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Here's Looking At ... The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream

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Here's Looking At . . . The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream

By Ellen Finnie Duranceau (MIT Libraries) <efinnie@MIT.EDU>

Book Review of *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*; by Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and Jeff Speck; NY: North Point Press, c2000. xiv, 289 pp. Includes index. ISBN: 0865475571.

Some books are worthy because they contain an idea new to the reader. (Jane Healy's *Endangered Minds*, which revealed that children who watch television have neurological differences from children who do not, was such a book for me.) Some books are worthy because they articulate an idea the reader already had, but hadn't had the words to express. (Deborah Tannen's analysis of gender differences in communication, *You Just Don't Understand*, was such a book for me.) *Suburban Nation* is worthy for both of these reasons. The authors explain that suburban sprawl arose not by accident but as a result of our own laws. This was a new idea (at least for me). The authors also articulate for the first time (at least for me) what is wrong with sprawl and offer language to help us understand why we feel repelled by the look and feel of (for example) that classic piece of Americana: the strip mall. They give us a framework for understanding more fully why we are nostalgic for old-style neighborhoods.

But whether or not the ideas will come to you as brand new or newly articulated, *Suburban Nation* is a book every American who cares about housing, the environment, community, social structure, and the fate of our rural and suburban landscapes — as well as our cities — should read. It is a compelling diagnosis of what ails us, offering an uncertain prognosis, but a clear path to a cure, if only the patient is willing.

This may sound like a daunting, depressing book, a book full of history, arcane terminology, dire predictions, and sad statistics. But it is not. It is an easy book to read, even for someone, like me, who had never read a book about urban planning or policy before. This is a book without jargon, written in clear, logical prose that is admirably simple; they note that their book is an attempt to "create expert generalists" and in this it succeeds.

The authors (who lead and work for Duany Plater-Zyberk & Co., a firm that designs, re-designs and revitalizes communities) draw their power not from the false security of prose stultified by the need to impress academic

colleagues, but from the sheer force of their ideas. While the theme of the book — the blight of American sprawl — is indeed depressing, the authors are not doomsayers. They are practical people, and they see a way out of our plight. They offer an indictment of urban planning and architecture since WWII, but also a blueprint to change the future of our country before sprawl turns it into a bland nation of alienated and frustrated car-bound citizens.

The authors contrast "suburban sprawl," an "invention, conceived by architects, engineers, and planners, and promoted by developers," with the traditional neighborhood, which "evolved organically as a response to human needs" and is characterized by "mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly communities of varied population." We have all, alas, seen sprawl, but one of the strengths of this book

is its ability to codify its egregious features so that even the layperson can understand why sprawl is so offensive and offputting.

Sprawl may seem innocuous and inevitable. Haven't we all become used to miles of sanitized, cunningly twisted roads in new treeless housing subdivisions, separated from the mall, school, or offices by miles of super-efficient highway? The authors fully

admit that suburbia is "neat" and "clean" and that "in truth, a lot of sprawl—primarily in affluent areas—could be considered beautiful." Leaving aside that much of it definitely is *not*, what else is wrong with sprawl? "The problem with suburbia is not that it is ugly. The problem with suburbia is that, in spite of all its regulatory controls, it is not functional: it simply does not efficiently serve society or preserve the environment." What suburbia encourages, the authors show, is traffic congestion (suburbs are designed with a single main 'collector' road that is necessary to take passengers anywhere, and cars are required to go anywhere at all); ugly convenience stores set back from the street behind daunting expanses of asphalt for all the cars; and a lack of pedestrians, which, if present, could generate community and a sense of place.

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Tony Ferguson throws down a brave challenge: "At my institution we take in a lot of money, we spend even more money, and we borrow money annually. If there are great centers of profit out there, please advise." (see *ATG* v.12 #1, pp. 38)

OK. I can do this because I subscribe to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The Internal Revenue Service requires public nonprofits to report revenue and expenditure on their form I-990, figures that are public information. Here is the latest for **Columbia University**, covering the fiscal year ending in 1998:

Revenue \$1,900 million
Expenditure 1,400 million (including \$31 million for libraries)

Profit \$500 million

That is 26% profit after taxes. The prior year also showed \$500 million profit. These profits are not distributed to shareholders. Dividends should be mission-related. Spending another \$30 or \$40 million to make its libraries hum would make more sense than blindly adding to its hoard of commercial real estate and other investments. (Nov. 26, 1999, and Oct. 23, 1998)

Tony suggests that Columbia University is so poor that it must borrow to survive. I can understand this one because a margin call wiped out my old broker. Borrowing preserves investments that might return more than the cost of interest. University endowments averaged 13% in bull markets since 1989. They would have done better, but Coca-Cola shares dropped suddenly on the last day of the fiscal year. (Feb. 18, 2000)

University misers managing \$3,500 million who cry about borrowing at 9% and spout crap about a "rainy day" probably eat their children. They are out of control. They clearly cannot be trusted to act in the interest of library users or the academy. They always pay back their lenders only to avoid jail. In the academic version of 3-card Monte, they use past glory for credit and then cheat library users of promised excellence. We shouldn't let them get away with it.

Tony asks, "When did we cut spending?"

This is also easy because I lived with growing impoverishment since 1970. **Jacques Barzun**, president of Columbia University in the 1960s and speaking for all research universities, emphasized that 6 percent of the university's budget went to the library. (*The American University*. 2nd ed. University of Chicago Press. 1993 pp. 174, 196) About ten years later, a **National Science Foundation** study by **Bernard Fry** and **Herbert S. White** noted that the libraries' share of university spending had dropped.

The National Enquiry on Scholarly Communication recognized that this financial policy caused a crisis. (1979) It timidly avoided criticizing this trend. (See **R. Abel**, Publishing Re-

search Quarterly 15,1 1999 p. 3-19) National Science Foundation canceled its troublesome studies, but **University of Massachusetts** librarian **Richard Talbot** found Department of Education statistics that showed the trend continued. (*Bowker Annual* 1984) Then *University Libraries and Scholarly Communication* reported that Columbia University dropped library spending to 2.93 percent by 1990, a trend shared by many others. (1992 p. 33) Between 1970 and 1995 academic R&D grew 2.5 times (in constant dollars to remove the effects of inflation). Library spending by major universities grew 1.5 times. In short, schools like Columbia cut library spending by more than half while they expanded R&D and generated more books and articles than ever.

Tony talks about a teenager's humiliation by Kia. I sympathize entirely. My two sons now choose their own vehicles. Transportation that is less than smart hardly trumps the wisdom of senior faculty. Professor **James Shapiro** indicates more cuts of the Columbia libraries, writing, "I'm embarrassed to report that my own university, Columbia, with one of the largest collections in the country, ranked far lower [than **Harvard**, **Princeton**, **Dartmouth**, **Yale**, and **Chicago** — libraries that are still a pleasure to use], spending a meager 2.55 percent, or \$28 million, on its libraries (which helps explain why I have had to spend so much time at other libraries and why a survey by Columbia's library revealed that more than 90 percent of Columbia's professors no longer set foot in the main library)." He goes on, "Universities are seeing serious threats to collections that in some cases have taken 200 years or more to accumulate In the 1970s, it was possible for a scholar in the humanities to undertake serious research at any one of 60 or 70 top university libraries. A decade from now, I suspect that this number will be reduced by half, at least." (*Chronicle of Higher Education* Dec. 12, 1997. pp. B4-5.) Another example: As outgoing chair of the **University of California - Berkeley** academic senate's library committee, historian **Leon Litwack** wrote, "We have already sustained losses in faculty and graduate students directly related to the deteriorating quality of the library, and this trend will be accelerated." He summarized concerns raised by faculty, students, and staff: "The gravity of the crisis cannot be overstated." (*California Monthly*. The Magazine of the **California Alumni Association** 108,4 Feb., 1998) The hoard at **University of California** is \$4,300 million, yet libraries are impoverished. I could supply additional statistics and quotes, but I think I made my point.

Finally, referring to the litany of ills that I trace to reduced library spending, Tony asks, "Have you no shame?" Why should I? I am only sorry I didn't start studying this earlier. Universities made the library crisis. They duck responsibility for it, blaming publishers. Shame on them, the university managers who put money ahead of education and research, then make up ridiculous excuses. They should be drummed out of the academy in one of those hubris-laden ceremonies on which they like to spend funds that should go to libraries.

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ATG Interviews Evelyn Fazio

Vice President & Director of Sharpe Reference

by Katina Strauch (Editor, *Against the Grain*) <strauchk@earthlink.net>

ATG: We know that *M.E. Sharpe* has been in business since 1958, but when and why did *Sharpe* begin its reference line? How does it relate to the rest of *M.E. Sharpe's* list?

EF: *Sharpe Reference* was established in 1995, when I joined *M.E. Sharpe* to create a new line of reference books. Our first list was published in the fall of 1996. Because *M.E. Sharpe's* list mostly consists of social science, it made the most sense to me to capitalize on our strengths and publish in those areas. I also felt that we could expand our current market by moving down into the high school and public library markets, where we had little, if any, presence. We began with the *Encyclopedia of the Republican Party* and the *Encyclopedia of the Democratic Party*, the *Encyclopedia of World Terrorism, Lives and Works in the Arts*, and the *Illustrated Book of World Rankings*.

ATG: How long have you been involved in *Sharpe's* reference program? Did you have experience in reference publishing prior to joining *M.E. Sharpe*?

EF: I have been involved in the *Sharpe Reference* program from its inception. It was a wonderful opportunity to create something using my own vision to fill a market niche. I felt that we could capitalize on *M.E. Sharpe's* sterling reputation in the academic market, while also establishing a presence in two large markets that seemed underserved: high school and public libraries. My prior experience in reference extends back to the beginning of my career in publishing at *Prentice Hall*, and at *Marshall Cavendish* as Editorial Director immediately before joining *M.E. Sharpe*.

ATG: How did you implement your vision? What strategy or business plan did you use?

EF: The plan was to get the best material to the market as quickly as possible. I used a variety of packagers as sources for the first two years to avoid hiring a staff and adding to overhead expenses.

ATG: In examining some of your titles it looks like you have succeeded. Some of your titles seem appropriate for academic libraries and others more geared to public libraries. Are we on target with that observation?

EF: Yes, you are on target. I intended the line to be appropriate for researchers in high school, college and public libraries. Many of the sets sell well in all three venues, such as the *Encyclopedia of Civil Rights in America*, while others have penetrated the high school and public libraries more than academic libraries, such as *Lives and Works in the Arts*. And some, like the *Encyclopedia of Interest Groups and Lobbyists*, have had stronger sales

in academic libraries than in high school or public libraries.

ATG: What subject areas do you consider to be your strengths? Are there plans to expand into other areas?

EF: Political science and history, as well as the arts—humanities, are our strengths, and they fit with the existing journal and book lines that were the foundation of the company. We do plan to expand, and I have been undertaking market research in schools, as well as at library meetings. We are considering other subject areas that are related, as well as other educational levels.

ATG: How do you decide what to publish? Do you have specific criteria that authors must meet?

EF: What we publish must have a curriculum tie-in at the high school level, as well as in areas that are studied at the college level. Some subjects are of such a compelling nature, like *Terrorism*, that they need to be published. There is also a correlation to modern world history with a subject like *Terrorism* that high school and public librarians feel comfortable with the purchase. As far as the authors/editors go, I try to locate experts in a field who can then draw on their colleagues to create the best sets with the best contributors. They have to be well organized and well networked to be the editors of a set, and the contributors must be scholars with credentials that give them, and the sets credibility. It's very important that students know that what they are reading was written by some of the leading scholars in a field. An example of this is the contributors to *Encyclopedia of Third Parties in America*.

ATG: A number of reference publishers, including *M.E. Sharpe*, repackage previously published information. Your *Encyclopedia of Civil War Biography* is an example that comes to mind. It culls biographical sketches from the first fifteen volumes of the massive *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*. What criteria do you use in deciding to do this? How do you determine the amount of "value added" that justifies this type of repackaging?

EF: We felt it was such an interesting body of work that it should be made available to today's students. Much of the material was written by contemporaries of the individuals covered, making the work virtually a primary source. I found the eyewitness accounts of events like Grant's funeral, written in the style of the day, to be fascinating. The Civil War is one of the most compelling periods in American history, and is a very popu-

lar subject of research. The fact that *Professor McPherson* was the editor made it very exciting. His commentary provided the "value added" that you mentioned.

ATG: It seems to us that some of the "value added" was also in the selection of the specific biographies, negotiating permissions to reprint, etc. How did you tackle those issues?

EF: It's all part of the regular process of creating or editing reference works. I try to find the simplest approach, so that I can avoid dealing with too many pieces. It's easiest to find a single source that owns a copyright rather than put together a set with dozens of sources that each require separate negotiation. We aren't *Scribner's* or *Gale*, who have large staffs who can tackle these huge sets with big budgets and lengthy schedules.

ATG: What responsibility do publishers have in making clear what libraries are getting when they purchase these repackaged products?

EF: We feel it's important to make note of the origins of this kind of material. In the Civil War set, we make clear where the work first appeared, because we are well aware that librarians need to make informed decisions about what they add to their collections.

ATG: Is this repackaging obvious from your promotional material? How far should a publisher go in clarifying the extent of the repackaging?

EF: It's in the publisher's note in the book. Our materials are hand sold by sales representatives, who are fully informed about the original source of the information.

ATG: In the rush to electronic publishing how is *Sharpe* reference positioning it? Do you have plans to release any of your print products in electronic formats?

EF: We are not rushing into anything, but are carefully considering the possibilities and discussing what to do next with several providers. In a small house like ours, we hesitate to take the lead in somewhat uncharted territory because the financial impact can be so great if one guesses wrong. We are watching this development very carefully, and are cautiously optimistic about the future of reference publishing in an electronic era. I suspect that reference material in the future will be accessed on-line via subscriptions, much in the way that periodicals seem to be headed. It's a rapidly changing world for us, and nobody has all the answers. I've done a considerable amount of research on this, and there are few clear answers yet.

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ATG Interviews Donald Hagen

Managing Director, Bernan Associates

by Katina Strauch (Editor, *Against the Grain*) <strauchk@earthlink.net>

ATG: *It seemed that Bernan just appeared on the scene recently. Tell us: how old is Bernan? When was it started? Where and why? Who owns Bernan? How is it governed?*

DH: Actually, **Bernan** has been around since 1952. The company was originally founded by **Bernie** and **Nan Lockyer**, hence the name. **Bernan** was initially set up to fulfill libraries' subscriptions to publications. By the mid 1970's the company had transitioned into only filling standing orders of GPO publications. In 1976 **Bernan** was purchased by the **Kraus Organization Limited**, a family owned corporation headquartered in New York City, run by the president, **Mr. Herbert Gstalder**.

ATG: *Bernan just acquired Accents. Tell us why you acquired Accents. There was some consternation recently over a listserv about the loss of Accents and their personalized service. Is Bernan that much bigger than Accents?*

DH: We acquired **Accents** for several reasons. The former owner of **Accents**, **Mr. Nadav Katz**, initially approached us about purchasing his company. When we took a close look at what **Accents** was doing and who their customer base included, we found that there was quite a bit of crossover between the core business of both companies. The majority of **Accents'** business was **CFR** subscription fulfillment, which is also a large portion of **Bernan's** business, allowing for a seamless transition of these accounts. On the other hand, there are approximately ten large academic libraries that were using **Accents** for acquiring highly specialized material. We currently do not have the staff in place to meet these needs, but we recently hired someone who, among other things, is looking at the possibility of us beginning this service again.

ATG: *You publish quite a few federal government publications. Will this continue? Do you publish in electronic format(s)? What else do you publish?*

DH: Absolutely. Government material is the foundation of what we do at **Bernan**. Not only will we continue, we are constantly adding titles the government discontinues in spite of a need driven demand for this material. Two examples of this are *Business Statistics of the United States*, and *Handbook of U.S. Labor Statistics*. This year we will be publishing for the first time *The Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, formerly published by GPO. We have received high praise from many librarians for taking over the publication of these items.

Currently we do not publish anything in a straightforward electronic format, but we are in the process of laying the groundwork to begin doing this in the near future. Some of our products are published on CD-ROM or include additional material on CD-ROM or diskettes.

The material we publish covers a wide range of topics, such as international trade, statistics and demographics, health and medicine, education, ethnicity and culture, environment and natural resources, banking and finance, each branch of the federal government and more.

ATG: *Currently, there is a bill in Congress to cut funding for the Government Printing Office/Office of Depository Libraries. Many fear that government publications will cease to be available or will be available to a select few people or libraries. Could you please comment? If this funding was withdrawn would this be an opportunity for Bernan as a commercial publisher? Is this desirable for the public good?*

DH: We are watching the developments on this bill closely. Personally, I believe that the **Federal Depository Library Program** is a wonderful treasure and it would be a shame if the proposed funding cuts actually take place. It is possible that the members of the House could be saber rattling, trying to drive home the point that in spite of the budget surpluses we have been hearing about, there are still tough choices that are going to have to be made if we are going to ensure the continuation of Social Security. I have a hard time believing that these cuts will be passed, though, by both the House and the Senate and then signed by the President. I think a likely scenario would be that the House passes these cuts and the Senate does not and the funding is reinstated during conference or that both chambers pass these cuts and the White House demands they be reinstated.

However, if both chambers of Congress and the White House take this unimaginable step, I believe there could be a role for **Bernan** to play. Conceivably, this could be an opportunity for **Bernan** to begin republishing additional items, but clearly this is not desirable for the general public. As a business we would have to charge for these items and that would mean libraries would have to make some tough decisions regarding their collection development. Library budgeting is a zero sum game. So, if a library decided to purchase something they previously received for free, then they would have to eliminate something else. This situation is not in the best interest of the end user.

The GPO has a sales program in place and for some titles a far greater number of publications make it into the public's hands through the sales program than through the depository program. If all the material currently in depository program were made available through their sales program, I believe there could be a big role that **Bernan** could play. First, I believe that **Bernan** is easier to deal with than GPO, because we are more customer oriented. Secondly, I think Congress would start to view GPO as a revenue source and prices would steadily rise. **Bernan** is a for-profit business, but, part of running a profitable business is not pricing yourself out of the market. Profitability has never been a constraint the federal government has had to operate under.

The alternative to the government printing and distributing this material is to put the information online, but there are so many problems with this solution currently it is not really viable. Before this becomes even part of the solution, several questions need to be addressed. How will information be archived? Will it always be available for historical reference? What do you do with maps? What about depository items published in Braille? How do you verify the authenticity of something online? To my knowledge, currently there is no way to verify that electronic information has not been altered. This issue looms even larger in light of the archival issues. What about computer viruses? An open system that allowed everyone access would also be more vulnerable to hackers and viruses.

The world of libraries is changing, though. I grew up with books and find pleasure holding a book in my hands. My oldest daughter just finished her freshman year of college and tells me that she rarely set foot in the library. She did almost all of her research online. So while the idea of moving the depository material to an electronic format will be met with apprehension by me and my contemporaries, the generation that are now becoming adults would probably welcome this change.

ATG: *How many people are employed at Bernan? How many books do you publish per year? How about journals? CD-ROMs? Electronic databases? Other?*

DH: Currently there are about 55 people working at our office in Lanham, MD. **Bernan** publishes approximately 40-50 titles including new titles and new editions. We publish five titles on CD-ROM and none in electronic format, but that will be changing in the near future.

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Donald Hagen
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ATG: Tell us about your international offices. How large are they and where are they located?

DH: Bernan has no international offices. The closest we come to international offices would be the resale agreements we have with our international distributors.

ATG: How has the electronic revolution affected Bernan?

