February 1997

Bet You Missed It

Rosann Bazirjian
Florida State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bazirjian, Rosann (1997) "Bet You Missed It," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 9: Iss. 1, Article 27.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2000>

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.

Bet You Missed It

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

Column Editor: **Rosann Bazirjian** (Florida State University) <rbazirji@mailers.fsu.edu>; FAX 904-644-5170.

Peer Review Question by Phil Dankert (Cornell University)

In this opinion piece the author, while noting the value of peer review in the process of publishing scientific papers, also believes that it needs significant improvement. He notes that the current process often hurts the authors of innovative works as journals are far more likely to publish research that supports earlier work. In addition, and in spite of peer review, he feels that

journals still publish many errors and do not treat all authors fairly. Perhaps one solution here is for editors to place more emphasis on peer review after publication. See — **Armstrong, J. Scott** "We Need to Rethink the Editorial Role of Peer Reviewers," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 25, 1996, pp. B3-B4.

Photo Essay by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

Black and white photographs of twelve authors in their writing areas are printed in this article. Each photo is accompanied by a short description by the author on how he or she writes. It gives the reader a brief glimpse of the writer's aloneness

while working. This article is excerpted from Kremetz's "The Writer's Desk" due in December. See — **Kremetz, Jill** and essay by **Udike, John**. "The Literary Life," *Civilization*, vol. 3 (6) (December 1996/January 1997), p. 56-73.

Internet in Europe by Sandy Beehler (Cornell University)

Internet use is increasing by leaps and bounds in Europe, and this article briefly summarizes Internet growth in various EU countries. Germany and the Netherlands lead the pack, with France and Scandinavia not far behind. Governments are scrambling to enact regulations to con-

trol the new medium. High communications costs due to telecommunications monopolies and lack of fiber-optic lines are still obstacles to the spread of the Internet in Europe. See — "The European Picture," *Internet World*, December 1996, p. 52.

Internet II by Philip Dankert (Cornell University)

At a meeting held in Chicago in October, computing authorities at 34 universities agreed to help create a national network for higher education. Dubbed Internet II, it was launched "amid concerns on many campuses about bottlenecks on the current Internet." It would be supported by corporate partners in the computer and telecommunications industries, as well as (hopefully) with federal funds. Membership fees will be determined by the number of participants which, its

backers expect, will reach 100. For those who do not choose to participate, Internet II will not replace the Internet. It will, however, provide high-speed links among the participating universities with traffic headed to all other locations still moving along the Internet. See — **DeLoughry, Thomas J.**, "Computing Officials at 34 Universities Seek to Create a Network for Higher Education," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 11, 1996, p. A29-A30.

Subscription Price Methodology by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

In this interesting article the vice president and general manager of **Faxon** (subscription agent) discusses the various factors used in predicting subscription prices. Methodology application does change over the years, e.g., now journal cancellations must be considered as a

separate factor. For the past five years Faxon has been within 1% of the actual prices. See — **Akie, Ronald E.** "Calculators and Crystal Balls: Predicting Journal Subscription Prices," *Publishing Research Quarterly*, vol. 12 (2) (Summer 1996), p. 9-17.

LC Publishing Activities by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

This is a brief history of the publishing activities of the Library of Congress from its first publication in 1801 to the present day when approximately 1,100 publications are produced. During these years, publishing activities have changed becoming more decentralized and diverse and relying less on print. In ad-

dition outreach efforts have expanded. The author has been director of The Center for the Book at the Library of Congress since 1977. See — **Cole, John Y.** "Publishing at the Library of Congress: A Brief History," *Publishing Research Quarterly* vol. 12 (2) (Summer 1996), p. 38-48.

What's in a Name ... by Phil Dankert (Cornell University)

Are Internet discussions unencumbered by lengthy titles, departments, or institutional names a plus or a minus? For many scholars these exchanges represent the democratic quality of the Internet. To some, however, there is a wariness that identity-free communication could go too far. "Scholars must be willing to put their names behind their words ... especially in

academe ... "Of course it is also noted that individuals have hidden their identities ever since their words could be separated from their physical presence. See — **Guernsey, Lisa**, "Scholars Debate the Pros and Cons of Anonymity in Internet Discussions," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 4, 1996, pp.A23-A24.

