April 1996

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 (1996) "Bet You Missed It," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 8: Iss. 2, Article 30.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2036>

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)

So You Want to Be a Star by Sandy Beehler (Cornell University)

This article reports on recent attempts to broadcast live video images through the Internet using a new software program called **StreamWorks** (Xing Technology) that employs Internet standards for compressing and transmitting data to deliver full-motion video. Cable companies will soon begin providing subscribers with "cable mo-

dem" capable of two-way digital transmission, allowing the home PC user to receive video transmissions with acceptable quality sound and picture. If WebTV finds a marketplace, anyone with a microphone, a camcorder and a PC could break into the broadcasting business. See — "Web TV," *The Economist*, January 20, 1996, p. 82-83.

Birth of the Intranet Highway by Sarah Tusa (Lamar University)

According to *Business Week* reporters, the increasing number of travelers on the Internet may be just the spark that keeps PC software sales from stagnating. One area of particular interest to software developers is the creation of

"intranets." While the surge of corporate interest comes as a challenge to giants such as **Microsoft**, it is a likely boon for less dominant software companies. See — *Business Week*, No. 3457 (January 8, 1996).

Rockwell Kent, Re-Examined by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

Rockwell Kent (1882-1971) was a noted author, traveler, illustrator, painter and designer of the colophons for **Random House** and **Viking**. He was also notorious for his radical politics and his philanthropy. In the 1950s his politics lost him the public's favor and he never

regained it. Now, however, with the reissuing of several of his books, the author thinks Kent and his works should be reappraised. See — "Drawing on a Daring Life," by **Edward Hoagland**, *Civilization*, 3 (1), (Jan/Feb 1996), p. 46-51.

More, not less, Expensive! by Al Henderson (Publishing Research Quarterly)

Peter B. Boyce and **Heather Dalterio** report that whatever distribution costs can be saved by going electronic are offset by additional production costs in the account of preparing the electronic version of *Astrophysical Journal* at University of Chicago Press. The

strong marketplace support for the paper edition adds up to higher, not lower costs on the way to the bottom line. See — "Electronic Publishing of Scientific Journals" by **Peter B. Boyce** and **Heather Dalterio** in *Physics Today* (Jan, 1996, 49, 1:42-47).

Visible Woman on the Web by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The **National Library of Medicine** has added the **Visible Woman** to its already resident **Visible Man** on the World Wide Web. The **Visible Woman**, a 59-year-old who dies of cardiopulmonary arrest, has even higher resolution than the **Visible Man**, a 39-year-old who died similarly, and will be even more useful

in, for example, simulations of delicate surgery. Phase 2 of the project will catalog every "vowel" so that researchers can call up specific types of data. See — "Visible Man Gets High-Resolution Mate" in the "Random Samples" section, edited by **Constance Holden**, *Science*, 270 (December 22, 1995), p. 1927.

The Birth of Netscape by Rosann Bazirjian (Florida State University)

This is a well-written and quite enjoyable article on the developers of **Netscape**. It explores not only **Netscape's** early beginnings, but its current day principles as well. Some principles include, "fast enough never is," "the paranoid predator," "all work, all the time," "just enough management," and "four times

faster." The reader is given a good glimpse of the personalities of the owners. Not only informative, the article is entertaining as well. See — "Are You Fast Enough? Are You Hungry Enough? Are You Tough Enough to Work, Live, Compete in Netscape Time?" *Fast Company*, 1 (1) (1995) p. 86-96.

Database Discussion by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

Olivia A. Jackson is Director of **Info-South** and **Margaret N. Eccles** is the Database Manager of **Ageline**. In these articles, each author briefly discusses the database covering funding, focus, usage and enhancements. See — "Info-South: Leading the Way on the Information Superhighway to Latin America

and the Caribbean" by **Olivia A. Jackson**, *Publishing Research Quarterly*, 11 (3) (Fall, 1995), p. 109-116 AND "Ageline Database on Middle Age and Aging: Reflecting Population Diversity," by **Margaret N. Eccles**, *Publishing Research Quarterly*, 11 (3) (Fall, 1995), p. 117-123.

