

September 2000

Rumors

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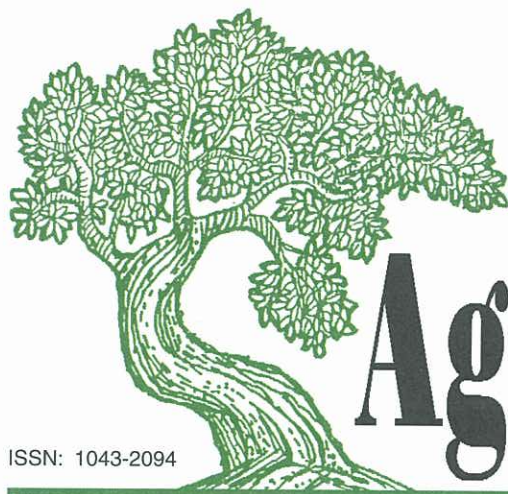
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Against the Grain

c/o Katina Strauch
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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

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Acquiring Minds Want to Know — Library Liaison Programs

Guest Editor: **Joyce L. Ogburn** (University of Washington)

Three articles present information on how library liaison programs work. The lead article, written by **Helene Williams** at the **University of Washington**, provides an overview of the basics of successful liaison programs. The next two articles are institution specific. **Irene Risser**, **Marjorie White**, and **Geraldine Benson** from **Millersville University** provide a look at how their liaison program is structured. **Ladd Brown**,

Molly Cox, and **Nancy Seamans** complete the set with a description of the college librarian program at **Virginia Tech**.

This section was inspired by the article about **Millersville University**, which developed from a Lively Lunch presentation at the **1999 Charleston Conference**. Thanks to them for sending in their contribution for **ATG** to publish! — **JLO**

programs, but not nearly as much attention has been paid to the activities of subject specialists/selectors and their connections on campus and within the library. The era of the invisible bibliographer is pretty much over, and today's subject selectors usually have reference and instruction duties in addition to their liaison tasks. With this added visibility and increased workload comes the need to provide successful liaison strategies.

Given the above-mentioned goal of meeting user needs, the first step in a liaison program is to identify our users. As **David Tyckoson** said in an **ATG** interview,¹ we need to know our community; he was referring to reference collections and their users, but his advice holds especially true for subject selectors. In most academic libraries, selectors are usually given discipline- or department-based assignments, and at first

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An Academic Liaison Program: Making it Work

by **Helen Williams** (English Studies Librarian, University of Washington, Seattle, WA) <helenew@u.washington.edu>

With the deluge of information on how technology is changing the face, mission, and infrastructure of libraries, there is an increased need for strategies to deal with these changes as they affect our core programs. These activities have long-range consequences, be they collection building or instruction and reference-related, and they will easily

outlive the day-to-day technology issues of database interface changes and quirky printers. Fortunately, in all library environments, and academic ones in particular, there are opportunities to come out from behind the technology, or use it to our advantage, in working with users to meet their needs. There has been much discussion of successful elements in instruction and reference

If Rumors Were Horses

Forgot to tell y'all that the wonderful **Jill O'Neill** <jilloneill@nfais.org> has turned her considerable energies and expertise to **NFAIS** (National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services) where she will be Director of Planning & Communications. Jill will be in Charleston where we can all congratulate her. She will be conducting the preconference, "Searching the Web: Getting What You Want Without Wasting Your Time."

The effervescent **Digby Sales** (U. of Cape Town, South Africa) will be at the **Charleston Conference** talking about the Knowledge Commons which they have created in his library.

Charles Strum, the obituaries editor of *The New York Times* will be speaking at this year's **Charleston Conference** at the Friday night Optional dinner in the Exchange Building at the foot of Broad Street. Chuck

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is a classmate of **Bob Neville's** of the College of Charleston.