DH: Since we were founded in 1952 and we are not a huge corporation, we, like many other companies, are working to retrofit an established company. This is a difficult process, though, on two levels. First, you have the cost associated with making these changes. We do not have large cash reserves that we can use to throw money at this week's new idea. We must make our choices wisely, so that a year from now we are not suffering from buyer's remorse. Secondly, in a company that is almost 50 years old, you have tradition and a certain ebb and flow to business. When you publish a book it is an event with a tangible item. Electronic publishing does not offer these same things. Material posted online can be updated whenever you like, there is no need for second or third editions. So while you set dates for posting material online, those dates are much more easily changed than a publishing date. Electronic publishing is in our future. How that will manifest itself is still under consideration.

We have an e-publishing group that is laying the groundwork for this transition, looking at hardware options, doing market surveys and evaluating which material is best suited for an online format.

The electronic revolution has had, is having and will continue to have an increasing influence on how and what we do at Bernan. From networking the office, to changing our order entry/accounting system, to deciding what material to publish online and how to package it, the electronic revolution has changed the way we do business. That is just the nature of the world we live in, though. Change is inevitable so we must continue to change and reinvent ourselves or we will be left behind.

ATG: Tell us about yourself. What are your hobbies? What do you like to do? What do you like to read? Family?

DH: I'm a family guy with three girls and a boy. My wife, **Joyce**, is busy constantly keeping the daily business of the family operating. My oldest girl will be in her second year at the **College of William and Mary**. Another girl is a rising senior in high school, and the third girl is moving up to the 8th grade. My son will be in second grade next September. The majority of my free time is occupied with crew, soccer, lacrosse, and Little League events. Reading—mostly newspapers and re-reading high school classics to help the kids with reports. Biking has become my outlet for stress relief and weight control.

Fazio Interview
from page 48

ATG: Given the uncertainty and high cost of electronic publishing, we understand your hesitance. Have you considering partnering with other small (or large) publishers? Is that a viable option? Why or why not?

EF: We are partnering with **netLibrary** on some of our academic works, but have not yet gone this route with an encyclopedia. I am considering options, but I am not ready to make any recommendations. As far as other publishers go, it becomes a question of who owns the copyright to a work, how it's going to be used and where, does it end up in a database that then competes with the original work, and similar issues. These things become a deterrent.

ATG: Where do you see *Sharpe Reference* in 5 years? 10 years?

EF: I would like to see this line continue to grow and expand, and become one of the best in the industry. I believe that if we stick to our mission and continue to grow carefully, and concentrate on high quality, we will continue to be successful. We have increased the number of titles published from 4 a year to 6 or 7. Our print runs are fairly stable—we'd rather reprint than keep excessive inventory, and the sales are growing on an average of about 20 percent a year so far. The backlist continues to sell, and we've reprinted several titles. I expect these trends to continue.

Here's Looking At
from page 45

One of the revelations of this book, as I've mentioned, is that sprawl did not happen by accident. I had thought that the *lack* of zoning was responsible for sprawl, but here the authors demonstrate that sprawl is actually the logical outcome of current zoning laws and planning practices, which specify nonoverlapping single-use areas for shopping and for housing, and which regulate the type of housing that can exist in a certain area, forcing uniform, economically segregated neighborhoods without options for multifamily dwellings, apartments, and single family homes in a single integrated area.

The authors show that the typical suburb with its cul-de-sac kids and soccer moms is not a healthy psychological environment. The kids are safe on their cul-de-sacs for their first few years, but then become virtual prisoners "of a thoroughly safe and unchallenging environment" which they cannot leave except by car, so they are completely dependent on adults. Moms, on the other hand, are stuck in their cars for hours, driving various children to all the places they now need to go since they have nothing available to them in their

own neighborhood: no walkable park, school, library, or shops. Teenagers are bored in these environments, and the elderly are stranded. Commuters are exhausted, pushing the limits of how far they can stand to drive daily. The authors point out that "now, largely be-

cause of suburban land-use patterns, the eight-hour day has once again become the ten-hour day. These two hours, once the most interesting, varied and socially productive hours of the day [when spent at home, or in communal activity as early in the twentieth century] have become some of the most stressful and unpleasant"—spent fighting traffic on overstuffed highways.

The book's most simple and yet stunning conclusion is that we've been designing our towns and cities for cars, not people. To make them work for people, they should look like traditional neighborhoods: mixed use, with shops and houses intermingled, apartments above stores, narrow treed streets, houses set close to the street with garages hidden at the back, and a sense of the presence of other

humans (which the mixed-use tends to encourage, but the single-use to discourage, since people all go off to work at the same time, abandoning one area, to fill an office park somewhere else, which, because of its isolation in a sea of asphalt, off a highway, is impracticable to leave except at the end of the workday.)

One of the authors' strengths is their ability to show how the "devil is in the details"—how small things like street width and the angle at which roads meet are important factors in establishing our psychological as well as physical environment. They point out that the arbitrarily curvy streets of the typical new subdivision "create an environment that is utterly disorienting" and that road engineers design roads with curves at intersections to allow cars to navigate them more quickly, but these same roads discourage walkers. It is difficult, after reading this book, to underestimate the power of such physical details. The authors believe (and do a good job of showing) that "community cannot form in the absence of communal space, without places for people

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From the Reference Desk

Column Editor: **Tom Gilson** (College of Charleston) <gilson@cofc.edu>

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 opened a new world to biblical scholarship. Hailed by many as the most important archaeological discovery of the 20th century, the Dead Sea Scrolls have altered our view of one of the most compelling eras of Judeo-Christian history. Now, thanks to Oxford University Press there is an encyclopedic treatment of these important documents that offers 50 years of intense scholarship to both the professional and the general reader.

However, the *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2000, 0195084500, \$295) includes more than just discussions of the original texts found at Qumram. Editors Lawrence H. Schiffman and James C. VanderKam have expanded their coverage to texts found at related sites, and which scholars collectively refer to as the "Judean Desert" texts. Naturally, there are discussions of the archaeological discovery and descriptions of the various fragments and scrolls, but the *Encyclopedia* also points to how analysis of the texts has enhanced our knowledge. New light is shed on sects and movements like the Essenes, significant events like the Bar Kokhba Revolt, concepts like atonement, practices like sacrifice, as well as various books of the Bible. There are also articles that discuss the research itself, including methods, individuals and institutions. Added features include a list of the Judean Desert Texts according to the official numeration, a synoptic outline of the contents by general category and an alphabetical index.

There is nothing else in the literature like *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. It brings together a remarkable record of modern scholarship into a comprehensive and thorough two-volume set. This encyclopedia offers a natural complement to Scribner's highly regarded *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (1995 0684192799, \$475), as well as to another Oxford University Press title, the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology of*

the Near East (1997, 0195065123, \$595). Academic and larger public libraries that have made homes for these two titles will also want the *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls* in their collections.

Oxford University Press and the American Psychological Association have teamed up to produce another reference work that most academic and larger public libraries should seriously consider. The eight-volume *Encyclopedia of Psychology* (2000, 1557981876, \$995) took over seven years and the work of more than 1400 contributors to complete. As befits the subject, the coverage is broad and interdisciplinary. Some "1500 original articles" treat topics as diverse as feminist psychotherapy, brain development, psycholinguistics, twelve-step programs, antianxiety medication and the psychology of virtual communities. The level of quality is what you would expect from the APA and Oxford UP. Thorough, well-written articles with attention to scholarly details, like good bibliographies, are standard in this encyclopedia. As such, the set is not only useful to readers for background information, but serves as a starting place for further research. There is however one minor quirk. Some of the entries in the article bibliographies are annotated, but many are not. Being a reference librarian who wants it all, annotations for each entry would have been preferred. Also, Web sources seem to have been ignored. The 160-page index is well organized and there is a Synoptic Outline of Contents that is helpful in getting a grasp of the encyclopedia's scope. The Outline groups the articles into broad categories like Biographies, Interventions, Cultural and Cross Cultural Psychology, Research Design and Statistics, Psychological Testing and Assessment, and Personal, Interpersonal and Social Processes. All eight volumes are nicely bound and the printing is generally clear and easy to read. However, you will want to examine your copy before processing it. In the set I reviewed, some of the pages, especially in volume one, were in a lighter print (interspersed among p. 273-317).

The *Encyclopedia of Psychology* will have wide appeal and is appropriate for students, scholars, professionals and lay readers alike. Some librarians may prefer to wait for the September publication of the newest edition of the widely respected *Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science* (Wiley, 0471239496, \$450) before deciding to invest in this

set. But my guess is that with interest in psychology so intense, libraries will be expected to purchase both.

Speaking of publishers teaming up, William B. Eerdmans and E.J. Brill have introduced a landmark reference with the first of a projected five-volume set. The *Encyclopedia of Christianity* (1999, 0802824137, \$100) promises to be the definitive reference on one of the world's great religions. Some 465 articles comprise this first volume and cover entries A-D. The treatment is scholarly and comprehensive with the focus being on more than historical development. There are articles on individual countries throughout the world relating to the current state of Christianity, as well as those discussing current trends in theology and Christian thought. The religious diversity of Christianity is also taken into account. Entries on subjects like Black Theology and the Charismatic Movement stand with those on Calvinism and Augustine's Theology. Other topics range from the symbolism of the Cross to Church music, Creativity to Contemplation and from Clinical Pastoral Education to Dialectic Theology. The longer articles have their own list of contents to give a sense of scope and structure. Cross-references to related entries are embedded in the text of all the articles and each has a bibliography. Also, when relevant, there are references in the text showing the sources of specific ideas and concepts.

The fact that the *Encyclopedia of Christianity* was selected as an "Outstanding Academic Title" by *Choice* (January 2000), and as an "Outstanding Reference Source," by Reference and User Services Association of ALA (May 2000) testifies to its quality.

In a subject area where there are already a number of useful reference works, the *Encyclopedia of Christianity* stands out. Both academic and public libraries will find it a necessary addition. (According to Books in Print, Volume 2 will be available in November 2000 from William B. Eerdmans Publishing (0802824145, \$100.)

Another encyclopedia, just published by Garland, also deserves special attention. Edited by Richard Lansing of Brandeis University, the *Dante Encyclopedia* (2000, 0815316593, \$175) will be a worthwhile addition to most academic library collections. It is comprehensive and authoritative, offering the reader access to both Dante's personal genius, as well as to the time

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in which he lived. Naturally, the encyclopedia contains critical appreciation of Dante. Articles covering his early works like *Vita Nuova* (*The New Life*) and *Il Convivio* (*The Banquet*) are included along with extensive consideration of his three-part masterwork, the *Divina Comedia* (*The Divine Comedy*). But more than that, Lansing and his contributors reveal both the sources of Dante's inspiration, as well as the impact of Dante's work on succeeding generations of writers and artists. They point out that the poetry of Baudelaire, the art of Dali and the films of Fellini, among many others, show elements of Dante's influence. As you would expect, each entry has its own bibliography. Some are fairly extensive for a one-volume encyclopedia. The text is well illustrated with maps, drawings and photos and the general index is useful in locating specifics. Other features worthy of note include a chronology of Dante's life, a list of Popes living before or during Dante's time and an index of Italian and Latin proper names in Dante's works.

Admittedly, it is expensive for a one-volume encyclopedia, but the *Dante Encyclopedia* returns real value for the investment. Both serious Dante scholars and undergraduates studying him for the first time will derive benefit from this reference. It is an encyclopedia that does justice to its subject, and that is saying a lot.

Garland has also added a useful legal reference to their catalog, *Religion and American Law: An Encyclopedia* (2000, 0815307500, \$135). It is hard to overestimate the impact of religion on our history and in *Religion and American Law*, noted historian, Paul Finkelman, reaffirms that fact. But he and his contributors also point to the tension that exists between religion and the rule of law in a democracy. *Religion and American Law* traces this constant struggle from Roger Williams' founding of Rhode Island in 1636 to the overturning of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (1993) by the Supreme Court case *City of Boerne v. Flores* in 1997. A significant amount of the encyclopedia is dedicated to the coverage of case law. A quick count shows that over 500 cases are referenced in the index of cases at the end of this volume. But issues like school vouchers, the sacramental use of drugs, polygamy, the influence of the Bible, public proselytizing and school prayer are also discussed. In addition, the experiences of religious minorities ranging from Catholics to Snake-handling sects and from Baptists to Native Hawaiians are covered. The entries are well written and each ends with a brief bibliography and a list of cases cited.

There is so much information here that it

is unfortunate more care was not taken with the subject index. There are few if any sub-categories used so that for each topic listed, the reader is faced with a stream of page numbers, and oddly, under one topic "Black Churches" there is no page number listed at all. (African Americans are referenced on 14 pages.) Naturally, this hinders the use of what is overall, a fascinating and valuable reference book. Nonetheless, *Religion and American Law* is successful in making sense of an important, complex and emotional laden subject. It is still a worthwhile addition to both American history and legal reference collections.

ABC-CLIO has filled a gap in the literature. At last there is a multi-volume encyclopedia dedicated to America's "Forgotten War." Edited by Spencer C. Tucker *The Encyclopedia of the Korean War* (2000, 1576070298, \$275) is an appropriately exhaustive treatment for a subject that was in need of it. From the military side, specific operations like the landings at Inch'on and the Pusan Breakout, weapons ranging from machine guns to the use of air power, as well as support services, like MASH units, are all covered. Of course, the *Encyclopedia* contains entries on the major personalities like Douglas MacArthur, Harry Truman, Kim Il Sung and Mao Zedong. But it also includes those on lesser lights like White House correspondent Anthony H. Leviero who won a Pulitzer Prize for his exposure of the Wake Island conversations between MacArthur and Truman. In addition, there are articles on logistics and strategy, the role of women, diplomacy, politics, and psychological warfare. There is even an extensive article that discusses the historiography of the war (revised and reprinted from the July 1997, *Journal of Military History*). The text is well illustrated with photos and charts, as well as a useful set of maps that appear in the front of each volume. Another feature of the *Encyclopedia* is that a major portion of Volume III consists of approximately 120 primary documents related to the war.

Admittedly, there are other references on the Korean war. Stanley Sandler's *The Korean War: An Encyclopedia* (Garland, 1995, 0824044452, \$125) and the recently published *Conflict in Korea: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 1999, 0874369789, \$65) are both useful. But neither has the depth of coverage present in this work. The *Encyclopedia of the Korean War* is a recommended addition to both academic and public library collections.

Another impressive work from ABC-CLIO is *Medieval Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs and Customs* (2000, 1576071219, \$150). It will appeal to both

general and scholarly audiences seeking background and explanations of this important aspect of medieval life. As the title implies, the definition of folklore is inclusive. In fact, the *Encyclopedia* contains an article that defines folklore from the editor Carl Lindahl's perspective and is worthwhile reading. However, *Medieval Folklore* is limited in geographic range. It is medieval European folklore that is being discussed here with emphasis on the folklore of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. That is not to say that the folklore of other European cultures is neglected. French, Scandinavian, Germanic, Baltic, East Slavic, Jewish, Italian as well as others are included. Some 306 entries cover a rich variety of topics including burial mounds, courtly love, dreams and dream poetry, festivals, games and play, oral theory, punishments and styles of food preparation. Influential characters, both real and imagined are also covered like Richard the Lion-Heart, Geoffrey Chaucer, Thomas Malory, Prester John, Sir Gawain and Robin Hood. Each entry has a brief bibliographic essay leading to other sources and there is a general index, as well as indexes of tale types and motifs. All of these features should prove useful to readers. In addition, there are over 150 illustrations that complement the text. *Medieval Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs and Customs* is a fascinating and well done reference that will find a home in many academic and public libraries.

Gale has returned to a winning formula with their new series *Science and its Times. Understanding the Social Significance of Scientific Discovery*. However one quirk must be mentioned first, the publishing schedule. Two of the projected seven volumes are available now: *Volume 5* covering 1800- 1899 (2000, 0787639370, \$85) and *Volume 7* dealing with 1950 - the Present (2000, 0787639397, \$85). It may seem a minor point but as most reference librarians can tell you, explaining to patrons why volumes 5 and 7 are available and volume 1 is not, can get tedious.

As in another Gale's set *Literature and its Times*, (1998, 0787606081, \$395) making connections is a key to this work's usefulness (see my review in *ATG*, April 1998, p. 41). Similar facts and information, particularly the biographical sketches, can be found separately in other sources, a number published by Gale. However, the way the information is organized stresses the context in which scientific discovery was made. Pure science is not the strength here. It is the historical and sociological connections to the science that are emphasized.

Both volumes have the same structure and are divided into broad chapter headings including Exploration and Discovery, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Medicine, Physical Sci-

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From the Reference Desk
from page 56

ences and Technology and Invention. So, unlike *Magill's Survey of Science*, in which each science is treated to its own multi-volume set, all of the sciences are covered in each volume. Each chapter heading contains articles on specific discoveries, biographical sketches and a bibliography of primary sources. The essays that cover the scientific discoveries range from 1500-2000 words. The biographical sketches of the scientists are shorter at 500-1000 words each. Approximately 160 scientific discoveries or developments are covered in each volume. Each essay consists of an overview, background and a discussion of impacts. In *Volume 5 1800-1899* they range from the discovery of the magnetic North Pole to the development of Boolean algebra, from the discovery of viruses to the invention of the sewing machine and from the birth of dentistry to the first subways. *Volume 7 1950 - Present* takes the reader from invention of the heart and lung machine, through the space race and the Cold war on to the Human Genome Project, Chaos Theory, the personal computer and the explosion of fiber optics in communications technology.

The writing is direct and uncluttered by jargon. Presentation is good with photos, illustrations and sidebars complementing the text. Unfortunately, the inexpensive binding may not hold up to intense use. But, in spite of this, and the confusing publishing schedule, *Science and its Times* obviously merits consideration. It will be a helpful addition to high school and public libraries, as well as some undergraduate libraries where the history of science is a recurring interest.

With the political season heating up it is only fitting that we take a look at two of Sharpe Reference's recent additions. The *Encyclopedia of Interest Groups and Lobbyists in the United States* (2000, 076568022X, \$185) gives the reader a real perspective on the central role that interest groups and their representatives play in the political process. The coverage is diverse. A total of 197 interest groups are listed in categories like banking and finance, health and medical, labor, civil and human rights, agriculture, industry, construction and transport and media, entertainment and information. There are also sections on

single-issue interest groups and foreign governments who promote their political agendas. Each category is preceded by an essay that gives a useful overview while the individual entries discuss the history, activities and financial facts related to the specific interest group covered, as well as providing a brief bibliography. The information is both interesting and helpful while the writing is factual and objective. However, the bibliographies could be a lot stronger. They range from the one entry listings (both organizational Web sites) for Friends of the Earth and the Environmental Defense Fund to those with up to ten entries like the Nuclear Energy Institute. (The NRA has only three references listed.) But the set has added strengths. There is a section of statistical information provided in a number of tables and charts about the top PAC's and lobbyists, as well as complete contact information for each organization. There is also a helpful index, a table-of-contents and a list of the abbreviations and acronyms used in the set.

Overall, the *Encyclopedia of Interest Groups and Lobbyists in the United States* brings together a good deal of important and

useful information. Both undergraduate and public libraries will find it a beneficial addition to their collections.

