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Norman Desmarais
Providence College

Judy Luther
ISI

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Innovations Affecting Us —

by Norman Desmarais (Providence College) <normd_1@providence.edu>
and Judy Luther (ISI) (jluther@smtgwy.isinet.com)

U.S. News & World Report Librarian Chosen For International Library Project

The Freedom Forum and the Special Libraries Association (SLA) announced that *U.S. News & World Report's* Kathleen M. Flynn has been chosen to work with two Freedom Forum news libraries in Eastern Europe for two weeks to develop an Internet training program for users of the libraries in Prague, Czech Republic, and Bratislava, Slovakia. Flynn's Internet training program will help journalists who rely on Freedom Forum libraries for access to information otherwise unavailable to them. This project will enable more journalists, journalism educators, and students to learn new and valuable skills that will increase their access to information and continue to promote a free press. Flynn is the coordinator of electronic information services for the library at *U.S. News & World Report*, where she has worked since January 1990. She holds a masters of library science from the University of Maryland and a B.A. from Georgetown University.

Important Human Rights Documents Now Available Electronically

A cooperative effort between West Publishing and the University of Minnesota Law School has generated a unique human rights homepage on the Internet. The project organizes important human rights documents electronically and links them for free access 24 hours a day for people in the most remote areas of the world. Activists, government officials, professors and students can search more than 90 of the most significant human rights documents, including treaties, declarations, and other materials with authoritative citations. Subjects on the homepage include the U.N. Charter and the International Bill of Human Rights as well as conventions and other documents on refugees and asylum, war crimes, and human rights in Africa. Previously, these materials were only available in print, thus limiting their availability. Marci Hoffman of the University Law Library and David Weissbrodt, Briggs and Morgan professor of law and co-director of the Human Rights Center at the university, collected the documents. West organized the legal information and catalogued it for online use. It also provided technical support to help the university design the human rights homepage and provided the WAIS search engine for the human rights library database stored on a West server in Eagan, Minnesota.

Features of the human rights homepage include: the ability to search by key words; organization of materials by subject matter, enabling easier retrieval of documents; hypertext links to other useful sites on the Internet that contain information about human rights. The address for the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library is: <<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts>>.

Grolier Produces Hugo Award-Winning Science Fiction Encyclopedia and the 1995 Guinness Multimedia Disc of Records on CD-ROM

Grolier Electronic Publishing, Inc. published *Science Fiction: The Multimedia Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* on CD-ROM. This detailed reference title is based on the Hugo Award-winning book revised and updated by its original editors, John Clute and Peter Nicholls. It contains 4,500 entries covering all facets of the genre, 1700 pictures of books and magazines, 321 author portraits, and more than 70 film clips and stills.

Science Fiction: The Multimedia Encyclopedia of Science Fiction includes 33 author sound bites that introduce users to the minds that created the genre. Science fiction luminaries in this section include Brian Aldiss, William Gibson, Arthur C. Clarke, and Gwyneth Jones. Each clip of classic sf movies are linked to one of the 4,500 articles in the title and the Time Machine section lists 11 eras which enumerate events crucial to the development of science fiction. A

"Themes" section includes videos of authors speaking about themes of the genre, which also may be linked to articles in the encyclopedia. Grolier has further enhanced the 1.2 million-word book with photos of such science fiction luminaries as Jules Verne, Isaac Asimov, and William Gibson; videos of interviews with leading science fiction authors; and imagery from a variety of science fiction media. This work is available for Windows and Macintosh platforms at a suggested retail price of \$59.95.

Grolier Electronic Publishing, Inc.'s *1995 Guinness Multimedia Disc of Records* has a new interface to help users find answers about extremes in just about every walk or run of life. The new edition has more than 150 big new pictures, bringing the total to more than 1,000 images to accompany the 15,000 record entries. Videos include new audio tracks to enhance selected movies, adding more narration and music. The expanded list of videos includes a mobile hotel, a record-breaking assortment of jack-o-lanterns, and the longest fingernails in recorded history. Another added feature, *What Makes Them Tick?*, is a multimedia essay that integrates animation, pictures, audio and video. Here, users can take an in-depth look at some Guinness records based on interviews with some unusual, offbeat, and eccentric record-breakers. The title also contains a new *Guess What?* game for in-depth record-browsing. This feature poses a question, provides a short and provocative answer, and invites the user to explore the disc further to locate more information on the topic. The multimedia title is available in Windows and Macintosh formats for a suggested retail price of \$49.95.

