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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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As I write this, Christmas fever is brewing just as London Online madness has abated. Plus we’ve had all the excitement of an open top busload of Rugby players being paraded around the streets of London displaying the Web Ellis Trophy after winning the 2003 Rugby World Cup. http://www.bbc.co.uk/lon don/travel/features/travel_advice/rugby_ victory_parade.shtml. You have to appreciate that we are not used to winning in sport, so when we do, we go delirious!

London Online was a great success. Even though there appeared to be fewer stands and less people, the quality was very high. The sessions were varied and interesting. It was good to catch up with so many of you. I was surprised and pleased to see that we had many visitors from North America. It was good to catch a glimpse of Judy Luther <judy.luther@informedstrategies.com>; Jim Mouw <mouw@uchicago.edu>; Mary Waltham <mary@marywaltham.com>; Peter Scott and Amy Brand <abrand@crossref.org> (who had courageously left her small baby for a few days to attend the show!) It was good to see the UK contingency too. Helen Henderson <helen@helenhenderson.com>; John Cox <john.e.cox@btinternet.com> and Anthony Watkinson (from afar <anthony.watkinson@btinternet.com>). It was like being back in Charleston. Where were you, Katina?

I wasn’t able to go to many of the sessions as I was (w)managing our stand and in meetings. However, it is interesting to see from the programme that the sessions were about quality searching, blogging and customer service. The digital world is moving on.

It was also intriguing to see that the whole event was blogged http://infodadyblog.blogspot.com/


I see that STN International has announced the launch of French and English patent databases in 2004. The new databases FRFULL and GBFULL will provide full-texts of French and British patent documents. Further information can be obtained from helpdesk@pizkarlsruhe.de.

The University of East Anglia are running a netskills workshop on January 15th entitled “Detecting and Deterring Plagiarism.” It is to be held at the University of East Anglia http://www.uea.ac.uk/. I am pleased to announce that FreePint http://www.freepint.com/ have launched two new free-based publications, VIP http://www.vivavip.com and VIP EYE. VIP is a monthly publication focusing on information products and information people. VIP EYE provides a twice-monthly e-news and analysis service on the business information industry, concentrating on new products, companies and upcoming development.

Britain’s most accessible Websites have been announced at the Visionary Website Awards http://www.managinginformation.com/news/content_show_full.php?id=2211. The winners were: Manchester United, Russellhelf Borough Council, Calibre Cassette Library, Citizen’s Advice Bureau, The Bradshaw’s, Birmingham Focus on Blindness.

The National Library for the Blind (NLB) http://nlb-online.org.uk/hope that the awards campaign will encourage Website publishers to consider access technology when designing sites.

If you are interested in code breaking, I urge you to visit the online exhibition of Secrets and Spies http://www.pro.gov.uk/virtualmuseum/spies/default.htm, organised by the UK Public Record Office http://www.pro.gov.uk/. More historical information can be found at http://www.victorianimes.org. This is a Nov-Funded digitisation project http://www.nof.org.uk/examining-social-political and economic developments in Victorian Britain (1837-1901).

I am pleased to inform you that e-Prints UK http://www.nin.ac.uk/projects/eprints-uk/ is running five free workshops (from February to May) about the issues involved in setting up institutional repositories in Bath, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Nottingham http://www.nin.ac.uk/projects/eprints-uk/workshops/.

The info@UK December newsletter from the British Council is now available http://www.britishcouncil.org/info/UK/bulletin.html current.

An Introduction to Information Architecture — a one day seminar jointly organized by UKOLUG http://www.ukolug.co.uk/ and the Asliber Institute for Information Architecture (AIFIA) — is taking place on March 4, 2004. The aim of the seminar is to exchange ideas, visions, and practical experience about IA, and explore developing a greater awareness of IA in the UK. An application form can be found on the site or by emailing <CABaker@ukolug.co.uk>.

At a ceremony held at the National Library of Scotland last week, the Saltire Society http://www.scts.org.uk/news announced the winners of a new literary award. Novelist Robin Jenkins and poet Edwin Morgan jointly share the Saltire Society/Scottish Arts Council Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature. I am pleased to report that the British Library has launched a research service for business http://www.bl.uk/cgi-bin/press.cgi/story=1396. The Library’s research team offers services for medicine and health care, patents, trade marks and designs, market, company and product information, chemistry and biochemistry, engineering and technology, and information in official publications.

Before I close, I must tell you that xrefer has won two awards in the past month. The first, the prestigious Besterman/McColvin medal for outstanding works of reference published in the UK, electronic category. The award was organised and administered by CILIP http://www.cilip.org.uk/, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, with generous sponsorship from Nielsen BookData http://www.nielsenbookdata.com/, the bibliographic information provider. The second award was presented to us at London Online by FreePint http://www.freepint.com/ for innovative customer service. We thank all those involved for both awards. We are delighted!

Happy New Year to you all and hope to see you in San Diego! Daryl

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hosted by Jay Leno in Palm Springs, on November 22. The Entrepreneur of the Year awards are designed to honor outstanding entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success in innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. Just a personal anecdote about Sara. Back in March 1989, when I had begun Against the Grain, Sara took the time to step in and give me the benefits of her expertise. Sara is the reason for the layout of the first page of Against the Grain — Articles and Rumors starting on the first page. Sara wrote the very first Publisher Profile of Sage and gave free copies of Against the Grain as gifts to her colleagues. She took the time to talk to and help an insignificant little floundering publisher. She has continued to help to this day. I am forever in her debt. The words extraordinary, innovation and outstanding truly apply to this wonderful woman. Congratulations, Sara! Hip! Hip! Hooray!

The Board of Trustees of Biological Abstracts has voted to pursue final negotiations with Thomson Corporation (TSX: TOC: NYSE: TOC) leading to a potential sale of the publishing assets of Biological Abstracts, Inc. and BIOSIS, UK. Founded in 1926, BIOSIS produces vital databases and services for life sciences research, including Biological Abstracts®, BIOSIS Previews®, and Zoological Record. These databases are made available globally on a wide variety of platforms, including the Thomson ISI Web of KnowledgeSM. Thomson/ISI was selected from a number of potential strategic partners following a detailed review process by the BIOSIS Board. After considering both not-for-profit and for-profit continued on page 14

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