Another Sharpe reference which brings together a lot of information is the *Encyclopedia of Third Parties in America* (2000, 0765680203, \$275). The eclectic diversity of American politics shines through the pages of this set. The *Encyclopedia's* three volumes are divided into four parts. The first is a collection of eight essays that set the historical context, in broad chronological order, for the rise of third parties. The second is a group of 40 color maps that reflect the presidential voting percentages of major third party movements. The third part contains the actual articles on the individual parties. These articles provide informative discussions of the origins, platforms, electoral results and the legacies of each party. Coverage is impressive and ranges from the anti-immigrant Know-Nothings to the abolitionist led

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TestDriving CD-ROMs — Reviews of CD-ROM Products

The American Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia

Column Editor: **Norman Desmarais** (Acquisitions Librarian, Phillips Memorial Library, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918; ph: 401-865-2241; fax: 401-865-2823)
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The American Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia ver. 2.0

Facts on File, Inc., 11 Penn Plaza, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001-2006
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0-8160-3608-X (Macintosh single user), 0-8160-3610-1 (Macintosh network)

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Reviewed by **Norman Desmarais** (Providence College)
<normd@providence.edu>

The American Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia ver. 2.0 is a hybrid CD-ROM for DOS, Windows, and Macintosh. It comprises the text and maps from six Facts on File titles: *Voices of the Winds: Native American Legends* (1989 and now out of print), *Who Was Who in Native American History: Indians and Non-Indians from Early Contacts Through 1900* (1990),

World Dance: the Language of Native American Culture (1994), *Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes* (1990), *Atlas of the North American Indian*, and *Encyclopedia of Native American Religions* (1992). The last three titles have had revised print editions appear in late 1999/early 2000. A Web version of *The American*

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TestDriving CD-ROMs
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can Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia should appear by mid-2000. We expect that it will include the revised versions of the source titles. The titles of the CD and the corresponding print publications focus primarily on North American Indians; but they also cover Mexico, Canada, the Arctic, Meso-American civilizations, Caribbean and South American tribes.

The main menu offers buttons to locate information by tribes, history, folklore, religion, biographies, reference shelf, and multimedia gallery. The Tribes button allows locating information about specific tribes by name or by region. Regions include: arctic, subarctic, northwest, southwest, Plains, Great Basin, California, northeast, southeast, Plateau, all regions, and other areas.

The History button goes to a submenu that offers other buttons to focus on early civilizations, culture and customs, wars and rebellions, land disputes, and discovery/exploration. These subdivisions are also used by the history and exploration timelines in Reference Shelf.

The Folklore, Religion, and Biographies buttons offer two further buttons which are complementary. One allows searching topics alphabetically while the other organizes the topics by tribe. The alphabetic entries are usually shorter (one or two paragraphs) than the topics. Alphabetic buttons appear raised except when there is no corresponding information. The multimedia gallery allows perusal of entries by media type: audio, video, photos/portraits, or maps.

The Reference Shelf includes primary source documents, a glossary, timelines for both history and exploration (but there are no links to corresponding topics), and a list of museums and societies. The buttons of the secondary menus for the multimedia gallery and the reference shelf transliterated the labels into Greek characters. Museums and societies can be identified by location or organization name for both the United States and Canada. It is up-to-date, including information about the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Ledyard, CT, which opened in late 1998. Searchers can identify documents related to particular tribes or the people related to them. As many of the documents consist of treaties, a button lists the treaty names and the dates.

Trying to locate the Pequots (or Pequot) and the Ojibwa with the Tribe button, however, made us think that there was no coverage of these tribes. Using the Search button at the bottom of almost every screen produced 125 entries for the Pequots, including a lengthy article on the Pequot War, and 147 for the Ojibwa. This search feature has some interesting capabilities. As one types letters in the Search For window, the Words Available window goes to the nearest match. This helps to identify variant spellings such as Mohican, Mohegan, and

Mahican. The entry for Algonkin explains:

— Indian tribal names can be confusing. Alternate names or different spellings of the same name are often used. Sometimes the Indians themselves use different names for their tribes than those given by whites. Or tribes may be known by names given to them by another tribe. Moreover, early historians may have applied names inconsistently. There were often French versions from French-speaking historians, explorers or traders, as well as English versions. In the case of the southern and southwestern Indians who lived in territories where the Spanish settled in North America, there were sometimes varying Spanish names as well.

— The use of the name Algonquian or Algonquin or Algonkin is an example of possible confusion. Different writers use different spellings. To add to the mix-up, the name is sometimes used to discuss one small Canadian tribe, the people who originally held the name. But at other times it is used to denote many different tribes who spoke a common language but who were spread all over the Northeast and other areas as well. One might see the phrase the Algonquian proper to distinguish the original tribe from other Algonquian-speaking peoples. Another way is to use the Algonkin spelling for the original tribe and to use the Algonquian spelling for the whole language family of tribes.

As the search engine identifies the closest entry, it lists the word in the Results window along with the total number of occurrences. Double clicking a word from the Words Available window enters the term in the Search For window; but it does not replace what one typed. We sometimes experienced General Protection Fault errors doing this. The Operators window offers an impressive number of options: &, ^, |, ~, \and, \not, \or, \xor, :1, {, }, *, ***, and #. Searchers will understand the meaning of some of these operators but probably not all of them. Yet, the ondisc help does not explain their meaning and the documentation that comes in the cover of the jewel case only covers the installation process.

The Tools button on the navigation bar allows saving pictures and text, viewing search history, creating or running tours (slide shows or presentations), adding topics to a tour, and saving a tour. There is no cut and paste option; so, when one saves text to disk, one copies the entire article and must then select the desired portions.

The entries offer a good introduction or overview to a topic, as an encyclopedia should. However, despite its breadth of coverage, *The American Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia* is not a one-stop solution for serious research. For example, the long article on Indians in the American Revolution glosses over the Battle of Bennington (VT) without mentioning the important role of the Indians. Nor does the article mention the massacre of 20-year-old Jane McRea that galvanized the colonials and resulted in a great increase in recruits, sealing the fate of Gen. Burgoyne and leading to his surrender at Saratoga. However, a four paragraph biogra-

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did his research
sitting under a tree.

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phy of John Burgoyne devotes an entire paragraph to the incident; and there is a biographical entry under the variant spelling Jane MacCrea.

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Book Reviews — Noteworthy Compositions

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston)
<vaughnd@cofc.edu>

In this issue, a veritable cornucopia of books is presented for your thoughtful consideration. I would like to introduce and thank the College of Charleston's **Phillip Powell** for enlightening us with his review of *Strangers at Home and Abroad: Recollections of Austrian Jews Who Escaped Hitler*, edited by **Adi Wimmer**. Phillip is a reference librarian and the Bibliographic Instruction Coordinator. While this is his first (but not certainly not his last) review for *ATG*, he has also written reviews for *American Reference Books Annual*. Welcome to the Grain, Phillip!

Robots for Kids: Exploring New Technologies for Learning
Edited by **Alison Druin** and **James Hendler**
(2000, Morgan Kaufmann Publishers,
1558605975, 377 pp, \$44.95)

If you have recently watched MTV's *Real World New Orleans*, you might be familiar with the house dog. For those of you who have not given up a Tuesday evening at the ten spot for the sake of witnessing popular culture, what you have been missing is a robotic canine. Most of the *Real World* casts are given fish; the *New Orleans* crew was given a hunk of wires and metal named Shorty. Being slightly skeptical of the usefulness of a robotic dog, I jumped at the chance to read editors **Alison Druin** and **James Hendler's** *Robots for Kids: Exploring New Technologies for Learning*.

Many of the books I review address one of the many issues associated with technology; *Robots for Kids* is no exception. Arguably the new technological frontier, robots are no longer funny little humanoids that used to make us laugh on television shows like *Silver Spoons* and *Saved by the Bell*. Rather, robots and other forms of artificial intelligence (AI) are used not only as toys and pets but also as assistants to the disabled and as educational tools. *Robots for Kids* is certain to introduce you to new frontiers in mechanical technology.

Druin and Hendler are no strangers to robotics. Druin, an assistant professor at the **University of Maryland** in both the **Institute for Advanced Computer Studies** and the **College of Education**, has focused her recent research on robotic storytelling technologies. Hendler, also a professor at the University of Maryland, heads the **Autonomous Mobile Robotics Laboratory** and the **Advanced Information Technology Laboratory**.

Robots for Kids covers three central topics: robot technologies for children, robots in education, and future visions for robotics. It is in the first section that **ABIO**, Sony's four-legged autonomous friend, is discussed. These entertainment robots, like the *Real World's* Shorty, have five modes of enjoyment: watching (It's so cute!), interacting (through gestures and vocal stimulation), raising (much like a child), controlling (as in playing a game with the robot), and developing (creating your own robot). *Robots for Kids* thoroughly explores the ingredients needed for creating a pet-type robot, the design opportunities and limitations, and the implementation of these robots into real-life situations. Pet-type robots are not the only mechanical issue explored, however; Druin and Hendler also highlight **PETS (Personal Electronic Tellers of Stories)**, the **LEGO Intelligent House**, the **KISS Institute**, girls and technology, and several other themes. Kid's View sections essays by children that describe personal experiences with robotics are also included.

Robots for Kids begins with an exceptional table of contents that allows the reader to easily and quickly flip to chapters and sections of interest. Diagrams of robot construction, tables and graphs representing case study findings, black and white photographs, and color plates are also included. In short, this interesting book offers a bundle of information on a topic that is rarely explored in such depth. If your academic library supports programs in educational or instructional technology, engineering, artificial intelligence, and/or human-computer interaction, *Robots for Kids* would be a beneficial addition to your collection.

PC Buyers Handbook 2000
by **Gordon P. Foreman**
(2000, McFarland, 078640907x, 127 pp, \$22.50)

The month of September conjures up memories of buying new pencils, searching for the coolest notebook for English class, shopping for back-to-school clothing, and hoping to figure out exactly what your new teachers expect from you. It is not surprising that many students—from kindergarten to college—are expected to have access to a computer. If you are shopping for a new Mac or Windows machine, be sure to reference **Gordon P. Foreman's** *PC Buyer's Handbook 2000*. Right away you might be thinking that it is useless to buy a book about computers when the information in it is obsolete

continued on page 61

TestDriving CD-ROMs from page 19

The American Indian: A Multimedia Encyclopedia is a very good product that combines several reference sources and makes searching for information easy and enjoyable. Topics not identifiable from the main access points can usually be retrieved with the search function. We could not identify a single topic about which we could not locate at least some information. Many of the entries contain printed pronunciation information, particularly for tribal names. A multimedia encyclopedia should replace these notes with an authoritative audio pronunciation. 🌿

From the Reference Desk from page 58

Liberty party, the Nationalist Socialist White People's Party to the Black Panthers and the National Women's Party to the Chicano La Raza Unida Party. The fourth part of the encyclopedia consists of biographies of the main actors associated with the parties discussed. Included are more familiar names like Jane Addams, Robert LaFollette, and H. Ross Perot, as well as the more obscure like Lucy Parsons, Nathaniel Banks and Vito Marcantonio. The set also includes biographies and a glossary of terms.

Besides giving specific information about the parties discussed, this *Encyclopedia* reveals both the difficulties faced by third parties in the American political system and the significant impacts these parties had on the mainstream. Most of the parties included in this encyclopedia were blips on the political radar screen. The fact they existed at all, is testament to political vitality and independent thought. Reading through this work makes this crystal clear. Academic, public and some high school libraries will find the *Encyclopedia of Third Parties in America* a worthwhile and useful purchase. 🌿

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Book Reviews — Noteworthy Compositions from page 60

by the time it goes to press; for this reason, Foreman updates his *PC Buyer's Handbook* every year.

Each significant computer-buying question receives its own chapter. Issues such as whether or not you even need a computer, which platform is best suited to your needs, reading computer advertisements, portable systems, peripherals, and software suites are thoroughly (but not overwhelmingly) explored. The appendix covers information such as the future of computer hardware and price evaluation. Finally, Foreman rounds up his work with a glossary of computer jargon.

Obviously, there are more than a handful of how-to-buy-a-computer books on the market. What makes *PC Buyer's Handbook* unique is that it is direct and to-the-point. Foreman does not assume that his readers are computer scientists, nor does he treat them like torpid information illiterates. Even the most computer savvy of us can stand to have a brush-up lesson on things such as motherboards, DIMM, and towers.

Admittedly, I find the price too much for a handbook that is revised and reprinted yearly. However, *PC Buyer's Handbook* is worth its cost, especially in a public library budget. For those patrons who frequently ask for computer system recommendations, Foreman's book merits a look.

Free and Low Cost Software for the PC
by Victor D. Lopez
(2000, McFarland, 0786408472, 216 pp, \$32.00)

While you are studying *PC Buyer's Handbook* in preparation for a new computer, it would be wise to take a look at *Free and Low Cost Software for the PC* by Victor D. Lopez. With the constantly increasing cost of software from Microsoft, Macromedia, Adobe, and other big-name producers, it is refreshing to find that even the computer industry still offers great bargains without sacrificing quality. Lopez's book is your key to locating utilities, productivity programs, educational tools, Internet instruments, and games for low or no expense.

Free and Low Cost Software is organized by type of program and further categorized by genre. Screen captures and tabular data are given for each specific program that is highlighted, including the program type (demo, freeware, or shareware); the company's name, Web address, and email address; any fees associated with the program; and a general evaluation examining utility, ease of use, ease of learning, and documentation. For example, the unit on educational programs is subdivided into testing and training aids, speed reading, courseware, and grading programs. *Chalksoft's Courseware Web Series* is briefly presented, three screen captures and descriptive text are provided, and it is given an excellent overall rating.

What puts Lopez, a business professor at SUNY's College of Technology in Delhi, on my A-list is his Word to Librarians at the conclusion of his introduction. Often, we wonder about licensing restrictions and other legal uncertainties when we think about making demos, freeware, and/or shareware readily available to our patrons. Lopez addresses these anxieties and even gives a few good tips for earning some money for your library by taking advantage of free resources.

While \$32.00 might seem steep for a soft cover resource, think of the money that can be saved as a result of acting on Lopez's tips. Used together, *PC Buyer's Handbook* and *Free and Low Cost Software* are superb choices to augment your collection.

*The Race for the Governor's Cup: The Pacific
Coast League Playoffs, 1936-1954*
by Donald R. Wells
(2000, McFarland, 0786407603, 484 pp, \$29.95)

There is nothing quite like relaxing in a stadium with the people of your community, ingesting cold beer and doughy pretzels, and witnessing the great American pastime of minor league baseball. With the AAA playoffs and World Series right around the corner, it seems most appropriate to investigate Donald R. Wells' *The Race for the Governor's Cup: The Pacific Coast League Playoffs, 1936-1954*. Wells has written a no-nonsense, fascinating ac-

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count of the **Governor's Cup** playoff games during a time in which west coast baseball was essentially a league of its own.

The Race for the Governor's Cup is broken down by year. Each chapter begins with a brief narration summarizing the playoff games as a whole and also enlightening the reader about how the games and the league fit into the larger picture of sports. Wells has done his homework for the statistics that follow; game-by-game accounts of each player's achievements are given in chart format. Key players are listed at the end of each chapter. An appendix is included that offers more records concerning standings and prize money.

It is the narrative information that makes *The Race for the Governor's Cup* a gem, though. Wells has taken no shortcuts to provide the particulars: who batted for whom, crowd size, weather conditions, and the like. The [Portland] **Padres** were anxious to leave for home, especially **Rupert Thompson**, who was getting married — insight like this allows the reader to feel like a contemporary spectator. Photographs are also provided. One such prize-worthy shot depicts **Lefty O'Doul** (who holds the National League record for most hits in a season) and **Dominic DiMaggio** (brother of the infamous **Yankee Clipper**, who also got his start in the **Pacific Coast League** with the **San Francisco Seals**).

Though the price tag is a bit high for a soft cover book, *The Race for the Governor's Cup* explores the relatively-early history of the Pacific Coast League and of minor league baseball as a whole. Sports books are always good ways to attract male high school readers; an effective book talk about Wells' book would definitely prompt young adults to check it out. Public and academic libraries should welcome *The Race for the Governor's Cup* into their collections as well it is rare that hard-core stats and unequivocal commentary are combined, making it a must-read for any baseball fan. After all, it cannot be forgotten that several of the players in the Pacific Coast League went on to play for the majors.

It is a shame that not one of the teams represented in Wells' work are currently active in the Pacific Coast League. Be sure, though, to mark your calendars and check the ESPN listings for September 18-22; that is when I will be watching the **AAA World Series**, hoping that the **Fresno Grizzlies**, the **Sacramento River Cats**, the **Tacoma Rainiers**, the **Memphis Redbirds**, or others from the PCL will be representing their predecessors with pride.

***Strangers at Home and Abroad: Recollections
of Austrian Jews Who Escaped Hitler***

Edited by **Adi Wimmer** and translated by **Ewald Osers**
(2000, McFarland, 0786406682, \$29.95)

Reviewed by **Phillip Powell** (College of Charleston)
<powellp@cofc.edu>

In the literature concerning **European Jewry** in the 1930s and 1940s, much has been written about the experiences of both those who survived and those who did not. Readers are familiar with the details of the dehumanizing legislation of the **Nuremberg Laws** and rampant anti-Semitism climaxed by **Kristallnacht** in 1938 and escalating to the horrors of the death camps. Americans of a certain age are aware of Jews who escaped from Germany and Austria prior to September 1939, and immigrated to this country. But only recently have works been published discussing the experiences of these refugees. [Newman, Jacob. *Kinder Transporte: A Study of Stresses and Traumas of Refugee Children*; **Schneider, Bronka**. *Exile: A Memoir of 1939*; **Whiteman, Dorit Bader**. *The Uprooted: A Hitler Legacy: Voices of Those Who Escaped Before the Final Solution*.] The stories of Jewish exiles from pre-World War II Europe have been greatly overshadowed by the experiences of death camp survivors. Wimmer speaks of the self-generated censorship of the exiles feeling their problems were negligible by comparison.

This book is unique in this relatively small group for a number of reasons. The compiler, **Adi Wimmer**, is an Austrian Catholic who was born shortly after World War II in the same town where Hitler was born 60 years before. The fact that his given name is Adolf is a stark reflection of Austrian memory and culpability for the anti-Semitic attitudes and acts of its citizens before and after the War. Wimmer suggests the compilation of this book be a reminder of how history repeats itself, how the relentless rise of right-wing violence continues throughout the world. But as important, this book may be viewed as an act of contrition for that which occurred in one of the world's most beautiful and cultured countries.

Wimmer has included the memories of 30 Austrian refugees. The project began in the late 1980s with several of those interviewed having since died. People who shared their recollections were from Great Britain, Israel, and the United States. The glaring omission is that none of the refugees interviewed returned to Austria except for visits.

The group of refugees from whom Wimmer got these recollections varied widely in age with about a 25 year span. Although most of them left Austria in 1938 and 1939, a couple departed as early as 1935 and one did not leave Austria until after the War but rather lived underground. With rare exception, this was a group of well-educated and motivated people who did well in their post-War lives. But the theme of loss, mourning, and anger pervades these interviews. It is a much different book than Whiteman's *The Uprooted: A Hitler Legacy*. Where Whiteman painted a much larger picture, Wimmer's refugees provides the reader with intimate, often poignant, and often painful details of living in the inhumane conditions in Austria in the late 1930s. The intimate nature of the recollections allows the reader to often delve deeply into the psyches of these survivors — an intriguing, yet discomfiting, experience.

This primary source gives the reader insights into the experiences of an often-neglected group. *Strangers at Home and Abroad* is a small book which is quite readable with themes that are persistent and pain that is brutally evident.

Military Religion in Roman Britain

by **Georgia L. Irby-Massie**

(1999 xv, Leiden: Brill, 90-04-10848-3, 385 pp, \$103.00)

Reviewed by **Darryl A. Phillips** (Program in Classics,
College of Charleston) <phillipsd@cofc.edu>

The Roman military and Roman England have long been favorite topics for lay readers, undergraduate students, and mature scholars alike. **Irby-Massie** combines these two fields in a new monograph published as part of Brill's series *Supplements to Mnemosyne* (Vol. 199). The subject warrants interest as Roman soldiers were not just conquerors, but were also ambassadors bringing new cultures with them to Britain. Legionaries and auxiliary recruits came from all corners of the **Roman Empire**, from as far away as Spain and Syria. The customs of these soldiers gradually combined with local traditions resulting in a rich blend. Irby-Massie looks at religious practices, especially those documented by inscribed dedications, to understand this complex interaction.

