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Webworthy-Antartic, Evolution, Geoscience and Medicinal Plants

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Webworthy

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*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**. — PR*

Antarctic

SCAR isn't a description of the Antarctic landscape of rock and ice. It stands for the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, an interdisciplinary committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU). Charged with initiating, promoting and coordinating scientific research in Antarctica, SCAR also provides scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty System. The

SCAR Web site provides a good overview of research projects being conducted in Antarctica by over 18 countries, as well as basic facts like 0.4% of the continent is exposed rock and approximately 80 % of the freshwater in the world is ice in the Antarctic. There is also a list of Antarctic related Web sites and access to SCAR publications. <http://www.scar.org/>

Evolution

Mimicry is the sincerest form of flattery, even when it comes to evolution. Hot research topics such as applying the concept of memes (behaviors and ideas copied from person to person by imitation) to human mortality reduction can be found on the Evolutionary Theories in the Social Sciences (ETSS) Web site. Maintained by Johann Peter Murmann, a professor at Northwestern University, the site includes a growing collection of bibliographies, books and reviews, journals, researchers, conferences, associations, Ph.D. syllabi, and a discussion forum that provides a central location for review and discussion of the latest research. <http://www.etss.net/>

Geoscience

From "Dinosaurs 'hunted in packs'" to "University At Buffalo Research Offers First Evidence That Massive Lava Flows Triggered Apocalyptic Climate Changes," the latest Geosciences news is presented on Geoscience Central, along with a number of other services provided by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Geoscientists can search for fellow workers in their field, browse the list of upcoming meetings, update their own personal notes accessible from any Internet connected site, or search for jobs. Curious visitors can browse for geo-merchandise or create a postcard from images of fossils. The site is also home to Palaeontologia Electronica, a bi-annual, free, peer-reviewed journal. A visit to Other Resources reveals a nifty mouse-activated map showing the break-up of Pangea from 200 million years ago to the present and a Quickest Conversion operator for Celsius, Meters, and Liters. <http://geosciences.org/>

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Chaos

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— The machine-readable code used for the ISBN on the back of books before we changed to the Bookland EAN.

OEBF - Open eBook Forum — The OEBF developed the standard methods of "tagging" manuscripts, so that they can be transferred from the publisher to all e-book distributors. They are working with the EBX Working Group on standards for DRM.

ONIX - Online Information eXchange — The ONIX standards for book metadata was originally developed by the Association of American Publishers. Now an EDItEUR standard, ONIX International provides a standardized method of XML-tagging information about books, including the basic bibliographic data, but also enriched information such as author biographies, cover artwork, flap copy and reviews.

SAN - Standard Address Number — The American National Standard identifier for the addresses of organizations in the publishing, library and related communities.

SGML - Standard Generalized Markup Language — An ISO standard which is the "parent" of XML and HTML.

SICI - Serial Item and Contribution Identifier — The American National Standard for identifying issues and articles in print and electronic journals. Also see BICI.

SISAC - See BASIC — Special thoughts go out about two of the "founders" and hardest workers — Mary Ellen Klapper and Fritz Schwartz!

TRSDOS - Tandy Radio Shack Disk Operating System — My first computer's software!

U.P.C. - Universal Product Code — The 12 digit bar code used in North America. On January 1, 2005 all North American businesses are asked to change their databases to recognize a 13 digit product identifier to accommodate the 13 digit EAN.

W3C - World Wide Web Consortium — The standardization group for the Web. Their standards include HTML, XML and many more.

XML - eXchange Mark-up Language — A W3C standard that provides more "intelligence" than HTML, commonly used today to determine how text and illustrations "appear" on the World Wide Web.

Y2K - Year 2000 — No explanation needed, nor problems left unsolved. 🐛

The Fire of Progress

from page 82

My current theme (as some readers will have seen from other articles that I have written in 2000) is that we need to be information evangelists. We have to get the word out about the need for every businessman, academic, publisher and everyone else in the information chain to take information very seriously indeed. Unless the market for quality information products and services, be they books, journals or CD-ROMs, can be expanded, publishers will be reluctant to invest in new titles and enhanced service functionality. Information always costs money to collect and distribute. Just because a user does not pay for the information they manage to find on the Web does not mean to say, of course, that no costs were incurred by the originator. There are signs that the support of Web services through indirect revenue models, such as advertising and sponsorship, is no longer as attractive as it was.