Internet in Asia by Sandy Beehler (Cornell University)

Asia still trails the rest of the world in Internet development, largely because of language barriers, bandwidth and access problems. Consortia have arisen to build international Internet backbones and work out local packet-exchange agreements. In Japan, Malaysia and Singapore — countries with

good infrastructures, strong economies and minimal government strictures — Internet development is growing rapidly; but government censorship and lack of infrastructure hampers growth in other Asian countries. See — "The Internet in Asia," *Internet World*, December 1996, p. 56.

Traffic Jams by Philip Dankert (Cornell University)

In spite of widespread fears that the Internet may one day collapse, we are not, according to most experts, headed for cyber-gridlock. There are problems, however, and most of those encountered by users are caused by congestion. Over the past year, this congestion was due to the traffic on the "backbone" networks (used to "rocket data across the country") getting jammed up more and more. This situation, according to many, has been exacerbated by the withdrawal of government responsi-

bility, i.e., until May of 1995, connections to the Internet backbone were handled through a single entity under contract to the NSF. Unfortunately this is no longer the case. It has been suggested by some that the congestion may be eased by frustrated users who give up on the Internet. See — **Wilson, David L.** "Traffic Jams are Decreasing the Internet's Usefulness, Say Many in Higher Education," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 11, 1996, p. A30-A31.

The New Frontier by Sarah Tusa (Lamar University)

The World Wide Web appears to be the new frontier for the software giants. Microsoft has announced the upcoming debut of Office 97, scheduled for January 1997. This package is designed to make the World Wide Web more user friendly, and is expected to increase

Microsoft's market share from 85 percent to 88 percent. Although Lotus SmartSuite was already "Webized," the Lotus Development Corp will release an upgrade of said program to stay in the competition. See — **Business Week**, no. 3052 (November 25, 1996).

Planning Ambiguity by Sarah Tusa (Lamar University)

Melissa Middleton and Candida Brush present a discussion of the role of planning configurations in an ambiguous organizational context. Ambiguity is defined as the result of "multiple conflicting constituencies and the lack of direct control over resources." Among other

models, the authors discuss the practice of interpretive planning as a part of the planning framework that is aimed at establishing an organization's legitimacy and consistency in performance. See — *Strategic Management Journal*, vol. 17 (8) (October 1996).

We Know Who You Are by Rosann Bazirjian (Florida State University)

This article focuses on what the online computer user can do to restrict access to their telephones. The author, **Joseph R. Garber**, says that the invasion of privacy on the part of Internet advertisers is rampant, but there is a way to insure that telephone usage can be made more restrictive. Personal plug-in boards, together with special software, can give the user caller ID information. When someone dials your line, a window pops up on your screen telling you who the caller is. The software is from a business named **Spectrum Signal Processing**. Their all-in-one

board is built around IBM's Mwave signal processing chip. If you know the caller is unimportant, the Spectrum board lets you give him a polite digital announcement. If the caller is a telemarketer, you can play some sounds that will scare him off. The software can pull up account histories on callers, and even allow you to set up multiple voice mailboxes on your computer so that you can send different announcements to friends, family and business acquaintances. See — **Garber, Joseph R.**, "Access Denied," *Forbes*, vol. 158 (8) (October 7, 1996), p. 142.

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

NEW! THE COLUMBIA ENCYCLOPEDIA ON CD-ROM

Edited by Paul Lagassé

The leading source of concise, authoritative information is now easier than ever to use. More than 900 entirely new articles, with thousands more revised and updated, are complemented by a powerful search engine and comprehensive web of hypertext cross-references. *The Columbia Encyclopedia on CD-ROM* is the most effective resource for information on an extraordinary range of subjects.

- ✓51,000 entries
- ✓900 new articles
- ✓78,000 hypertext links
- ✓Macintosh, Windows, and DOS compatible

ISBN 0-231-10520-7 / Save \$45—prepublication price good until March 31, 1997
\$150.00 until 3/31/97; \$195.00 thereafter

THE COLUMBIA WORLD OF QUOTATIONS

Robert Andrews, Mary Biggs, and
Michael Seidel, General Editors

"*The Columbia World of Quotations* offers an indispensable tool for those who need to use or verify quotations."

—Norman Desmarais, *Against the Grain*

This invaluable new collection of more than 65,000 quotations "will allow... library users to find quotes in seconds. It demonstrates the value of electronic access to this sort of information and will prove its worth again and again."

—Rettig on Reference

Macintosh, Windows, and DOS compatible
ISBN 0-231-10518-5 / \$350.00

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

136 South Broadway, Irvington, NY 10533
(800) 944-8648, (800) 944-1844 fax