Irby-Massie's study is divided into two parts, a narrative discussion of military religion in Roman Britain and an extensive catalog of inscriptions that document religious activity. The two sections are of different quality and value. In the first part she surveys the deities worshipped in Roman Britain, categorizing them as part of Roman State religion, Eastern cults, or Celtic religions. Throughout this section, it is unclear whom the author envisions as her audience. Often she seems to assume no prior knowledge, discussing the basics of each god to an extent that serious students and researchers are likely to find distracting. For example, in preparation for her discussion of **Jupiter** (p.55ff), she rehearses the history of his worship beginning with the first temple to Jupiter built in Rome by King **Tarquin** in the 6th century B.C. This background information, common knowledge

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LEGAL ISSUES

Section Editors: **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel) <strauchb@citadel.edu>

Jack Montgomery (Western Kentucky University) <jack.montgomery@wku.edu>

Legally Speaking — “Libel” What Publishers Need to Know to Avoid Defamation Lawsuits

by **Bryan M. Carson, J.D., M.I.L.S.** (Coordinator of Reference and Instructional Services, Western Kentucky University Libraries)
<bryan.carson@fsmail.wku.edu>

Since several of the last few columns have been about intellectual property issues, this month's issue will be a change of pace. This month I am going to discuss a topic that makes publishers cringe and hide. The topic is LIBEL.

Since many people confuse libel and slander, let me begin with a definition. Both libel and slander are forms of defamation. Libel is defamation in writing, while slander is spoken. (The way to remember it is that Slander and Spoken both begin with the letter S.) The basis of defamation is that “individuals should be free to enjoy their reputations unimpaired by false and defamatory attacks.”¹

According to American Jurisprudence, defamation has been defined by the courts as:

— A false publication causing injury to a person's reputation, or exposing him (her) to public hatred, contempt, reticule, shame, or disgrace, or affecting him (her) adversely in . . . trade or business.

— The publication of anything injurious to the good name or reputation of another or which tends to bring him or her into disrepute.

— That which tends to injure reputation or to diminish the esteem, respect, good will, or confidence in the plaintiff or to excite derogatory feelings or opinions about the plaintiff.

— Communications made by a defendant to a third party that cause some injury to the plaintiff's reputation by exciting derogatory, adverse, or unpleasant feelings against the plaintiff or by diminishing the esteem or respect in which he (she) is held.

— Repeating the false statements of others.²

In order to constitute defamation, the statement must be false. However, it can not be something that is a matter of opinion. For example, “authors' description of plaintiff as

“drab and grey” and implication that she was “unpleasant” were mere statements of opinion, not actionable as defamatory.”³

One of the most important elements of libel is “publication.” Publication is defined as “the communication of defamatory matter to a third person. . . or persons.”⁴ In order to constitute a publication, “a plaintiff must show that the allegedly defamatory matter was published, by proof that the defamatory matter was communicated to someone other than himself. In other words, there must be a communication of a defamatory matter to a third person.”⁵ The publication can be written or spoken.⁶ The publication must be made “to some third person who understands both the defamatory meaning of the statement, and its application to the person to whom reference is made.”⁷

Sometimes defamation cases are confused with invasion of privacy. However, these two torts are different causes of action. “[A] cause of action for defamation differs from one for false light invasion of privacy, in that [the] former provides recovery for injury to reputation, while [the] latter provides recovery for plaintiff's mental distress.”⁸ Courts have decided that “Publicity that is actionable for false light invasion of privacy generally also would be defamatory and plaintiff is free to plead them in alternative, although she may recover only on one theory for single publication and false light invasion claim does not

avoid strictures of burdens of proof associated with defamation.”⁹

Publishers are often brought into court as being responsible for disseminating the defamatory statements of an author. There are two theories of publication that apply to books, magazines, etc. “Under the ‘multiple publication rule,’ each repetition of a libel, such as the sale of a book, creates a new cause of action. . . . Under the ‘single publication rule,’ where an issue of a newspaper or magazine, or an edition of a book, contains a libelous statement, plaintiff has a single cause of action and the number of copies distributed is considered as relevant for damages but not as a basis for a new cause of action.”¹⁰

Many states have adopted the single publication rule for mass media cases. “Under this rule, a libel or slander action accrues, for statute of limitations purposes, upon publication. Publication is complete on the last

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day of the mass distribution of copies of the printed matter because that is the day when the publishers, editors, and authors have done all they can to relinquish all right of control, title, and interest in the printed matter."¹¹

The Statute of Limitations is the time period after the defamation occurs during which a lawsuit must be brought. The Statute of Limitations is often a matter of dispute; many cases succeed or fail based on the filing date and the Statute of Limitations. As a result, the date of publication is very important. However, there are many other factors that courts take into consideration. For example, "where publisher was entitled to summary judgment, on basis of one-year statute of limitations, against plaintiff who brought libel action against publisher and author, but where author had defaulted, so that it was possible that plaintiff would be able to obtain judgment against author based on finding that the book was libelous, dismissal of action against the publisher would be without prejudice to plaintiff's right to seek leave to amend the complaint for equitable relief against the publisher in the event that he was able to obtain a judgment against the author."¹²

Articles and books can be the subject of scrutiny. Newspapers are often sued for reporting the defamation of others. Even book reviewers are not exempt: "Assertions that would otherwise be actionable in defamation do not become nonactionable if they appear in (the) context of (a) book review."¹³

If the statement was false, the publisher is in trouble. However, there is a different standard that applies to public figures. The seminal case on this subject is *New York Times v. Sullivan*.¹⁴

Sullivan was the police commissioner of Montgomery, Alabama. He claimed to have been defamed by an advertisement that ran in the *New York Times*. According to the case, "The advertisement included statements, some of which were false, about police action allegedly directed against students who participated in a civil rights demonstration and against a leader of the civil rights movement; respondent claimed the statements referred to him because his duties included supervision of the police department."¹⁵

If Sullivan were not a public figure, the case would have been decided according to the principle of *libel per se*. *Libel per se* is when "the words used are so obviously and materially harmful to the plaintiff that injury to his or her reputation may be presumed."¹⁶

There are only a small number of circumstances which constitute *libel per se*. "Words are slanderous or actionable per se only in cases where they are falsely spoken and (1) impute the commission of a crime involving moral turpitude, for which the party might be indicted and punished; or (2) impute an infectious disease likely to exclude him from society; or (3) impute unfitness to perform the duties of an office or employment; or (4) prejudice him in his profession or trade; or (5) tend to discredit him."¹⁷

In the Sullivan case, the *New York Times* advertisement made false statements that allegedly 1) implied that Sullivan had a crime, and 2) imputed unfitness in his duties as police commissioner. Under ordinary circumstances, *libel per se* would normally apply. However, the Supreme Court used a different reasoning.

The Supreme Court in the Sullivan case examined the constitutional free speech issues of the press. According to the Court, "The constitutional guarantees require... a federal rule that prohibits a public official from recovering damages for a defamatory falsehood relating to his official conduct unless he proves that the statement was made with 'actual malice' - that is, with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not."¹⁸ The idea is that public figures should have their records discussed, without fear of damages. "In such a case the occasion gives rise to a privilege, qualified to this extent: any one claiming to be defamed by the communication must show actual malice or go remediless. This privilege extends to a great variety of subjects, and includes matters of public concern, public men, and candidates for office."¹⁹

As a result of the Sullivan decision, public figures can not sue for defamation just because a statement was false. The false statement must have also been made with actual malice, in order to damage the reputation of the public figure. If the statement was made without actual malice, then the constitutional protections of the First and Fourteenth Amendments prevent recovery of damages for defamation. "Analogous considerations support the privilege for the citizen-critic of government. It is as much his duty to criticize as it is the official's duty to administer."²⁰

To illustrate some of the principles of defamation, let's take a look at a recent publishing case from Britain. **David Irving** claimed to have been libeled by **Penguin Books Ltd.** and **Deborah Lipstadt** through her book "*Denying the Holocaust - The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*."²¹ Irving claimed

that Lipstadt committed libel by stating that he was a Nazi apologist, and that he "resorted to the distortion of facts and to the manipulation of documents in support of his contention that the Holocaust did not take place."²² Irving claimed that this ruined his reputation as a historian. "The Defendants, whilst they do not accept the interpretation which Irving places on the passages complained of, assert that it is true that Irving is discredited as an historian by reason of his denial of the Holocaust and by reason of his persistent distortion of the historical record so as to depict Hitler in a favorable light."²³

Basically, Irving was claiming *libel per se*. Lipstadt and Penguin claimed truth as their defense. Since truth is an absolute defense,

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Endnotes

1. *Fairbanks Pub. Co. v. Francisco*, 390 P.2d 784 (Alaska 1964).
2. *American Jurisprudence* 2d "Libel and Slander" §6.
3. *Mitchell v. Random House, Inc.*, 703 F.Supp. 1250 (S.D.Miss., 1988).
4. *Corpus Juris Secundum* "Libel and Slander" §48.
5. *Hoover v. Tuttle*, 611 So.2d 290, 293 (Ala. 1992).
6. *Ringler Associates Inc. v. Maryland Cas. Co.*, 80 Cal.App.4th 1165, 1166, 96 Cal.Rptr.2d 136 (Cal.App. 1 Dist., 2000).
7. *Ringler* at 1166.
8. *Mitchell v. Random House, Inc.*, 703 F.Supp. 1250 (S.D.Miss., 1988).
9. *Moldea v. New York Times Co.*, 15 F.3d 1137 (C.A.D.C., 1994).
10. *Barres v. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc.*, 330 A.2d 38 (N.J.Super.L. 1974).
11. *Williamson v. New Times, Inc.*, 980 S.W.2d 706, 710, 27 Media L. Rep. 1408 (Tex. App., 1998).
12. *Barres*.
13. *Moldea*.
14. *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964).
15. *Sullivan*.
16. *American Jurisprudence* 2d "Libel and Slander" §136.
17. *Spears v. McCoy*, 159 S.W. 610, 611 (Ky. 1913). See Also, *Shields v. Booles*, 38 S.W.2d 677, 680 (Ky., 1931).
18. *Sullivan* at 280.
19. *Coleman v. MacLennan*, 78 Kan. 711, 723; 98 P. 281, 285 (1908).
20. *Sullivan*.
21. *Irving v. Lipstadt and Penguin Books LTD*, No. 1996 -I- 1113, <http://www.focal.org/judg.html> (High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, 2000) (hereinafter "Denial case"). Interestingly enough, this opinion is on the Website for Focal Publications, David Irving's publishing company. For transcripts, pleadings, and summary of the trial, see *Rae West, Irving v. Lipstadt and Penguin Books LTD*, available at <http://www.homeusers.prestel.co.uk/littleton/irving-v-lipstadt.htm>, also a denial Website. The Penguin Website is at <http://www.penguin.co.uk/holocaust/index.html>.
22. Denial case.
23. Denial case.
24. Denial case.

Questions and Answers — Copyright Column

by **Laura N. Gasaway** (Director & Professor of Law Library,
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QUESTION: *In a law firm, the medical malpractice group relies upon medical articles from experts and asks the library to provide copies. The library orders articles from a document supplier that pays copyright royalties and charges them to the firm as a part of its fee. Sometimes, an article ordered for one case might also be useful in another pending case. The lawyers and nurses who work with the articles would like to keep the original in the first case file, and make another copy for the second case file. May a second copy be made for a new specific case or does the library need to request a new copy each time one is needed?*

ANSWER: When a library obtains a copy of an article from a document delivery service and pays the royalties for that copy, the library may use that copy for multiple purposes such as for multiple pending cases. Use and reproduction are different, however. Reproducing that article for another case file means that additional royalties should be paid since the firm lawfully acquired only one copy of the article.

QUESTION: *Are there any copyright rules about corporate employees donating personal or professional association journals to the private corporate library?*

ANSWER: Generally anyone who has lawfully acquired a copy of a copyrighted work may dispose of that copy even by donating it to a corporate library. The real question is whether the library can then use journal just as it does a purchased subscription. If the publisher offers only one subscription rate for that journal then there should be no problem, but if the publisher has a separate institutional rate for the journal, then, the library really should not use that donated subscription except as a backup copy for binding. It should subscribe at the institutional rate that permits multiple readers, etc.

QUESTION: *Is a library permitted to make an archival copy of a music CD, CD-ROM software or the CD-ROM that comes with books? If so, should the library circulate the copy or the original work?*

ANSWER: The statute permits general archival copying only of computer programs but not of other works. Section 117

of the Copyright Act states that the owner of a copy of a computer program may make another copy of that program in two instances: (1) when it is a necessary step to use that program on a particular computer, and (2) when the copy is for archival purposes. To duplicate any other type of work for archival purposes, the requirements of Section 108(b)(c) and (h) must be followed. Regardless of whether the library circulates either the original or the copy (but not both), the library must place a warning label on the software package in accordance with Section 109(b)(2)(A).

QUESTION: *If a CD-ROM becomes damaged and unplayable, may the library replace it by making another copy from the original or making a copy from another library's original?*

ANSWER: Assume that the CD is a published work. Under Section 108(c), the library may reproduce a lost, stolen, deteriorating, damaged or obsolete work only if the library first determines by reasonable investigation that an unused copy cannot be obtained at a fair price. After that, the library may make another copy from the original or obtain a reproduction from another library.

QUESTION: *What is the public policy reason for awarding copyright to authors of letters? For example, if a famous author sends a letter to breathless admirer or even a lover, why does the recipient of the letter not own the copyright? Could the letter not be considered a gift to the recipient?*

ANSWER: Authorship is referred to in the U.S. Constitution, in Article I, section 8, clause 8, which states that Congress may enact legislation to provide exclusive rights to authors for their writings. A letter is clearly a writing and the writer of the article is the author. In most types of works, when the author creates the work, it is then reproduced in multiple copies such as with books, articles, music recordings, etc., but not always. Major exceptions are works of

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art and private letters where only one copy may exist.

There is a difference between the copy and the copyright that is often confused by ordinary folks and by libraries which hold manuscript collections. The author of the letter owns the copyright in the literary work, that is the letter; the recipient of the letter owns the only copy of the letter, or the recipient may have donated the original copy of the letter to a library or museum. The institution seldom actually holds the copyright, but it may still restrict access to the copy it holds. In exchange for the right of access, the institution may restrict the types of use to which the letter may be put. Often, the donors of the letter (who may be either the author or the recipient) may put restrictions on the availability or use of that letter to which the institution must agree at the time of transfer.

There may not be a clear public policy reason for treating letters as works of authorship rather than as gifts to the recipient, but clearly the law has considered them to be literary works for many years. Perhaps this is because even early works of biography included letters by the subject of the work and those biographical works are also literary works.

Issues such as invasion of privacy also must be considered with letters since letters were intended as private correspondence between two parties. One could argue that either party should have the right to make the letters public. Under copyright, however, the law protects the right of first publication so that the author or his or her heirs have the first right to publish the text of letters for the duration of the copyright. 🌿

Legally Speaking from page 64

the case involved analysis of Irving's writings and statements. The final decision was that Lipstadt's statements were not defamation because they were true. According to the judge, "The charges which I have found to be substantially true include the charges that Irving has for his own ideological reasons persistently and deliberately misrepresented and manipulated historical evidence; that for the same reasons he has portrayed Hitler in an unwarrantedly favorable light, principally in relation to his attitude towards and responsibility for the treatment of the Jews; that he is an active Holocaust denier; that he is anti-semitic and racist and that he associates with right wing extremists who promote neo-Nazism."²⁴

So what have we learned today? The implication for writers is that you are responsible for what you write. Publishers are responsible for determining whether their authors are making potentially defamatory statements. If false statements constitute *libel per se*, the plaintiff doesn't have to show actual damages. So publishers need to be aware of what authors are writing.

Of course, a public figure or elected official must show that not only was the statement false, but it was made with actual malice. Otherwise he or she will not win their defamation suit. However, publishers still need to be careful. Just remember that truth is always an absolute defense. And although libel makes publishers squirm, don't just sweep it under the table. By having a program to detect potentially defamatory statements early, publishers can head off lawsuits. Remember: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. 🌿

Here's Looking At from page 52

to get together to talk. Just as it is difficult to imagine the concept of *family* independent of the home, it is near-impossible to imagine *community* independent of town square or the local pub. ... In the absence of walkable public places — streets, squares, and parks, the *public realm* — people of diverse ages, races, and beliefs are unlikely to meet and talk."

One story the authors tell captures the absurdity of designing without placing enough emphasis on the impact the community and on individuals. They describe a town in which the firefighters demanded job security in the form of large trucks, which require large numbers of staff to drive and maintain. Such trucks meant streets had to be wide to accommodate them, which in turn meant that the people in the town were dwarfed by the roads, cars moved too fast, and walking was discouraged. Apparently, designing roads to be excessively wide to accommodate the largest scale emergency vehicle is not unusual. The authors conclude that "one of the most important aspects of our new towns is being shaped around an extremely unlikely emergency, with the result that they function inadequately in nonemergency situations." Ironically, there are more accidents on these streets designed to accommodate emergency vehicles: "wide streets lead to an increased number of traffic accidents, since people drive faster on them."

And they don't simply drive faster. They drive *more*. The wider the street or highway becomes, the more people drive on it, in a phenomenon called 'induced traffic,' another of this book's surprising revelations. It appears that for years experts (but not the *right* experts) have known that widening a road solves a traffic problem only temporarily, since additional traffic inevitably arrives to fill the road to capacity again. But because engineers are in charge of roads, and their sole emphasis is on efficiency of traffic movement, the beat goes on. Once again, our lives are being organized — and our communities defined by — the needs of cars and trucks, not people.

The authors do provide ideas for how to change the trends, and some of them, I've noted in the mainstream press, are catching. Taming the automobile and creating a pedestrian-friendly environment is certainly near the top of their list. They also have creative ideas for attracting retail space back to towns and inner cities, away from malls. They have ideas for encouraging mixed use devel-

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among scholars, is not necessary to explain Jupiter to a general audience, and such detail is only tangentially related to the cult of Jupiter in Britain six centuries later. At the same time the author quotes lengthy passages in Latin without offering translations, making much of her work inaccessible to all but the expert. More troubling problems appear as Irby-Massie becomes too focused on Britain, and fails to consider larger trends throughout the Roman Empire. Thus she concludes that the large number of dedications to the emperor **Septimius Severus** found in Britain indicates that "the troops and officers in Britain felt obligated to demonstrate their loyalty to Severus after the civil wars of the 190s" (p.203). This would be a reasonable conclusion were the trend limited to Britain alone. However, the Severan period has furnished an extraordinary number of inscriptions empire-wide. Changes in epigraphic habit and chances of survival are better explanations for the British dedications.

