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From the Other Side of the Street — Viruses to Die For

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Woes about the World Wide Web abound. In one current of criticism or another, the Web has been seen as the primary cause of moral decay, the last step in the decline of civilization and even the precursor to the end of the world. Please say it ain't so Joe, or Tom or Dick or Harriet! Somehow, the wondrous utopian hope of the electronic revolution that was to link Lagos to Latvia in a great intellectual unification has languished, caught like a woolly mammoth in the Labrea tar pits. People in all walks of life noticed that even in cyberspace things didn't magically materialize—swoosh—unless someone worked very hard and another someone tossed in a few greenbacks, yen or marks.

Still, if nothing else, the Web has provided an open forum for any cause or cause celebre—see Monica. Rumors run rampant

raging relentlessly round the cyberworld. Post, post haste, and don't postpone have become the calling card for the cyber-generation fixated on instant gratification, concentration spans of microseconds, and senseless Web sites. Along with the spread of what information has become, the evil side of Webbing it has increased as dramatically as computing power, making the creation and dissemination of viruses so rapid that by the time you've been warned, the damage is already done. My father used to lessen my fright as a child by telling me that if you see lightning strikes, they can't hit you. In today's cyber-universe, it's not the seeing that counts, but what attire you've donned to stop the pain. Oh King, your new anti-Norman virus shield is ready.

To combat the flow of bad viruses, I've gathered together an esteemed group of computer whizzes, six-year-olds who shall remain nameless, and asked them to develop some benign, in the eye of the user, viruses that have several beneficial effects. After hours of work, this young group of normal computer geniuses came up with the following list of strains. Quite remarkable in their breadth, these viruses are now available for distribution.

The EECK (Exquisite Elsevier Crippling Knockout) Strain—This virus attaches itself to Reed-Elsevier stockholders through tele-

pathic screen semiosis. The virus lies dormant for the greater part of its life and spawns only during the time that stockholders see the Reed-Elsevier annual report. The active virus invades a stockholder's central nervous system, blocks vision completely and sends subtle suggestions to the stockholder indicating that Reed-Elsevier's profits and journal prices are too high.

The GEEK (Government Email Education Kopykat) Strain—This virus searches the Internet and intercepts any email addressed to legislative representatives at the local, state or federal levels. Prior to routing the email to its destination, the following lines are inserted before the signature:

Vote for Tomorrow.

Fund Higher Education.

Support Libraries and University Presses.

Remember, we have the pictures!

The MEEK (Monograph Escaped Electronic Kuckoo) Strain—This bird of a virus infiltrates university and select commercial publishers' typesetting operations by residing in the boot sector of removable mass storage devices. On user activation of any page layout program, the virus copies files of book-length material and uploads these files to a secret site on the Net. This site has extremely high and thick firewalls and is only accessible to ACRL members. The virus gets its name because an image of a large cuckoo clock appears on the user's screen while the virus takes action. A bird pops out of the cuckoo as soon as the upload is complete and sings "So Long-it's Been Good To Know Yuh."

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Copyright Questions & Answers from page 46

QUESTION: My library wants to digitize analog slide collections that are not otherwise available digitally such as art history slide collections, architecture or history of graphic design. What are the copyright implications?

ANSWER: Digitizing slides is basically a reproduction and very likely is infringement. To some extent, it may depend on the quality of the digitized slide. For example, if it is a thumbnail, low rather than a high resolution digitization, it may be less of a problem than if the digitized version is high resolution. Low resolution might be used in a catalog so that the user then retrieves the original slide. The problem with high resolution slides and wide availability is that they can then be used for further reproduction.

If a library digitizes the slides that a faculty member needs to use in a class for a semester, and the digitized slides are used simply to display to class, this may be fair use. It pushes the

boundaries certainly, but it may qualify under section 110(1), ignoring the fact that the copy was made. Clearly, a good argument can be made that this is the modern way to display slides in a classroom.

When the instructor then wants the digitized slides put on a Website for the duration of a semester, it is more problematic, but might still be fair use even though this is not covered by section 110(1). Also, the Website should be password protected so that the slides are not generally available on the Web but only to students in her class. Further, the slides should cease being available at the end of the class term.

QUESTION: My district is considering purchase of a system to deliver videos to the classroom which would involve transferring all of our videotapes to a digital file which could then be accessed through a server by multiple users. Is this a problem?

ANSWER: Yes, this is a fairly major problem. It is unlikely you would get approval from a single film copyright owner. There is no right

to reproduce films except under very narrow circumstances, such as under section 108(c) when the library copy is missing or damaged and the staff first tries to purchase an unused copy at a fair price. You might try approaching one film company and requesting permission.

QUESTION: At my church, the Sunday School teachers and youth director routinely rent (Blockbuster type) videos for various programs including baby-sitting type situations. What liability might a church or other non-profit entity consider in showing home videos? Is it similar to the liabilities for public school, private schools and daycare situations?

ANSWER: The exemption to the public performance right for the showing of videos is limited to nonprofit educational institutions. Churches are not schools (even though it is called "Sunday School"). Interesting question! This is a public performance under the Copyright Act and permission should be sought. It might well be granted with no royalties required.

