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International Dateline-Electronic Resources and the Web in New Zealand

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International Dateline

Electronic Resources and Moving to the Web in New Zealand Universities

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In 1996 New Zealand Universities Libraries have increasingly experienced moving on to the Web. In the past few years, we have purchased an increasing number of bibliographic and fulltext databases available online and on CD-ROM. However, more recently, we have seen an increasing amount of access to these databases on the Internet via the World Wide Web. There has also been an increasing number of non-proprietary items, fulltext e-journals and monographs accessible on the Web. Therefore the questions we have had to ask ourselves and others, and the decisions which we have had to make through the year have been challenging to say the least.

Librarians have had to make decisions about canceling the existing CD-ROM subscriptions to access the same material on the Web, or delaying purchase of certain databases until Web access is available. Having purchased some expensive fulltext databases on CD-ROM, it is now necessary to review the usage and ease of access before purchasing more of these. The *Patrologia Latina* database comes to mind as, at Victoria University, we do subscribe to this monumental work on paper and the cost of this work on CD-ROM coupled with the limited usage has stopped us from seriously considering the purchase of the electronic version. Therefore hearing that Web access to this work was imminent was certainly good news. Chadwyck-Healey has indicated the wider affordability to libraries as an important factor in the considerations for making access to these major works available on the Web. With the news of the Literature online or LION project from Chadwyck-Healey, it seems appropriate to delay any such purchase until Web access is available.

Another example of what we would like to have Web access to is the *Nineteenth Century Books on China* on microfiche produced by Chadwyck-Healey as there is certainly a growing interest in the teaching and research of this literature. Once again the cost of this work is beyond the materials budget of most institutions of moderate size. Therefore opting to await Web access to these major works is seen as the most affordable way.

New Zealand Universities have also embarked on creating internal Web environments giving the users access to various Internet resources for the institution's homepages. Earlier this year, University of Auckland launched its "LEARN — The Library Electronic Academic Resources Network" to give coordinated access to electronic resources. The users in this "intranet" or internal Web environment are members of the University's community and access is not available to outsiders. The most heavily used CD-ROM products are being migrated to the network information server. According to the Associate University Librarian (Public Services), the plan is to have a substantial number of New Zealand information databases available for searching via a Web interface on the LEARN network. On the subject of New Zealand databases and Web access, Company Annual Reports (New Zealand), Electronic Regulations of New Zealand, and Electronic Statutes of New Zealand both by Brooker's Maori Land Court Minute Books Index, and Maori Land legislation database are only a few of what is available.

However, there are views for and against putting Maori information on electronic form. Electronic information is more easily accessible and possibilities of much improved search capabilities make this form more attractive to scholars and other users. From a Maori point of view culturally, unlimited access to information is not necessarily seen as being good. It could also mean potential for unlimited use of what is seen as sacred by the Maori people such as

"knowledge" itself and "ancestors." Several of the Maori electronic resources are located outside New Zealand and, although this enables the information to be available more widely, in the Internet environment in particular there can be few controls as regards the use of the information. When the information relates to the heritage of groups of people and touches on their cultural sensitivities, it is an important issue.

It is therefore appropriate that at the country's library school located at the Victoria University of Wellington, a course in Maori Electronic resources attempts to address in particular these issues which are considered important to Librarians. The recent article: "Maori electronic information: issues and resources" (1996) by Alastair G. Smith and Robert Sullivan (see *New Zealand Libraries*, v.48 #6, 1996) referred to earlier, clearly explains the issues involved and was acknowledged as being based on a seminar at the library school. Therefore in making information available on the Web, it is necessary to call for increased inter-cultural awareness across the globe. It certainly is an area of importance in New Zealand.