The strength of the book, and an aspect that may warrant its purchase, is the annotated catalog of inscriptions

presented in the second part. The author has brought together epigraphic evidence for religious cults in Roman Britain from scattered sources that are available only at top research libraries (**Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum**, **Roman Inscriptions of Britain**, and **Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani**). Furthermore, she has incorporated other evidence published in the *Journal of Roman Studies and Britannia*. The result is a useful reference work for scholars researching a particular cult in Britain. It will reduce the time and frustration of any future study. The collection is easy to use with a table of contents summarizing the entries. References to Irby-Massie's catalog numbers are included in the general index to the book. Scholars will likely skip the first part of the book and use the evidence contained in the second section to draw their own conclusions. Catalogs and indices of this type are much needed in many areas of Classical Studies. Some researchers are certain to thank Irby-Massie for her contribution. 🌿

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And They Were There

Reports of Meetings — Transborder Library Forum 2000 and KLA Academic/Special Section Conference Review

Column Editors: **Sever Bordeianu** (Head, Serials Cataloging Section) <sbordeia@unm.edu> and **Julia Gelfand** (UC, Irvine) <jgelfand@orion.oac.uci.edu>

Transborder Library Forum 2000 Meets in Albuquerque (March 23 and 25, 2000)

Report by **Sharon A. Moynahan** (Catalog Department, University of New Mexico) and **Claire-Lise Bnaud** (Head, Catalog Department, University of New Mexico)

The 10th annual meeting of the **Transborder Library Forum**, or **Foro Transfronterizo de Bibliotecas**, took place in Albuquerque between March 23 and 25, 2000. The FORO promotes cooperation among librarians on the Southern and Northern borders of the United States and is beginning to attract interest and membership from librarians elsewhere in Latin America. The US/Mexico border region is of primary interest. Participants included librarians, vendors, publishers, and policy makers whose discussed library border issues, the transfer of information and knowledge across borders, and the sharing of information.

This FORO took to heart its theme "Beyond our Borders: Interconnections." From the keynote address by **John Wirth** to the dinner address by **Michael Gorman**, borders disappeared, regionalism prevailed, and connections were made. Participants from the United States, Mexico, Canada met to discuss issues common to libraries, regardless of nationality, in the age of globalization.

Sessions covered a multitude of topics, ranging from the political and sociological, to the technical and naturally, to librarianship. Two pre-conference workshops covered risk-taking and preservation. Following are some highlights of the many sessions that took place.

John Wirth, Gildred Professor of Latin American Studies at **Stanford University**, introduced the themes of globalization and regionalism by pointing out that finance, the Internet, and especially the environment are not constricted by man-made borders and nation-states. While a nation-state is absolute, a region is more natural, created by natural geography or populations. Regionalism is a good place to practice for globalization. The smaller scale solutions are more manageable and can be tested. Wirth does not advocate "one state," but he does feel that regions should be given the authority and autonomy to solve their own particular problems, because they are best able to identify locally workable solutions. Globalization may redefine citizenship. Examples included the **Deming/Columbus** school district's policy of allowing a number of Mexican children to come north to school. National and state policies put an end to a practice that had worked for decades. Similarly, initiatives among game wardens, **NAFTA**, and the planned border cities of San Geronimo and Santa Teresa are all working to solve regional problems and improve life in general. The next plenary session addressed the status of librarianship in the borderless community. Speakers were the presidents of four library associations: **Martha D. Castro**, president of the **Asociacion de Administradores de Recursos Informativos**, **Susan DiMattia**, president of the **Special Library Association**, **Sarah Long**, president of **ALA**, and **Nahum Perez Paz**, from the **Asociacion Mexicana de Bibliotecarios, Asociacion Civil**.

Ana Cristan, from the **Library of Congress** held a hands-on session on the **Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO)**. Unlike other cooperative authority control projects, participation in SACO does not require training and revision. Libraries from around the world can submit proposals for subject headings to the **Library of Congress**, who will evaluate and establish these headings. Cristan described the process and encouraged participants, especially those from Mexico, to submit entries.

Another session covered teaching and cooperation. **Ronald Wyllys**, professor at the **University of Texas School of Library and Information Science**, described a Web-Based Library and Information Science program, which essentially aims at offering the library degree through Web-based courses. Wyllys explained the steps that went into preparing the course. The program looks promising. **Verla Peterson**, of the **Branigan Library in Las Cruces**, described her experience teaching a two-day seminar on basic reference resources to Mexican librarians. While the experience was rewarding, she felt that more time is needed for this kind of teaching. **Danelle Crowley**, from the **San Antonio Public Library**, described a study she conducted in Mexico and Cuba about how libraries establish subject headings. Basically, the study found that there was no standard way or printed thesauri for subject headings. However, efforts are being made to follow some of the practices established by the Library of Congress.

Another session was devoted to International Experiences for Librarians and Partnerships for Libraries. One of the best ways to connect is to travel and work in another country. A program moderated by **Martha McPhail** of **San Diego State University** described opportunities for foreign employment and offered advice to librarians who wish to experience another culture and work environment. **Michael Dowling**, Director of the **International Relations Office of ALA**, described ALA's programs for international cooperation involving library employment and opportunities with international organizations. He stressed the value of networking globally. Sara Long, president of ALA, explained the Sister Library initiative. Using anecdotes to illustrate how small the world has become, and pointing out that immigrants tend to settle in places where they already know someone, she described a program that pairs up public libraries in the US and Mexico. Ideally, a US library serving a significant Mexican-American population from one region would be paired with a library from the town of origin in Mexico. Finally, **Martha McPhail** recounted the joys and frustrations of her six month stay in El Salvador including the nitty-gritty of what it takes to work for six months in another country.

"**Serials and Electronic Resources: Current Issues/NASIG Update**," moderated by **Fran Wilkinson**, Interim Associate Dean, **University of New Mexico General Library**, featured three speakers who highlighted issues of serials and consortia. **Ann Okerson** of **Yale University**, reviewed several trends and a goal: 1) the move from print to electronic resources; 2) the change from copyright

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to licencing; 3) the growing power of consortia; and 4) management of this change. **Birdie MacLennan** of the **University of Vermont** explored the educational and training needs for the new global information environment. She discussed the need to constantly re-train in order to design and implement strategic policies which meet this challenge. She stressed the value of becoming acquainted with changes in related fields and jumping in and learning from others. Networking, conferences, and professional associations all offer opportunities to learn the new technologies. **Nancy Gomez** of the **Universidad de Buenos Aires** provided an overview of access to primary documents in the sciences in Argentina. She described the progress and the needs of the information community as well as several efforts to provide timely and complete access to scientific information.

Other workshops covered such topics as: Social Science Resources, Library Services for Prisoners, Web Resources from Mexico and Latin America, Cooperative Cataloging Projects, OPACs and Internet Resources, Border Environmental Issues and Information Resources, American Indian Libraries and Initiatives, and Border Health Issues and Information Resources.

In the closing session, **Michael Gorman**, noted writer and Dean of the Library at **California State University, Fresno**, moderated a discussion on the future of **FORO**. The tenth **FORO** has seen an extension of the borders. So far, the **FORO** has been a flexible association of border librarians with a flexible structure. Members of the session debated the pros and cons of: meeting once every two years; having a more planned approach such as membership dues, etc.; being associated with other Mexican and US library associations; or how far from the border shall the meeting take place. If the organization grows, some of the informality will fall by the way side. No consensus was reached but a taskforce was appointed to conduct a survey. The **FORO** is at a juncture: will it stay small or will it become a more typical organization?

In addition to the workshop and presentations, there were also cultural, entertainment, and shopping opportunities. Noted poet, essayist and short fiction writer **Simon Ortiz** conducted a literary reading and book signing ceremony. As the conference hotel was located in Old Town, Albuquerque, participants had easy access to the varied shops, restaurants, and galleries of Old Town. Each evening ended with a reception providing all members the opportunity to mingle. **FORO** will meet in Hermosillo, Mexico next year.

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KLA Academic/Special Section Conference Review (April 12-14, 2000)
Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Report by **Ruth T. Kinnersley** (Coordinator, Access Services, Western Kentucky University Libraries and Treasurer of the Kentucky Library Association Academic Section)

It has become a tradition to hold the **Joint Spring Conference** for the Academic and Special sections of the **Kentucky Library Association** and the **Kentucky Chapter of the Special Library Association** at one of the State Resort Parks in Kentucky. An accompanying tradition is for casual dress, as befits a park setting. These two popular tra-

ditions, combined with the theme "Millennium Madness: Technology Trends in the Year 2000" resulted in over 120 attendees at this year's conference, held April 12-14 at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park near Prestonsburg, in the mountains of eastern Kentucky.

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The theme of technology permeated the meetings, beginning with the pre-conferences. **Patrick Davison of Hazard Community College** and **Cindi Trainor of the University of Kentucky** presented "TLC for your PC." Those present learned tips and tricks to keep their personal computers operating at maximum efficiency, and also learned some options for locking patrons out of essential files and operating systems on public-access PCs. **Winn Theirl, from the University of Kentucky Medical Center Library**, presented "Teaching the Basics of the WWW: A Guide for Librarians."

The Conference proper began on Thursday, which was devoted to sessions presented by **T. Stephen Eggleston**, a technology consultant, trainer, and public speaker with the **Eggleston group**. The sessions centered around the Internet, as the speaker challenged us to re-think our views of the Internet as an information tool, so that we might understand it better and use it more effectively. Session 1, "Critical Thinking and Organizational Tools (Skills) for the Communications Age," described the shift from linear thinking (the traditional model for formal learning) to non-linear thinking, which has been fostered by the Internet. The speaker presented models and suggestions for improving non-linear thinking skills, and gave examples of the efficacy of non-linear thinking in a variety of situations, particularly in library settings. Mr. Eggleston discussed the impact of the new thinking methods in the second session: "The Internet - Why it is on Par with the Wheel, Fire and the Printing Press." He was particularly insightful as to how the Internet differs from other information resources librarians are accustomed to. Rather than concern ourselves with how the Internet is (or is not) organized, we should instead focus on mastering the tools for accessing information available via the Internet, i.e., search engines.

The third session, "The Internet as a Publishing Medium," considered the importance of using the Internet for publicizing the library. The session highlighted the speaker's expertise in this area, as we learned some basic truths about Web site construction and maintenance which were quite sensible, but not obvious. Mr. Eggleston reminded us that the biggest expense in having a Web site is not creating it, but maintaining and updating the content. Other helpful tips included ways to keep statistics on who is visiting; being "highly visible" to search engines; and completely re-designing the Web site each time it undergoes major revision. Mr. Eggleston also discussed some basic do's and don'ts for structuring Web sites, with helpful examples.

In the final session, entitled "Building a Web Site - from the Ground Up," Mr. Eggleston demonstrated the actual mechanics of creating a Web page, and

provided further basic tenets for effective Web site creation. Throughout the day, participants were encouraged to ask questions and provide input to make sure topics relevant to the audience were discussed. Mr. Eggleston lived up to his reputation as one who "has developed innovative and elegant solutions to many of the complex problems facing the typical computerist and would-be computer user," and to his motto, which is "technology should set you free, not make you crazy."

After a profitable Thursday with one speaker, Friday was devoted to concurrent sessions, which provided attendees with three time slots to choose among nine presentations. In "Rethinking the Reference Desk for the New Millennium," **Carol Parris (University of Kentucky Law Library)** discussed how one of the most basic and standard services we provide, reference assistance, must adapt to current factors such as technology, customer service expectations, productivity, and availability.

Tyler Goldberg (University of Louisville) and **Pam Burton (East Carolina University)** presented "Training for Technical Competency," in which they examined two models for training library staff for technical competency: 1) a separate technical training unit within the Systems Department, and 2) a library-wide team approach to technical training. The advantages and disadvantages of each model were discussed.

Keith Belton of SOLINET and **Eric Weig of the University of Kentucky** presented "Developing Digital Library Programs," in which they discussed the need to shift from a project-oriented perspective on digital resources to a larger perspective which considered the integration of traditional library processes and workflows into the digital environment. The presenters also examined the requirements needed for such a shift in perspective.

Judith Wulff (University of Louisville) and **Elizabeth Smigielski (National Library of Medicine)** presented how the **University of Louisville** and area hospitals are looking at ways to cooperatively manage health information across institutional boundaries. They provided an overview of health informatics, the role of the National Library of Medicine in funding and training, how librarians fit into the picture, the current project in Louisville, and future plans in their presentation: "Integrating Health Information at the Louisville Medical Center."

Joseph Miller of the University of Kentucky School of Library and Information Science presented the results of a survey of ARL libraries in "Provision of Local Assisted Access to Selected Internet Information Resources by ARL Academic Libraries." The survey examined how these libraries created access to selected Internet

resources for patrons (generally through Web-based systems), including the administration, institutional support, and organizational structure of these systems.

In a different approach to how technology affects librarians and patrons, **Carol Brinkman of the University of Louisville** and **Darla Bressler of Western Kentucky University** discussed how they developed a mentor and protege relationship in "Mentoring Relationships for the New Millennium." They presented some of the issues which were dealt with in the mentoring relationship (some of which involved technology), and also examined how the use of technology enhanced the ability to communicate and interact, even though they were in physically distant locations. Their mentoring relationship was established through the **Kentucky Library Association MAP (Mentor and Protege)** program, which assists recently hired librarians in adapting to the demands of their jobs.

Three presenters from the **University of Kentucky Medical Center Library**, **Stephanie Allen, Rick Brewer, and Mary Vaughn**, addressed the issues surrounding electronic journals. They covered collection development, technical aspects of acquisition, activation/registration of subscriptions, working through aggregator services, and issues related to online catalog and Web site access to electronic journals in a session entitled "Thousands of Journals, but Nothing to Read? Managing Online Titles at the Chandler Medical Center Library."

In "Guidelines for Digital Library Production: KCVL Kentuckiana Digital Library," **Eric Weig and Beth Kraemer** from the **University of Kentucky** discussed the best practice guidelines prepared by the **Kentuckiana Digital Library group**, as part of the **Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library (KCVL)** digitization project. They examined the process involved in creating the guidelines, and how they can be used by librarians around the state.

Haiwang Yuan of Western Kentucky University reviewed the process by which the University Library developed its Web site in his presentation "Keeping a Large Library Web Site Up-to-date Takes More Than a Dream Weaver." He discussed how the advance of Web technology and editing software has improved the ability of the Web team to maintain the site, although he stressed the continued need for human input in improving and developing a site that serves the needs of its users.

Between the sessions and the section and round table business meetings, we had opportunities for developing professional contacts during meals, receptions, and outdoor activities. The KLA Joint Spring Conference provided the perfect blend of professional development, association business, and fun!

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Storm Over Iraq by Richard Hallion. A history of the US war with Iraq that continues today. \$17.95 1560987235

The Hold Life Has by Catherine J. Allen. Details the relationship of the people of an Andean village with the ubiquitous Coca plant. \$16.95 0874742552

Uncommon Ground by Leland Ferguson. Details archaeological findings of early African American history. \$14.95 1560980591

The Discover America Smithsonian Book of National Parks by Charles Little. A complete pictorial guide to the National Parks. \$29.95 1560987006

Best Kept Secret

Palms Throughout the World by David Jones. Describes 800 species of palms and how some may be cultivated as indoor house plants. \$49.00 1560986166

Bestsellers in Environmental Technology, 1999-2000

Column Editor: **Bob Nardini** (Yankee Book Peddler) <rnardini@ybp.com>

by **Françoise Crowell** (Yankee Book Peddler) <fcrowell@ybp.com>

Wastewater, smelter smoke, landfills, pesticides, toxic chemicals, these and other environmental problems are among the hottest topics for today's academic libraries. This is true whether or not a library supports engineering programs, so we think that a list of YBP's best selling titles for the past year in LC subclass TD Environmental Technology will appeal widely, especially so, perhaps, in those libraries with no engineering selector to comb that specialized body of literature. Our top seller for the year, *The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in America From Colonial Times to the Present* (Johns Hopkins) will certainly find a place in most academic collections; but the more technical titles on this list have been widely purchased too, from *Air Pollution Engineering Manual* (Wiley), to *Drinking Water Handbook* (Technomic), to *Water Distribution Systems Handbook* (McGraw).

Melosi, Martin V., 1947-. *Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure In America From Colonial Times To The Present*. Johns Hopkins Univ 2000 \$59.95 Cloth 0801861527

Stradling, David. *Smokestacks And Progressives: Environmentalists, Engineers, And Air Quality In America, 1881-1951*. Johns Hopkins Univ 1999 \$42.50 Cloth 0801860830

Ashley, Jeffrey S., 1965-. *Groundwater Management In The West*. Univ Of Nebraska 1999 \$45.00 Cloth 080324276x

Koeppel, Gerard T., 1957-. *Water For Gotham: A History*. Princeton Univ 2000 \$29.95 Cloth 0691011397

Phytoremediation Of Toxic Metals: Using Plants To Clean Up The Environment; Ed. By Ilya Raskin. John Wiley 2000 \$89.95 Cloth 0471192546

Carle, David, 1950-. *Drowning The Dream: California's Water Choices At The Millennium*. Praeger 2000 \$45.00 Cloth 0275967190

Wirth, John D. *Smelter Smoke In North America: The Politics Of Transborder Pollution*. Univ Pr Of Kansas 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0700609849

Stiller, David. *Wounding The West: Montana, Mining, And The Environment*. Univ Of Nebraska 2000 \$25.00 Cloth 0803242816

Groundwater And Surface Water Pollution; Ed. By David H.f. Liu. Lewis 2000 \$49.95 Cloth 1566705118

Manahan, Stanely E. *Environmental Chemistry*. Lewis 2000 \$79.95 Cloth 1566704928

Freeze, R. Allan. *Environmental Pendulum: A Quest For The Truth About Toxic Chemicals, Human Health, And Environmental Protection*. Univ Of California 2000 \$50.00 Cloth 0520220463

Hemond, Harold F. *Chemical Fate And Transport In The Environment*. Academic 2000 \$64.95 Cloth 0123402751

Probst, Katherine N. *Evolution Of Hazardous Waste Programs: Lessons From Eight Countries*. Resources For The 1999 \$12.95 Paper 1891853015

Tammemagi, H.y. *Waste Crisis: Landfills, Incinerators, And The Search For A Sustainable Future*. Oxford Univ Press 1999 \$29.95 Paper 0195128982

Dictionary Of Environmentally Important Chemicals; Ed. By David Ayres. Fitzroy Dearborn 1999 \$55.00 Cloth 1579582060

Choy, Bruce. *Diffusion Models Of Environmental Transport*. Lewis 2000 \$69.95 Cloth 1566704146

Air Pollution; Ed. By David H.f. Liu. Lewis 1999 \$59.95 Cloth 1566705134

Nowell, Lisa H. *Pesticides In Stream Sediment And Aquatic Biota: Distribution, Trends, And Governing Factors*. Lewis 1999 \$89.95 Cloth 1566704693

Wastewater Treatment; Ed. By David H.f. Liu. Lewis 2000 \$79.95 Cloth 1566705150

Alm, Leslie R., 1950-. *Crossing Borders, Crossing Boundaries: The Role Of Scientists In The U.S. Acid Rain Debate*. Praeger 2000 \$55.00 Cloth 0275969169

Water Quality And Treatment: A Handbook Of Community Water Supplies; Ed. By Raymond D. McGraw-Hill 1999 \$125.00 Cloth 0070016593

Sterner, Olov. *Chemistry, Health And Environment*. Wiley-VCH 1999 \$105.00 Paper 3527300872

Phytoremediation Of Hydrocarbon-contaminated Soil; Ed. By Stephanie Fiorenza. Lewis 2000 \$64.95 Cloth 1566704634

Morrison, Robert D. *Environmental Forensics: Principles & Applications*. Crc Press 2000 \$79.95 Cloth 0849320585

Phytoremediation Of Contaminated Soil And Water; Ed. By Norman Terry. Lewis 2000 \$69.95 Cloth 1566704502

Marzotto, Toni, 1945-. *Evolution Of Public Policy: Cars And The Environment*. Lynne Rienner 2000 \$55.00 Cloth 155587858x

Goklany, Indur. *Clearing The Air: The Real Story Of The War On Air Pollution*. Cato Institute 1999 \$19.95 Cloth 1882577825

Sullivan, Timothy J., 1950-. *Aquatic Effects Of Acidic Deposition*. Lewis 2000 \$89.95 Paper 1566704162

