2004

Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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Recommended Citation

Rayner, Daryl (2004) "Rumo(u)rs from Paddington," Against the Grain: Vol. 16: Iss. 1, Article 35.
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5438

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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

by Daryl Rayner (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212)
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Its official. Its cold. I’m hoping that by the
time you read this the Spring flowers will have
arrived and the temperature improved! Our
flurry of snow last week is, of course, not a patch
on what you suffer in some parts for many
months a year. But the difference is that we just
can’t cope with it. One downfall of snow and
the railways and roads descend into chaos!!

The marathon training is going well. When I
say “well” I mean that I have not pulled an
obscene muscle or got terrible blisters to pre-
vent me from running. But the
problem is that I just haven’t run
far enough. So I’ve entered
myself for a half Marathon in
March to really put my
legs through their paces. I
am running the London
Marathon on April 18th
for Cystic Fibrosis
http://
www.cftrust.org.uk/ and
will let you know when my
sponsorship form is up at
http://www.justgiving.com/
home_uk.asp.

So what been happening on
this side of the pond? The Women’s Library
http://www.thewomenlibrary.ac.uk/exhib
home.html is running an exhibition entitled:
http://www.netskills.ac.uk/workshops/forth
coming.html are running a full range of work
shops over the forthcoming months.

Mark Haddon won this year’s Whitbread
Book Award http://www.whitbread
bookawards.co.uk/ with his book “The Curious
Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.”
“Vernon God Little” by DBC Pierre won the
First Novel Award.

We are all excited to see that Ricky Gervais
of “The Office” fame http://www.bbc.co.uk
comedy/hqoffice/is going to be the special guest
speaker at The Booksellers Association Con

Fascinating to read that between January 9
and April 16, 2004, Discovering Dickens will
rerelease the facsimile of Dickens’ famous novel
of the French Revolution, “A Tale of Two Citi
tes” http://dickens.stanford.edu/.

The Open Access
agenda continues with a boost of
£150,000 of seed money being
offered to publishers by
JISC http://
www.jisc.ac.uk/ to make journals
freely available online using the
open access model. This new
funding follows an
agreement with open access pioneers Biomed
Central http://www.biomedcentral.com/.

Furthermore, a Commons committee in
the UK is to conduct an inquiry on access to STM
journals focusing on “price and availability.” The
Chair of the committee, Ian Gibson, has said:
“(We) will have some very tough questions for
publishers, libraries and government.” http://
www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/
science_and_technology_committee.cfm.

The National Library of Scotland (NLS)
http://nls.uk has made a request for views on its
draft strategy. One of the key themes of the
strategy is to widen access beyond traditional
scholars using the NLS as a last resort. A
groundbreaking study commissioned by the
British Library http://www.bl.uk has found that
it generates 363m of value for the UK — more
than £4 for every £1 of public funding it receives.
125 titles have been nominated for the Impac
Dublin Literary Award. This is the largest and
most international book prize of its kind http://
www.impaceublinaward.ie/.

Its good to hear that the National Electronic
Library for Health’s library for cardiovascular
disease specialists has been launched.
Though aimed primarily at NHS staff, it is also
available to patients and the public: http://

World Book Day is on March 4th this year.
Libraries and schools will run a range of
events and the people’s network will be cen
tral to delivering the all day Online Festival.
The Reading Agency will lay on a mix of
films and live Webcasts. It will be launched by
JK Rowling on Webeast: http://www.
worldbookday.com.

Apparently Forty-two European national
libraries (including the British Library) have
endorsed a plan to create a new pan-European
library service. The European Library
(TEL) will offer “integrated access” to
European national collections. The scheme is due
to start at the end of 2004. (‘I’m told that its
already been three years in planning!’) http://
www.europeanlibrary.org.

It’s good to read that Karen Stanton has
been appointed Director of Sheffield Hallam
University’s Learning Centre and at
Calderdale, Gary Burrows has been ap
pointed Head of Libraries, Museums and Arts.
We wish them both luck!
That’s all from me for now. Until next
time. Daryl 🍃

Rumors
from page 10

<digby@uctlib.uct.ac.za >. He says he’s now
settled into his new apartment. He has had a
busy but rewarding year running Acquisitions
and Collection Development (a permanent job
change for him) He is supervising 13 staff mem-
bers including the Electronic Resources Librar
ian. His son Donald is working at a pizza re
staunt, getting ready for his driving test, and
plans to study history and drama at UCT next
year. No word on Andre. Have to check on him!

RFID was a word I heard on the exhibit floor
at ALA Midwinter. I didn’t know what it was,
ignorant me, so, of course, I asked one of my
knowledgeable colleagues. RFID is radio fre
quency identification. It’s like an electronic
barcode but better (or worse) depending on your
orientation. This small bit of computer exper-
tise can contain much information about you
and/or an item for your consideration. The lat
est BiblioTech Review has a technical briefing
on RFID and you will be glad if you read it:

Anyway, related, I was reading on
BusinessWire (Feb 2, 2004) and picked up this
press release -32 Technologies, Inc. (OTC:TW20),
a provider of end-to-end supply chain manage
ment solutions, has announced a new radio fre
quency identification (RFID) partnership pro
gram designed to enable companies to use RFID
technology to enable real time closed loop sup
ply chain management. 32 is initiating the part
ner program to include target solutions, indus
tries and partners such as GlobeRanger, IBM,
Informatica, Sun Microsystems, and
webMethods. For further information contact,
32 Corporate Communications Melanie
Ofenloch, 469-357-3027 <melanie.oenoloch@3
2.com> RFID is something about which we will
no doubt be hearing more.

More related. Continuing to read in
BiblioTech Review, I discovered technical brief
ings on Z39.50 parts 1 and 2.

Also under discussion at ALA Midwinter
was Elsevier’s pricing of ScienceDirect. The
insistence by Elsevier on “humbled” pricing of
their journals, many of which are not used or are
used very little, has caused several presti
gious libraries (Cornell, Harvard, Germany’s
University of Oldenburg) to rebel. See: “Reed
Elsevier: Feels Resistance to Web Pricing,” by
Charles Goldsmith The Wall Street Journal
http://online.wsj.com/article

More on this — Duke University, North
Carolina State University and the University of
North Carolina at Chapel Hill are ending a
joint agreement by which their libraries gained
electronic access to approximately 1,300 jour
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