

December 1997

Bet You Missed It

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Recommended Citation

Tusa, Sara (1997) "Bet You Missed It," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 9: Iss. 6, Article 24.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2887>

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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>

Web Not, Want Not by Philip Dankert (Cornell U.)

In what may be a first, **University of California at Los Angeles** is now requiring a Web page for every course in its largest unit, the College of Letters and Science. While administrators say this will allow the university to take full advantage of the Internet, not everyone thinks that it is a great idea. Some students complain that the Web sites are not worth the fees (\$100/year), and some professors are concerned that maintaining their Web pages will take too much time (and wonder if they are merely “gimmicks.”) See — **Young, Jeffrey R.** “Wave of the Future or Waste? UCLA Requires Web Page for Every Class,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 1, 1997, p. A21-22.

Methinks the Professor Doth Protest by Philip Dankert (Cornell U.)

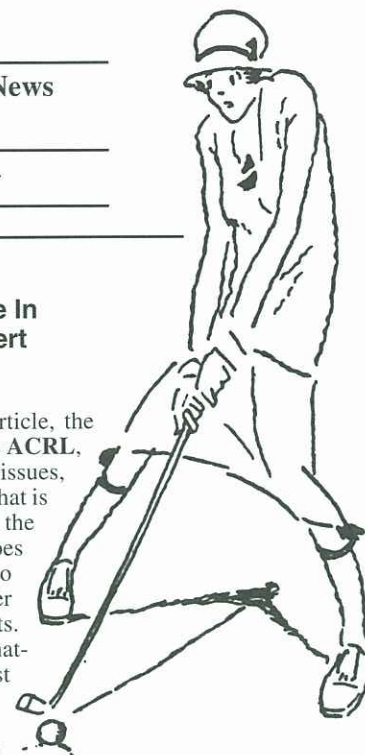
In this point-of-view article, the author has some very interesting comments to support his thesis that the Web is destroying the quality of students' research papers. Specific problems that he cites are: 1) an accompanying bibliography that cites no books, just articles, often out of date, and 2) cut-and-paste pictures and graphs that look impressive but “often bear little relation to the precise subject of the paper.” He also notes that too much of what passes for information today is simply “advertising for information.” Perhaps most telling, however, is his comment, I'm seeing my students' attention spans wane and their ability to reason for themselves decline. I wish that the university's computer system would crash for a day so that I could encourage them to read a really good book.” See — **Rothenberg, David.** “How the Web Destroys the Quality of Students' Research Papers,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 15, 1997, p. A44.

No Requiems, Please by Philip Dankert (Cornell U.)

Are scholarly monographs dying? Will electronic publishing save the monograph? To the former question, the answer is a definite “no,” according to the editor-in-chief of the **Duke University Press**. In fact, he notes that Duke is publishing three times the number of books that were published in the early 1980s. Also, between 1983 and 1995, Cambridge and Oxford more than doubled their annual output of titles. (The breakdown between monographs, textbooks, and trade books is not known.) In concluding, the author comments that “perhaps when people say that the monograph is dying, they mean that a particular kind of work is dying ... one that would have been publishable twenty-five years ago, but not necessarily today.” See — **Wissoker, Ken.** “Scholarly Monographs are Flourishing, Not Dying,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 12, 1997, p. B4.

Don't Fence Me In by Philip Dankert (Cornell U.)

In this personal opinion article, the author, who is president of the **ACRL**, discusses several problems, issues, trends regarding information that is made available electronically, the fact that online availability does solve some problems related to format, is still rising at a faster rate than our materials budgets. He closes with the plea, “whatever the future holds, we must not hamstring librarians by dictating the format in which they should acquire material or how much of their budgets should be devoted to online publications.” See — **Miller, William.** “Troubling Myths About Online Information,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 1, 1997, p. A 44.



The Chicago Way by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan U.)

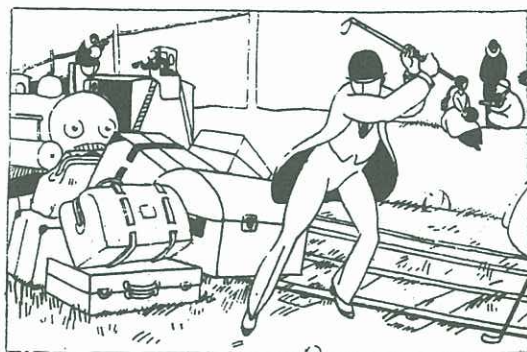
The **University of Chicago Press**, founded in 1892, is the second oldest press in the nation. Until 1905, all books published by the press had to be written and/or submitted by U. of Chicago faculty. In this article, the author discusses this policy and its effect on the Department of Sociology. He concludes that the policy of a subsidized university press was partly due to the department's rise to preeminence. See — **Leavy, Marvin D.** “The University of Chicago Press and the Rise of the ‘Chicago School of Sociology,’ 1892-1920,” *Publishing Research Quarterly*, v.12, no.3, fall, 1996, p.30-36.

Profile of a Publisher by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan U.)