Bedient, Philip B. *Ground Water Contamination: Transport And Remediation*. Prentice Hall 1999 \$93.00 Cloth 0130138401

Subsurface Contamination Monitoring Using Laser Fluorescence; Ed. By Katherine Balshaw-biddle. Lewis 2000 \$64.95 Cloth 1566704812

Hazardous Waste And Solid Waste; Ed. By David H.f. Liu. Lewis 2000 \$59.95 Cloth 1566705126

Spellman, Frank R. *Drinking Water Handbook*. Technomic 2000 \$59.95 Paper 1566768330

Perspectives On Strategic Environmental Assessment; Ed. By Maria Rosario Partidario. Lewis 2000 \$59.95 Cloth 1566703603

Burke, Gwendolyn, 1963-. *Handbook Of Environmental Management And Technology*. John Wiley 2000 \$125.00 Cloth 0471349100

Critical Masses: Citizens, Nuclear Weapons Production And Environmental Destruction In The United States And Russia; Russell J. Dalton...et al. MIT Press 1999 \$65.00 Cloth 0262041758

Water Distribution Systems Handbook; Ed. By Larry W. Mays. McGraw-Hill 2000 \$125.00 Cloth 0071342133

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ITL 54,000/us\$ 30.00
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Bestsellers in Envir. Tech. from page 72

Oyama, S. Ted, 1955-. *Control Of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions: Conventional And Emerging Technologies*. John Wiley 2000 \$89.95 Cloth 0471333697

Downey, Douglas C., 1954-. *Cost-effective Remediation And Closure Of Petroleum-contaminated Sites*. Battelle 1999 \$65.00 Cloth 1574770713

Groundwater & Soil Cleanup: Improving Management Of Persistent Contaminants. Natl Academy Press 1999 \$52.00 Cloth 0309065496

Handbook Of Environmental Engineering Calculations; Ed. By C.c. Lee. McGraw-Hill 2000 \$125.00 Cloth 0070381836

De Villiers, Marq. *Water: The Fate Of Our Most Precious Resource*. Houghton Mifflin 2000 \$26.00 Cloth 0618030093

Production-integrated Environmental Protection And Waste Management In The Chemical Industry; Ed. By Claus Christ. Wiley-VCH 1999 \$135.00 Cloth 3527288546

Lewandowski, David A. *Design Of Thermal Oxidation Systems For*

Volatile Organic Compounds. Lewis 2000 \$79.95 Cloth 1566704103

Wainwright, Milton. *Introduction To Environmental Biotechnology*. Kluwer Academic 1999 \$99.00 Cloth 0792385691

Cullimore, Roy. *Microbiology Of Well Biofouling*. Lewis 2000 \$79.95 Cloth 1566704006

Schnelle, Karl B. *Atmospheric Dispersion Modeling Compliance Guide*. McGraw-Hill 2000 \$99.95 Cloth 0070580596

Jobin, William R. *Dams And Disease: Ecological Design And Health Impacts Of Large Dams, Canals And Irrigation Systems*. E & F Spon 1999 \$75.00 Cloth 0419223606

Environmental Policy In Mining: Corporate Strategy And Planning For Closure; Ed. By Alyson Warhurst. Lewis 2000 \$89.95 Cloth 1566703654

Tomar, Mamta. *Quality Assessment Of Water And Wastewater*. Lewis 1999 \$59.95 Cloth 1566703824

Air Pollution Engineering Manual; Ed. By Wayne T. Davis. John Wiley 2000 \$149.00 Cloth 047133336

MEMORY LANE

ATG Millennium Issue

Coming with v.12#6 Dec. 2000 / Jan. 2001

Do you remember the days of manual or electric typewriters, electric erasers, or filing cards in **the card catalog**?

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Book Pricing Update

by **Dan Miller** (Approval Systems Manager, Blackwell's Book Services) <dan.miller@blackwell.com>

Annually, Blackwell's reports on broad pricing trends in monographic publishing for the academic market as reflected in the titles treated for its Approval program. The following data represent single titles, even though each title may have been acquired by a number of libraries. This consideration of trends is restricted to exclude popular works and lower undergraduate texts, since most such works are not of interest to academic libraries with Approval plans. As usual, reprints are excluded since few libraries purchase reprints except on a selective basis.

Overall, during the period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 there was only a .3% increase over the previous year in the average list price of academic and scholarly titles. Arts/Humanities titles (which accounted for 34% of all new titles) showed a 2% increase, Social Science titles (which accounted for 34% of all new titles) showed a 4% increase, and Sci/Tech/Med (which accounted for 32% of all new titles) showed a 4% decrease. Which particular subjects within these three broad subject areas increased or decreased dramatically over the year? How did subjects in areas of prolific publishing fare? Let's take a look.

Arts/Humanities

The average list price of **Arts** titles (including **Fine Arts**, **Performing Arts**, and **Architecture**) increased 1% from \$49.92 in 1998/99 to \$50.42 in 1999/00. The 319 titles treated in **Applied Arts** lead in this category with a 13% increase, from \$41.51 to \$46.83. In **Art Media** there were 895 titles which had an average price of \$51.30, an increase of 5% from \$48.69 the previous year. In **Music**, 404 titles had an average list price of \$52.85, which was a 5% decrease from \$55.89 the previous year.

The average list price of **Humanities** titles increased 1%, from \$52.24 in 1998/99 to \$52.94 in 1999/00. In this category, the average list price of 414 Language titles showed

a 5% increase over the previous year; these went from \$67.44 to \$70.79. The average list price of titles in **Religion** remained steady again this year; the average list price of 1,872 titles was \$46.84. On the other hand, **History** titles bucked the overall Humanities trend by showing a 1% decrease in the average list price of 1,400 titles; these went from \$49.50 in 1998/99 to \$48.94 in 1999/00.

Social Sciences

Social Science titles had an average list price of \$56.25 in 1999/00, compared with \$53.87 in 1998/99, representing a 4% increase from year to year. The 65 **Applied Psychology** titles treated in 1999/00 saw

a rather dramatic 40% increase in average list price over the previous year, going from \$51.35 in 1998/99 to \$72.14 in 1999/00. There was a 7% increase seen in the overall average list price of

Interdisciplinary Social Studies titles including, but not limited to, **Environmental Studies** titles that went from \$59.79 in 1998/99 to \$65.98 in 1999/00, **Race Relations** titles that went from \$44.68 to \$46.35, **Crime and Criminals** titles that went from \$47.49 to \$50.11, and titles on **Women** that went from \$48.81 to \$51.40. The most significant area of **Social Science** price increase, based on the large number of titles published, was **Economics** where the average list price of 1,193 titles increased 7%, going from \$63.58 to \$67.74. The average list price of 1,207 titles in **Education** increased 3% from \$46.58 in 1998/99 to \$48.07 in 1999/00. **Political Science** titles saw a 4% increase; 1,265 titles had an average list price of \$51.62 in 1999/00 as compared with \$49.83 the previous year. The average list price of 1,694 **Business Administration** titles in 1999/00 remained about steady compared with the previous year, at \$55.64.

Only a few Social Science subject areas with a significant number of titles saw drops

in their average list prices in 1999/00. The average list price of 544 **Sociology** titles in 1999/00 saw a 1% drop compared with the previous year, going from \$52.09 to \$51.75. 213 titles in **Military Science** also saw a drop in average list price going from \$50.86 in 1998/99 to \$45.32 in 1999/00, an 11% decrease. Additionally, there was a 9% decrease in the average list price of titles in **Management**; these titles went from \$52.79 to \$47.80.

Titles about books and librarianship saw small price increases in 1999/00 as compared with the previous year. 47 titles in **Book Industry and Trade** showed a 1% increase in their average list price, which went from \$58.01 to \$58.47, while 141 titles in **Library and Information Science** titles saw a 4% increase in average list price, which went from \$50.15 to \$52.24.

Sciences/Technology/Medicine

Sci/Tech/Med titles had an average list price of \$86.45 in 1999/00 as compared with \$90.35 in 1998/99, or a 4% decrease. The most significant decrease in the Sci/Tech/Med area, based on a combination of large number of titles treated and size of decrease, was **Computer Science**. In contrast to 1998/99 which saw an 18% increase in the average list price of Computer Science titles relative to the previous year, these titles saw a 13% decrease from 1998/99 to 1999/00, during which their average list price went from \$67.83 to \$59.11. Another area of prolific publishing, **Technology**, also saw a decrease in average list price; the 1,892 Technology titles published in 1999/00 had an average list price of \$104.34, which is 4% less than the average list price of Technology titles published in 1998/99. 115 **Botany** titles published in 1999/00 had an average list price of \$102.71 as compared with \$120.41 in 1998/99; this 15% decrease stands in contrast to 1998/99 which saw a 29% increase in the price of Botany titles as compared with the average list price during the previous year. The average list price of 2,713 **Medicine** titles in 1999/00 remained about steady compared

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FIGURE 1: Average Book Prices in the Arts/Humanities, Social Sciences and S/T/M

	New Titles Only (reprints excluded) Popular works and lower undergraduate texts excluded											Percent Change	
	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	Actual Percent Change 1990-00	Adjusted for Inflation 1990-00
Humanities/Arts	\$34.66	\$38.86	\$41.63	\$42.29	\$41.73	\$43.17	\$43.27	\$45.89	\$46.93	\$46.39	\$47.42	36.81%	3.65%
Social Sciences	\$38.44	\$40.79	\$44.28	\$47.10	\$47.23	\$48.63	\$48.26	\$52.62	\$54.27	\$53.87	\$56.24	46.31%	10.84%
Sci/Tech/Med	\$68.80	\$72.32	\$78.61	\$81.64	\$80.72	\$79.13	\$80.56	\$81.38	\$83.69	\$90.35	\$86.45	25.65%	-4.81%
All Titles	\$48.14	\$50.69	\$56.13	\$57.86	\$57.42	\$57.26	\$57.92	\$60.68	\$61.82	\$62.72	\$62.88	30.62%	-1.05%

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with the previous year, at \$84.27; however, the average list price of **Dentistry** titles increased by 21%; 48 Dentistry titles treated in 1999/00 had an average list price of \$77.46 compared with \$64.26 during the previous year. 31 titles in **Animal Husbandry** also saw a rather dramatic increase in average list price; in 1998/99 the average list price of Animal Husbandry titles was \$54.50 as compared with \$82.27 in 1999/00, accounting for a 51% increase.

The Long View

Figure 1 shows broad pricing trends in monographic publishing over the past ten years, restricted to exclude popular works and lower undergraduate texts. The total price change over this period, adjusted for inflation, shows a 1.05% decrease, with Sci/Tech/Med titles leading the decline again this year with an 4.81% decrease. Social Science titles and Humanities/Arts titles showed increases of 10.84% and 3.65%, respectively, in average list price, adjusted for inflation, during this period. Librarians planning the coming year's book budget may bear in mind these past price changes as the best near-term predictors of changes in book pricing in the coming year.

GRYPE: (Submitted by **Caroline Dean**, University of Cape Town Medical Library):

"What is everybody doing with CDs that accompany periodical issues? The University of Cape Town libraries are wanting to set up a protocol on how to handle these CDs and we are seeking advice. Where, and how, do we keep them so that they are accessible to anyone who might want to view them? And what records do we keep? And what have we not yet thought about?"

Response: (Submitted by **Molly Brennan Cox**, Serials Coordinator, Virginia Tech):

At Virginia Tech the first thing we do when handling periodicals with accompanying CDs is evaluate the content of the CD. Sometimes a CD or disk accompanies an issue but is not directly related, or integral, to that issue. Those pieces deemed advertising, such as American Online disks, are discarded. CDs that contain backfiles of the periodical title

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Group Therapy

Column Editor: **Rosann Bazirjian** (Penn State University)
<rvb6@psu.edu>

are referred to a subject bibliographer for a retention decision. (An example would be a CD containing the 1999 and 2000 proceedings of the British Society of Animal Science that accompanies the print title, Proceedings of the British Society of Animal Science.) An accompanying CD index to a periodical title is also referred to a subject bibliographer for a decision.

Other CDs are judged integral to the print issue. In order to make this judgement, serials staff examine the periodical issue to determine whether the CD is mentioned in the contents page, other preliminary pages or in the colophon. If the decision is made to retain it, the CD is forwarded to our database maintenance unit.

The database maintenance unit puts notes in the holdings/check-in record indicating marking instructions and its shelving location. Virginia Tech shelves all media, including music CDs and computer files, in the Center for Alternative Media (CAM). The piece is given the same classification number as the periodical title with the additional notation of Media Center, e.g. MT56 P46 1987 Media Center.

The unit adds appropriate notes to the bibliographic record for the periodical indicating it has an accompanying CD. For example:

Partial contents available on CD-ROM.
Some issues accompanied by a CD.
Accompanying CD located in Media Center under same call number.

An item record is also created indicating the appropriate location period and item class.

The CD is then forwarded to the End Processing unit where the CD is placed in a suitable container and a sticker is placed on the periodical issue indicating where the CD is located. For music CDs the sticker reads: "Accompanying sound disc available in MEDIA CENTER under the same call number." For computer file CDs the sticker reads: "Accompanying compact discs available in MEDIA CENTER under the same call number." The sticker is placed either on the front cover of the issue or on the first few pages of the issue near the content page.

Once processed the CDs are housed in CAM. Based on decisions by public services staff, music CDs circulate from 7 to 90 days,

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depending on your status (student, staff or faculty), and computer CDs circulate for 30 days.

In response to the question, "And what have we not yet thought about?" I would suggest the most important thing to do is evaluate each CD as it arrives. Many accompanying CDs are either "junk," duplicate what you already have in print, or are of marginal value. Set up a procedure to refer these materials to a subject specialist, or make the decision yourself. Many institutions, like Virginia Tech, have limited space, particularly in units like the Media Center. There is no point in blindly adding material if it does not add value to your collection.

This topic has been addressed several times on different listservs. As recently as May 2000 this question was discussed on Serialst and many valuable (and varied) responses were posted. To see a summary of the responses go to the Serialst archive (HYPERLINK <http://list.uvm.edu/archives/serialst.html> <http://list.uvm.edu/archives/serialst.html>) under May 2000, and select the subject line: CDs with periodicals (posted by Caroline Dean).

Response: (Submitted by Ann McHugo, Acquisitions Services Librarian, Dartmouth College Library):

Your question is interesting in that the topic is one now being discussed at Dartmouth College Library too. Unfortunately, we don't really have an answer for the University of Cape Town. Each of the ten libraries within our system handles serials-with-accompanying-CD-ROMs differently. There is no uniform policy (a fairly common event in our distributed system). The only standardized practice we have is for the first instance of a CD-ROM accompanying a particular serial. When that happens, an Acquisitions staff member contacts the bibliographer responsible for the serial and sends the CD-ROM to that person for decision. The bibliographers retention and handling decision is noted in the database.

At that point consistency ends. Some of our libraries shelve CD-ROMs separately; some shelve with the serial issue. Some of our libraries have accompanying CD-ROMs cataloged; some do not. Some libraries have the CD-ROMs labeled and barcoded for circulation; some do not. If the CD-ROMs receive cataloging, then they have individual check-in records; if they do not receive cataloging, then they are checked-in with the serial issue and show as a note in the check-in box only. Our bibliographers are starting to look at our situation to determine whether we should have more standardized management practices for these items. But for now, we are all over the map, and really can't give good guidance to anyone. 🐾

sotto voce — Taking the Step from Speaking Softly to Listening Loudly

by **Bob Schatz** (everbob@yahoo.com)

After giving it serious thought, I've decided to discontinue my contributions to "sotto voce", at least as a regular column. As I drive around North America visiting libraries, I've become aware of how much less I know for certain than when I was younger. I also find my thoughts turning more often to things of a personal nature than to the vagaries of the world of librarianship, publishing, and vendoring.

A column written for a professional publication should expand readers' knowledge, or at least reveal otherwise hidden truths. That is difficult to accomplish when the writer has far more questions about his world than answers. I know that somewhere out there is a person who knows what kind of books will exist in the future, who understands how libraries will serve the very different demands of patrons in the coming years, decades, and centuries. This person will be able to reveal what kinds of publishing will remain in the electronic era of the 2000s, and will be able to answer the age-old question, "What the hell is a publisher doing buying a systems vendor?" As I ponder these questions myself, I'm fairly certain that it will not be me. Coming to grips with that, I don't think it fair to *ATG* readers that I intrude upon your time by spouting mere conjecture. Our world is cluttered-up enough with writing that is centered on form instead of content for me to want to add to the noise. Thus, I take my leave of this column rather than risking its deterioration to that level.

In parting, I'll share with you the one thing I feel certain about, (and it doesn't take submitting it six times each year to get this message across): It's about people. It always has been and always will be. The work we all undertake, whether we be vendors, publishers, or librarians, is about helping people improve their world and their lives. The way we

interact with each other is far more important than the way our computer systems interface. The books, journals, and technologies we deal with are conduits through which information flows. They represent the means, not the ends, of librarianship. Technology exists as a tool to help us help each other. It is supposed to work for us, not the other way around. If we are not careful, though, we'll find ourselves working for the machine, a process which, I fear, has already begun. In the face of that, it is worthwhile to dedicate ourselves to whatever it takes to retain our humanity in this age where innovators too often ask "can it be done" rather than "should it be done."

And with those revelations, I bring this column to a close (or at least a hiatus) for my contributions. Thanks, Katina, for giving me the opportunity to express my thoughts. To those of you who responded to my columns via email, thanks for that too. It was fun getting "fan mail." If the clouds part on one of my trips and new truths about librarianship and vending are revealed to me, I hope you'll allow me to share my thoughts with you again as a guest columnist.

I'm beginning to embrace the idea that the truth is not so much in the telling as it is in the living, and I look forward to the time I'll share with many of you in my continued work with Everetts. Through our professional interactions, I hope we'll be able to expand the human values that still surround this profession. Those actions, not the columns we write, are the real statements we make about what is important to us, even if, in this complex world, they are only heard as a sotto voce. 🐾

Editor's note: We will miss Bob Schatz, and his astute comments! Does anyone else out there want to pick up "sotto voce"? — KS

Rumors
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products from the project-a set of tools, processes, and techniques-will be useful to the library community in general as it looks to provide electronic resources to their communities. A separate task force from within the project will focus on working with vendor-based database products to arrive at agreed-upon data element definitions and terms, specific data that can be collected, and methods for reporting data to libraries. This **ARL Task Force on Statistics from Vendor-Based Da-**

tabase Products will also be building on existing work in the field. Participating institutions include **University of Alberta, Arizona State University, Auburn University, University of Chicago, University of Connecticut, Cornell University, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Manitoba, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of Nebraska, New York Public Library, University of Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University, University of Pittsburgh, Purdue Uni-**

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Inside Pandora's Box — Managing a Web Site Needs a Few Good Tools

Column Editor: **Jack G.**

Montgomery (Collection Services Coordinator, Western Kentucky University Libraries)

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by **Haiwang Yuan** (Assistant Professor and Web Site & Virtual Library Coordinator, Western Kentucky University Libraries &

Museum, 1 Big Red Way, Bowling Green KY 42101, ph: 270-745-5084; fax: 270-745-6422)

<haiwang.yuan@wku.edu>

Among the many responsibilities of a Website coordinator, one finds that the development of a library Web site is only a portion of the management issues involved. Maintaining and keeping it up-to-date could be a costly, ongoing process. It is particularly true with large sites that have hundreds, or even thousands, of internal and external links. Even full-time Web developers could be overwhelmed by the continued volatility of the Web world, where links come and go with or without notice.