Be sure and attend the **Beastly Breakfast** this year on Saturday morning. Coordinated by the effervescent **Pam Cenz** (Marsden Library, University of Florida) <pamcenz@mail.uflib.ufl.edu>, the **Beastly Breakfasts** are designed to be informal exchanges about timely topics. See you there. You can sleep after the Conference is over!

Speaking of which, I was talking to **Jack Walsdorf** (Alibris) <jackw@alibris.com> the other day on the phone and he asked me why we didn't call the BB's (above) **Blissful Breakfasts**. I told him that it was because of the hour of the morning. My husband wakes up with a song in his voice and I want to hit him over the head. I am not a morning person! So, if I can be there, so can you.

And don't miss either Jack's **Something About Books** (this issue, p. 84) or his **Lively Lunch** reminiscences during the Charleston Conference.

And speaking of the **Lively Lunches**, the quiet and unassuming, yet incredibly competent, **Vicky Speck** (ABC-Clio) <vspeck@abc-clio.com> is coordinating the publication of many of the papers from the **Concurrent Sessions** and the **Lively Lunches**. Vicky will not be in Charleston because of scheduled surgery, but **Ron Boehm** will take her place. (I kind of doubt it ...)

John Secor's lovely wife, **Sally**, passed away in September. Sally A. (Bayley) Secor. Memorials may be made in her name to the Emerson Hospital Hospice 133 ORNAC, Concord, MA. 01472.

Got a copy of a 66-page report, with 14 pages of appendices, called **Beating Publisher Price Discrimination** by **Richard W. Meyer** <rmeyer@express-news.net>. This has some incredibly useful data. It covers experiments on the impact of technology on scholarly publishing designed to explore the opportunities available in this new information area for cost control and beating price discrimination. These efforts resulted in an effective tool for discovering those journals that are sold by publishers to libraries at prices in excess of statistically predicted prices. In effect, it identifies overpriced journals within any given selection based on a statistical comparison. Copies of the report are available from Richard at 13151 N. Hunters Circle, San Antonio, Texas, 78230 at a price of \$35 (shipping, tax and handling included) multiplied by the number of journal titles published per year by the principal employer of the individual receiving the report. Mini-

mum \$35. Price outside the USA is \$45 per title published.

This is from **Frank Barnako's Internet Daily** (October 9, 2000) of **CBS MarketWatch.com** — "The three largest online booksellers have raised prices since the summer, meaning some books are now more expensive at e-tailers than they are in brick and mortar stores. Including shipping charges, online buyers save money only on hardcover books priced at \$22.50 and above, according to an analysis by *The New York Times*. **Amazon.com**, for instance, now prices bestsellers at 40 percent less than list, down from a 50 percent discount earlier this year. **Borders.com** is selling new releases at a 30 percent discount. 'The whole paradigm of the Internet is exposed as being more costly than it was advertised to be,' **Barnesandnoble.com** chairman **Leonard Riggio** told the *Times*. 'Our pricing policy on everything ... is evolving.' A spokesman for **Amazon.com** explained, 'Price is important (to our customers), but so are selection, convenience, and service.'"

The energetic **Ana Arias Terry** (Vice President, Informed Strategies) has a great article on Reference Linking in the current issue of *The Charleston Advisor* in the **Charleston Conference** packet which you have just received. Happy reading!

Listen up! Some people are calling it **edcommerce**. **notHarvard.com** has announced that it has changed its name to **Powered, Inc.**, and is stressing the "ed" in **Powered**. Hmmm... We are talking about the use of online education as a sales and marketing tool. Unified by the shared vision of bringing free online education to millions of users worldwide, **Powered** was founded in May 1999. They say their goal is simple—"to change the way the world learns." **Powered's** client list includes **Barnes & Noble.com**, **jobs.com**, **Metrowerks** (a Motorola company), **Web Street Securities**, and **Talk City, Inc.** The company is based in Austin, Texas, and has attracted more than \$34 million in financing from a number of marquee venture capitalist firms. For more information visit the company's Website at www.powered.com.