I have a favourite quotation that perhaps I can use this article to seek out an attribution. "The fire of progress is lit by inspiration, fuelled by information and sustained by hope and hard work." That to me puts information into context. Without it there cannot be progress in science, business or society. 🌱

Medicinal Plants

When you sip a cup of echinacea tea, you may not worry about the purple cone flower becoming an endangered species, but that in fact is what is happening to many wild medicinal herb plants (many of which were once considered common weeds) as demand continues to grow. United Plant Savers was founded in an effort to prevent extinction. Its mission is native North American medicinal plant conservation and cultivation, and activities include: Identifying at risk native medicinal plants; Raising public awareness; Creating and managing botanical sanctuaries; Providing seed and rootstock; Replanting; Consulting regarding sustainable land practices; Sponsoring programs for school systems and communities; and Carrying out focused research.

<http://www.plantsavers.org/> [reported in *TipWorld* from Topica.com (<http://www.topica.com/>)]

Neuroimaging

There's no such thing as an average brain. The degree of variability in human brain structure makes it difficult to determine abnormality in a single individual just on examination. The Laboratory of Neuro Imaging at UCLA collaborates nationally and internationally to develop brain models that track and analyze complex patterns of dynamically changing brain structure in development and disease. The LONI Web site offers incredible images, for example a recently completed multi-modality atlas of the brain in Alzheimer's disease which combined thousands of annotated structure models with MRI, PET cryosections, histologic and bio-

chemical data in a common coordinate space. Researchers can also access the LONI Resource and its software for using a database of MRI scans from more than 7000 subjects. You'll also find a complete description of LONI's facilities and personnel, as well as available jobs!

<http://www.loni.ucla.edu/>

Oceanography

Tropical Ecosystems: Coral Reefs, Rainforests & A Potpourri of Weather, Earth Science & Other Good Things. Now that's a mouthful! R. Hays Cummins personal page reflects his eclectic interests and his department: Interdisciplinary Studies. The opening page is extensive, with drop down menus to weather sites, tropical ecosystem courses and images, and field presentations. There's a "Treat of the Day," which was spectacular volcano and earthquake imagery on January 12, 2001. Drop in on one of the Discovery

Labs, or check out the course discussion sites. Look at the weather and earth science resources while enjoying the colorful tropical cyclone activity map image. Or just enjoy the randomly selected images the author provides.

<http://jrscience.wcp.muohio.edu/html/index.html>

Physics

From the fizz-ics of champagne to why your electric toothbrush recharges without metal-to-metal contact can be found at Physics Central. This educational site from the American Physical Society is aimed at high school and up, offering articles, brief reviews, miniprofiles of scientists, the latest physics news, links to other physics sites, and a "how things work" column where questions are answered by physicist Lou Bloomfield.

<http://www.physicscentral.com>

Back Talk from page 86

- We already outsource much of what is selected to standing order and approval plan vendors and we outsource much of our cataloging to bibliographic utilities because these steps reduce our legacy costs – look for more opportunities at every turn.
- Most of us have made the transition from individually selected journals to publisher and aggregator e-journal packages. Get mentally ready for pay-per-use because it will be the next logical step toward buying what is read, not what might be read. I say mentally ready, because for many of us volume counts are the means that we use to establish worth. We need to look at how non-incumbents define worth.

- Focus on buying digital materials which link to other digital materials. Knowledge output results from the interaction between time, intelligence, and content. Our users have time and intelligence. The faster we can deliver the right content to them, the more successful they will be in producing knowledge. Giving them access to digital materials that are linked to other materials at the bibliographic reference level, is the most valuable thing we can do for our users.

Unless we can take advantage of the new advances in information technology, and rethink what legacy assets are really needed (e.g., cannibalize some and discard others), we will not be able to compete with the non-incumbents of the new information economy. We have too much to offer to allow ourselves to be pushed to the margin of the information age.

Rumors

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the Website out—www.serialssolutions.com.

Marietta Plank was looking great. And it's still hard as hell to drive a bargain with her!

John Tagler <j.tagler@elsevier.com> was talking about the debate at the 20th Charleston Conference between **David Goodman** and **Tony Ferguson**. Maybe next year we can get John on the debating podium. Suggestions for topics? Debaters?

As shown at ALA in Washington, **Faxon, RoweCom Library Services** have implemented a completely electronic claims handling process with major publishers including **John Wiley & Sons, Inc.**, **Elsevier Science**, and **Kluwer Academic Publishers**. The process utilizes Internet FTP and other electronic exchange methods to transport industry standard EDIFACT messages between Faxon and its suppliers.

Last but not least, I have to brag for a minute. My daughter **Ileana Strauch**, has just published a book on the **College of Charleston** in the **College History Series of Arcadia Publishing** (0738508362, \$19.99). I'm not telling you all to go out and buy a copy, but it's a great book and will have lots of anecdotes for the next time you visit Charleston!

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