3 Prong Plug Previews Battleships of Stone Medieval Strategy Game

3 Prong Plug, a division of Grolier Electronic Publishing, is working with San Francisco developer, Hypergolic on *Battleships of Stone*, a first-person experience of a 3D castle siege in the medieval world. The title challenges users to manage a castle and its people. The player must consult with the architect to decide how complex and massive the castle will be. More than an exercise in building walls and turrets, it's an intense experience of siege engines, weaponry, food and weapons rationing, construction techniques, even cost management. A rotating bird's eye view and three-quarter view of the castle under construction provides an idea of the challenge that faced participants in castle life. Using 3D rendering, the player can wander around the castle, viewing battles from the towers and walls to understand what life was like in medieval Europe.

The game takes place in three acts. The first act introduces the medieval world through a series of movie-style scenes. The second act includes a session with the King's own architect who gives the player a box of blocks including gates, walls, towers, and main buildings to construct a new castle. But the proof of good solid castle-building comes in the third act when a siege challenge is issued just after the castle is inhabited. The siege itself is brought to life by the simulation's 3D, first person perspective. The title brings history and strategy alive and can be replayed through randomly-generated plots of land and changing attacking forces to let the user learn about and appreciate the considerations and challenges of castle life.

UMI Makes Financial Times Available On ProQuest Direct

UMI and The Financial Times Group have signed an agreement to offer *Financial Times* on ProQuest Direct, UMI's online information system. The agreement calls for *Financial Times*, with a circulation of more than one million readers in more than 160 countries, to be available on UMI's ProQuest Direct beginning sometime during the second quarter of 1996. Coverage will include issues dating back to January 1995. ProQuest Direct, launched in September, offers users

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immediate access to both images and text from UMI's archives of more than 18,000 periodicals, 7,000 newspapers, 1.2 million dissertations, 130,000 out-of-print books and 200 research collections. Users can choose how they wish to receive information — citation, abstract, full text, full image, and fulltext and image. Users also have several options on how they want that information delivered — to a desktop PC or printer, or by fax, regular U.S. mail or via a delivery service. Initially, *Financial Times* will be available as a fulltext file.

UMI Offers Libraries Electronic Access to Popular Magazines

UMI also announced that it will offer public and academic libraries fulltext electronic access, via CD-ROM, to some of the country's most popular magazines through its **ProQuest Periodical Abstracts PlusText** beginning December 15. **Periodical Abstracts PlusText** will provide libraries and their patrons with opportunities to access fulltext from 200 of the nation's mass circulation publications including *Discover*, *People Weekly*, *Forbes*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Sports Illustrated* and *USA Today the Magazine*, among others. Blake Ratcliffe, Director of Electronic Product Marketing for UMI's Academic and Library markets, noted that libraries could use **Periodical Abstracts PlusText** in conjunction with UMI's **Business-Link** and obtain full text and titles of an additional 100 popular business publications. **Periodical Abstracts PlusText** makes it easy for users to search for information, using Boolean searching capabilities and a new "Topic Search" feature. Topic Search lets users select terms from lists of topics or subtopics, and hit the "enter" key to display search results quickly.

UMI Offers Banking Information Source on Dialog and Lexis-Nexis

UMI now offers **Banking Information Source** through **DIALOG** (file 268) and the **LEXIS-NEXIS** online information services. **Banking Information Source** combines two popular resources from the **American Bankers Association (ABA)**: **FINIS** and **Banking Literature Index**. **Banking Information Source** contains complete coverage of important industry sources, including more than 220 banking publications, newsletters, Golden Coin Awards competition entries and School of Bank Marketing Papers. In addition, the database offers citations on banking-related articles from *The American Banker*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. Records contain complete bibliographic citations, indexing and 25- to 50- word abstracts. Fulltext articles are included for high-demand titles. (Citations, indexing, and selected abstracts are available for material published from 1981 through 1993; fulltext and abstract-and-index coverage begin with 1994 material.) The database already contains more than 250,000 records with approximately 800 new entries added weekly. **Banking Information Source** focuses on current bank management issues, practices, trends and other crucial issues, including legal and regulatory matters, marketing techniques and strategies, accounting, tax, insurance and economics as they individually or collectively affect the banking and financial industries.

SilverPlatter and Modern Language Association Offer Extended Coverage and Reduced Pricing for MLA International Bibliography

SilverPlatter Information, in conjunction with the **Modern Language Association**, announce a subscription fee reduction for the **MLA International Bibliography**. Effective January 1, 1996, **SilverPlatter** customers who currently subscribe to the database from 1981 will receive, at no additional charge, extended coverage back to 1963, consisting of over 500,000 additional records covering this period. Customers who already subscribe to the 1963-to-present data will get a reduction of 33% in their annual subscription fee with their next renewal. The decrease applies to both stand-alone and networked subscriptions.

