Rumors

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To E- or Not to E-:
Print vs. Electronic Ready Reference Tools

by Frances C. Wilkinson (The University of New Mexico; Phone: 505-277-4241; Fax 505-277-7288) <fwilkins@UNM.edu> and Linda Lewis (The University of New Mexico; Phone: 505-277-7826; Fax 505-277-4446) <llewis@UNM.edu>

The past several keynote columns for the reference issue of Against the Grain have dealt with issues such as the proliferation of reference materials, the increasing array of format choices, the impact of the Web on reference publishing, and the growth of products that combine traditional indexing and full-text features. Looking back over those columns, it is evident that the growth of electronic reference tools in the past few years has surpassed almost all predictions. As recently as five years ago, few publishers or librarians would have predicted that major print dictionaries or encyclopedias would be supplanted by entirely electronic versions. Now many publishers are considering doing just that!

This column will explore attitudes of both librarians and end-users toward electronic ready reference tools, specifically, electronic dictionaries and encyclopedias. To address these issues the authors conducted an interview-style “joint discussion” among four librarians from three institutions. The librarians are from institutions ranging from traditional brick and mortar schools (Guilford College and the University of New Mexico) to an entirely virtual school (Western Governors University).

Librarians were asked to respond to questions on whether or not they provide access to free and/or subscribed to electronic reference tools, if they keep usage statistics on these tools, if end-users more often access them remotely or in the library, their views on questionable Internet resources, if there is a need for print tools if electronic ones are available, and what they feel are the main concerns of end-users. They polled a group of their end-users asking them whether or not they have used electronic ready reference resources, if they prefer the print or electronic version of them, if they see a need for print reference tools if electronic versions are available, how they decide which electronic tools to use, and if they usually access them remotely or in the library. Finally, the librarians reacted to the end-users’ responses.

The librarians and their institutions…

Ruth Richardson Scales is the Selector for Art, English, Philosophy, and Theatre Studies, at the Hege Library at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC.

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The Bam-zowie Katie Ellis <k.d.ellis@alam.wellesley.edu>, until recently of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, is happy to be back home in New Hampshire.

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Katie, her husband Ti, and baby daughter Gwyneth are living in the seacoast area, in Dover. Katie is consulting with a New Hampshire business that many ATG readers will have heard of, YBP, on YBP's GOBI Edition 2 project. She helped to design the screens that YBP showed at ALA in San Francisco, and is now at work on redesigning GOBI's Help function. Katie and family would love to hear from friends and colleagues (336 Lilac Lane, Dover, NH 03820, 603-749-9610). Y’all will remember Katie as Judy Webster’s assistant acquisitions librarian!

And another YBP rumor. The cool-as-a-cucumber Mark Kendall <mkendall@ybp.com> has recently left ingenta and returned to YBP Library Services as National Sales Director. Mark says it's great to be back working among many of his friends and working much closer to his home in Concord. We'll all look forward to seeing Mark in Charleston in November at the Charleston Conference!

The Law Firm of Cauley Geller Bowman & Coates, LLP has announced the filing of a class action in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on behalf of purchasers of RoweCom, Inc. (Nasdaq: ROVE) ("RoweCom" or the "Company") securities during the period between March 9, 1999 and December 6, 2000, inclusive (the "Class Period"). A copy of the complaint filed in this action is available from the Court, or can be viewed on the firm's Website at http://www.classlawyer.com/pr/rowecom.pdf. The complaint charges defendants FleetBoston Robertson Stephens, Inc. and Salomon Smith Barney Inc. with violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder. On or about March 9, 1999, RoweCom commenced an initial public offering of 3.1 million of its shares of common stock at an offering price of $16 per share (the "RoweCom IPO"). In connection therewith, RoweCom filed a registration statement, which incorporated a prospectus (the "Prospectus"), with the SEC. The complaint further alleges that the Prospectus was materially false and misleading because it failed to disclose, among other things, that (i) defendants had solicited and received excessive and undisclosed commissions from certain investors in exchange for which defendants allocated to those investors material portions of the restricted number of RoweCom shares issued in connection with the RoweCom IPO; and (ii) defendants had entered into agreements with customers whereby defendants agreed to allocate RoweCom shares to those customers in the RoweCom IPO in exchange for which the customers agreed to purchase additional RoweCom shares in the aftermarket at pre-determined prices. As alleged in the complaint, the SEC is investigating underwriting practices in connection with several other initial public offerings. For further information, visit www.classlawyer.com.

