Bet You Missed It-Killer Diseases and the Smithsonian

Pamela M. Rose

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Recommended Citation
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3351
they are sure of the books correctness."

Finally, and as I mentioned in passing before, the Internet and on-line sites like Alibris, will allow far greater knowledge of and markets for all books, be they rare, out-of-print or just hard to find. My colleague at Alibris, Steve Sutton, brought to my attention an article in the October, 2000 issue of "Against the Grain" in which the staff of YBP listed the 50 bestselling books in Environmental Technology for the years 1999-2000. Steve ran these fifty titles against our database and found 28% of the books available. So, while it is true that more books are "hard to find" in the ensuing 30 years as publishers shorten print runs and decide not to bring titles back into print, it is also true that because of sites like our own, books which are reported as OP, OS and OSI are now far easier to buy than they would have been 30 years ago.

This fact, indeed, has not been lost on either acquisitions librarians or new book vendors, many of whom now regularly use our site to help fill the orders which just a few years ago would have been left unfilled. As Richard Weatherford, Alibris founder has said, ours is an entirely new way to find what you need—online, easy, reliable service through the best single source in the world today."

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**Endnotes**

4. Ibsen, _p. 157_.
8. Robin H. Smiley, "The Internet Follies Hit the Road," _Firsts_, 9, no. 10, (October 1999), p. 34.

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**Bet You Missed It**

**Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths**

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**READY REFERENCES**

by Pamela M. Rose (Univ. at Buffalo, State Univ. of NY)

Reference Manager 9.5 version is a substantial update to the previous version 9, providing the ability to search, import and edit citations from the Web while simultaneously working on a manuscript. It also offers "pay-per-view" access to Search ISI, a spell checker and a customizable dictionary.


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**FRAUGHT WITH FRAUD**

by Pamela M. Rose (Univ. at Buffalo, State Univ. of NY)

The prevalence of research misconduct is difficult to ascertain, but researcher Charles Turner uncovered a high incidence in his research study on the sexual behavior of 1800 Baltimore residents. A data collection manager's alert uncovered an "epidemic of falsification" that took months to weed out. Other studies estimate 1 fraud per 100,000 scientists per year. Some institutions are attempting to remedy the problem with special education programs.


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**COVETOUS COMPETITION**

by Pamela M. Rose (Univ. at Buffalo, State Univ. of NY)

Mysterious motives drove someone to steal nine hard drives containing epidemiological data on the incidence of AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other killer diseases gathered by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The MO points to an inside job, with speculation that “jealous” competitors may be responsible.


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**DATA DELUGE**

by Sandra Beehler (Old Dominion University)

The most interesting bit of this article is the opening quote, stating “more data will be created in the next three years...than in the whole of human history.” Such a prediction heralds the ongoing battle to provide cheap, accurate, quickly retrievable data storage. At the forefront of the struggle are two companies—EMC and Network Appliance (NetApp)—which embrace two opposing technologies: EMC’s stand alone units linked by storage-area networks (SANs) and NetApp’s employing network-attached storage (NAS). Recently the rivalry heated up when EMC launched its own NAS server, meant to compete directly with NetApp. Meanwhile, Internet companies are demanding more and more storage as their databases grow.

See — “Store Wars”, *The Economist*, December 9, 2000, p. 69.

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**PALM OR PC?**

by Sandra Beehler (Old Dominion University)

With sales in the U.S. dropping dramatically in the last quarter of 2000, once again the death of the PC is being predicted. Reasons for the drop include the general slowdown in the economy, market saturation, and the increase in sales of other tech gadgets, especially handheld computers. However, the PC, with its versatility and power, is still the best means of keeping up with innovation on the Internet.


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**WORKING EXHIBITIONS**

by Sandra Beehler (Old Dominion University)

Museums worldwide are overflowing with objects that never reach the public eye. Storing and maintaining this abundance taxes the resources of many institutions. Both the Smithsonian and Britain’s Natural History Museum (NHM) are trying innovative ways to serve the needs of both public display and preservation for research. The Smithsonian is creating a computerized catalog which features digital images of specimens. The NHM is developing a working laboratory which will also be a public exhibit—allowing visitors to observe the work of researchers on the museum’s collection.