SilverPlatter Adds Enhancements To Its ERL Technology

SilverPlatter Information announced enhancements to its **ERL (Electronic Reference Library)** technology. ERL, based on client/

server architecture, provides wide area access to databases from a variety of platforms. With the new developments, **SilverPlatter** now offers more choices for accessing ERL-compliant databases. Enhancements to **SilverPlatter's Windows** interface **WinSPIRS 2.0** now provides the capability to search and retrieve information from bibliographic and fulltext databases simultaneously. With fulltext databases, users have the ability to mark sections and paragraphs, not just entire records. Additional enhancements include an improved Suggest feature which provides more accurate suggestions for alternate terms, and improved customization of defaults which enable system administrators to manage end-user activities for showing, printing, and downloading. Several improvements to the design of the interface have been made as a result of usability testing with searchers: "next" and "previous" buttons allow for easier movement between screens, a new option provides viewing of loaded databases, and capability to expand search history to full screen.

WinSPIRS, which is available in a variety of native languages, German, French, and Spanish, has been improved to allow the end-user to select the native language of choice. These native language interfaces offer translated buttons, pull-down menus and help screens. This extension of the interface provides unprecedented access to **SilverPlatter** databases for non-English speaking communities. While most of the data available is currently in English, related projects at **SilverPlatter** are designed to increase the number of native language databases.

UNIX access is now provided to **SilverPlatter** databases. A new version of **SPIRS** provides a **UNIX** character-based interface designed to offer terminal or telnet users access to databases located on an ERL Server. Similar in look and feel to **PC-SPIRS**, this version has the convenience of having terminal-specific keystrokes appear both on screen and throughout the help system. **UNIX-SPIRS** currently operates on a **SUN Solaris Host**.

WebSPIRS is a new gateway to **SilverPlatter** databases via the Internet. **WebSPIRS** is an http gateway that provides access to ERL-compliant databases from the World Wide Web. Any library or institution that has ERL installed can load **WebSPIRS** along with the web server to provide their users with an additional means of access via the Internet. Authorized users need only a forms-capable worldwide web browser to use **WebSPIRS** to search **SilverPlatter** databases mounted on the library's ERL server. Interested ERL sites can FTP the **WebSPIRS** gateway from: <ftp://ftp.silverplatter.com>, in the directory: `software\erl-clients\webspirs\linux`. Searchers can also test the **WebSPIRS** gateway by visiting **SilverPlatter's HomePage** at URL: <http://www.silverplatter.com>. **WebSPIRS** on the **HomePage** points to **SilverPlatter's Library Sampler**, subsets of more than sixty databases. For more information, contact: **SilverPlatter Information, Inc.** 100 River Ridge Drive, Norwood, MA 02062-5043 Tel: 1-800-343-0064 (U.S. and Canada) or 1-617-769-2599 Fax: 1-617-769-8763 Internet: info@silverplatter.com.

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts Signs Partner Publishing Agreement With SilverPlatter

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) signed an agreement with **SilverPlatter Information** to license **SilverPlatter's ERL** technology to build 37 abstract journal databases. The partnership will permit **CSA** to use **SilverPlatter's ERL** technology to create the databases to make them accessible using **SPIRS**. The databases will be mounted on **CSA's** server in Bethesda, Maryland and will be available for customers to access via **CSA's Internet Database Service (IDS)**. **Ted Carls**, Publisher, **CSA**, commenting on the new relationship with **SilverPlatter**, said: "Although these databases are currently available from our server via the Internet, they are not searchable using **SPIRS**. We felt it important to offer these databases with the **SPIRS** interface because so many searchers are already familiar with **SPIRS**. Additionally, **SPIRS** offers a wealth of search features that we cannot currently offer with the existing interface. We also see that these databases will be the perfect complement to our aggregated databases, such as the **Life Sciences Collection**, currently available from **SilverPlatter** on **CD-ROM**. While the **Life Sciences Collection** is comprised of 22 **CSA**

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For Readers Only

by Tom Leonhardt (University of Oklahoma)

With this issue we are instituting a new feature called "For Readers Only." The idea is to devote a page of each issue of *Against the Grain* to books. The individual theme will vary, infinitely, we hope, but the common line will be books, authors, genres, languages, countries, characters. You get the idea. Suggestions for themes are welcomed. We would like to provide some mystery, too, to keep you interested and reading, so a quiz will generally be included as part of this page for readers only.

We want to encourage non-required reading, reading that is nourishment for the soul, refreshing in the summer when it sizzles and warming in the winter when it drizzles.

The theme for this issue is the sea. This will help you solve the quiz that follows. If you are familiar with German, you know that "See" has two watery meanings. Depending on the article used, it can mean sea or lake. Lake Constance, for example, is Der Bodensee in German.