The Annual **Book Industry Trends 2000: Covering the Years 1994-2004**, prepared for the **Book Industry Study Group** by **Fordham University Graduate School of Business Administration** addresses significant trends and issues which emerged in 1999. **Book Industry Trends 2000** projects domestic consumer expenditures

on all books expected to reach \$38.4 billion by the year 2004, up from an estimated \$23.9 billion in 1994. Projections for domestic consumer expenditures on all books for 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively are \$31.5, \$33.1, \$34.8 and \$36.5 billion. In the market segment overviews, **Karen Jenkins Holt**, Senior Editor, **BP Report** writes that the **Harry Potter** 'phenomenon' is largely responsible for driving children's book sales up 15.6%, far in excess of the 6.8% increase forecasted. In the area of adult trade titles, which covers hardcover and trade paperback, sales increased 2.9 percent. Hardcover sales growth for 1999 was low at just 2.6%. This number is lower than the 3.3% increase in 1998. The 3.2% growth in adult trade paperback sales followed two years of much larger increases, 10.2% in 1998 and 7.6 percent in 1997. Publishers still favor the trade paperback format. For mass-market paperbacks,

1999 was a difficult year. Projections indicate that sales fell 7.3% in 1999, more than undoing the surprising 5.6 percent increase in 1998. Industry experts point to the increasing popularity of trade paperbacks, as the biggest threat especially as rising mass market prices narrow the cost difference between the two formats. Additionally

superstores are stronger in promoting hardcovers and trade paperbacks than mass-market paperbacks. The book club market rose 3.7% in 1999, the slowest growth since 1992. Until recently, book clubs have been one of the healthiest segments of consumer book sales. However, the deep discounts and convenience of online booksellers is bringing new competition to book clubs. Undaunted by new online competition, book clubs are embracing the Internet and moving away from a heavy reliance on snail-mail for recruiting, marketing and taking orders. Direct mail publishers are seeing a continuing decline in this market segment. In 1999, sales in the direct mail segment declined 12.3% percent. Since peaking at \$796.8 million in 1989, sales for this segment have declined 48%. This year's 'Issue' essays highlight a phenomenon that affects everyone with any role in moving intellectual property from creator to consumer. Focusing on two aspects of the sea change in "the industry formerly known as the book business," they are designed to underline its imperatives. *Content Delivery*, by **Jim Milliot** of **Publishers Weekly**, is an essay that examines how members of the industry are using the Internet, and the value of the digitalization of information. Publishers, wholesalers, and others are now involved with produc-

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ing content that is delivered to customers in a variety of formats through an ever-growing number of distribution channels. **Contract Consequences**, by **Jonathan Kirsch, Kirsch and Mitchell**, is an essay that examines changes in the industry and the need for publishers to address traditional contracts. The introduction of new technologies, including print-on-demand, and e-books pose new challenges for publishers who need to anticipate the rights required to compete effectively in the future. **Are People Reading Anymore?**, by **Leo Kivijarv, Ph.D., Veronis Suhler**, is an essay that provides in-depth examination into how the new media is supplementing reading in traditional printed media and not replacing. For further information, contact Bill Raggio <bill@bookinfo.org> or visit the **BISG** homepage at <http://www.bisg.org>.

Librarians and staff members held their breath on one side of the continent and systems engineers and **epixtech** staff members held their breath on the other side, as 130 schools in the Tampa, Florida-area **Hillsborough County School District** went "live" with their newly-installed **Horizon System**. Eventually, they will go live with another 45 schools, all by Christmas 2000. Hillsborough County School Dis-

trict serves 167,000 students. They are using the core **Horizon** system, which includes cataloging, Circ, and PAC modules. The school district was so excited to get their new system that they actually held festivities to get ready for the changeover. The school district, which also includes a trade school and a public library, held a contest on what to name their PAC, with the winning name being "CyberCat." For further information, contact **Christine Van Brunt** (Coordinator Library Processing, Hillsborough County Public Schools, phone 312-744-8013, <Vanbrunt_c@popmail.firn.edu> or <http://www.epixtech.com>).