Power of the Internet by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

In an example of how quickly rumors spread in this electronic age, medical anthropologist **Carol Jenkins** and her employer, the **Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research**, were accused of stealing Hagahai tribe genes via a press release issued by the **Rural Advancement Foundation International** and distributed over the Internet. The real story is some-

what different (see article), but the willingness of many to believe the worst and the speed with which such allegations can be spread to such a wide audience give pause to librarians attempting to filter information for their patrons. See — "Scientist Attacked for 'Patenting' Pacific Tribe" by **Gary Taubes**, *Science*, 270 (November 17, 1995), p. 1112-1114.

Copyright Questions Continue by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The Texaco decision strongly suggests that any large, for-profit corporation violates copyright if employees systematically make copies for archival purposes, and would be strongly advised to make arrangements for license fees. However, the question of what constitutes systematic copying, as well as the continued applicability of the status of the institution as profit or nonprofit or the line between indi-

vidual and institutional subscriptions, remains for future cases to answer. To further complicate the issue, publishers may establish their own rules. A copyright law forum can be found at <<http://science-mag.aaas.org/science/>>. See — "How Does the Texaco Case Affect Photocopying by Scientists" by **The National Conference of Lawyers and Scientists**, *Science*, 270 (December 1, 1995), p. 1450-1451.

Possible Extinction: Commercial Academic Publishing? by Rosann Bazirjian (Florida State University)

This article focuses on the journal pricing practices of **Reed Elsevier**, and speculates whether or not the Internet might be closing in on them. **Louisiana State University's** project of canceling more than \$446,000 worth of journals (\$88,427 of which were **Elsevier** titles) and delivering articles from those journals via document delivery, saved the library more than \$420,000. In addition, LSU is now providing unmediated

document delivery at the average cost of \$13 per article. **Reed Elsevier** cites that the tenure process will ensure that paper copies of journals will continue, yet **Steven Harnard's** *Psycology* and **Paul Ginsparg's** *Los Alamos Project* might just be a threat to commercial academic publishing. See — "The Internet's First Victim," by **John R. Hayes**, *Forbes*, 156 (14), (December 18, 1995), p. 200-201.

Speeding Down the Superhighway by Rosann Bazirjian (Florida State University)

This is an informative article about **ISDN, Integrated Services Digital Networks**. It was developed in 1978, and is now gaining in popularity due to its speed, which is about four times the speed of the modem you would buy with your typical PC. Web images are "painted almost instantly with an ISDN connection." The article predicts that ISDN lines are becoming so popu-

lar that by the end of the decade they should hit the 2.2 million mark. However, problems do exist in terms of accessibility, as some Internet providers might not have ISDN at its end or as phone company employees struggle to understand your request. See — "Speed Freaks: Try ISDN Now," by **Richard A. Shaffer**, *Forbes*, 156 (11) (November 6, 1995), p. 348.

Announcing Majors' Home Page

WorldWide Web Address

<http://www.majors.com>

Since 1909

MAJORS SCIENTIFIC BOOKS, INC.

DALLAS
1851 Diplomat
Dallas, TX 75234
214-247-2929
800-633-1851
FAX: 214-888-4800
Internet e-mail:
dallas@mail.majors.com

ATLANTA
4004 Tradeport Blvd.
Atlanta, GA 30354
404-608-2660
800-241-6551
FAX: 404-608-2656
Internet e-mail:
atlanta@mail.majors.com

HOUSTON
9464 Kirby Drive
Houston, TX 77054
713-662-3984
800-458-9077
FAX: 713-662-9627
Internet e-mail:
houston@mail.majors.com

A Rose by Any Other Name . . . by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The early bird gets the domain name. This is unfortunate for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) (<http://enviro-link.org/arrs/peta/index.html>), whose acronym has already been appropriated by a suburban Maryland computer entrepreneur for a WWW page under "People Eating

Tasty Animals" (<http://peta.org>). The parties are working with Network Solutions Inc. (NSI) on the dispute. See — "What's in a Domain Name?" in the Random Samples section, edited by Constance Holden, *Science*, 271 (January 19, 1996), p. 297.

Wired Predictions by Sandy Beehler (Cornell University)

Remarking that "no software application will replace a good human reference librarian any time soon, *Wired* asked five experts (Ken Dowlin, Hector Garcia-Molia, Clifford Lynch, Ellen Poisson, Bob Zich) their predictions for the future. The bottom line: half of LC's collection digitized by 2043, the first

large virtual library by 2016, free Net access in public libraries in 2003 and virtual reality gear in libraries (allowing a "visit" to the Vatican art collection, for example) by 2005 (two of the five said 1997!). See — "The Future of Libraries," *Wired*, December, 1995.