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The PEEK (Patron Eternal Enlightenment Klient) Strain—An extremely virulent strain that keeps mutating every twelve hours, the strain was initially spread through keyboard contact, but now is transmitted through touchpads, touch-tone phones and touchy situations. The virus spreads to the user's neural pleasure center and produces a massive release of endorphins when the user enters a library. In this state the user listens to reference librarians' advice, returns stolen items and never rips pages out of journals or books. The PEEK virus has over 100 known sub-species, one of which has been used to treat the pain associated with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

The SEEK (Storage Epidemic Eradication Kindersicherheit) Strain—A remarkable German strain developed in conjunction with Daimler-Benz, this typhus-like virus invades the cybercell crystalline structure of motherboards in non-Unix based computer platforms and continuously shrinks internal components until they are barely noticeable. The strain has no effect on data or performance, which accounts for the fact that users notice no decline in access speed. The one drawback that the virus creates is that users are unable to upgrade their machines because of the lack of miniaturized components. Ingenious librarians have begun the practice of taking the cover off infected machines and inserting books and journals onto the motherboard in order to shrink them to storable sizes.

Unfortunately work on **VEEK (Virtual Enhancement and Enlargement Kneipe)** has run into several setbacks and the expected release date is unknown.

The WEEK (Worldwide End to Existing Kampf) Strain—Aimed at combating the problem—It's not mein Kampf, it's your Kampf—this highly volatile strain was released to unsuspecting visitors and vendors at the **1998 Frankfurt Book Fair**. The virus itself was embedded in a file on the official Book Fair CD-ROM that contained all the names and addresses of attendees and exhibitors and was distributed free of charge at the Fair. The strain is multi-lingual in design appearing as a benign warning box on users' screens indicating that land fill space is growing scarce. Mostly a nuisance at this point in time, the virus strips out the words "It's", "Not", "My", and "Job" from all word processing documents. Rumor has it that the virus will mutate at the start of the new millennium and anything in computer memory on 1/1/2000 will be lost. Nicknamed the "Fresh Start" virus, its evolution is intended to create select amnesia in the user base that attends the **Frankfurt Book Fair** and create new cooperation among publishers, vendors, bookbuyers, and librarians.

WARNING: All viruses carry no copyright notices, no authorship information, disappear on contact and are fully recyclable. However, they sure are fun and are intended to stir up the debate about pricing, ownership, usage and information access. Suggestions for further strains can be sent to your local virus maker or call 1-800-SEE-VIRUS for further information.

Publisher Bestsellers — University Press of Colorado

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Located in Boulder, the **University Press of Colorado** is an affiliated member of the **Association of American University Presses**. They have a strong editorial program in physical sciences, natural history, ecology, Western history, regional titles, and one journal: *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History*. With 260 titles currently in print, and a yearly production of approximately 32 books, the staff of this small press must be busy folks.

Darrin Pratt, Marketing Manager, provides this list. In descending order, we have the all-time bestsellers from the **University Press of Colorado**, plus a best kept secret title too. What are you missing from your collection? Don't forget to check out the best-kept secret title, too.

University Press of Colorado All-Time Bestsellers

Colorado: A History in Photographs. Richard N. Ellis & Duane A. Smith. 0-87081-219-x, cloth \$29.95, 1991. Subject: History of the American West.

"A superb combination of text and photos that makes vivid and personal the history of Colorado. This book should be in every home and library in Colorado." *Colorado Libraries*

"An evocative story in photographs as well as an energetic mini-history of the centennial state, both wrapped together neatly in one volume. Altogether an enjoyable book." *Western Historical Quarterly*

"Photos worth their weight in gold ... a valuable addition to any western history collection." *Rocky Mountain News*

"An outstanding study that combines a fast-paced, highly interpretive narrative and a remarkable collection of photographs that captures scenes seldom seen in print." *Journal of the West*

Eating Up the Santa Fe Trail. Sam'l P. Arnold. 0-87081-187-7, paper \$14.95, 1990. Subject: History of the American West

"All those who have even the slightest interest in the history of the American West know that **Sam Arnold** is the authority on food and drink of the trans-Mississippi West during our frontier period." *Journal of the West*

"The history of the Old West doesn't come any more edible." *Cookbook*

"A fascinating account of frontier life that celebrates cultural diversity." *The Bloomsbury Review*

"A lively culinary history and an informal social history that gives an authentic flavor of the West during the mid-1900s." *Wilson Library Bulletin*

Nursing: The Philosophy and Science of Caring. Jean Watson. 0-87081-154-1, paper \$24.95, 1985. Subject: Education & Medical Science

The Eagle Catcher. Margaret Coel. 0-87081-367-6, cloth \$22.50, 1995. Subject: Fiction

"Told with conviction and love." *Kirkus*

"The plot is filled with threats and late-night skulking, against a background of windswept plains and eerie mountain thunderstorms. ... Like the best novelists, Coel teaches her readers something—in this case, the Plains Indians. But she doesn't go overboard. After all, this is not a history lesson but a mystery, and a fine one." *Denver Post*

"Likable, well-drawn characters and a lively pace mark this novel—which appears poised for a sequel—for Hillerman fans." *Publishers Weekly*

Bluefeather Fellini. Max Evans. 0-87081-307-2, cloth \$22.50, 1993. Subject: continued on page 52