Well, we told you about this Rumor in the last issue. It's official! Swets Blackwell has announced an agreement to acquire Martinus Nijhoff International, the Dutch subscription agent and book dealer, with immediate effect. All activities currently handled from Nijhoff's head office in Goerzestr, the Netherlands, will continue until the April 2002 integration of their subscription data into Swets Blackwell's system. Swets Blackwell services Dutch libraries and information centers from their office in Lisse, the Netherlands. Business currently serviced from Nijhoff's local offices in the US, Brazil, Thailand, Bulgaria and Russia will be gradually integrated into the Swets Blackwell system over the next eight months. Geert Visscher, CEO of Swets Blackwell, commented: "We are pleased that Nijhoff, with whom we have a shared history and similar culture, will become part of Swets Blackwell. The addition of their prestigious clients will complement and solidify our existing customer base." He added: "We look forward to welcoming to our Lisse office many members of the Nijhoff staff as new Swets Blackwell colleagues. Their knowledge and expertise will make an extremely valuable contribution to our organization." Bas Guitj, Managing Director of Martinus Nijhoff International, added: "Swets Blackwell is highly regarded in the industry, and their reputation is well-deserved. We are confident that they will ensure our customers will continue to receive the high quality service we prided ourselves on at Nijhoff."

Martinus Nijhoff was founded in The Hague in 1853. From its beginnings as a small shop specializing in rare books, Nijhoff's activities were broadened in the ensuing years to include the servicing of library markets around the world. More information can be found at www.nijhoff.nl. Swets Blackwell is one of the world's largest providers of subscription and information management solutions. They have an annual turnover in excess of US$1 billion and maintain 23 offices in 19 countries across six continents. Swets Blackwell works in partnership with 6,000 major publishers and suppliers of professional information, and offers complete solutions for the needs of their 150,000 corporate, academic, research & development, medical, and government library and information center clients worldwide. Additional information can be found by visiting www.swetsblackwell.com. I talked to Ineke Middeldorp Crispin the other day about this and she sounds upbeat and happy. But, still, it's the end of an era ...

I'm sure you have all heard about and been reading about the recent Supreme Court ruling over freelancers' rights to control distribution of electronic versions of their works (Tasini versus New York Times). Read more about it in this issue, cases of note, p. 66. The Web has been full of all kinds of reports, including this one from NewsScan Daily (June 29, 2001), "Librarians left to clean up electronic databases," which reports that "publishers are deleting tens of thousands of freelance articles spanning decades." (Wired.com, 29 Jun 2001) http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,44905,00.html.

CAROL (the new online clearinghouse for research in Acquisitions and Collection Development) will be officially announced at the November Charleston Conference! In the meantime, ask the incredible Jack Montgomery <jack.montgomery@wku.edu> all about it!

Ingenta has appointed the energetic Lisa Wilson-Wirth as Vice President of Global Marketing. Ms. Wilson-Wirth joins Ingenta with more than ten years of experience in marketing, communications, and journalism. Most recently, she served as Director of Customer Relationship Marketing for Intranets.com www.ingenta.com.

Bill Breichner is the new Journals Manager at Johns Hopkins University Press. Bill was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, and attended Baltimore's Loyola College, where he studied English and Writing. Educated during the Watergate era, his plan was to break into the newspaper business. After doing some freelance work, he accepted a position at the University Park Press in Baltimore and has been working in the printing and publishing industries ever since. Bill enjoys reading, the outdoors, and spending time with his wife and five children!

Information Science Abstracts (ISA) has been reloaded on both the Dialog and SilverPlatter information services databases. The new database includes enhancements, such as coverage of e-journals like D-Lib and First Monday, a focusing of journal coverage directly on information science, new data fields such as author email addresses. See the March issue of The Charleston Advisor for a comparative review of information science databases.

Brodart Automation has acquired the Media Minder® product line from long-standing business partner, CRS, Inc.

Majors Scientific Books has agreed to supply books through EBSCO Book Services. These titles will also be available through EBSCO Corporate Services.

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The CHARLESTON REPORT

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Recently heard from Peter Suber <peters@earlham.edu> who has begun writing a newsletter on the migration of print scholarship to the Internet. He's new and wants to get this information out to interested colleagues. Where better to tell 'ya all about it but ATG Rumors! For more details, including subscription information and access to back issues, visit the Website at http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/index.htm. Recently, Peter alerted readers to Carla Stoffle's paper on SPARC in the April 2001 issue of ATG. See v. 13#2, p. 34.

Guess what happened on July 28th? Phil Dankert's daughter got married. Now, Phil <prd2@cornell.edu> says, all his kids are gone from home. Boy, does that make for a change in lifestyle. Ain't that the truth!

And I was talking to Pam Rose <pamrose@acsu.buffalo.edu> about the "empty nest" syndrome. She and her husband, Joel, went through it, and Pam says that the only answer is to fill the void with animals! So, if you need animal advice, Pam is the one to ask!

Speaking of which, Pam and Joel are taking their dog, Nushi, on an auto trip to Oak Ridge, TN where Joel will attend his 40th high school reunion. Along the way (Columbus, OH; Ashland, KY; Knoxville) they'll visit friends met over an Internet discussion list for livestock guardian dogs (LGDs). All of these people have working farms with active guarding dogs, that is, they are working animals not house companions. LGD's have guarded sheep and other livestock in the mountains all over Europe for thousands and thousands of years and so have evolved more naturally than most of the breeds we see in the US. Y'all can see a pic and read more about Nushi at wings.buffalo.edu/~pamrose/nushi.html. Plus, now y'all will all know what LGD's are. Isn't ATG just grand?!