More on **Horizon**. **Communications of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania**, has announced it will be using **epixtech's Horizon** automation system to offer **WEB FEET**, RockHill's general subject guide to the best Websites on Internet, as an online product. The online version of **WEB FEET** will utilize **Horizon's** ASP and WebPAC modules. This novel and imaginative product will be offered to **WEB FEET's** 2,500 subscribers through a partnership with **MARCLink Retrospective Conversion**. **MARCLink** will take the entire database of formerly print-only content, catalog it, and offer the Website selections with full descriptions, LC subject headings, and live links to the Internet, in MARC record format. The guides RockHill Communications currently publishes include **WEB FEET:**

Subject Guide to the Best Web Sites, WEB FEET K-8: Guide to the Best Web Sites With Additional Resources, and coming soon, **WEB FEET for Health: An Internet Guide to More Than 300 Illnesses and Conditions**. RockHill has been selecting and describing the best Web Sites since 1996. **Ann Bagnell** (RockHill Communications, phone: 610-747-0202, <Abagnell@rockhillcommunications.com>).

On July 1, 2000 the **Acoustical Society of America** launched its second archival journal, **Acoustics Research Letters Online (ARLO)**, the international electronic letters journal of acoustics. For the prior 15 months **ARLO** appeared in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, JASA* (print and online), as part of the initial testing period. **ARLO** introduces several advances that promise to be a model for all publishers of scientific research. In particular, **ARLO** offers authors rapid peer review and publication of their letter-sized submissions (in as little as one month) with its unique Manuscript Management System (MMS), co-developed with the **American Institute of Physics** (which calls the system **Sci-Edit**). Authors are also invited to submit multimedia content, which is reviewed and archived, as well as color figures when appropriate. Readers of **ARLO** have a special benefit as well: **ARLO** is free to individual readers possessing **Netscape** or **Internet Explorer** browsers, guaranteeing maximum worldwide dissemination of authors' research results. Authors pay a manuscript fee, and libraries are asked to pay a nominal subscription fee to support the editorial process, as well as archiving, linking, search functions, and security, which are provided by the publisher, the **American Institute of Physics**. Readers, authors, reviewers, and associate editors (who are drawn largely from the *JASA* editorial staff) enter the **ARLO** system at: <http://asa.aip.org/arlo>.

CatchWord has expanded its research network by using **Digital Island, Inc.** (NASDAQ: ISLD) to host and deliver online content globally. As part of an ongoing commitment to assure optimal reach and performance of its worldwide e-journals service, **CatchWord** is utilizing **Digital Island's** application hosting and networking services for fast, reliable service. **CatchWord's** global network is now connected to three separate **Digital Island Data Centers** in Hong Kong, New York, and London. Each of the hosting installations has been tightly integrated into **CatchWord's** own infrastructure, resulting in fast delivery speeds and system availability, and guaranteeing optimum performance to the end-user using **Digital Island's Global e-Business Delivery**

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Network. "With this deal our global reach has been even further improved," says **Simon Inger**, Managing Director. "Our statistics show over 35% of article downloads are now coming from within Asia, a figure I am confident no other journal host can match." **CatchWord** has been steadily integrating **Digital Island's** technology into its own network since the start of this year and now has content hosted within three **Digital Island Data Centers**, adding more "points of presence" for users of e-journals world-wide. A user accessing catchword.com is now automatically routed to the fastest server within **CatchWord's** network. **CatchWord** was formed in 1994 and provides publishers with comprehensive, tailored, Internet publishing services designed to grow their business by deploying cost effective, global and secure solutions. Contact: **Simon Inger**, Managing Director <simon.inger@catchword.com>.

