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Group Therapy-How to handle offers of access to online editions of print journals when the access is by registration and password

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Webworthy — More Interesting Internet Sites

Edited by **Pamela M. Rose** (Web Services and Library Promotion Coordinator, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo) <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>
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Interesting, educational Websites selected both for content and uniqueness are organized by broad subject area. In some cases, the topic of interest is part of a more general Webpage, in which case specific pointers are added to guide you to the link.

Internet sites are reviewed and annotated, then revisited just prior to publication to ensure they are still active. Please let the column 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**.

Chemistry. Faster than a speeding atom, leaps heavy uranium plants in a single bound, it's **Metamorpho!** Welcome to A Comic Book Periodic Table, brainchild of chemistry professors **John Selegue** and **Jim Holler** of the **University of Kentucky, Lexington**. Elements of the periodic table link to actual comic strips discussing that element, including a description and history of the comic itself for buffs. Intended to be educational, the site also includes links to real periodic tables. <http://www.uky.edu/~holler/periodic/periodic.html>

Education. "Distance Learning: Promise or Threat?" by **Andrew Feenberg**. An interesting discussion from an experiential point of view by a Professor of Philosophy at **San Diego State U.** (And after reading his paper, check out Dr. Feenberg's main page, and a Paris apartment for rent!) [**Red Rock**

Eater News Service <rre@lists.gseis.ucla.edu> 2.15.99] <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/feenberg/TELE3.HTM>

Humor. Need to laugh at your latest deadline? Check out **Oxymoron Humour Archive: Scientific Articles**, a wonderful collection of science jokes. Links to Administratum (a new element), The Dark Sucker Theory, and The Science of Shoes will brighten your day. <http://paul.merton.ox.ac.uk/science/>

Symbols. A nifty online encyclopedia of graphic symbols, searchable by the symbol's characteristics, such as symmetric, single or double axis, soft (=curved), open or closed, and whether any of the lines in

the symbol cross. Each entry gives the background and history of the symbol, who used it and for what purpose. [**Red Rock Eater News Service** <rre@lists.gseis.ucla.edu> 2.15.99] <http://www.symbols.com/>



Group Therapy —

How do you handle offers of access to online editions of print journals when the access is by registration and password?



Column Editor, **Rosann Bazirjian** (Florida State University)

Hey y'all out there! Do you have any gripes? Come to your therapist! Try <rbazirji@mailier.fsu.edu> or FAX 904-644-5170.

GRYPE: (Submitted by **Anne Frohlich**, Serials Librarian, McNeese State University):

How do you handle offers of access to online editions of print journals your institution subscribes to when the access is by registration and password? Do you ignore these offers, publicize them and give the password to inquirers, put the password on a Web page, other? We had received several of these and would like to know how others have handled the situation.

RESPONSE: (Submitted by **John Haar**, Assistant University Librarian for Collection Development, Vanderbilt Univ.):

We prefer not to handle offers of this kind and are reluctant to subscribe to journals and other databases that mandate password-controlled access. We understand that a publisher needs to protect their investment in their products, but we usually try to convince them to use Internet protocol address recognition as their security device. IP-based access is easy for us to administer and transparent to authorized users.

Password-controlled access is a particularly cumbersome security measure. If we establish an institutional password and username, we have to distribute them to authorized users. Unless the pub-

lisher also imposes IP or domain-based access controls, authorized users can share passwords and usernames with unauthorized users, which hardly serves the publisher's interests. If the publisher insists on individual passwords and usernames, we have to publicize this to patrons, and persons who forget or lose the information will almost certainly contact us and expect us to remember for them. In both cases, we take on the responsibility of validating (and over time, revalidating) user authorizations.

For those electronic subscriptions where there is no alternative to passwords and usernames, we create a institutional password and username, if possible. We post both on a local Webpage restricted by IP address to authorized users and add a link from this site to the journal. Entries for the journal on both our Web e-journal list and our catalog point to this page. This strategy provides the security publishers demand and keeps us out of the business of managing access on an individual basis.

Some publishers will not accept institutional passwords and usernames; they require individuals to register and create their own security identification. They usually employ this process (redundantly, in our view) in tandem with IP registration. In these cases we add a note to our e-journal list that registration is necessary. Often we create an intermediate page explaining the registration procedure.

RESPONSE: (Submitted by **Claire M. Ginn**, N. American Consortia Mgr., MCB Univ. Press):

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Adventures in Librarianship: To be or not to be.

by **Ned Kraft** (Smithsonian Institution Libraries) <NKRAFT@sil.si.edu>

A young, para-professional colleague just mentioned starting library school. When I hear that my mind starts whirling. The enthusiastic, helpful, supportive self wants to tell him all the reasons why he should do it, why it's a grand profession. Then, creeping close on all fours, comes the cynical, cautious, doubtful self that wants to bite that young man's ankle, show him the error of his ways.