Just recently got this news off the SILS Alumni list <sil-alumni@listserv.unc.edu> at UNC-Chapel Hill, my alma mater! Now known as the School of Information and Library Science, the School of Library Science (as it was known back in the fall of 1931) opened in Chapel Hill with a class of 37 students and five faculty members including Dr. Louis Round Wilson, the school's founder. Now the school has approximately 300 graduate students, 70 undergraduates, and 30 doctoral students and 21 full-time faculty members. Visit www.lib.unc.edu if you want more information.

And the awesome Joanne Gard Marshall, dean of the same School of Information and Library Science above, has been named a fellow of the Special Library Association (SLA). The honor recognizes leadership and outstanding contributions in the field of special librarianship and was formally presented at SLA's annual conference in San Antonio.

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The Alpine Public Library in Arizona received the Public Library Association's Excellence in Small and/or Rural Public Library Service Award at the President's Reception during ALA Annual in San Francisco. The Alpine Public Library is characterized as having a "down-home" ability to meet the needs of a diverse rural population. The library received a plaque as well as $1,000 donated by EBSCO Subscription Services.

Questia has launched its version 2.0 which includes a collection of more than 60,000 full-text titles, nearly double the size of its 1.0 version. Word is that Questia has conducted extensive market research among student subscribers and met with many professors and librarians. The company has used that feedback as well as the advice of its Corporate Advisory Council to improve upon the Questia service. The Council is composed of former first lady Barbara Bush; Dr. Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation; Dr. John Seely Brown, chief scientist of Xerox (NYSE: XRS); Dr. Sidney Verba, Harvard University library director; and Dr. Clifford Lynch, executive director of the Coalition for Networked Information. Troy Williams is CEO and founder of Questia Media, Inc. Look for ATG's interview with Troy Williams in v. 12#5, p. 50. The cost of accessing the entire Questia collection and utilizing the research tools remains at $19.95 a month, and $149.95 annually. Special promotional pricing is offered through partners including America Online (NYSE: AOL), Britannica.com, and The Princeton Review, Inc. (NASDAQ: REVU) Website, Review.com. <abrinberry@questia.com>.

The Gale Group, a business unit of the Thomson Learning division of The Thomson Corporation (TSE: TOC), has acquired European Research and Development Database (ERDD) from Elsevier Science. The database comprises the Directory of European Research and Development, a database of 10,000 European research centers, and Who's Who in European Research and Development, a biographical directory of approximately 13,000 researchers and scientists. The database will become part of K.G. Saur, a Munich-based operating unit of Gale Group. K.G. Saur became part of the Gale Group when it was acquired in late 2000. For more information about ERDD visit K.G. Saur at www.saur.de.


Euromonitor International has enhanced its Web-based Global Market Information Database (GMID) with the addition of the new Consumer Lifestyles module. This added component offers analyses of consumer preferences and key market drivers across 60 countries worldwide. euromonitorintl.com.

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
A recent article (8/14/01) from The Chronicle of Higher Education http://chronicle.com is entitled “Cal State System Throws Its Weight Around in Negotiating an E-Book Deal,” by Goldie Blumenstyk. This article discusses the awesome Evan Reader (remember when he spoke in Charleston three years ago?) and the California State University System which is using negotiation tactics for pricing and access to eBooks. Evan is quoted as saying that university systems and consortia of libraries aren’t exerting enough influence over the evolving eBook industry. “If publishers are convinced that there are other ways of making money besides the models now out there,” Reader says, “they’ll go for it.” http://chronicle.com/free/2001/08/2001081401It.htm.


Recently heard from the wonderful Eileen Lawrence (Alexander Street Press). Sadly, she won’t be in Charleston, though Stephen Rhind-Tutt is coming! Eileen, fancy this, is heading to Italy with her 26-year-old son instead!

Word is that there was a meeting at IFLA about archiving and libraries cooperatively archiving titles. Also Vicky Reich of HighWire has a project going called “LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe).” We hope to hear more information about these projects in Charleston November 1-3, 2001.

What did you do over the summer? I think we should hear from you with news of your vacations! <strauchk@earthlink.net> or just write one of our editors! Recently heard from Margaret Landesman <mlandesm@library.utah.edu> that she and her husband drove up to the Wind Rivers in Wyoming and then went to see the western museums and Cody and then up into Montana and Glacier! Then Margaret and her husband arrived back home to do some work on the house and to help her Dad move to Iowa. Whew! I just got tired reading this!

Tom Leonhardt (Director, Information Resource Center and University Librarian, International University, Bremen) <twl@iu-bremen.de> writes that his wife is visiting Oregon in October but he is staying in Germany. They are becoming grandparents again in October and also his parents need to move back to North Carolina to be near family. Meanwhile, Tom has been invited to speak at a librarian seminar in Zagreb, Croatia November 10 & 11.

Heard recently from John Long <johnlong@worldnet.att.net> who met with David Godine for a Publisher’s Profile for AFG! Hooray! Read this issue’s Publisher Profile of the University Press of New England, p. 74.