George Newnes is credited now as being one of the creators of modern journalistic practice. In his time, he personified the successful entrepreneur, publishing a vast number and variety of popular periodicals between 1881 and 1910, and became one of Britain's first media magnates. In this article, the focus is on his innovative technological and promotional techniques and on his entrepreneurship. Unfortunately, in his later years, Newnes' business acumen deserted him and it took his son most of his life to pay off his father's debts. See — **Jackson, Kate.** “‘Doing Things Differently,’ and ‘Striking While the Iron is Hot’: The Entrepreneurial Success of the Media Magnate George Newnes, 1881-1910,” *Publishing Research Quarterly*, v.12, no.4, Winter 1996/1997, p.3-23.

Electronic Monographs — Go!
by **Claire Fund** (College of Charleston)

A Washington publisher, **National Academy Press**, posted 1,700 of its current titles on the Internet, letting everyone read for free. The result was a 17% sales increase the following year. NAP found that whetting a reader's appetite was best done through cyberspace, especially since reading an entire book online just isn't a pleasurable experience for the eyes. Once a reader was curious enough, they would then offer up their credit cards. "Electronic book publishing" is largely an infant business, with concerns over start-up costs, copyrights, and the basic belief that freebies will hurt sales. **Barbara Kline Pope**, director of NAP, regards online publishing as "the same as a bookstore, with people ... browsing." Despite these concerns, electronic publishing is slowly gaining acceptance, especially as a marketing tool. But, what is most important is that the readers will benefit. **Scott Lubeck**, NAP's former director, who initiated the project in 1994, said, "They will never have to worry that a book won't be available." See — **Beth Berselli**, "Read It and Weep: Online Publishing Actually Boosts Sales," *Washington Post* (C1) <<http://www.washingtonpost.com>>.



Internet Libel
by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Walter Winchell-imitator on the Internet, **Matt Drudge** burned a sudden journalistic trail coast-to-coast. *The Drudge Report* began as a nerd-apartment scheme, but several big scoops grabbed national attention, and it was picked up by **America Online**. Then Drudge apparently slandered a White House aide by reporting he had once beaten his wife. Said aide is now suing Drudge and the true deep-pocket America Online. Journalists are divided on whether one of their own should be engaged in such a chilling attack on their media profession and whether said aide is the appropriate plaintiff, he having committed many hatchet jobs himself in the not-so-distant past. The article nicely articulates the ignorance of those who think cyberspace is a private world separate from legal rules and the question of whether an Internet provider is a publisher or merely a communications' carrier like a telephone company. See — **Jennet Conant**, "LA Confidential," *Vanity Fair*, Dec. 1997, pp. 160-172.

Group Therapy

How do you identify electronic journals in your OPAC?

Column Editor, **Rosann Bazirjian** (Florida State University)

Hey y'all out there! Do you have any gripes? Come to your therapist! Try <rbazirji@mailier.fsu.edu> or FAX 904-644-5170.

GRIBE:

Submitted by Connie Foster, Serials Coordinator, Western Kentucky University Libraries

We are trying to determine a way to readily identify electronic journals in our public catalog (NOTIS for now). We are thinking of making the 856 field searchable because that seems to be the unique identifier. Another option is to add to the 538 a standard statement "Electronic Journal: <http://...>" and give the address.

I would appreciate ideas of how one could isolate electronic journals as a group in searches, if that is feasible.

RESPONSE:

Submitted by Michele D. Behr, OCLC Services Coordinator, SOLINET

Your question seems to be primarily concerned with remote access serials, rather than the broader category of electronic journals which could include CD-ROMs, computer disks, tapes, etc. Therefore, I will focus on suggestions for searching specifically for remote access serials in the OPAC.

In order to construct an effective search, it is essential to know the common characteristics of these records. According to CONSER guidelines on cataloging remote access computer file serials, bibliographic records for these titles should include the following components:

- 1) A "Type of Record" code indicating a computer file; this code in the fixed field identifies the record's primary format as being a computer file.
- 2) An "Additional Material Characteristics" code indicating a serial; this code in the 006 field identifies the record as having the additional format type of a serial.
- 3) A General Material Designation in the title area (field 245, subfield h) with the term "computer file."
- 4) A Systems Details note (field 538) beginning with the phrase "Mode of access," indicating how the serial is accessed, i.e., email, WWW, FTP, etc.
- 5) An Electronic Location and Access field (856) giving detailed address information, and additional details for connect-

ing, subscribing, transferring files, etc.

These characteristics could be used in various combinations to search your database. For instance, assuming the 245 subfield "h" is indexed in your OPAC, you could do a phrase search for "computer file" and limit the results to serials. If your note fields are indexed, you could also try a phrase search on "mode of access," again with a restrictor to the serials format type.

Another option for searching might be in the subject area. Although "electronic journals" is not currently a valid Library of Congress Subject Headings subdivision, the subdivision "periodicals" is commonly added where appropriate to the subject headings assigned to the serial. Therefore, a keyword subject search on "periodicals" combined with a title phrase search for "computer files" or for the format type of computer files might also be effective.

As you suggest, you could add some standard piece of data in your bibliographic records indicating remote access serials. Depending on how your indexes are built,

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