Some of the difficulties involved in managing a Web site could, however, be alleviated by the selection and application of a few good Web tools. The value of these tools has been illustrated by my experience of developing and managing the Western Kentucky University Libraries & Museum Web site. Within only a few months, each of its thousand pages received a face-lift. In addition, a thirty-eight page "Topper InfoPortal" (TIP) — a potential model for libraries to become "first portals of choice" — was also completed. At the time this article is being written, both sites had been kept free of bad links, thanks to a slew of Web development software and services.

Of all the Web tools, Macromedia's Dreamweaver is at the top of the list. Its round-trip HTML authoring interface is like a car with both a shift and an automatic gear, satisfying the savvy as well as the novice Web weavers, and it can be switched back and forth. Its drag and drop design feature proves to be a time saver. The formally complex process of laying out convoluted table after table now becomes a simple matter. Dreamweaver's templates allow instantaneous and simultaneous modifications to be made to multiple pages within seconds. Developing a site using templates can also produce non-frame pages with the effect of frames: keeping navigational mechanism available on every page while page contents change. Together with the template, on which one can designate editable and non-editable areas, Dreamweaver's "Check In/Out" function allows you the power to delegate tasks to others while maintaining control and security.

Atomz.com is another good tool. An online service that provides search engine capabilities to Web sites, it keeps you away from hardware and software installation and configuration hassles. The service is free unless a site has five hundred or more pages. Atomz.com Search not only facilitates patrons' searches for information on one's library Web site, but also helps you maintain your sites. Search results report

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the key words that patrons used to search the site and can be used as valuable feedback for site improvement. One can also benefit from the link error reports — generated in the process of having the site indexed by the Atomz.com Search — so that you know from which page to find the broken links and fix them. Again, with Dreamweaver, locating reported bad links is as easy as finding a word on a word processor.

If one wants the link-checking process automated, LinkAlarm and NetMechanics work equally well, except that the "mechanic" is a bit "quick-tempered" - timing out immaturely as it checks the links so that some of the reported broken links may not necessarily be broken. It is still better than missing something.

If Dreamweaver checks internal links at the development stage and Atomz.com checks them each time it indexes the site, then LinkAlarm or NetMechanics will keep a constant eye on both internal and external links. They are doing it independent of your routine at your computer. You need only to submit a URL of a site or a directory that needs to be checked. When the checking is done, a notice will be sent to your e-mail with the URL to the service provider's site that displays the results detailing which link from which page is broken.

If you wish to announce an event or to debut a new page, you may want to enhance the advertisement with some animation. GIF Movie Gear is a simple but user-friendly and powerful tool. To create more sophisticated animations, one needs to use Macromedia's Flash, which is good at creating interactive movies for the Web. Used together with PhotoShop and GIF Movie Gear, you can create catchy but less annoying animated buttons and icons because they do not call for plug-ins. What's more, both GIF Movie Gear and Flash can produce maximized GIF animations, that is, only the color of an animated section of the image is saved to reduce file

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Biz of Acq — Book & Serial Industry Mergers: Effects on Libraries

by **Nancy Markle Stanley** (Head, Acquisitions Service, University Libraries, Penn State University) <nms2@psu.edu>

The library supplier business and services have changed significantly over the last ten years and the rate of change over the past five year has profoundly changed the way libraries view suppliers. Libraries depend on vendors for a much broader range of services than ever and have a high stake in what happens in the industry. Mergers proliferate, reduce supplier choices and escalate librarians' concerns with regard to the industry. Contrary to popular belief, the library community is well aware of many challenges of being in business, because librarians face similar challenges in their libraries. This discussion is one librarian's view, in consultation with others, of the book and serials industry changes and their effects on libraries.

Like all other businesses, the library book and serial industry has stages patterned similar to the life stages of a person or even some of the products they produce (e.g. serials).

They are born and they die. In between they develop relationships with libraries and other relevant businesses through formal contracts and informal verbal agreements. They often marry by developing partnerships or mergers with other companies. They have out-of-the-nest experiences by downsizing and selling off parts. They divorce by splitting or splintering from each other. Business resurrections are rare if they exist at all. Companies in this industry almost never return their original structures or products. The strategy is to move forward with the intent to change in response to the marketplace and even to drive that change by anticipating market needs. All of these instances affect the suppliers' library customers.

One must be very careful, however, in drawing a too close analogy to the type of interpersonal relationships experienced among friends and family. After all, business is business and companies deal with the bottom line. Customers really should not expect to have the same permanence with suppliers that we have in their personal lives. Libraries, however, should expect some level of stability and dedication to customer needs. There are realities to running a business that all customers need to understand. Business thrives by assuring profits and showing growth, creating and preserving a niche or market share, and continually responding to changing markets.

Any business, like all organizations, is subject to changes in personnel and administrators, the whims of management, market needs or opportunities, and technological developments. To thrive most businesses need to reinvent themselves every five to seven years, if not more frequently, to maintain the attention of its customers. Considering the plethora of industry changes and particularly mergers in the past five years, publishing and distribution companies certainly have captured the attention of libraries.

Everyone in this business, including librarians, recognize that we live in a capitalistic society. Rumor has been for some time that the capitalistic model is breaking down. As we meld social and business needs together there is evidence that, to some extent, this is true. Societal pressures certainly affect business profits. However, if there were not sufficient profit in this industry, suppliers would not be vying so avidly for the library market. Some suppliers talked about forming partner-

ships with their customers; however, the nature of such partnerships is ill defined and, obviously, cannot be binding. Long-term binding partnerships represent a conflict of interest for non-profit institutions that rely primarily on public moneys.

To place this in perspective, we must remind ourselves that we live in a culture of "never-enough." To wit, companies talk about low profit margins. Nearly everyone in the work world feels that incomes fall short of expectations and increasing living standards are continually raising those expectations. Public institutions, including libraries, complain of low budgets. Library user expectations are increasing at phenomenal rates. Statistically, it is a fact that most library collection budgets are not meeting inflationary costs of materials. Obviously competition in the market place affects everyone.

Competition affects not only business but non-profit organizations too in both good and challenging ways. During a ground breaking ceremony for the new wing of our main library building in 1997, Penn State's football coach, Joe Paterno, charged University Libraries to strive to become number one, forging the same competitive challenge that drives his football teams. Make no mistake about it, public institutions of all kinds battle continually not only for survival and their fair share, but to play a dominant role among their peers. Good libraries help colleges and universities to attract more good students. This is not unlike companies who strive for dominant market shares. In response to the coach's challenge, the University Libraries have improved their standing. Of course, improved ratings can result from simply becoming better at responding to surveys. The fact is, like businesses, many libraries have developed a more strategic focus in moving forward. In the past decade, universities and libraries have adopted quality techniques, improved their planning skills, and benchmarked with each other to determine and engage in best practices. All of this is done to improve an organization's strategic position.

Libraries are not just competing with each other, but with the very same corporate entities (e.g. AT&T, Microsoft, Amazon, etc.) that confront our traditional suppliers. Libraries seek to maintain a niche in the world of information dissemination. Staying ahead of the customers' needs presents considerable

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size and thereby cutting down the time that users have to wait for the animation to load.

If you have numerous documents or handouts to publish on the Web in a short time, Adobe Acrobat is a good choice for their management. It transforms different types of documents into PDF format to be viewed by the Acrobat Reader, compliments of its manufacturer. With Acrobat one can also turn PhotoShop images into thumbnail pictures on the fly, and create interactive Web forms with ease. There are numerous tracking and counter services you can use to monitor visitors to your site. If you want to do a proactive online survey, Message

Parse, a small program that works on your local computer, will help extract data from e-mail inboxes that receive survey form responses. Then Microsoft Excel can be used to open the tabulated ASCII data and turn it into a spreadsheet. Excel as well as more sophisticated data analyzing software like SPSS can handle the data analysis.

Undoubtedly, none of the software and services examined by this article are totally free. Yet, their application eventually proves to be cost effective and less prone to human error. Of course, software itself will not work without a well-trained Web developer who can use it effectively, and training itself incurs costs. Analysis of those factors, however, can be discussed in a future paper. 🌱

challenges to libraries that are serious about striving to provide the best services. Such competition presses libraries to respond to its program and community demands quickly, through its collections. Continuous technological innovations pressure everyone to change everything everyday.

Most libraries have limited income sources. They depend on public funding, tuition, and the goodwill of donors. The dollars that are set aside for materials do not always stretch far enough to meet the needs of library users. Libraries struggle to meet the rising costs of materials and many are losing the battle. Like everyone else, librarians must continually strive to get the most from their collection budgets and have learned over the years to court and choose vendors carefully and wisely, but it wasn't always that way.

Continuing the relationship analogy, when we are young, restless, and inexperienced, we enter into relationships rather casually. We play the field and move anxiously and quickly. Essentially, "smoke gets in our eyes." Humans have always had a tendency to engage in intended permanent relationships somewhat recklessly, often driven by our gut feelings. With experience, however, our strategies change and become more sophisticated. We bring more mature values and ethics to the table and improved strategies into the process of developing relationships.

While the pace may differ, most businesses and libraries very likely have gone through the same sort of growth experiences, especially if their organizations are thriving. With experience, courting a mate or a vendor assumes a more seasoned approach. Playing the field takes into account a much broader perspective. Librarians enter with their eyes wide open. Issues are discussed with prospective suppliers, including the range of services or the types of materials offered.

Often, a library will begin testing the waters with a vendor by sending them a sampling of firm orders. Under these circumstances, a true sample of an appropriate mix of orders is important but difficult to achieve, especially if there is a commitment to a current vendor to maintain a certain mix to secure optimal discounts. Once the orders are issued and received, the results are evaluated. If the vendor's services are satisfactory and meet a need, the library may continue to provide a smaller portion of orders or look for a niche with the vendor to further observe the supplier's services over time. If the library really likes what it sees and is positioned to seek another vendor, it may issue an RFI and/or RFP to an array of vendors to compare the current and prospective vendors. After reviewing the submitted instruments, the acquisitions librarian may invite a supplier representative to talk with his or her organization. During vendor presentations, the library will hear about how each individual customer is better than its competitor. Finally the library will

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evaluate all of their data and select its choice company.¹

The library then moves to firm up its agreements with the selected vendor. If formal agreements are involved, the institution's purchasing agents, attorneys and even governing bodies may get involved in granting approval. The customer profile is fine-tuned, as is the approval plan profile, if approvals are part of the agreement. Appropriate delivery systems are established between supplier and the library, which is often no small task when either supplier or library is situated in a non-major metropolitan area. If delivery systems are not appropriately set up, it will be a continual issue in the future. Finally, the library's acquisitions personnel settle into stable relationships with customer and sales representatives, building the basic glue of unspoken expectations and hopefully developing a synergy between the organizations that will be maintained for the long haul. The hope is that the library and supplier complement each other's organizations and will develop trust between them.

My point in reiterating the vendor selection process is to demonstrate the amount of money and time both organizations invest in it. Each hopes to benefit from the relationship and the shared values.

Effects of Mergers

With the above in mind, it can be a shock to the supplier's customers to suddenly receive word by phone, fax, electronic mail or, at worst, a rumor that a merger involving your primary vendor, is underway. Acquisitions and collections librarians must go on high alert. It may be tempting to simply conclude that librarians are just a bunch of alarmists and lack understanding of the needs of business. Suppliers should keep in mind, however, that the money and time

invested in establishing a relationship between library and vendors, is considerable. It is unlikely in a merger situation that libraries would take this news lightly. With continual streamlining of staff, libraries cannot afford to repeat this process frequently. A library also may have very high investments in prepaid orders (e.g., approvals, subscriptions, etc.), giving them a direct stake in the outcome of the new alliance.

As demonstrated earlier, librarians do understand supplier needs but also understand that their needs may conflict with those of the library. Suppliers should keep in mind that librarians select and deselect for reasons unique to their libraries and look for a match on local requirements. Many libraries are publicly supported with legislative reporting lines. There is heavy pressure to maintain objectivity in the selection process. A recent article in *Against the Grain*, supports the contention that mergers may add to our costs, especially for journals.² In some instances, a librarian may have an RFP underway. An announced merger may have the impact of bringing a supplier to the bid process, which the library had never intended to invite or had previously rejected. The merger could also occur with another supplier who is under consideration, which narrows and muddies customer choices. Librarians will need to examine the potential outcomes very carefully and monitor the end results.

Advice to Library Suppliers

Asking suppliers to give libraries advance notice is unrealistic and, anyway, there is little a customer can do to stop the merger. If suppliers were to consult, however, with some of their key customers, prior to final agreements, they may position themselves to receive feedback prior to the completion

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Bet You Missed It

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

Column Editor: **Pamela M. Rose** (Web Services and Library Promotion Coordinator, Health Sciences Library, University of Buffalo) <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu> <http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~pmrose>

NET AND TAXES

by **Sandra Beehler** (Old Dominion University)

Groups supporting both sides of the debate over taxing internet commerce spent over \$14 million on lobbying efforts and another \$3 million on campaign contributions in 1999 to try to influence Congress. A study panel, the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce, which was delegated to make a recommendation to Congress, failed to achieve consensus. Major commercial Internet players are hoping at least for a long delay in resolving this question. The current ban on Net taxes expires in October 2001. It seems most likely that in the long run state and local governments will impose taxes rather than the

federal government. The stakes in the Net tax debate are high, with online retail sales expected to climb from \$38.8 billion in 2000 to an estimated \$184.5 billion by 2004.

See — “Costly Tax Show-down,” *Internet World Digest*, April 15, 2000.

PROFIT MAKES PERFECT

by **Sandra Beehler** (Old Dominion University)

An estimated \$250 billion of the \$1.1 trillion spent annually on health care in the U.S. is lost to administrative waste. Health care organizations as well as commercial interests hope to use the power of the Internet to reduce such costs and distribute health information more efficiently. Obstacles to overcome include incompatible information systems and an understandable mistrust of new, unproven

players in the life-and-death business of health management. However new regulations from the HFCA are forcing physicians and hos-

pitals to meet strict standards in automating health information. Physicians and health care managers alike see a major role for the Internet in improving exchange of health and patient information, keeping better track of patients with chronic illnesses, reducing administrative costs and preventing deaths from medication errors. Enough potential profit is involved to attract the minds and the money to solve the ongoing health care crises in the U.S.

See — “Healing the Health Care Business: Why the Internet is not a Magic Pill,” *Internet World Digest*, May 15, 2000.

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of agreements and resolve some of the issues in advance for the library customers.

In approaching mergers, suppliers are naturally concerned about how they should roll out the information to current and perspective customers and when announcements should occur. Often libraries become aware only after the fact and lack detailed knowledge of merger agreements or the potential effects on agreements between the vendor and its customers. Those detailed announcements of the mergers to customers are carefully crafted and choreographed to diminish customer concerns. Nevertheless, they are not always successful.

Announcement of mergers should include or attach a financial statement of the new company. A bank reference to key customers also would help. In addition, mergers often translate into streamlining of services. There may be a slippage in quality and standard turnaround times or improvements. Assuming good customer services from the former company, libraries need to know that the company representatives, who are providing current customer support, will remain at the very least for a transition period, since building new relationships can be time consuming.

Libraries understand good customer support and services and are positioned to pro-

vide useful feedback. A wise move on the part of the newly formed vendor might be to send customers a simple but short survey, giving librarians a chance to provide feedback on their issues with regard to the potential effects of the merger. On the whole, library supplier services are generally quite good and often excellent, but the changing face of a business affects those support operations. Libraries know quickly when customer support workloads become too heavy. In the work world today, although many of us enjoy our work, there is inevitably too much of it. When library customers let suppliers know that their requirements are not being met (e.g. expected response times and quality of response), librarians and company representatives need to seek quick solutions together. For example, delivery systems between vendors and libraries are probably one of the most difficult areas to perfect. With online vendors ready to pick up the slack, both organizations need to assure minimal or no delays in delivery.

Advice to Libraries

The plethora of mergers brings fewer companies and, thus, fewer choices. This could result in increased charges, reduced service, and loss of discounts. The first question librarians should ask about is the newly merged company's financial stability. If a library decides to stay with the new company or lacks a choice in the matter, it is important to take a wait and watch approach, carefully examining the bottom line on costs and services.

Libraries must hope for the supplier's need to maintain the customer base and the related desire to serve customers well.

When mergers occur, involved suppliers often provide repeated reassurances that they are giving us one “swell deal.” However, the “proof is in the pudding.” Certainly each library customer will need to decide if the newly formed company meets its needs and to act accordingly, taking steps to re-establishing the relationships or to move on. Librarians should not overlook the important fact that often there are new services to be gained (e.g., Web-based services, EDI, etc.).³ Many smaller suppliers have sold out to larger companies to gain access to new technologies. Libraries should examine them carefully and take advantage of them whenever possible. Because of local requirements for doing business, there will be instances where select libraries will be forced to initiate a new RFP process or restart one in the works.

With regard to mergers of publishers and producers of information, librarians need to be very watchful of potential mergers that could affect the general marketplace. In addition, librarians should also be attentive and respond to court and federal and state legislative activities that affect the libraries' ability to acquire materials, providing support to professional associations who are advocating in behalf of libraries.⁴

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Conclusion

Library suppliers and libraries need to remain mindful of each other's needs. Change is a constant and will never go away. All organizations must remain flexible and open to change but mindful of the bottom line and driven by the dollars available. Generally, libraries are publicly supported and cannot rapidly enhance their budgets. Companies continually strive to improve their profits and have a need to move in fast-paced time frames. Producers, suppliers and distributors in the information chain, including libraries, must continually seek best practices and good relationship across their organizations to benefit library users everywhere.

Endnotes

- 1 Wilkinson, France C. and Connie Capers Thorson, *The RFP Process: Effective Management of the Acquisition of Library Materials*. Englewood, NJ: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1998.
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PUBLISH, PERISH, OR PERSIST?

by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

Will scientists abandon traditional journals and share their research directly on the Internet? Although PubMed Central's ambitious plans have been scaled back due to technical problems, other companies like Current Science Group are undeterred in their efforts to offer free online research papers. Meanwhile, CrossRef, a publisher-initiated

fee-based alternative to PubMed, was launched in June, and traditional publishers continue to dismiss free publication schemes as utopian.

See — Eliot Marshall, "Publish and Perish in the Internet World" in *Science*, p223-4., Jul. 14, 2000.

WE NEED A BIGGER GARAGE!

by Sandra Beehler (Old Dominion University)

A business opportunity is developing, as IT managers look for solutions to the problem of providing storage and access to huge amounts of data. The amount of storage space needed has jumped over the last five years from gigabytes to terabytes and soon to petabytes. Vendors are betting on Storage Area Networks (SANs) as a long-term solution. The article describes SANs as "collections of Fiber Channel drive arrays, linked with hubs and

SCSI-based tape drivers." SAN technology is still in its early stages, and standardization is needed for optimal efficiency. Access tools (e.g., gateway buses for servers) also must be perfected. For those unable to afford the expensive infrastructure for data storage, future options may include leasing SAN space.

See — "Cleaning Out the Files," *Internet World Digest*, May 2, 2000.

ONE-STOP TITHING

by Sandra Beehler (Old Dominion University)

This article briefly profiles a company called govWorks, which aims to make the interface between government and the public smooth and instantaneous through the Web. It offers 24-hr response on questions about government, as well as allowing citi-

zens to pay taxes or settle parking tickets online. So far, govWorks has established partnerships with 780 localities around the U.S.

See — "Company to Watch: govWorks.com," *Internet World Digest*, May 15, 2000.