Well, it’s official. http://www.reedelsevier.com/. On July 5, 2001 Reed Elsevier announced that the acquisition of Harcourt General, Inc. was approved by the UK Department of Trade & Industry, and the extension of the Harcourt tender offer until 8:00 p.m. New York City time on Wednesday, July 11, 2001. Reed Elsevier plc announced that the Minister for Competition at the UK Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), Melanie Johnson MP, has approved its acquisition of Harcourt General, Inc. (NYSE: H). The Minister’s decision is based on the recommendations made by the UK Competition Commission in its report on the proposed acquisition, which is published. This decision marks the completion of the regulatory process in all relevant jurisdictions.

On the same subject, see Martin White’s International Dateline, this issue p. 87 for more information about the Reed Elsevier/Harcourt Merger.

The Gale Group has acquired Blackbirch Press, publishers of circulating nonfiction for the K-6 market. This is Gale’s second acquisition for this market in less than a year. (Greenhaven became part of the Gale Group last fall.)

Dr. A.W. Ferguson <ferguson@hkuc.edu.hk> — we know him as Tony—sends word that his new job is great and that it’s wonderful being a director. His wife, Cheryl, hasn’t come yet! As for Charleston—Tony says that he can’t come this year since he’s giving a paper on his dissertation topic in India about the same time. Tony, who admits that he has to get his priorities straight, says that he “will commit 10,000% for the next year”—that’s 2002! You heard it here!

NISO, the National Information Standards Organization, has welcomed a new member, netLibrary, to its voting roster. The addition of this organization complements and extends NISO’s ability to develop standards for the changing Internet environment. Justin Littman, Software Engineer, Research & Technology Strategy is netLibrary’s designated Voting Representative and Henry Vellandi, Chief Scientist will be the Alternate Representative. http://www.niso.org.

MCB University Press has changed its name officially to “Emerald” and has launched a brand new site, www.emerald-insight.com. As well, a three-year agreement with the Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR) has been signed, allowing all participating member libraries unlimited access to the Emerald database. Emerald is comprised of over 130 full text academic journals focused in the fields of business science, management, education, finance, engineering, and library & information sciences. BCR is a nonprofit, multisate library cooperative that has served the library community since its founding in 1935, providing cost-effective library and information services. Today BCR serves more than 589 voting-member libraries in 31 states and their services reach more than 3,000 libraries throughout the entire nation. Libraries who have chosen to participate in the consortial agreement include: the University of Washington; the University of Nevada at Reno; Gonzaga University; the University of Denver;
McGuire Acquisition Inc. to provide for a subsequent offering period. As of 5:00 PM, New York City time on Tuesday, August 21, 2001, approximately 4,406,028 shares of DRA’s common stock (or approximately 98% of the outstanding shares) had been tendered and not properly withdrawn. Accordingly, assuming no significant withdrawals, the 90% minimum condition is expected to be satisfied and the merger of McGuire Acquisition Inc. into DRA promptly after the expiration date of the offer should be consummated.

Data Research Associates, Inc. (DRA) (Nasdaq: DRAI) has announced that revenues for its third quarter of fiscal 2001, ended June 30, were $6.6 million, compared with $7.0 million for the third quarter of fiscal 2000. Earnings for the third quarter of fiscal 2001 were $131,000, or three cents per share, compared with $507,000, or 11 cents per share, for the same period of fiscal 2000. During the current quarter DRA incurred expenses of $185,000 related to its pending acquisition by SIRSI Holdings Corp.

The newest addition to Gale’s History Resource Center allows high school and undergraduate students to research modern world history and complete classroom assignments in a flexible and comprehensive online environment. The Modern World, the second module in the History Resource Center, draws on themes and trends from the current history curriculum and World History textbooks, and provides global coverage of the 20th century, starting with China’s Boxer Rebellion in 1900 and moving forward to present day. History Resource Center: The Modern World integrates 17 reference sources from Gale, Macmillan and Scribner’s (e.g., Macmillan’s Encyclopedia of the Holocaust and Scribner’s Encyclopedia of European Social History), along with full-length articles from over 100 academic journals. Over 1,500 primary source documents, including some native language documents with translations, from Primary Source Microfilm collections are included, with a high percentage that never have been available electronically in the United States before. Historical news sources, 500 maps, 1,000 images, statistical information, and links to the library’s OPAC are also a part of this comprehensive tool. To take a virtual tour of the product, visit http://www.galegroup.com/modernworld/.


The Library of Congress is purchasing the only known copy of the famous 1507 Waldseemüller World Map for $10 million. This is the map that was published just 15 years after Christopher Columbus sailed to the Caribbean Islands, and 10 years after John Cabot set foot on the North American mainland. Often referred to as “America’s birth certificate,” this map was the first to show the continents of North and South America, and the first to show the name “America” which was written across what is now Brazil. From that moment in history the theory of how the word “America” originated has been in dispute. Over time, all known copies of Waldseemüller’s 1507 World Map were destroyed or stolen. In 1901, a single copy of Waldseemüller’s 1507 World Map was discovered by Joseph Fisher, a Jesuit historian, in the library of Prince von Waldenburg in Wolfegg-Waldsee at the Castle of Wolfegg, in Wurttemberg, Germany. It was printed on 12 large sheets of fragile paper that had been carefully bound inside a book with other antique maps. This is why it is still in mint condition. This map is the only known print of the original 1,000 copies. The map will be on permanent display in the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building at a date to be announced.