The sea as a theme is more to the point than trout fishing is to Richard Brautigan's book, *Trout Fishing in America*, but it is a superficial theme that provides a platform (floating?) for the authors to launch rather long discourses on the meaning of life.

These three books have long been favorites of mine. I had read each of them at least twice before reading them once again over the past holiday season. Each book seems to have improved with age, like fine read wines. I was reminded, too, that each of these books qualify for my "Reading as a Subversive Activity" list.

Can you name these books and their authors from the excerpts below? Two of the books are non-fiction works by famous authors, but only one of the books is famous. One author is of this century, one is from the 19th century. The work of fiction is from the 20th century and was written by a not-so-famous author praised for his works about the sea.

THE EXCERPTS:

A. "How does one organize an expedition: what equipment is taken, what sources read; what are the little dangers and the large ones?"

B. "The sun is but a morning star."

C. "Be master of yourself. The world is not an oyster to be opened, but quicksand to be passed. If you have wings you can fly over it, if not you may — yes, yes, I am coming now, my dear! — you may quite possibly be sucked in."

"A" is the first sentence in the body in the body of the work and follows some preliminary matter. "B" is the last sentence of another work, and "C" is part of a speech delivered by a bookseller to a young man. The speech inspires the young man to give up everything and go off to sea.

Please send your answers to me via e-mail <tom@libadm.lib.uoknor.edu>, fax (405/325-7550), or USPS (University of Oklahoma, Bizzell Memorial Library, 401 W. Brooks, Norman, OK 73019-0528).

There is a prize for the first correct answer. A drawing will be held should there be a tie. Good luck! 🐾

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journals, the 37 IDS databases are focused files and fit specific market segments." This arrangement signifies new opportunities both for Information Providers to publish additional data electronically and for subscribers who will now have electronic access, via the SPIRS interface, to information that was previously unavailable or with limited availability.

The Rutter Group and West Launch Desktop Continuing Education for Lawyers

California lawyers will soon be able to earn Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credit from the convenience of their offices, homes, or anywhere that they have access to a computer, using multimedia technology. The Rutter Group and West Publishing announced that a new California-specific multimedia MCLE product is being tested in that state. First available for attorney testing in West's

Information Centers in December, this new multimedia product is designed to help busy attorneys manage the time demands associated with fulfilling state mandated MCLE requirements. The initial multimedia product offered for testing is based on The Rutter Group's *Survival Skills in U.S. District Court* seminar. Using West's technical expertise for CD-ROM technology and The Rutter Group's MCLE content, this product integrates audio and visual clips from live Rutter Group seminars, program hypotheticals, featured Rutter Group practice guide sections, and referenced cases and codes that include West's editorial enhancements. The Rutter Group and West have agreed to waive fees for test participants who will qualify for 3-hours of MCLE credit. Long term plans include offering a full-line of Rutter Group continuing education seminars to the attorney desktop in this multimedia CD-ROM format. For more information about this technology or to participate in the testing of this product at one of the California West Information Center locations, call Jennifer Moire or Linda Heines at 1-800-778-8090. 🐾

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to both the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) MeSH database and a site's own catalog via the Unicorn client. George Washington University's Himmelfarb Health Science Library is one of the first sites to use the product.

From OCLC:

- OCLC has announced that Puvill Libros S.A., based in Barcelona, Spain, has agreed to contribute its unique database of Spanish titles to the OCLC Online Union Catalog in early 1996. Approximately 15,600 bibliographic records will be added initially, and some 400 records will be sent to OCLC each week to update the database. The records are in US MARC format and will be available to PRISM users, in the WorldCat database, and on EPIC. OCLC also tells us that cataloging records for European Union publications will be added to

the Online Union Catalog. The agreement between the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (EUR-OP) and OCLC will launch a one-year pilot project in 1996. This project is in response to a proposal from EUROLIB, the cooperative group of European institutional libraries. Following a technical assessment by OCLC of EUR-OP catalog records, a date will be agreed upon for the creation of a EUROLIB/EUR-OP resource file which will be accessible via the OCLC PRISM service. EUROLIB catalogers will upgrade the records to full OCLC records. During the first year pilot, 2,500 records are expected to be added. At the end of the pilot, EUR-OP, EUROLIB, and OCLC will assess the impact of the project.

- OCLC also recently announced that their FirstSearch and EPIC services now offer the EBSCOMags database from EBSCO Publishing. Featuring abstracts and indices from more than 2,300 periodicals and ASCII fulltext online from more than 1,000 of those periodicals, EBSCOMags is the fourth database on FirstSearch and EPIC to support fulltext online. 🐾