Finally, the end of the year is the time for institutions to conduct their inventories and valuations in New Zealand, and library collections have been recognized as one of the major assets of universities. The entry of CD-ROMs into collections have in the past few

continued on page 81

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Back to the Issue — What Do You Do With Your Duplicate Journals

Column Editor: **Don Jaeger** (Alfred Jaeger, Inc.) <jaeger@ajaeger.com>

This is a new concept for a column. We will answer your questions regarding back volume periodical collection development. We are also interested in your opinion on any relevant topics. We want to hear from librarians, but also from publishers and vendors. I invite you to send your questions to me at Alfred Jaeger, Inc., 66 Austin Blvd., Commack, New York 11725-9009 or email me at <jaeger@ajaeger.com>. DJ

Q: How do I go about selling journals that our library is discarding?

A: What a vendor requires is a list of the actual holdings that the library wishes to discard and the basic condition of the material; basically good to excellent condition is best. Vendors will make an offer for individual items or for the entire lot if preferred and usually we will pay the freight, UPS, parcel post, or motor freight.

Q: We are a state institution and cannot sell material for cash payment. What do you suggest?

A: In cases where libraries cannot sell for payment, a common solution is for the vendor to issue a credit which can be applied to any future purchases.

Q: Our library receives gifts of journals from professors and alumni that we really don't need. What should we tell them if they require a value for the journals?

International Dateline from page 75

years posed a few questions which have ranged from the value they add to the asset and what happens when a CD-ROM subscription is canceled, to the impact which the price of the very expensive CD-ROMs have on the average price of an item.

Despite the move to the WWW, CD-ROMs will still be around for awhile longer, but with more opportunities for wider access to documents and databases via the Web, we must now gear our minds to dealing with the many questions which come with it. As Librarians involved in collection development and management begin to incorporate Internet resources into the collections, the asset valuation of library collections is going to be further complicated. In this ever-changing world of CD-ROMs, Online, and Web access, "challenge" is one thing that is certain, and in the future it will become more a part of life than it ever has been.

A: Many times we are contacted by libraries in this situation and, of course, the journals are a duplication of the library's existing collection. In that case, we ask the library to refer the individual directly to us so that we may ascertain if the journals are of value. Many times they are not, but this relieves the librarian of any responsibility of disposing of the journals. It is also unnecessary for the librarian to provide the individual donating the material with any valuation of the journals.

Q: What if a person asks the library for a value of the journals that they have donated?

A: The library's responsibility is only to issue a receipt for the actual material received. Appraisals can be obtained from certain vendors that offer this service. What we require is an exact list of holdings, including bound and unbound volumes, and condition

of same. Usually a physical inspection of the journals is unnecessary unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as flood or fire damage. A vendor will charge a fee based upon the size of the list, and the anticipated value of the appraisal.

Q: What happens if I request an appraisal from several vendors and the values differ drastically?

A: There are two types of appraisals for journals. The first and most common is the "fair market" evaluation which is used for donation purposes and is somewhere between wholesale and scrap value. The second type of appraisal is called "replacement" value which means what would the cost in today's dollars be to replace the collection if it were destroyed or damaged by fire, flood, etc. The replacement value appraisal obviously would be higher.

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

21 ACADEMIC PRESS	63 COUTTS
36 ACCENTS	79 DE GRUYTER
77 AIP	10 EASTERN BOOK
76 ALPER	73 EBSCO INFORMATION SERVICES
7 AMBASSADOR	16 IBD
83 AMERITECH	45 INPUT CULTURE
47 AMIGOS	2 JAEGER
25 ANNUAL REVIEWS	66 MAJORS
23 ASCE	37 MCGRAW-HILL
48 ASHGATE	84 MIDWEST LIBRARY SERVICE
41 ASME	72 NETPUBS
5 ATG	17 PRIMARY SOURCE MEDIA
28 AUBREY BOOKS	31 PUVILL
75 AUX AMATEURS DE LIVRES	71 READMORE
55 BAKER & TAYLOR	11,35 REED REFERENCE
59 BLACKWELL ENG	78 ROWECOM
3 BLACKWELL NA	9 SWETS
57 BOOK HOUSE	80 UNCOVER
19 BRODART	50,51 VAN NOSTRAND REINHOLD
82 CASALINI	13,39 WILEY
65 CHAPMAN & HALL	15 YBP
53,61 COLUMBIA U PRESS	

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