You’ve probably already heard this, but it’s worth repeating. Twelve years after first being sued by Gordon and Breach Publishing (G&B), the American Institute of Physics (AIP) and the American Physical Society (APS) get to have the last word. The June issue of Physics Today Magazine carries an editorial ("Defending Freedom of Speech: What Have We Accomplished?"") written by AIP Executive Director Marc H. Brodsky and APS Treasurer and Publisher Thomas J. McElrath. The editorial covers the history of court battles in four countries about the right to publish journal pricing information.

Questia Media, Inc. and Palgrave Publishers Ltd., Macmillan’s global academic publishing division and part of the continued on page 16
more information or to search the complete catalogue of more than 10,000 titles.

And, this was out on Liblicense on the 26th of July as forwarded by Arnold Hirshon (Executive Director, Nelinet) <nhirshon@nelinet.net> from The Educations Marketer, Simba Information, Inc., June 18, 2001, v.32, no. 18 — Questia has signed up its first college client, Elmhurst College, a liberal arts college of about 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students in Elmhurst, IL. The college will pay subscription fees for about 300 students to use the online service, giving them access to more than 35,000 full-text books and journal articles. Subscribers pay $19.95 a month for access and can print or download material. Publishers receive a small fee every time a user views a page of one of their books. “We look at it as just another resource in the tool kit of what we can offer our students,” said Sandra Swords Steffen, the head librarian at Elmhurst’s A.C. Beuhler Library.

From the Information Technology section of the Chronicle of Higher Education (7/19/01), Blackboard, Inc., which makes course-management software used at many colleges, laid off 40 employees last week, in part to eliminate staff redundancies stemming from its acquisitions of other companies. http://chronicle.com/free/2001/07/2001071901.htm.

In July, the Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library signed a Library Management Contract with Library Systems & Services (LSSI) in Germantown, MD, becoming the first public library in Texas to outsource its day-to-day library management operations. This is the 43rd public library facility that LSSI has been contracted to manage in the United States. LSSI is a private company celebrating its 20th anniversary managing public, academic, corporate and special libraries. Lancaster Mayor, Joe Tillotson, said that LSSI was just the solution the city of 26,000 needed to manage and staff its newly completed 23,000 sq. ft., $4 million library. The new library has twenty-five public access computer terminals with high-speed Internet connection. It has a collection of nearly 60,000 books, audio books, video cassettes and periodicals. The five-year contract with LSSI, which also includes the remaining three months of Lancaster’s current fiscal year, includes a separate budget for further developing the collection in FY 2002. Founded by professional librarians in 1981, LSSI is now a major employer of librarians working in public, school, federal and corporate libraries around the country.

Adobe chairman and co-founder John Warnock has joined the board of directors of ebrary™ (www.ebrary.com). Warnock, who recently retired as Adobe’s CEO, will provide the company with strategic direction as it continues to grow its e-content business.

There’s more. ebrary™ has become a member of OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), a nonprofit membership organization serving 39,000 libraries in 76 countries and territories around the world. ebrary will add records of its documents to WorldCat, the OCLC Online Union Catalog.

NEAIS (the National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services) has named Dan Duncan as Interim Executive Director of the organization, following the resignation in June of former Executive Director, Richard T. Kaser. Duncan assumes his new role as of August 1, 2001. Duncan, a private consultant since January 2000, brings particular expertise to the NEAIS organization in the areas of intellectual property, privacy protection, government information policy, electronic commerce, and contract law. NEAIS membership includes more than 60 organizations from both the public and private sector who are content producers and aggregators. By facilitating retrieval of information in a variety of complex information settings, NEAIS member organizations serve highly specialized communities of users by enhancing access to and retrieval of high-value information and data across all fields of research and scholarship. For further information, please contact Jill O’Neill <ojilloneill@nfas.org>.

Thanks to Ramune Kubilius (see below) for pointing this out. If you haven’t seen the 46th edition of The Bowker Annual, the Special Report is on — guess what — “A Year of Growing Pains for the Electronic Publishing Movement.” Its author is Thomas A. Peters, Director, Center for Library Initiatives, Committee on Institutional Cooperation. The article reviews mostly 2000 as “the year in which critical mass was reached and many developments occurred on numerous fronts” especially “the eBook movement.”

This is also from Ramune Kubilius (Collection Development/Special Projects Librarian, Northwestern University Health Sciences Library) <rkubilius@northwestern.edu> — The World Health Organization and the world’s six biggest medical journal publishers have announced a new initiative that will enable close to 100 developing countries to gain access to vital scientific information that they otherwise could not afford. The arrangement agreed to by the six publishers would allow almost 1,000 of the world’s leading medical and scientific journals to become available through the Internet to medical schools and research institutions in developing countries.

