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Bet You Missed It

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Bet You Missed It

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

Column Editor: **Sarah Tusa** (Lamar University Library) <tusa@almark.lamar.edu>

David Meets Goliath?

by **Bruce Strauch** (*Against the Grain*)

Well, the news is that the **American Booksellers Association** and 26 independent booksellers are suing Borders and Barnes & Noble for alleged antitrust violations. The suit was filed in March, 1998 in California, where the two chains operate the most number of stores, over 300. A lot of the independents are "feeling the pinch" from the big superstores nearby. Details, including the

fulltext of the suit are available at <http://www.bookweb.org>. See — **Bob Hoover**, "Independents Throw the Book at Behemoths of Bookselling," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, March 19, 1998, p. F-1, Lexis-Nexis, 3/20/98. Other relevant cites include: *The San Francisco Examiner*, March 19, 1998, p.B-3; *Los Angeles Times*, March 19, 1998, D-1, *Chicago Sun-Times*, March 19, 1998, p. 63.

Phoenix Rising?

by **Bruce Strauch** (*Against the Grain*)

Subscription agents, this article outlines, are being squeezed. Besides falling discounts (... "the average discount received by subscription agents is falling by 0.4% each year") and budget cuts in libraries, there is the Internet, where the individual author and reader are perhaps more important than the institution. But there is still much optimism about the pros-

pects for the future. **Albert Prior** (Swets), **Jim Rose** (Blackwell's), **Ian Middleton** (EBSCO) and **Bernard Pope** (Dawson), all see this as an opportunity rather than a threat, making order out of the chaos on the Net. See — **Christopher Gasson**, "An End to Intermediaries?" *The Bookseller*, March 1998.

Ownership and Scholarly STM Publishing

by **Bruce Strauch** (*Against the Grain*)

This lengthy article gives an overview to the library's view of the scholarly publication system (rising cost of periodical subscriptions, upcoming information policies especially regarding digital information may threaten the free flow of information, library's "overriding preoccupation" with the new technologies), particularly with regard to STM publications. The article suggests a restructur-

ing of the scholarly archive making it possible for scholars to allow greater access to their scholarship and counteracting the high cost of the scholarly journal through reevaluating ownership rights in their own publications. See — **Joseph J. Branin** and **Mary Case**, "Reforming Scholarly Publishing in the Sciences: A Librarian Perspective", *Notices of the AMS*, April 1998, pp.475-486.

Network, Network on Your Desk

by **Katina Strauch** (College of Charleston)

Network Associates, Inc., has agreed to pay "\$36 million in cash and assumption of debt to acquire Pretty Good Privacy, Inc." You will remember that we told you about PGP many years ago, "a small but prominent pioneer in the field of software encryption." The area of

network security and software encryption is a high growth market and, many say, "in need of consolidation." See — **Carlton, Jim** "Network Associates Agrees To Acquire Encryption Firm," *The Wall Street Journal*, 12/2/97.

Technology Misgivings

by **Phil Dankert** (Cornell University)

What is the actual impact of computer policies on schools and colleges? This is a question that was discussed in some detail at a conference held at **Teachers College of Columbia University** in December 1997. Among the concerns expressed by critics of current technology policies was "the potential for computers to do more harm than good if introduced too early in childhood" (any time until the age of 12). At this conference those who were the most enthusiastic about the use of new technologies in education found themselves in the minority! **Alan C. Kay**, a vice-president for research and development at the **Walt Disney Company**, although arguing that "advanced technologies can make it easier for

students to visualize and learn new concepts", stated that "kids are doing nothing of real importance on computers and they'd be much better off doing something else." See — **Cordes, Colleen**, "As Educators Rush to Embrace Technology, a Coterie of Skeptics Seeks to be Heard," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 16, 1998, p. A25-A26.

Pay to Publish

by **Phil Dankert** (Cornell University)

At least two scholarly journals are forging a new model for academic publishing: They are charging the authors, not the readers. **Optics Express**, a publication of the **Optical Society of America**, and the **Internet Journal of Nitride Semiconductors Research**, published by the **Material Research Society**, both have adopted the "pay to publish" strategy and will distribute the journal free (online) to subscribers. Under the **Optics Express** plan, authors will pay a \$50 processing fee for each

article accepted, and \$300 more if it is accepted for publication. Publishers acknowledge that the success of this approach "hinges on how many people read the journal and respect it." According to the author, "many librarians are ready to embrace the pay-to-publish idea." See — **Guernsey, Lisa**, "Some On-Line Journals Make Ends Meet by Charging Authors Instead of Readers," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 6, 1998, p. A25.

Distance Learning Caveats

by **Phil Dankert** (Cornell University)

In this "point of view" article, the authors acknowledge that distance learning will certainly become more widespread in the near future. They caution, however, that before offering such programs, colleges and universities must make sure they are acting in full compliance with all relevant laws and regulations. An educational institution, for example, may have obtained only the rights

to reproduce and distribute certain materials that have been used in "traditional classes." With the advent of the Internet it must now make sure it has the right to "publicly display" these materials. See — **Steinbach, Sheldon Elliot**, and **Anthony V. Lupo**, "The Hidden Legal Traps in Distance-Learning Programs," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 6, 1998, p. A52.