The following statement, issued October 5, 2000, is in regard to copyright issues and several lawsuits recently filed by freelance writers against online information providers. "Along with other online information providers, **Bell & Howell Information and Learning** has been named in several lawsuits by freelance writers

claiming copyright infringement. The company is committed to copyright compliance and to a speedy and fair resolution to the issues raised. With more than 60 years of experience in collecting, organizing, and distributing information, **Bell & Howell** has a long and proud tradition of adhering to copyright without exception. **Bell & Howell** currently maintain agreements with some 8,500 publishers from around the world. All materials that are published in microform and electronically (whether online, on tape, or on CD-ROM) are published under a valid copyright license with publishers. These license agreements contain representations from publishers that they can grant the necessary rights to the materials. The current issues raised regarding electronic publishing rights is a matter for publishers and authors to discuss and resolve in a way that meets both groups' needs. As an information aggregator, **B & H** eagerly awaits resolution. **Bell & Howell Information and Learning** fully complies with copyright law in both letter and spirit. We appreciate the talents and contributions of freelance writers and fully understand the value they provide in the context of premium quality publications. While we will vigorously defend ourselves against these current claims, we hope that a satisfactory resolution can be achieved between publishers and au-

thors so that no interruption of access to information will result to researchers who rely on online information services such as **ProQuest**. We will continue to work closely with publishers to ensure copyright adherence. Because we have always been concerned with offering our library customers fully copyright-compliant databases, we offer the capability to "block" access to specific articles at the publisher's request—both retrospectively and prospectively. Over the past several years, we have responded immediately to all publisher requests to block selected articles. We are eager for authors, publishers, and library customers to understand our role and the steps we take to ensure that libraries receive fully copyright-compliant data from **Bell & Howell Information and Learning**. Library customers with questions may contact copyright@bellhowell.infolearning.com. Publishers may call 1-800-521-0600, ext. 3330 or publishers@bellhowell.infolearning.com.

According to **David Nelson** (Manager, Electronic Publishing, Impressions Book and Journal Services, Inc., <dnelson@impressions.com>) on the **E-book listserv**, a recent **Seybold Report** mentioned that publishing baron **Rupert Murdoch** recently doubled his investment in **Gemstar-TV Guide**—giving him about 43 percent. Some stock swapping among some other companies was apparently involved. Murdoch was quoted as saying the publishers will soon be able to "completely bypass the printer, the paper manufacturer and the post office in the delivery of regular magazines and even of newspapers."

Well, are you watching the **Napster** case? Called "the first great battle of the Internet century," this case surely will involve "the future of music publishing, copyright law, 21st-century ethics and the relationship of artists to their audience." See *Time Magazine*, June 5, 2000, p.46-52. According to **Edupage** (October 5, 2000) and the *LA Times* (October 3, 2000), the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals have heard testimony but have not issued any ruling.

According to **Edupage** (October 5, 2000) and the *Chronicle of Higher Education Online* (3 October, 2000), **Canadian Virtual University** is a joint venture created by seven Canadian universities (**Athabasca University**, **Brandon University**, **University of Manitoba**, **Laurentian University**, **Open University**, **Royal Roads University**, and **University of Victoria**) and began registering students shortly thereafter. The students will be required to pay a fee to the school which provides the course.

Have you visited **Amazon.fr**? This is **Amazon.com** in France. Oh, c'est si bon!

I would like to see a dancing contest between **John Merriman**, **Herman Pabbruwe**,

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Sandy Paul, and Audrey Melkin! We could have a lottery going as to who would win! Just got a letter from John Merriman <uksg.admin@dial.pipex.com>, who is the editor of the journal *Serials* of the UK **Serials Group**. He sounds like he hasn't aged a bit! Also, saw Herman Pabbruwe at the **Second Fiesole Collection Development Retreat** in Oxford. Astute as always, he had a great comment, "print is a service issue." Audrey and Sandy will be in Charleston practicing for the big dance contest. You heard it here!

