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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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pany. BMC publishes more than 50 online journals covering biology, medicine, and the life sciences. As partners, SPARC will support BioMed Central's efforts to develop a sustainable business model that will ensure long-term open access to biomedical research results. BioMed Central, which participated in drafting the Budapest Open Access Initiative <http://www.soros.org/openaccess> and supports both PubMed Central and self-archiving, has led the way among commercial publishers in making free and immediate access to scientific articles and journals a reality. "BioMed Central's commitment to long-term, open access to scientific research, our stance on copyright and licensing, and our low-cost institutional memberships bring real-world value to libraries testing alternative journal publishing models," notes Vitek Tracz, BioMed Central founder and Chairman of Current Science Group. Speaking of which, did ya'll read Daryl Rayner's interview with Tracz in the last issue of ATG (v.14 #2, pp. 36).

This just in from Today's Legal News, May 14, 2002 — Congressmen Howard Coble, R-N.C., and Howard Berman, D-Calif., have submitted a draft bill for consideration in the House of Representatives that would criminalize the use of incorrect identifying information, such as false names and contact numbers, when registering Internet addresses. <http://www.c46.law.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/nwlink.c46.cgi?ACG=ZZZYHHLU61D>. Fulltext <http://www.c46.law.columbia.edu/professionals/techlaw.c46.html>.

What is QuestionPoint? It used to be called CDRS and is a collaborative reference service developed by the Library of Congress and OCLC with input from participating members of the Global Reference Network—a group of libraries and institutions worldwide that are committed to digital reference. <http://www.questionpoint.org/>.

Bummer! Just got an email from Dave Schappell <davids@amazon.com> <schappel@amazon.com> who you'll remember from the 2001 Charleston Conference. Dave tells me that since Amazon's

continued on page 14

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London has been spoilt with e-publishing events over the past few weeks. South Bank University at the Elephant & Castle hosted e-Content 2002: Dreams and Realities on April 10th and Content Management for Information Professionals on April 11th. I went to the e-Content event and can report that it was highly informative and very lively at times! Keynote speaker was the amazing Clifford Lynch of the Coalition for Networked Information — who, even though he had arrived at some unearthly hour in London that morning, delivered one of his incredibly lucid, thought-provoking speeches and, yes, all without notes (what else would you expect of him?) and he still had enough energy to join me for a drink in a local pub afterwards!

Joining him on the rostrum throughout the day was the ever-enthusiastic Louise Edwards from JISC and Cranfield University Librarian, Dr. James Dearnley from Loughborough University, Janet Mitchell-Lees Director of OCLC Pica and speakers from Oxford University Press, Labyrinth Data, McGraw-Hill and Rightscom plus our very-own Adam Hodgkin (xrefer Managing Director) <http://litc.sbu.ac.uk/econtent/programme.html>.

The People's Network (<http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/>), is a UK Lottery-funded initiative which is managed by Resource and forms part of the UK Government's initiative to give everyone in the UK the opportunity to use computers and access the Internet via their local public library. Over the past weeks Resource have been hosting a series of meetings on the subject of Shared Information Environments. I attended their e-Procurement and Public Libraries event on April 16th held not far from Westminster Abbey. Helen Baignet and Susi Woodhouse from Resource both spoke about how public libraries in the UK were procuring electronic content and the types of content that they were procuring. David Ball from Bournemouth University spoke about the issues to reflect on when considering procuring e-content and Linda Berube, as lively and interesting as ever, gave a case study presentation on the e-content procurement experience at Co-East. We are lucky to have such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable American librarian as Linda sharing her experience with us here in the UK. Thanks Linda!

JISC have announced that <http://www.tasi.ac.uk/> TASI has redesigned its Website. TASI stands for The Technical Advisory Service for Images and is a service that has been set up to provide advice and guidance to the Further and Higher Education community in the UK on the issues of creating, delivering and using digital images together with managing digitisation

projects. It is funded by JISC and hosted at the University of Bristol. TASI is managed by Karla Youngs <karla.youngs@bristol.ac.uk>. If you are interested in digital imaging the redesigned Website is well worth a visit: <http://www.tasi.co.uk>.

The British Library have announced that they have launched an ISP service: <http://www.britishlibrary.net/>. British Library Net -- this offers local call access to users throughout the United Kingdom, with unlimited email addresses and 24 hour a day technical support. There are no registration fees, no hidden charges, no adverts, no junk email, and no need to change your telecomms supply company. Sounds like a good deal!

At Reading University, Julia Munro has been appointed Librarian. Julia had been Deputy Librarian since 1993 and previously worked at the University of London.

The East Midlands Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has appointed Timothy Hobbs as its first Chief Executive. Dr. Hobbs is currently University Librarian at Leicester and will take up his new post in April.

Robert Olroyd has announced that he is retiring from his post of Director of Library Services at Nottingham University in August. He will be greatly missed.

Chris Beckett has been promoted to Vice President of Library Services at ingenta. Chris became International Publisher Sales Director at the company following its acquisition last year of CatchWord, where he was Sales and Marketing Director. Before that he was at Blackwells for 13 years. Good Luck in the new position, Chris!

And last — but not least (!) — xrefer is hosting a conference in conjunction with the British Library on May 13th. The conference is called "Living up to user expectations: The librarian's challenge of delivering online reference within and without the library." Speakers include Mike Crump from the British Library, Chris Rusbridge from Glasgow University, Linda Berube from Co-East, Louise Rice from Oxford University Press and Linda McCabe and Katharine Schopflin from the BBC. No doubt there will be some lively exchange!

And finally, we are pleased to announce that Carole Myles joins xrefer as Senior Vice President, US/Canada, Library Services on April 29th based in Boston, MA. She was previously with ingenta Inc as Director of Library Business Development and before that, Director of US sales at Books 24x7. She will be making frequent trips to the xrefer offices at Platform One Paddington Station. We are looking forward to it!