-teaching and distance learning; (3) seminars, classes, panels, lectures, etc.; and (4) "apprenticeship," where the trained train the untrained. The forms of training may vary, but they all aim at enhancing the overall quality of librarians with a view to promoting and supporting the efforts to modernize Chinese academic libraries.

Thirdly, training must be institutionalized. In regard to the specific conditions of a particular library, a standardized continuing education program must be established, aiming at life-long learning. Training should be conducted step by step in a well-planned manner and must accommodate diversified needs under different circumstances.

Lastly, training itself must be innovative and flexible. While training the majority of the supporting staff can be on a learning-by-doing basis, it can also be integrated into the training of professional librarians for complex skills. In the process, supporting staff can learn complex skills themselves and librarians with the skills can in turn become their trainers, tutoring them in classes, seminars, panels, and research activities.

In addition to training librarians and staff on their jobs, keeping more college graduates of library and/or information science from leaving libraries for more lucrative careers is another way to improve the quality of Chinese academic library personnel. In addition, the tens of thousands of expatriate library professionals are yet another pool of potential contributors to the modernization of Chinese academic libraries.

In conclusion, building up a sizable contingent of first class library professionals with rationalized skill levels equal to the most formidable challenges will provide the ultimate guarantee that Chinese academic libraries will keep abreast with the rest of the world in embracing the Age of Knowledge. Of course, things cannot be done overnight, particularly considering the fact that China is experiencing the unique historical stages of industrialization, information age and knowledge society all at the same time. It presents difficulties as well as opportunities. Inaction and delay will certainly cause Chinese librarians to miss out on the opportunities, while swift and yet well-planned actions will maximize their chances. Act with no delay!

WEBWORTHY

Column Editor: Pamela M. Rose, M.L.S. (Web Services & Library Promotion Coordinator, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo; Phone: 716-829-2408 x129; Fax: 716-829-2211) <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu> wingsx.buffalo.edu/~pmrose

Archaeology

The Polynesians of Taumako in the Solomon Islands are reviving their ancestral voyaging tradition by teaching their youth the almost forgotten skills of building and sailing voyaging canoes. The process is documented on video on The Archaeology Channel, maintained by the non-profit Archaeological Legacy Institute (ALI). With goals of increasing public awareness and support for projects often poorly documented and inaccessible, and providing indigenous peoples a voice in research that affects them directly, ALI offers over 31 video clips of archaeological efforts from The Parthenon to The Popham Colony which existed briefly from 1607-1608 in Maine. Work is supported by membership, and the site also offers Web links, teacher resources, opportunities to get individual field projects documented on video for a reduced rate, archaeological field school cosponsored by the University of Oregon, and the latest news from the field. — http://www.archaeologychannel.org/

Endangered Species

The baïji, aka Yangtze River dolphin, is the rarest of the 31 listed on the "World’s Rarest Mammals" section of Animal Info - Information on Rare, Threatened and Endangered Mammals, a site maintained by Maryland water-quality specialist Paul Massicot. Presented in a simple, straightforward, sans graphics format, users can browse alphabetically by common and scientific name, by species group, or by country. Each informational listing offers a Profile, Tidbits, Status and Trends (IUCN Categories, Population Estimates, Countries Where Currently Found, History of Distribution, Threats/Reasons for Decline), Data on Biology and Ecology (Weight, Habitat, Age to Maturity, Gestation Period, Birth Season, Birth Rate, Early Development, Maximum Age, Diet, Behavior, Social Organization, Minimum Viable Population, Genetics), and References. All information is beautifully hyperlinked wherever possible to other sources of information, and the Animal Organizations, Links, and Publications section continued on page 83

References

Webworthy
from page 84

offers another wealth of resources to specific species oriented organizations, mailing lists, and relevant publications. — http://www.animalinfo.org/.

Entomology

Ants are among the most social of the insects, and with over 11,000 ant species now known worldwide, it is no surprise that the total biomass of ants alone outweighs that of humans! Anthbase, maintained by the American Museum of Natural History in collaboration with Ohio State University, is the pilot site of the Social Insects World Wide Web (SIWeb) (sister sites for social wasps, bees and termites are being planned). The site includes access to a variety of databases including the Hymenoptera Name Server, Hymenoptera On-Line Database: Ants, Ground Living Ants Database, Distribution Database, and the IUCN Red List of Ants considered most vulnerable. There is also an image archive of over 800 ant species, and a tongue-in-cheek slide show that you must not miss (one of the slides notes say it can no longer be shown as one of the ants was naked). Visitors can also learn about the biology of ants, see their habitats and collecting sites, and catch up on the latest news and research. [ENN Worldwide News for Friday, March 08, 2002] — http://research.amnh.org/entomology/social_insects/.