Did you read the interview with Don Hagen, Managing Director, **Bernan Associates** in the September *ATG* (p.50)? If you did, you'll remember that Don said about electronic publishing, "Change is inevitable so we must continue to change and reinvent ourselves or we will be left behind." Francis Hill Slowzinski has just been appointed **Director of Publishing** for **Bernan** and **Director of Bernan Press**. Mr. Slowzinski brings over 25 years of experience in professional, legal, scholarly, and scientific information publishing. As Director, one of his duties will be to lead the

transformation of **Bernan** into a digital publishing business through an implementation of a data processing system that will support the print products and enable **Bernan** to disseminate information and interface digitally with its customers.

I tell you, if they could bottle up **Lyman Newlin's** energy, they would have an IPO, a dot.com, and an *enfantpreneur* (what someone called young entrepreneurs) all in one! The man is incredible. He turned 90 on June 23! Happy Birthday, Lyman! We will be able to sing to him during the conference (but don't tell him)! Shhh...

Edna Laughrey (Ad Manager, *ATG*) told me that the awesome **Scott Wicks** (Cornell) is on special assignment related to their new automated system so **Christian Boissonnas** is back keeping acquisitions together. He is working on putting together a new art approval plan. Retire? Never!

Spent a delightful afternoon with **Betty** and **Gordon Graham** (Editor, *Logos*) <logos-marlow@dial.pipex.com>

in Marlow, England in July after the **Fiesole Collection Development Retreat**. Gordon and Betty live next to "Toad Hall" (of *Wind in the Willows* fame).

OCLC has acquired **Library Technical Services**, a library cataloging service based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. **LTS** provides original and copy cataloging as well as physical processing of materials to large and medium-sized academic libraries in Canada. **LTS** has 20 staff members including 17 catalogers, and was established in 1994 as a business unit of **ISM Information Systems Management Corporation**, an IBM company.

I really miss seeing **Lynne Rienner**. Don't you? Was just reading about a timely new book called *Presidential Transitions: From Politics to Practice* (437 pp., 1-55587-916-0, \$65), by **John P. Burke**, just out in October. Burke is a professor of political science at the U. of Vermont and I wonder if **Albert Joy** and **Peter Spitzform** know him. Ask them at the **Charleston Conference**.

IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) will be in Boston, Massachusetts August 16-25, 2001. The theme is **Libraries and**

Librarians: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age.

John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (NYSE:JWb) (NYSE:JWb) announced that earnings per diluted share for the first quarter ended July 31, 2000, advanced 30% to \$0.26 compared with \$0.20 in the prior year's first quarter. Net income of \$16.5 million for the quarter increased 23%. Revenues increased 10% to \$150.9 million compared with \$137.0 million in the prior year's first quarter. Revenue and income gains were achieved in all of the company's core businesses, with particularly strong results in Professional/Trade and College. Strong frontlist and backlist sales, including the **Jossey-Bass** and higher education titles acquired last year, as well as sales growth through online accounts, contributed to the results. Margins continued to improve as a result of productivity improvements. For further information, visit <http://www.wiley.com/about/corpnw/2001quer1.html>.

Speaking of Wiley, **John Wiley & Sons, Inc.**, and **The National Cancer Institute (NCI)** have announced a collaborative effort to provide Internet-based access to a comprehensive database of information on chromosome changes identified in human cancers. The online resource developed by the CI-Wiley partnership provides open access, via the World Wide Web, to the latest iteration of data compiled from genetic studies reported in peer-reviewed medical and scientific publications. The Web database found at www.cgap.nci.nih.gov/chromosomes/Mitelman is based on a proprietary database developed by **Professor Felix Mitelman** in collaboration with **Bertil Johansson, MD**, and **Fredrik Mertens, MD**, all from the **University of Lund, Sweden**. Wiley will also host a version of the *Mitelman Database of Chromosome Aberrations in Cancer* within Wiley InterScience at www.interscience.wiley.com.