Tribute to Lewis W. Hine by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

The author pays tribute to Lewis W. Hine of the National Child Labor Committee whose photographs of children and the appalling conditions under which they labored drew attention to their plight. In addition to writing captions for his photographs, he wrote articles, designed exhibits, posters, etc., to

awaken public awareness of these children. In 1912, the Children's Bureau to oversee children's welfare was formed, and finally child labor was banned in 1938. See — "No Choice But Work" by Vicki Goldberg, *Civilization*, 3 (1), (January/February 1996), p. 58-61.

The Earliest Information Revolution by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

This information revolution began between the end of the 12th and the beginning of the 13th century when the emergence of cathedral schools, and the Dominican and Franciscan theology schools led to a demand for portable *Bibles*. The order of the books of the *Bible* were standardized, pages were very thin,

print was very fine and only three colors were used. The church placed confidence in reasoning and learning as applied to faith, but this eventually weakened its own authority. See — "The First Information Revolution," by Jay Tolson, *Civilization* 3 (1), (Jan/Feb 1996), p. 52-57.

Demise of the Bestseller? by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

In this article, Abel explains the reasons why and the results, especially to readers, when a distinct class of books is partitioned off. Four examples are tracked, school textbooks (K-12), religious books, college texts and STM books. Now it appears that with the rise of the book discount retail chains and price

clubs, bestsellers may be the latest group to be partitioned off. See — "The Best-Seller Fishpond Invaded, or, The Storming of the Best-Seller Lists by Leviathan," by Richard Abel, *Publishing Research Quarterly*, 11 (2), (Summer, 1995), p. 103-111.

Traveling Free and Easy by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The National Public Tele-computing Network (NPTN) is a non-profit corporation that serves as a parent to the "Free-Net" community, which provides free Internet access for those who cannot afford to subscribe to giants such as CompuServe or America Online. The focus of such community network systems is on the local community, with systems maintained by dedicated staffs of volunteers who

find homes for discarded older generation equipment with those who lack resources. Many believe such networks will provide some relief to the increasing disparity between the haves and have-nots. A list of community network contacts is included. See — "Public Space in Cyberspace" by Doug Schuler, *Internet World*, 6 (12) (December, 1995).

Access Versus Ownership Debate by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

Disputes over authorship or access to data by researchers could be avoided or resolved by developing institutional policies and federal regulatory standards. Some universities, such as Harvard, University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins have adopted exemplary policies in which ownership and access is well-defined. The author

urges the Public Health Service to develop regulations so that other government agencies and academic institutions would follow suit. See — "Urgently Needed: Policies on Access to Data by Erstwhile Collaborators," by Barbara Mishkin, *Science*, 270 (November 10, 1995), p. 927-928.

Copyright Woes? by Rosann Bazirjian (Florida State University)

This article discusses the ramifications of the Commerce Department's recently released "White Paper" named *Intellectual Property and the National Information Infrastructure*. Designed as a way to "protect information in cyberspace," it raises some scary prospects for libraries. For example, the report says that just looking at a screen on one's computer is the equivalent of copying it. What does

that mean for our libraries which make online journal articles available to our patrons? If this report is adopted, the author indicates that there is fear that copyright owners will be given much more power to regulate even the private use of materials. See — "Copyright Wrong?" by Vic Sussman, *U.S. News & World Report*, 119, (11) (September 18, 1995).

I'll Take Mine in Red by Rosann Bazirjian (Florida State University)

Computer companies have now turned to a "build to order" rather than mass produce mode. This helps IBM, Compaq and others reduce losses. Unlike different commodities, computers which sit on retailers' shelves cannot be marked down, and can become obsolete. Assembling a computer only after a retailer has ordered one prevents this from occurring. Computers can be assembled within five days of receiving an order. The author indicates that IBM is currently 95%

build-to-order. Hewlett-Packard is 80% and Compaq plans to be 100% by the end of late next year. See — "Custom-Made" by R. Lee Sullivan, *Forbes*, 156 (11) (November 6, 1995), p. 124-125.