Against the Grain

Volume 20 | Issue 2 Article 26

April 2008

A Look at The Informed Librarian Online

Elaine Robbins College of Charleston, robbinse@cofc.edu

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



Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

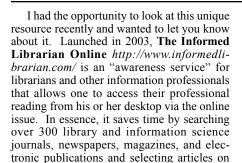
Recommended Citation

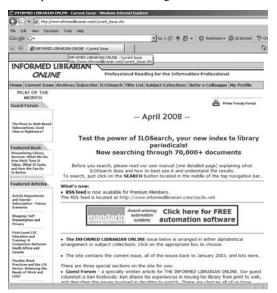
Robbins, Elaine (2008) "A Look at The Informed Librarian Online," Against the Grain: Vol. 20: Iss. 2, Article 26. DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2753

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.

A Look at The Informed Librarian Online

by Elaine Robbins (College of Charleston) <robbinse@cofc.edu>





subjects that are affecting the industry. The Informed Librarian Online is available in a free, limited-feature membership format and in a premium membership format. For premium memberships, subscriptions are priced individually or at a discount depending on number of users (https://www.informedlibrarian.com/ authorize.net/premium member.cfm.)

To the premium member, the company sends a monthly email notification of the current issue which includes the following highlights: Featured Book link and full-text Featured Articles links; the Guest Forum link; and, a link to journal titles searchable alphabetically and by subject collection. Once the premium member visits The Informed Librarian Online Website, he or she may access the current issue as well as even more services such as ILOsearch, the ability to save your searches, and archives to previous issues. The email notification that arrives in the user's inbox is presented in a simple format void of flashy graphics and colors, making it easy to read and to navigate. The online issue accessed

through the Website is equally as navigable and presents a consistent look and feel throughout the Webpages. In the March 2008 version for premium members, there are links to 12 fulltext Featured Articles (such as John Cullen's "Professionalizing knowledge sharing and communications: Changing roles for a changing profession" appearing in the March 2008 issue of Business and Information Review) as well as other articles and reports of interest on topics as varied as job satisfaction and e-journal archiving. The Featured Book of the April

> 2008 issue is Richard M. Dougherty's Streamlining Library Services: What we do, how much time it takes, what it costs, and how we can do it better? (http://www.informedlibrarian.com/ featuredBook.cfm?FILE=fbk0804. cfm); links to this and other Featured Books include information on ordering and, often, as is the case with the April book, discounts for subscribers. Alternatively, the free membership

includes a monthly email notification of new online issue availability in addition to limited access to the current issue with only selected hyperlinked items such as the Featured Book and Guest Forum. I was given entrance to the site as a premium member and received the full benefits of membership; perhaps free members may identify Fea-

tured Articles that interest them in the current issue, and, if their institution subscribes to that journal, he or she could access them. Otherwise, free membership would seemingly lead to a premium membership subscription as it entices the user to discover what they are missing!

The new ILOSearch feature allows the user to search through the tables of contents, abstracts, and full-text

of all the journals linked to in The Informed **Librarian Online** issues. The Guests Forums, Featured Articles from previous issues, and other articles and reports of interest that are available in previous issues are also included. The premium member's ability to search all of these locations means that the user can rest assured that they are retrieving relevant, comprehensive and diverse information about the industry. Most searches produce more than an adequate and pertinent number of results when properly entered into the search box. The searches may also be: limited by journal

title, journal subject, and date (or current Informed Librarian Online issue); sorted by hits, name, date, and size; and, performed using Boolean, any of the words, all of the words, or the exact phrase. The search methods and limiters of ILOSearch are user-friendly and presented in a familiar format. I performed a few searches in the ILOSearch format and felt that the search produced plenty of relevant articles and reports. For example, a search for "Web 2.0," limited to the date range of January 2007-December 2007, and searching for the exact phrase rendered 833 documents. The results briefly include the area(s) in the article where the term is found, article title, source of the article (journal, electronic resource, etc.), subject area of the source, as well as volume, issue and date. It also includes the ILO issue



date and if it appears in full text. Clicking on

the hyperlinked source will usually bring the

user directly to either the full-text PDF article

or to a link to the journal's Website, which will

eventually lead to the full-text article.

From topics such as the issues facing academic libraries to the usability of newspapers' Websites, The Informed Librarian Online attempts to present a well-rounded selection of articles from which to choose, some issues certainly will be more relevant to one user than another, but unlimited access to the archives and searchability by subject area is helpful. 🥐

Elaine Robbins is a Reference Librarian and Interlibrary Loan Librarian at the College of Charleston's Addlestone Library in Charleston, SC. She received a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina in 2007. She also has experience working in the Special Collections and Digital Collections Departments at Addlestone Library.

A detailed review will be published in an upcoming issue of The Charleston Advisor.

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

The Informed Librarian Online http://www.informedlibrarian.com/ is provided by Infosources Publishing http://www.infosourcespub.com/ located in Teaneck, New Jersey which publishes basic reference sources for legal researchers and information professionals. Since 1981, they have been publishing popular annual directories such as The Internet Guide for the Legal Researcher.