Linda Crismond <lcrismond@far.follett.com> will not be in Charleston because she will be in Hawaii instead!! Well, **Thelma Diercks** <thelma@hawaii.edu> will be in Charleston instead of Hawaii. So there!

ingenta has teamed up with **Freereserve**, an Internet portal, to provide a unique access and content package to students and researchers nationwide. **ingenta**, which operates the **BIDS services for Higher Education** on behalf of the UK Government, and **Freereserve** have collaborated to create a co-branded **BIDS/Freereserve CD-ROM**, which will enable students to benefit from **Freereserve's** Internet access and content, and navigate seamlessly into the **BIDS Academic online research service**

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Livres Disponibles

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whether on campus or at home. Both **ingenta** and **Bids** will also be accessible from the **Freeseerve Learning channel** at www.freeseerve.com/learning. Around 100,000 free CD-ROMs are being distributed both through campus libraries and with freshers packs to coincide with the new academic year. By registering with Freeseerve, students will not only be able to access their own university's **BIDS** research services but can also navigate through a wide variety of tailored content from **Freeseerve**, including news, music and sport bulletins, online shopping and entertainment listings for their local area. For further information, contact <stephen.pang@freeseerve.com> or visit www.ingenta.com www.bids.ac.uk.

And there's more. In October, **ingenta** acquired **Dynamic Diagrams**, the online journal and Website development operation of **Cadmus Communications Corporation Inc.** **Dynamic Diagrams** has operations in Providence (Rhode Island), Baltimore (Maryland) and London, and provides data conversion, software, and online content development services to some of the leading journal and reference publishers in the US including two of the top medical societies and **McGraw-Hill**. **ingenta** has acquired the assets of **Dynamic Diagrams**, for up to \$5.5 million. During the last financial year, the business generated \$3.4 million turnover on a pro forma basis. Following reorganization, the business is expected to be profitable from acquisition. Funding for the acquisition

and further expansion will be provided by a £7 million share placement. For further information, contact **Gemma Coxedge** <gemmac@fodorwyllie.com> or visit www.dynamicdiagrams.com.

Academic Press and **e-psyche** have signed an agreement linking the e-psyche database with **IDEAL**, AP's online resource library. Headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, **e-psyche** was founded and developed by **Auld, Kuranz** and **Access Innovations/Data Harmony** and is an electronic-only resource designed and developed to meet the information research needs of professionals, students and the general public in the field of psychology and related behavioral disciplines. **E-psyche** and **IDEAL** now feature the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) necessary to make seamless linking possible. To learn more, visit www.e-psyche.net or www.idealibrary.com.

RoweCom UK has appointed **Liz McNaughton** as Publisher Relations Manager. Liz takes over from **Helen Henderson**. To date, Liz's technology background has been instrumental in implementing back office systems, first at **Dawson** and later at **RoweCom**. She also played a crucial part in the development of new electronic services to customers such as the Web-based management service **kLibrary**. Her active participation in **ICEDIS** forms a natural bridge to her new job. Liz can be reached at <lmcnaughton@rowecom.co.uk>

ebrary has announced a joint investment by **Random House Inc.**, **Pearson** and **The McGraw-Hill Companies**—three of the world's leading publishing

and information services companies. This marks the first time these three market leaders have made a mutual investment in the same company. Terms of the agreement between ebrary and the investors were not disclosed. The ebrary service is scheduled to launch this fall and can be found at www.ebrary.com.

According to **PW Daily for Booksellers** (October 11, 2000) Amazon.com and the auction house of Sotheby's are closing their co-branded art and collectibles Web auction site at <http://www.sothebys.amazon.com>.