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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
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ing countries for free or at deeply-reduced rates. Scheduled to start in January 2002, the initiative is expected to last for at least three years while being monitored for progress. It will benefit all bona fide academic and research institutions, which depend on timely access to biomedical journals. Between now and the end of this year, these institutions will be identified individually and the process put in place so that they can receive and use access authentication. All parties—the publishers and the participating institutions will learn from this experience. Decisions about how to proceed after the initiative will grow from the precedents it sets, and will be informed by the working relationships that have developed among the partners. Working with the British Medical Journal and the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation network, WHO approached the six biggest medical journal publishers, Blackwell, Elsevier Science, the Harcourt Worldwide STM Group, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (Wolters Kluwer), Springer Verlag and John Wiley, with the aim of bringing them together with the countries concerned to seek a more equitable pricing structure for online access to their international biomedical journals. The outcome is a tiered-pricing model developed by the publishers that will make nearly 1,000 of the 1,240 top international biomedical journals available to institutions in the 100 poorest countries free of charge or at deeply-reduced rates. For details, visit http://hi-europe.co.uk/ files/2001/9983.htm.

And a related initiative. The Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar in the West African nation of Senegal has signed the first licensing agreement delivered through the IDEAL Charter for Low-Income Coun-
tries, Harcourt’s philanthropic initiative making electronic journals affordable to very poor nations. Through this license, universities, research centers, and teaching hospitals across Senegal may access the over 300 journals in science, technology and medicine on IDEAL—at http://www.idealibrary.com. Along with the Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis in Senegal is initially participating in the first charter license. As connectivity becomes more widespread in Senegal, a nation of about 10 million, more institutions will take advantage of this licensing agreement. The IDEAL charter offers nationwide licenses, meaning that once a license is purchased in a country, any technologically ready and eligible institution there may access IDEAL journals without paying any additional licensing fee. Further details about the charter initiative appear at http://www.academicpress.com/www/ideal/ charter.htm. The Université Cheikh Anta Diop is funding Senegal’s IDEAL charter license out of the acquisitions budget of the university’s library, directed by Dr. Henri Sene. Scientific associations currently endorsing the IDEAL charter include IASTMP (International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers), INASP (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications), and TWAS (Third World Academy of Sciences). Researchers in poor nations are voicing support for publisher-led initiatives such as the charter.

Heard from the wonderful Bob Molyneux <drdata@molyneux.com> who tells me first, that he is an assistant professor at USC, Second, Table 1 on page 38 of the June issue had some missing numbers: All are FTE faculty.

Mean, 1979-80: 11.8; Mean, 1998-99: 14.3; Median, 1979-80: 10.7; Median, 1998-99: 13.3. Also, the declines are increases instead so the % in the right hand column should be:
Means, 1979-80 to 1998-99: 21%; Median, 1979-80 to 1998-99: 24%. We have reprinted this table in this issue of ATG see p. 36 and Bob is also going to load the tables up on his Website! There won’t be tables in the next few columns. See The Devil’s Advocate, this issue, p. 36.

A recent note in the Bookscaler: A group of UK and US scientists has vowed to boycott Reed and Harcourt General STM journals from September, following the merger of the two groups. The academics are angry that research papers supplied for free to corporate publishers are sold back to the scientific and library communities at a huge profit. In an open letter, written by the Public Library of Science (PLS) pressure group, 25,000 academics worldwide pledged not to write for, edit, review or subscribe to any journal that would not make all material available for free after six months.

Have you read Clifford Lynch’s paper “The Battle to define the future of the book in the digital world” which was published on First Monday’s Website http://www.firstmonday.dk/issues/issue6_6/lynn/index.html. If not, you need to.

And, did you read the Op Eds in the past two Charleston Advisors? http://www.charlestonco.com. The first is by Chuck Hamaker <cahamake@email.uncc.edu> and the second is by Pat Schroeder, president and CEO of the Association of American Publishers. Both articles discuss the fact that the AAP and librarians seem to be at loggerheads in terms of access to information. And, here’s yet another article in the MIT Technology Review, June, 2001, “Owning the Future: Looting the Library,” by Seth Shulman http://www.technologyreview.com/magazine/jun01/shulman.asp.

Here recently from Mary-the-fantastic-fit-as-a-fiddle-Fugle <mfugle@lw.com> who was reading Against the Grain and told me about a great book, Mary Gordon’s Spending that she’s been reading. Have you read it? What all have you been reading. Why not share it with other ATG readers here in the Rumors column? <strauchc@earthlink.net>

Tsinghua University in the People’s Republic of China has purchased the ISI Web of Knowledge suite of Web products, including the ISI Web of Science, ISI Journal Citation Reports on the Web, ISI Chemistry, ISI Proceedings, ISI Current Contents Connect, and Derwent Innovations Index. Tsinghua University was established in 1911 and is located in the northwest corner of Beijing. Today, Tsinghua University is made up of 44 departments distributed in 11 schools, including disciplines like Sciences, Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences, Economics, Management and the Arts. For more information about Tsinghua University, please visit the university home page at www.tsinghua.edu.cn.