"You think I should matriculate? Is it worthwhile?"

He should know better, talking to me so early in the morning, before coffee and email. Not too bright. Wonder what his GREs were? But look at that fresh, hopeful face, that innocent grin ready to organize and classify the world. What should I say?

"Sure, it's a great job ... and every town on the map needs at least one librarian," I say this while my demon reminds me that many staffs are shrinking. Much of what used to be done by librarians is now done by lower paid clerks. And many libraries are selling chunks of their work to private companies with rootless, drifting, temporary help.

Then I add, getting into the swing of it, "You're, you know, part of this great academic mission." Uh-huh. The noble cause. Picking, parsing, providing the world's intellectual riches. That's true of course, but when you've just spent your day so glued to your screen that your eyes feel mummified, you might

have to squint to see the noble cause. When you're hired in acquisitions to spend your days claiming overdue sci-tech titles (claims that the publisher will likely ignore), or in cataloging to code serial holdings, or in the stacks to shelve AR through EC, you might define your place in the world with a little less enthusiasm.

Just to torment myself, I blurt out: "It'd be great to have you as a fellow librarian!" Right. One more competitor in an overfull field. Just what I need. A young competitor at that, no mortgage, willing to work for peanuts and a pat on the back.

I'm starting to twitch. I need my coffee. "You uh, you work hard, work smart, and move right up the ladder!" And the demon asks, ladder? Is there still such a thing? Aren't promotions mysterious things, often unrelated to talent, work ethic, and IQ?

"And, and...there's no stopping me now: I'm stuck in the war between the good librarian and the bad...and it's a steady job, you know, calm, contemplative." Oh now you've done it, the bad one says. You've crossed the line. You're spouting outright lies. Librarianship is a field changing so fast you have to run to keep up. And if you don't run, you're dead.

The hair on the back of my neck is standing up as I say, "Books. We're all book lovers here. That's why we g-g-g-go into this profession." That's right. And if in a few years,

libraries no longer care much about books, would you still want to be a librarian? Hmm? Or would you end up counting yourself among the many lost and disappointed souls?

The kid perks up and says, "But it's so expensive," just as my left eyelid begins to twitch.

"Well worth it," I insist. "Worth every penny." Have you done the math? Have you? Do you know how long it will take to pay for a graduate education on the average starting salary? Can you spell 'eternity'?"

Maybe sensing my condition, the young man smiles his innocent, sympathetic smile and says, "Thanks. I think I'll take an intro course this summer. Just try it out."

"Good. Good," I say, watching him leave and check-



ing my forehead for perspiration. Where is that coffee? ☕

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are for site licences, where the staff and students of the institution may use the products covered at no charge other than a single, fixed annual fee. Over the last few years CHEST has considerably increased the scale of the contracts it has signed with database service providers.

Professional networking

As with any active professional area there are many groups representing people with common interests. The **Standing Conference of National and University Libraries**, under its Secretary Toby Bainton (<http://www.sconul.ac.uk>) acts as the main focus for both academic and national libraries in the UK. Another important group is the **Consortium of Research Libraries** (<http://curl.ac.uk>), which consists of twenty university libraries with the mission to promote, maintain and improve library resources for research in universities. All the members of **CURL** are

also members of the **Research Libraries Group** in the USA. Issues relating to serials management are well represented by the **UK Serials Group** (<http://www.uksg.org>) though membership of **UKSG** is not confined to the academic centre. Similarly the **National Acquisitions Group** has a broad-based membership with a strong academic constituency. (<http://www.nag.org.uk>). The **UK Office for Library and Information Networking, UKOLN** (<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk>) under the direction of Lorcan Dempsey and funded by the **Joint Information Systems Committee** of the higher education funding councils and the **British Library**, is the national support centre for research and information on networked applications. For general information on the higher education sector the **NISS** gateway is quite outstanding (<http://niss.ac.uk>) and this site will take you to any university site in the UK (remember we use ac, not edu, for educational sites) and also link you to just about any related higher education resource in the UK. ☕

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MCB University Press allows our subscribers to choose the method of access they prefer. In the process of coordinating electronic access to our titles for many university libraries over the past eight months, I have come into contact with only a few that prefer customer identification and password access. Since access to our electronic journals is available on a campus-wide basis and not restricted by geographical location, our technical staff recommends a combination of IP addressing access for those "on campus" and password access for "remote" users.

To answer your question, a handful of libraries have distributed the password to faculty and students via email and some have used "hardcopy" memos to do so. In most cases, institutions have used their Web pages to publicize and link users to e-journals. Web page links seem to work well as long as there is some provision made to ensure that only authorized users have access.

As a publisher, our main concern is to be certain that our system works and that we can provide you with the support you need to make that happen. Technical support, librarian workshops, and end-user workshops are part of our effort to help. ☕