Law and the Internet

“Do you know your online rights? Have you received a letter asking you to remove information from a Web site or stop engaging in an activity? Are you concerned about liability for information that someone else posted to your online forum?” These opening questions on the Chilling Effects Clearinghouse Website seek to help users understand the protections that intellectual property laws and the First Amendment give to online activities. Born of a unique collaboration among law school clinics and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the site offers and solicits additions to a searchable database of “cease and desist” notices as well as information on copyright and fair use; “fan fiction” (authors writing stories featuring characters from other copyrighted works); anonymity, hyperlink protocol, protest, parody and criticism sites; and trademarks. (Edgeway, February 25, 2002) — http://www.chillingeffects.org/.

Science

Remember “On Top of spaghetti, all covered with cheese” written and recorded by Tom Glazer? A lyric is worth a 1000 inspirations, and at Science Songs, there are more than 100 tracks organized in major categories of Songs about Space, Energy & Motion, Experiments, and Nature, many recorded by Tom. Lalala along with the Eohippus (“dawn horse of course”) song, fly with the Stratus and Cumulus lyrics, or sing along with Zoom a Little Zoom or Beep, Beep. The original dusty albums were exhumed from the basement of Jef Poskanzer’s parents’ basement and converted into .mp3 files (note they load and play rather slowly with Windows Media Player). The songs may seem corny, but will definitely appeal to K-12 science educators. As an added bonus, the site links to other music resources including Dr. Chordate (“science meets music for education fun”), and to Scoutsongs.com which includes “On Top of Spaghetti” lyrics and music. — http://www.acme.com/jeff/science_songs/.

Reference

One of the most widely used undergraduate textbooks in molecular and cell biology, Molecular Biology of the Cell by Bruce Alberts et al., was the first title made available on the National Center for Biotechnology Information Website as part of their Entrez retrieval system for searching linked databases. The databases include: PubMed for biomedical literature; GenBank’s Nucleotide sequence database; Protein sequence database; Structure: three-dimensional macromolecular structures; Genome: complete genome assemblies; PopSet: population study data sets; OMIM: Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man; Taxonomy: organisms in GenBank; Books: online books (full text and chapters); ProbeSet: Gene Expression Omi- bus (GEO); and 3D Domains: domains from Entrez Structure. The Books section currently includes 6 full text titles in cell and molecular biology and genetics and one chapter. Searchable by key concept (or one can browse, although this is still a bit clumsy), the contents are also linked to PubMed citations. — http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Entrez/.


Back Talk
from page 86

filled ball under the water in a swimming pool. Once you release the ball it “surfaces.” This is what we need to figure out how to do with our library resources. We have to figure out how to make them surface/visible to our Web intensive learners. I have resolved to make sure that the users of Blackboard at my university know how to link to our library’s digital and printed resources and I am going to integrate enough super Web resources in our OPAC to make it a good first place for all of our students to go when looking for information.

Libraries have always been valued because of our collecting, organizing, and helping activities. I am confident we will continue to be valued but we have to be willing to change what we collect, organize, and for what we provide knowledgeable help.

ADVERTISERS’ INDEX

| 55 | ABC ClO | 10 | THE CHARLESTON REPORT |
| 27 | ACADEMIC PRESS | 33 | EASTERN BOOK COMPANY |
| 44, 45 | ACS | 31 | EBSCO INFORMATION SERV. |
| 2 | ALFRED JAEBER | 25 | ELSEVIER SCIENCE |
| 63 | AM. INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS | 41 | ELSEVIER SCIENCE |
| 17 | AM. SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS | 29 | EMORY PRATT |
| 69 | ASME INTERNATIONAL | 43 | ERASMUS |
| 5 | ATG | 15 | IEEE |
| 18 | AUX AMATEURS DE LIVRES | 19 | IEE/INSPEC |
| 14 | BACH SUBSCRIPTIONS, INC. | 71 | IESNA |
| 4 | BLACKWELL’S BOOK SERVICES | 11 | INGENITA |
| 37 | BOOK HOUSE | 47 | KATINA FOR ALA PRESIDENT |
| 81 | BROOKHAUS/GERMAN BOOKS | 87 | KLUGER ACADEMIC |
| 75 | CASALINI LIBRI | 77 | MAJORS |
| 73 | THE CHARLESTON ADVISOR | 53 | MCFAIRLAND |

58 MIDWEST LIBRARY SERVICE
7 PHOQUEST
65 RITENHOUSE
61 SIAM
13 SPRINGER-VERLAG
79 SPRINGER PUBLISHING
9 SWETS BLACKWELL
35 TAYLOR & FRANCIS
21, 23 THEME
51 WILEY
59 WILEY
67 WILEY
39 WILEY INTERSCIENCE
49 YBP

Ad Manager: Edna Laughrey  Internet: e.laughrey@aol.com
phone: 734-429-1029; fax: 734-429-1711