

November 1998

Bet You Missed It

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Recommended Citation

Tusa, Sarah (1998) "Bet You Missed It," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 10: Iss. 5, Article 37.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3016>

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Bet You Missed It

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

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Reports 'R' Us

by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

Over 300 Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports are now available from the National Institute for the Environment's

electronic library at www.cnie.org/nle/cro_main.html. See — "Congressional Advice," *Science*, v. 280 (May 29, 1998) p. 1319.

WWW/Garbage

by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

Abel questions the demand for "widespread, free, public access to the Internet" due to the enormous amount of "cyber-garbage" found. This garbage imposes a burden not only on the system and informed user but especially on the

poorly informed user. He presents a different perspective and conclusion. See — Abel, Richard, "The Internet: The Unconsidered Premise," *Publishing Research Quarterly*, vol. 13 (2) (Summer 1997), p. 77 - 82.

Getting Grey

by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

Grey literature — i.e., difficult to obtain materials that come from nontraditional sources — has an increasingly important role in information delivery, proliferation of information, and collection development. Therefore, libraries need to make grey literature more

accessible even though it is not easy to collect or control. See — Gelfand, Julia M., "Academic Libraries and Collection Development Implications for Grey Literature," *Publishing Research Quarterly*, vol. 23 (2) (Summer 1997), p. 15 - 23.

More Grey Matter

by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

Grey literature is not only proliferating but new types are emerging and there is a growing rise in its use, especially in empirical research. The author discusses the various developments, costs and benefits associated with

this literature. See — Farace, Dominic J., "Rise of the Phoenix: A Review of New Forms and Exploitations of Grey Literature," *Publishing Research Quarterly*, vol. 23 (2) (Summer 1997), p. 69 -76.

Move over Microsoft

by Martha Whittaker (Academic Book Center)

Did Microsoft miss something? In an article about the trend toward laptop and mobile computers (e.g., Palm Pilots) pushing desktop computers aside, staff author Susan Thomas suggests the Microsoft WinCE will dominate the handheld computer market, just as Windows has dominated the desktop market. But the cable industry and Web technologies are giving Microsoft a run for its money. And in the conclusion of her article, Thomas asserts that Microsoft "failed to see that few

people want to read a book on a PC." She cites two new products from SoftBook Press and NuvoMedia that open like paper books, but inside display high resolution screens. To turn pages, the user clicks buttons. One can underline, highlight, and make marginal notes with a stylus - but don't worry, bibliophiles; the whole thing comes with a book-like leather cover. See — Thomas, Susan Gregory, "Laptops Rule," *US News & World Report*, (July 6, 1998), p. 65 - 67.

Galileo on the Web

by Pamela Rose
(SUNY at Buffalo)

A chaotic collection of Latin and Italian texts, tables, calculations, proofs, and drawings make up Galileo Galilei's "Notes on Motion." The Manuscript, kept safe at the National Library in Florence, Italy, was the raw material for Galileo's *Discorsi* (1638). Now 270 of its pages have been posted on the Web, a perfect medium with its hyperlinks, at www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/



Galileo_Prototype/. See — "Galileo's Notes See Light of Cyberspace," *Science*, v. 280 (June 12, 1998), p. 1663.

Attitudes

by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

Data on attitudes of Americans over a huge range of subjects is available on the General Social Survey site at [\[umich.edu/GSS/home/htm\]\(http://umich.edu/GSS/home/htm\). See — "What They're Thinking," *Science*, v. 280 \(May 29, 1998 \), p. 1319.](http://www.icpsr.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Dream a Little Dream ...

by Jane Tuten (USC Aiken)

Dreaming of an ideal classroom scenario including all the latest technology presented by a professor, capable of engaging students in an active learning environment? Dream on. According to the authors, too many items must be in perfect sync for this to happen once during a semester! Unrealistic expectations and demands of technology, factors affected by human error, copyright issues, time, handouts, and power failures all conspire to make this a dream sequence at best. Evaluation of the rapid development of hardware and software, along with the accompanying disparity between those who are users and those who are not, have a profound impact both on the stress

and on the costs that are associated with the delivery options in the traditional classroom and in distance learning. Financial resources devoted to technology will not be directed to other sectors of the operational budget such as the physical plant, career development, admissions and other traditional areas. One of the most neglected aspects of technology has been the training of faculty and staff, so that they may communicate their knowledge of technology to the student. See — Soules, Aline and Edward Adams, "Classroom Technology: A View from the Trenches," *Educom Review*, v. 33 (3) (May/ June 1998), p. 50.

More Genes

by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

A "curated database" describes the Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM) database (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/omim). The Web site maintained by the National Center for Bio-

technology Information, includes expert summaries of the literature on all known human genes and gene disorders. See — "Window on Disease Genes," *Science*, v. 280 (June 5, 1998), p. 1499.