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To E- or Not to E-
from page 1

About Guilford College: Guilford College began as a Quaker Boarding School in 1837 and is the fourth oldest degree-granting institution in North Carolina and the third oldest co-educational institution in the United States. It offers a four-year liberal arts program with thirty-three academic majors, five cooperative pre-professional programs, and twenty-one concentrations. Guilford draws on its Quaker and liberal arts traditions to prepare its approximately 1,500 students from forty states and twenty-five nations for a lifetime of learning, work, and constructive action dedicated to the betterment of the world. It is one

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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
tained within ranges from very simple descriptions to very complex and detailed explanations. This was sometimes frustrating, as the articles were not labeled as to their complexity. Regardless, the main question is what can it do for the student, who will be its primary user. For those interested in simply finding out some information on a subject for their own information, the encyclopedia is one of the best starting points one could pick at. It can usually give you a simple definition, detailed articles and links to other sources on the Web. For those who are doing something more substantial such as writing a term paper, the encyclopedia’s usefulness depends on the subject selected. If the topic is common like Saturn, one can find enough information to keep them busy within the encyclopedia. If the topic is less common, like Cepheid variable stars, one will be able to find some useful sources such as a very good introduction to the topic, and some relevant material that relates to it. However, there will not be enough information within the site alone for substantial use in a term paper. Still, no matter the topic, the encyclopedia probably has something usable and that is the best feature that it boasts and is what contributed the most to my positive recommendation.

Searching and Other Features

To continue, let us list the features the Encyclopedia offers in various degrees of functionality. There is a search feature, a breaking news section, an option to personalize the site, workgroup areas for use in classes, Web updates, and a links page.

The search feature is perhaps the most obvious and useful tool available in an online version of an encyclopedia. There are many search options ranging from quick to advanced searches that offer the ability to search for information based on article title, author, illustration, or in general. The search option has some bugs though. For example, it cannot handle brackets or parentheses in the search field. Next is the news section that claims to have articles specially prepared for the encyclopedia. The items are posted often with articles coming in usually no more than a week apart and usually days apart. The content, however, is less impressive with articles only a paragraph to a page long and apparently being just summaries of press releases. The articles contain links to these press releases in some cases and in others just to the general site from which the information came.

The Personal Touch

The personalization feature is nice because it allows you to bookmark articles and save lengthy search criteria that are a pain to type again. It is quick to sign up for and does not require extensive personal information. The book-marking tool is useful in that it allows quick access to previously viewed articles and lets you organize them into folders. The bookmarks page did not work at home but did while on campus. With the save search feature you can enter a long search to find everything the encyclopedia contains on a very specific subject and save that search string so that every time you want to see the search results on that subject it is not necessary to waste time retying the search.

The workgroup areas are designed to let teachers post bookmarks of articles they want their students to read. The students are given access to the workgroup and thus do not have to search the site for a reading assignment. In testing this feature from a student’s perspective, I found it quite useful. Linking to the assigned articles was easy with the bookmarking feature. I was also able to view files uploaded by the instructor (workgroup administrator) in the additional content section. I could either download the files or view them within the page, although the latter restricted my ability to manipulate the files. The Web links page in which the workgroup administrator sets links to Websites was not functioning in that an error occurred when the links were being created and I was unable to test its usefulness.

On the Down Side

The Web updates that the site seemed to be so proud of were nothing to be impressed by. In most cases, they were only an added paragraph and the preceding articles were not rewritten. For example, the article would talk about a probe being on its way to a planet and then the paragraph update at the end would say that the probe had landed several weeks ago.

The links page was divided into subject areas with most having a half a dozen links which is not impressive considering the vast number of sites out there. The links they had were pretty much all working and were generally very good sites.

The service is offered through the college and as the current setup goes, it is restricted in the number of simultaneous users to three. This is a large problem because if a class assignment is made everyone will want to read it until the night before and find the service busy. Even if by some fluke everyone reads their assignment ahead of time, if there is a quiz the next day, the night before everyone will try to log on to review. The ability to download PDFs of the articles partially helps with this but not significantly.

By far the largest problem with the service is that it is very slow. While on campus on a usually fast network, the performance was slower than the normal Web page loading times on my 56k modem at home. Additionally, while on that slow connection logged in as an off campus user, the loading speeds were even slower. To those with a slow connection, hope is not lost though. The slowest part by far is logging into the site. Once the page begins to load, go get a drink or a snack or something because it will literally take around a minute. This will be the slowest it gets though. When going between pages it is about average speed but slows down quite a bit while using the search feature. As long as one has patience this is bearable but just by a bit. It is, by far, my biggest complaint and the one thing I hope is fixed by the time the finished version is released.

Conclusion

Overall, in testing this service, I found that I would recommend its use. However, due to its lagging speed and numerous bugs one must approach it with a patient attitude. I feel that if these problems are fixed, the extensive information offered will reach a much larger audience that will make great use of its features and bring the Encyclopedia to the status of one of the most used astronomical references currently available.
that the manual method will win the race over the technological solution.

