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Webworthy-Unique and Interesting Websites-Entomology and Physics

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GRIPE: (Submitted by Buddy Pennington, Document Delivery Librarian, Kansas City Public Library)

In looking at our annual renewal list from ProQuest-Bell and Howell-UMI (take your pick) we discovered that several fairly popular titles are no longer available on microfilm. The list of titles that affects our library is:

- Audubon
- Business Ethics Quarterly
- Motor Boating
- World Press Review
- Country Music
- Discover
- Field and Stream
- Journal of Career Planning and Employment
- Outdoor Life
- Popular Science
- Publications of the Modern Language Association of America
- Skiing magazine
- Sky and telescope

When I contacted our rep at ProQuest, we were told that the publishers had decided not to continue to pay for microfilm. We obviously can live without the film for some of these titles, but it seems to me that the publishers are making a big mistake in discontinuing such titles as

- Popular Science
- Discover
- World Press Review, etc.

Is there anything we can do about this? Also, what ideas do you have about retaining this stuff? We do not have room to bind the materials. We can send the issues out to a vendor to film them, but many of these titles have missing issues by the end of the volume (another important reason for the file). And these other vendors charge more than ProQuest does.

RESPONSE: (Submitted by Tina Creguer, Director, Communications/Public Relations ProQuest Information and Learning)

This is an interesting question, and we’re pleased to try to clarify what’s happening. First, it’s important to note that none of these publishers “pay” for microfilming. We have relationships with more than 8,000 publishers worldwide; we incur the cost of filming (or scanning for electronic products) of all periodicals and pay the publisher a royalty for any sales of their materials.

Rights to microfilm many of the titles in this list have, in fact, ceased at the request of the various publishers. A number of the microform agreements were suspended due to concerns surrounding the Tasini case. Now that the Supreme Court has clearly differentiated microform versions of publications from electronic databases, we anticipate that microform versions will be available again soon. Some titles were suspended by publishers due to other business reasons.

There is a continual ebb and flow of agreements between publishers and information providers, and the cause varies in each case. We anticipate that many of the titles listed will be available again soon, and that no lapse in coverage will occur.

WEBWORTHY

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Websites selected for broad appeal, depth of information, and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and are visited just prior to publication. Please let the editor know of any sites that are not accessible. Comments and suggestions welcome to Pamela M. Rose, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002; 716-829-2408 <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in Science, NetWatch column edited by Jocelyn Kaiser. — PR

Entomology

Dr. Seuss didn’t write just children’s fare like The Cat in the Hat. In 1943, U.S. Army GIs were treated to the saga of “Ann”—Anopheles Mosquito who, Dr. Seuss warned, can “knock you flat for keeps.” The tale can be viewed with graphics or plain text on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) Web site. Browse Leaf Beetles, just one of the 9 insect related Web searchable databases. Use the Quick SELector pop up menu to jump to Acari — Mites and Ticks: a virtual introduction, just one of over 9 informational pages including wonderful specimen photos. Each lower level page is unique in design and layout, and most include many interesting related links. <http://www.sel.barc.usda.gov/zhome/zhome.htm>

Hoaxes

Do you believe that lemmings commit suicide by hurling themselves off cliffs? Or that the Eskimo language includes over 100 words for snow? Check out the gullibility index at The Museum of Hoaxes, a wonderful site logically organized either by category or by a timeline of the year the hoax was perpetrated on unsuspecting folks as far back as pre-1700. Learn the origin and definition of the word “hoax,” catch up on the “hoax of the day,” and browse websites like manbeef.com, “human flesh for the discriminating connoisseur” that are hoaxes in themselves. <http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/index.html>

Mathematics

Billed as “an Internet Resource Catalogue for Mathematics,” MathGate is indeed all that and more! Scores of math sites are organized A-Z, by subject or by type. The fully searchable and browsable sites are selected by subject specialists who scan the Internet to locate and catalogue substantial and high quality UK and

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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
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The best worldwide resources. Predominately links to journals, societies, and departments, the pages also offer several preprint archives, online texts, jobs board, and historical sites. Join their mailing list or suggest a resource! — http://www.mathtgat.ac.uk/

Physics

How many general relativists does it take to change a light bulb? Doug Craigen (aka “DC”), a former Acadia University and University of Winnipeg physics professor maintains DC Physics, an eclectic mix of physics links including Animations, Hobby Physics, Lecture Notes, Research Papers, Reference Desk (tables, constants, etc.), and Online Textbooks and Tutorials. A number of light bulb answers can be found in his wonderful Humor section — my favorite answer: Two. One holds the bulb, while the other rotates the universe. Seriously, you can also find links to Cartoon Physics pages here, as well as a satirical musical called Cold Fusion and the answer to Is It Worth Running in the Rain? — http://www.dctech.com/physics/

Reference

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