TO PROTECT AND CONTROL

by Sandra Beehler (Old Dominion University)

The connection between a new digital rights management company called ContentGuard Inc. and Microsoft could spell the end of free content on the Web. Microsoft, which owns an interest in the new company, intends to embed this digital rights management technology into its existing software—Windows, MediaPlayer, Explorer—as well as its upcoming e-book reader, Microsoft Reader. ContentGuard is an offshoot of Xerox Corporation, and its technology employs Extensible rights Markup Lan-

guage (XrML), which it hopes will become an international standard for the digital rights industry. The technology "enables authors, artists, songwriters, and programmers to protect and control the way in which their intellectual property on the Internet is used, copied, distributed, and purchased."

See — "Two Giants Team Up on Digital Rights Management," *Internet World Digest*, June 1, 2000.

CAPTAIN EARTH DECODER RING

by Sandra Beehler (Old Dominion University)

This brief mention in *Wired* of the 10,000-year library effort led me to the Web site for the Long Now Foundation (www.longnow.org). Long Now and Stanford University Libraries held a symposium on June 30-July 2, 2000 whose purpose was "to deliberate on the permanence of information and [the] need for long-term thinking about it" and to initiate plans for a 10,000 year library. The Founda-

tion is also involved in the design of a "Rosetta Disk" a two-inch nickel disk engraved with analog text and images of microscopic size in all known languages to be used at some far future time to reconstruct the "narrative of civilization." The disk is meant to have at least a 2,000-year lifespan.

See — "Long Term Memory", *Wired* 8.07 (July 2000), p. 94.

DO NOTHING AND DIE

by Phil Dankert (Cornell)

The British government has commissioned a business plan for a major international "e-university." This brief article notes that consortia of institutions will be invited to bid to create it. Online instruction up to the bachelor's-degree level, as well as a new two-year degree, will be offered. "The e-university will focus solely on teaching and will carry out no research." In a speech announcing it Education Secretary David Blunkett "warned universities that they had no

choice but to immerse themselves in online activities...The 'do nothing' universities will not survive..."

See — David Walker, "Britain Plans a Major E-University, With Goal of Competing Globally," *Chronicle Of Higher Education*, May 19, 2000, p. A57.

Does Internet addiction exist? In this very interesting article

two professors at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute urge caution in using pathological labels for what may be someone's passing immersion in the Internet. Much of it is devoted to brief descriptions of research that has been conducted on the topic. They make it quite clear that in the next round of Internet studies more solid questions must be included. For instance, the nature of people's activities on the Internet must be considered rather than simply the extent of their use of it. Researchers need to do a better job of collecting and analyzing data about Internet use. In closing, it is noted that "we mustn't forget that the Net has actually improved the lives of many people."

See — Joseph B. Walther and Larry D. Reid, "Understanding the Allure of the Internet," *Chronicle Of Higher Education*, February 4, 2000, p. B4-B5.

Adventures in Librarianship: Final Report by the Task Force for Committee Review

by Ned Kraft (Order Librarian, Ralph J. Bunche Library) <Kraftno@state.gov>

Objective

Pursuant to the directive issued by the Vice-Director for Informational Information, and further clarified by the Assistant VDII (as mentioned by the Vice-Assistant VDII in her memo of 12 June), this task force was formed for the express purpose of reviewing library committee and task force formation, proliferation, and inflammation with special attention paid to the cumulative results (speculation) of committees and task forces and to the possible disbursement of task force and committee members (rehabilitation).

Methodology

To pursue its objective, the Task Force for Committee Review met as a committee to discuss the pertinent issues, plan refreshments, channel former (deceased) committee members, and reach agreement as to how it could proceed as, in fact, a task force rather than a committee. With its infrastructure thereby clarified and delineated, and after coffee had been served, the task force devised a survey vehicle that would allow it to analyze the pertinent issues which it had previously been unable to analyze (as pertinent).

The survey was sent to a random sampling of all professional staff (roughly 100%). Although the immediate response rate was low (no survey was returned before the deadline), the Vice-Director was able to improve the response

rate (to roughly 100%) by issuing a carefully crafted email (some respondents characterized the reminder as a "threat").

Surveys were then independently tallied by an outside agent (the Vice-Director's son-in-law).

Survey Results

Although the survey was "anonymous" careful handwriting analysis revealed a relationship between tenure and cynicism toward the committee/task force process. Among respondents, as the years in service rose, so did the dissatisfaction. This measurement has a low margin of error (roughly 0.0%).

The survey also found that task force recommendations are rarely followed (some respondents used the word "never") when they conflict with the opinion of the Vice-Director. Again, there was near unanimity on this question, and the conclusion agrees with the historical record.

Recommendation

The Task Force for Committee Review recommends the following two options:

The Vice-Director could consider mandating that no professional ever reach more than three consecutive years of service with the organization. The survey results suggest that maintaining a professional staff with an average length of employment of 2.6 years or less will ensure enthusiasm for the Vice-Director's programs by tapping into what has been called the "rose-colored glasses" effect.

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Adventures in Librarianship from page 82

As an alternate approach, the Task Force recommends that all current committees and task forces be replaced by a single Standing Committee for Affirmation, designed to respond to the Vice-Director's proposals quickly and "objectively." Anticipating high staff turnover on this committee, the Task Force suggests that the Standing Committee for Affirmation be staffed with paid library consultants who are already familiar with the basic purpose of the committee and for whom "objectivity" will cause little stress.

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— *World Literature Today Renditions Press 1993*, 180 pages, ISBN 962-7255-11-4.

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Edited by **Eva Hung**

In telling the Hong Kong story, young local writers face up to such issues as rapid economic and political changes as well as the continuous impact of Western

ideas and mores. They make a conscious effort to explore their own identity from a Hong Kong perspective and to describe Hong Kong's special way of life and the trials and tribulations of a populace caught between two cultures.

— *Renditions Press 1999*, 160 pages, ISBN 962-7255-20-3.

Marvels of a Floating City

Edited by **Eva Hung**

Xi Xi eloquently conveys the mood of the city during the 1980s in this collection of stories. In the first half of the decade, the Chinese and British governments negotiated Hong Kong's fate, occasioning intense soul-searching and close scrutiny of their society among the general population. The old and the new, the real and the fantastic, Western culture and local perception are skillfully woven together here to create narratives of the hopes, anger and fears which gripped the people of Hong Kong in this crucial period of their history.

— *Renditions Press 1997*, 160 pages, ISBN 962-7255-20-3.

A Girl Like Me & Other Stories

Translated by **Eva Hung**

This anthology presents samples from the author's entire writing career, ranging from the 1960s to the 1990s. It in-

cludes excerpts from Xi Xi's *Elegy for a Breast*, an intensely personal account of her own battle with cancer. Xi Xi's fascinating rendering of the fusion of East and West, tradition and modernity that is Hong Kong assures her place in the literary annals of this unique society.

"A writer who deserves a place in the international library."

— *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

"Her stories blend sophistication with an unflinching, childlike wonder."

— *Islands Renditions Press 1999*, 160 pages, ISBN 962-7255-20-3.

Flying Carpet—A Tale of Fertillia

Translated by **Diana Yue**

A small island sits south of Dragonland. This tiny speck, "smaller than a sesame seed" has a world-famous harbour rimmed with skyscrapers, an elite district on a mountain top, steep, narrow alleys, hawkers, street-sleepers, noisy markets, garish signs and borders. Back and forward in history, we accompany the Ips, master furniture makers, the Fas, aerated water suppliers, as well as Falibaba, secret possessor of a flying carpet on an up-and-down journey of the history of a city very much like Hong Kong.

— *Hong Kong University Press 2000*, 449 pages, ISBN 962-2094-708. 🐉

Chaos — ONIX International - The New International Metadata Standard

by **Sandra K. Paul** (President, SKP Associates) <Sandy@SKPAssociates.com>

The digital community has popularized the term metadata — “data about data.” The data about books has recently been standardized, so that publishers who want to send information about their products to retailers, e-tailers, wholesalers, or bibliographic authorities can do so in a standardized set of XML tags. Called ONIX (ONline Information eXchange) International, these metadata elements are a subset of the broader EDItEUR Product Information Communication Standard (EPICS). EPICS is compatible with the international metadata standard for all intellectual property, called <indcs — INTERoperability of Data in E-Commerce Systems. EDItEUR is the international organization concerned with electronic commerce standardization for the publishing community; Book And Serial Industry Communications (BASIS) is the U.S. contributor to the EDItEUR activities.

A committee of the Association of American Publishers (AAP) initially developed the ONIX specification, after several publishers complained that Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, the wholesalers, and other e-tailers were asking them for different information about their books. Turned over to BASIC by the AAP in May, 2000, ONIX International includes the traditional bibliographic information about a book, author, title, publication date, list price, etc. It also includes the type of information one finds at e-tail sites, including the cover artwork, author biography, flap copy, and reviews. The ONIX International standard is available on the EDItEUR web site, www.editeur.org; <indcs can be found at www.indcs.org.

ONIX International was released by EDItEUR in mid-July, 2000. A broad spectrum of e-tailers, wholesalers, and bibliographic agencies in the United

States and United Kingdom are committed to accepting ONIX International tagged files from publishers by the fall of 2000. A special web site is being established to allow users of this format to discuss implementation problems, suggestions for changes, etc. It is expected that future ONIX International versions will include the metadata for video and audio works, as well as for e-books.

Librarians have told me that they are most interested in having their OPACs look more like Amazon.com than like a MARC record. Since few of them purchase books directly from the publishers that will be creating the ONIX International records, the question

arises as to where they might obtain this information. The most likely candidates seem to be Bowker, as the provider of other book information to libraries, or the wholesalers, some of which now provide MARC records along with books. This topic was discussed at the AAP/ALCTS Joint Committee meeting during ALA in July, 2000 and is certain to continue as librarians convinced their ILS vendors to provide OPACS with Amazon.com-like characteristics.

For more information about ONIX International, contact BASIC at www.bisg.org or call Sandy or Bill at 212/929-1393.

Webworthy

Column Editor: **Pamela M. Rose** (Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002 Ph: 716-829-2408) <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>

Web sites 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.

Alternative Medicine

An interactive, electronic herbal database, HerbMed provides hyperlinked access to the scientific data underlying the use of herbs for health. A freely available

project of the Alternative Medicine foundation, each listing provides six categories of information: Evidence for Activity, Warnings, Preparations, Mixtures, Mechanism of Action, and Other peripheral information like pictures and added links, or viewers can search the site. Over 100 herbs are currently listed from Achillea-Yarrow to Ziziphus-Jujube. <http://www.amfoundation.org/herbmed.htm>.

Astronomy

An incredible resource for astronomy and related information, Astroweb: Astronomy on the Internet, contains over 2800 distinct resource records. The listings are organized by categories including Organizations; Observing Resources; Data Resources; Abstracts, Publications, Libraries; People-related Resources; Software, Computer Science; Research Areas, Astronomy, Space Physics; Educational Resources, and Miscellaneous. The personal Web pages list alone offers a fasci-

continued on page 85

Adventures in Librarianship from page 82

We believe that this restructuring of the current committee and task force structure will immediately save the library substantial time, money, and resources (structurally).

Considering the results of this study, it would be unreasonable to expect the Vice-Director to implement the Task Force recommendations (above). Therefore we suggest that the results be shelved until such time as the lowest geological strata (some respondents used the name "Hades") accumulates are remarkable abundance of ice crystals.

Webworthy from page 84

nating glimpse of astronomers' visions; the Astronomy Departments list offers nascent astronomers a great snapshot of college choices; and Astronomy Pictures will dazzle viewers with some of the best photos of our universe. cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/astroweb.html.

Bioweapons

Would you hire a former bioweapons lab scientist? Just how much *Pasteurella tularensis* does it take to cause rabbit fever? Check out these two sites to explore the fascinating topic of Bioweapons.

— Offering an in-depth look at the Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Project at the Stimson Center in Washington, D.C. www.stimson.org/cwc.

— All the Virology on the WWW provides a list of disarmament projects and Department of Defense sites, and the full text of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention. www.virology.net/garryfavwebbw.html.

Botany

Botanists and gardeners alike will be delighted to discover The International Plant Names Index (IPNI), a collaboration between The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, The Harvard University Herbaria, and the Australian National Herbarium. Names and basic bibliographical details of all seed plants were merged from the Index Kewensis (IK), the Gray Card Index (GCI) and the Australian Plant Names Index (APNI) to create the "most comprehensive listing of seed plant names available to date." With ongoing deduplication, standardization and verification of its currently over 1.3 million species, this will become the botanical names resource of choice. Future plans include setting up additional mirror sites, allowing users to contribute data directly, offering subscriptions, and allowing links to remote databases. Note that finding a plant name listed in IPNI does not mean it is the currently accepted name of an particular taxon. www.ipni.org.

Here's Looking At from page 66

opment, walkable schools, and work options located near homes. They want accessible public transit, and a less intensive focus on providing parking. A key-stone of their remedy is the use of an "alternative zoning code" called the "traditional neighborhood development ordinance" rather than trying to work on a revision of current code, which would be too time-consuming and difficult.

This review would not be complete without noting this book's presence as a physical, tangible object. It is no coffee-table book, but it is beautiful. It is a pleasure to hold, behold, and to read. The wide margins leave ample space for notes, and fingers, as well as for telling photographs. Most of the notes are laid out at the bottom of the page, which means the reader is not constantly flipping to the back. The book opens fully and stays open when laid down.

In short, this is a refreshing, compelling book — inside and out. It cuts to the very heart of what is wrong with the way we are making our America. Please read it, and take up the authors' chant: no more housing subdivisions! No more shopping centers! No more office parks! No more highways! Neighborhoods or nothing!

Back Talk from page 86

Web. This way the alumni receive value from their schools but not at the cost of supporting today's students.

Contributors to the Liblicense list on this topic which I read included the following: Ann Okerson, Dana Bostrom, Elhanan Adler, JoAnne Deeken, John Abbott, John Cox, Katherine Klemperer, Katherine Porter, Martin Borchert, Michael Spinella, Michele Newberry, Peter Boyce, Richard d'Avigdor, Rick Anderson, Scott Wicks, and Thomas Sanders.

Rumors from page 76

versity, University of Southern California, Texas A&M University, Virginia Tech University, University of Western Ontario, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Yale University. The institutions are providing both the financial resources for the project as well as staff time for data collection and testing of methodologies. An article about the project appears in the June issue of *ARL: A Bimonthly Report on Research Library Issues and Actions from ARL, CNI, and SPARC* <<http://www.arl.org/news/210/emetrics.html>> and, throughout the project's three phases, information about the study and its activities will be available through the **ARL New Measures Initiative** Website at <<http://www.arl.org/stats/newmeas/newmeas.html>>, which also hosts resources relating to the other ARL new measures projects. For further information, contact **Rush Miller**, University of Pittsburgh <rgmiller@pitt.edu>; **Sherrie Schmidt**, Arizona State University <sherrie.schmidt@asu.edu>; or **Martha Kyrrilidou**, ARL Senior Program Office for Statistics and Measurement <martha@arl.org>.

Well, y'all, I have a huge Rumors file still not tapped and I've run out of room! I told you the summer was unbelievably busy! Stay tuned for November!

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Back Talk — Alumni Remote Access to Online Resources

by Tony Ferguson <ferguson@columbia.edu>

Over the past week (July 19, 2000) or so there has been a great interchange going on the Yale University sponsored Liblicense-L list serve (<http://www.library.yale.edu/~llicense/index.shtml>) about whether alumni ("former students" at Texas A&M where I once worked) should be allowed remote access to commercial databases, e-journals, etc. I'd like to share with you the major arguments made by this bright group of information professionals in favor of access, against access, and finally add my own observations. I thought about listing the name of the person who discussed each argument but decided that too often it made it appear that they favored the argument when in reality they were only discussing what they in fact opposed. Consequently, I will simply list their names at the bottom of this article and thank them all for sharing with the world their thoughts on this important topic.

Arguments in favor of remote alumni access to Library supported commercial sources of information:

1. Walk-in alumni already get access, why not those living far away?
2. Former students made a significant investment, why shouldn't they continue to benefit?
3. Colleges and universities need alumni fiscal support, benefits like these will encourage increased largesse.
4. Since few of these very "academic resources" will actually be used, why not permit this use?
5. Since some institutions are already doing it, all must provide this sort of access to be competitive.
6. Some licenses already allow it with seemingly little or no adverse consequences, e.g., Project Muse.
7. There is a demand for it and we are in the business of meeting information demands.
8. Alumni associations are integral parts of most colleges and universities. Members of alumni associations should therefore have access to the resources of the college or university.
9. Expanded access to information contributes to the wellness of our society and that, in the long run, will contribute to the vitality of the publishing enterprise.
10. Distance learning is a growth industry for most colleges and universities, expanded access to information is a "given" not a "maybe."

Arguments against remote alumni access to Library supported commercial sources of information:

1. Identifying and authenticating an ever-expanding group of former students is difficult and expensive.
2. Many publishers are already fiscally on the brink; any revenues lost threaten their existence.
3. Money spent meeting the needs of yesterday's students is money not spent meeting the needs of today's students.
4. Alumni are not only former students but they are also employees of companies. These companies should pay for the professional information needs of their employees.
5. License negotiation is already protracted and costly. Adding the need to negotiate alumni access only adds to the difficulties and the costs of this process.
6. If alumni associations want to add information support benefits, they, not libraries, should negotiate and pay for them.
7. Opens the gates to all sorts of abuse, e.g., the spouses of alumni providing their employers with free access to information, the friends of alumni are given the passwords needed to gain access, etc.
8. Government and private support for higher education is already inadequate and tenuous. Redirecting funds to the needs of yesterday's students will both water down the value of what we can give today's students and cause our supporters to question the value of the purposes for which their support is used.
9. There is really little alumni demand for this sort of informational support. This is just a librarian thing.
10. Colleges and universities enjoy educational discounts for many databases, e.g., chemistry, pharmaceutical medicine, etc. Why endanger these discounts?
11. When the alumni were students, the fees they paid were according to the programs of which they were a part. If they want access to commercial sources of information, why should things be different now?
12. The alumni pay for other benefits like football tickets, why not commercial sources of information?
13. Doubtful if most alumni would favor someone taking a part of their contributions to pay for the information needs of other alumni who are not willing to pay their fair share.
14. When a course ends, the student loses the right to the professor's time and energy.

Why should access to the library's digital resources be any different?

My own observations.

Arguments in favor of extending free access to commercial sources of digital information assume that since information is good, it is good to share it freely. The arguments against this sharing assume that to do so will incur extra costs for everyone involved: publishers, libraries, and higher education funding groups and that those who benefit should pay. I find I side with those in opposition to extending free access to an institution's alumni. Nothing is free; the questions are: who will pay and when will they pay?

At times, as information professionals, we are frustrated that our patrons fail to understand that many of the e-journals and other resources they are looking at are there only because we are paying the bills. We want, therefore, to have our logo or brand on these pages so that our patrons won't forget just how important our library budgets are to their success. On the other hand, when an issue like providing free access to former students comes up, many of us are only too willing to pretend that this information is free, or at least that any extra costs should be absorbed by publishers who are already making too much money. If we want to provide "free" access, someone will have to pay for it: today's students who will get less, publishers who will raise their prices, or the private or public groups that make our work possible.

I am in favor of supporting distance education and lifelong learners. I just returned from a month of interviewing television university librarians, students and teachers in China about their informational needs. These needs are very real. I felt many times how nice it would be to allow the students and faculty at some of these schools to access Columbia's resources. Yet, I have to recognize that decisions to share information require money to make them a reality. As information professionals, we shouldn't redistribute resources from today's student needs to yesterday's students in silence. We have to fight for additional resources and/or recognize that we just can't share what we don't have. Here at home, I don't think it has to be all or nothing. I think we can help alumni groups develop (not do it for them) information resource homepages that take full advantage of the many truly free resources that are otherwise lost in the chaotic richness of the

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