Ahhh, would that life were straightforward. E-slips can and often do carry more information than paper. The bibliographic records in vendor systems might include tables of contents, jacket scans, links to alternate editions, and links outward to reviews and enhanced descriptions, either at the publisher’s Website or at third-party sites. As the ONIX standard becomes more widely adopted, the amount and quality of online information will increase, making e-slips still more valuable than their paper surrogates.

E-slips can be copied, pasted, and shipped around by email, and Blackwell’s can deliver relevant forms directly to faculty, who can select and return them to the library. In YBP’s system, a “Selected by” note with initials appears below the form until it is ordered, alerting one selector that another has chosen a title, suggesting, at least, the means to collect cooperatively.

For selection, then, the advantages of e-forms are useful but not yet compelling, and their disadvantages may be decisive when you cannot review your slips at the reference desk, on the train, or in front of the TV. For now, the twin liabilities of being slow to use and yoking us to a computer will prevent any mass defections from paper. The popularity of eNotes on PDAs remains to be seen, but bears watching.

Part 2. Acquisitions

Even if mass defections from paper are not likely when selectors are left to their own methods, acquisitions may gain so significantly when librarians use e-forms, that in the interest of overall efficiency, selectors in some libraries are now being required to use electronic slips. When an acquisitions department receives paper, any number of processes are possible, but all require considerable keying along the way.

By contrast, when librarians select online, acquisitions can process and bring the choices into the library system in batches. If not eliminated, one-at-a-time download of records and duplicate checking can be greatly reduced. Not every library system supports the scenario and to make it work requires expense, training, and workflow accommodations. But in general, less keying and batch processing are acquisitions efficiencies that come with the use of e-forms. From a library administrator’s point of view, adoption of electronic slips and online selection may lower the overall cost of acquiring books, even if it requires more time from selectors.

What’s Coming?

If the machine need not prevent us from selecting slips in the garden now, it soon could. Advantages of e-notification to the approval dealers are sufficient enough that they are remaking their tools for online selection and acquisitions in hopes of rendering them as indispensable as online catalogs. Among the improvements will be searchable tables of contents, “carts” for making electronic piles of slips, and the ability to assign priority levels to groups of titles. The dealers hope to improve the speed with which e-slips can be reviewed and to make them individually loadable as MARC records into a library system for purposes of duplicate checking.

For now, slips are mostly reviewed and processed in a combination of print and electronic form, mirroring the gradual transition from print to electronic form in journals and books. It’s a hybrid, cyborg-type world, in which selectors initially sort paper slips, and move online to seek additional information about specific titles, especially those that are borderline, interdisciplinary, or may already be held by a nearby library or consortium partner. Communication to acquisitions may occur via paper slip, electronic slip, or both. Acquisitions may prefer an electronic slip with fund code and location indicated, but can still deal with paper slips with handwritten notations. Sometimes the paper, sometimes the machine — each used for what it does best.

On the other hand, it could be that we can have the machine AND the garden, if a service like Blackwell’s eNotes is embraced by selectors. But then, to use that service, we’d all have to own (and use) one of those palm things. And what about them? Are they another perfidious means to steal our time or brilliant tools for improving our work lives? Can we save the garden by bringing yet more technology into it?

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The Devil’s Advocate

from page 38

Our other future is that we can compete... the rich will get richer and be able to offer fuller programs via distance education than the poorer schools. Schools do not compete for students as much as one might suppose because students often attend nearby library schools. However, when students have a choice — and all Web-based programs are, practically, local — smaller programs are not likely to be able to compete.

If the past is prologue, I am betting that we will see the competitive model, dominated eventually by a few institutions, run by people some of whom have worked in a library. Cooperation in the library world is more of an individual rather than an institutional thing, pious flapdoodle to the contrary notwithstanding.

This choice is before us whether we are conscious of it or not and the decisions we make or do not make today will affect what choices are available in the future. I think

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Endnotes

5. Daniel N. Joudrey, A New Look at US Graduate Courses in Bibliographic Control. forthcoming, Cataloging and Classification Quarterly.

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Rumors

from page 34

from Providence College on the 20th of August. He got to walk across the stage with her and give her her diploma. The college has a tradition that faculty who have immediate family graduating cross the stage with the family member and get the diploma from the president. Then, the professor gives the diploma to the family member instead of the president. Afterwards, Norm and Jeanne headed off on white water raft trip on the Dead River in Maine!

And, guess what? At ALA in San Francisco, Papa Lyman (yes, he is always working; why don’t you tell him he needs to write more Papas’), and I had supper with Peter Wiley who’s just completed a fabulous book, Nationa! Trust Guide San Francisco: America’s Guide for Architecture and History Travelers by Peter Booth Wiley, John Wiley & Sons, 2000. Hopefully, Peter will be in Charleston in November!

Speaking of which, see you in Charleston! If you haven’t registered, visit http://www.cnoc.edu/library/conference. Get to it!

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>