Replica Books, the on-demand printing unit of **Informata.com** and **Gardners Books Ltd.**, U.K. book wholesaler, have agreed to a strategic alliance to mutually supply on-demand editions to both retailers and libraries in the U.S. and U.K. **Replica Books** will print and distribute books on behalf of **Gardners Books** in the United States. Similarly, **Gardners Books** will print and distribute books for **Replica** in the United Kingdom. At a publisher's request, both firms will share files so that more books will be available either side of the Atlantic. **Informata.com** is **Baker & Taylor's** business-to-business e-commerce venture that distributes electronic content, licenses database services and applications and creates Internet Portals. Visit www.replicabooks.com or www.gardners.com. Remember when **ATG** interviewed **Bob Doran** (he'll be in Charleston in November!), back in June 2000?

ISI and **Ex Libris** have announced plans to integrate the **ISI Web of Science** with **Ex Libris SFX linking** technology by late fall 2000. By combining the **ISI Web-based Citation Databases** and the context-sensitive reference linking technology from **Ex Libris**, mutual subscribers will have expanded options for linking resources and services, irrespective of where the resources are hosted. **Ehud A. Arad**, President and CEO, **Ex Libris Ltd.** stated, "the objective in the development of the **SFX** technology was to achieve for the user the goal of seamless integration of heterogeneous resources, and to place the management of this in the hands of the librarian. **SFX** permits context-sensitive linking among all parts of an electronic collection, including fulltext repositories; abstracting, indexing and citation databases; online catalogues; citations appearing in research articles; e-print systems; and other Web resources." For more information, visit: www.sfxit.com.

Swets Blackwell has added all 23 of OECD's electronic journal titles to **SwetsnetNavigator**, their electronic journal service. Online access to fulltext articles, abstracts and tables of contents from this prestigious publisher are available free with a subscription to the corresponding print journal. The **OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)**

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Rumors

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is an inter-governmental organization of 30 member countries, originally formed in 1948 and containing countries from Western and Central Europe, North America, the Far East and Australasia. Its primary purpose is to provide members with a forum to research, debate and develop economic and social policy. As a direct result, the **OECD** is the independent publisher of more than 250 publications per annum, including a staggering 98 million statistics which have been verified and made comparable, making it one of the world's largest and most reliable sources of data. www.swetsblackwell.com

Have you visited **contentville.com**? There has been a lot of email lately among **College of Charleston** faculty about the fact that this site is selling some dissertations without the consent of faculty. But, **Contentville.com** has an arrangement with **UMI Dissertations Publishing**. To expand access to graduate research, **UMI Dissertations Publishing** has distributed subject segments of the **UMI** dissertation abstract database and ordering information to many profes-

sional society and research center Websites. The entire database and ordering information have been available through online providers such as **OCLC**, **Dialog** and **STN** for over a decade. **Contentville** is the latest distribution avenue. For a full discussion of this issue, see a recent article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* <http://chronicle.com/free/v47/i03/03a03701.htm>.

The wonderful, dynamic duo of **Heather Miller** <hm766@cnsvox.albany.edu> and **Michael Young** <youngm@csc.albany.edu> have done the **Charleston Conference** evaluations this year! Say thanks! How many years has it been anyway, Heather?

A lot of people have written me about the **Millennium Issue** (that's the next one!) and the fabulously wonderful **Lucretia McClure** <lucretia_mcclure@hms.harvard.edu> will guest edit this issue. So, quit talking and write—right now! **Edna Laughrey** <elaughrey@aol.com> (and several other people) have

pointed out that I didn't put a deadline on announcements of the Millennium Issue. Oops! The deadline is **NOVEMBER 15!**

And this just in as we go to press. The smiling and astute **Clive Hoey** <clive.hoey@rim.co.uk> has just left **MCB** after nine long and happy years! He is going to lead the production of city portals and local Web news services with **Regional Interactive Media (RIM)**

www.rim.co.uk which publishes roughly 60 regional newspapers and magazines. Here is his contact information: **Regional Interactive Media**, PO Box 168, Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 1RF, UK; phone: +44 (0) 1132 388 8100. Clive says to keep in touch. He adds that he

won't be in Charleston this year but he hopes that he can come back again soon!

That's all, folks, but see you in December! 🌱

