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## Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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# Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

by **Daryl Rayner** (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212) <daryl@xrefer.com> [www.xrefer.com](http://www.xrefer.com); [www.xreferplus.com](http://www.xreferplus.com)

Today is **World Book Day** and as I write from my office in Paddington, I'm left wondering whether there are flurries of activity in libraries throughout the world. I do hope so. The official **World Book Day** Website for the UK and Ireland (<http://www.worldbookday.com/default.asp>) details all the events planned today. I am impressed to see that there is a **World Book Day Online** festival events programme (<http://www.worldbookdayfestival.com/>) with opportunities to download short videos of interviews with authors and get involved with "live chat." Each schoolchild will today receive a pound book token. I wonder whether any "playground consortia groups" with purchasing power will form. Give them time.

This month the **London Book Fair** takes place at Olympia (16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March) and in Birmingham (25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March), we have the **Internet Librarian** meeting (<http://www.internet-librarian.com>). At the **Internet Librarian** event there are a range of workshops offered on Survival Skills for **Internet Librarians**. They look particularly interesting. It promises to be a busy and lively event. We are spoiled with library related meetings this Spring as we also have the **Library and Information Show** to look

forward to (30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May), this time at **ExCel** in London. There is a chance to "meet the authors" and, in this case, it is **Roger McGough** and **Joanne Harris**. I will be interested to attend **Deborah Radden** speaking about project **WiLL: What's in London Libraries** and **John Dolan** speaking about the New Library in Birmingham. I will report back on these two meetings.

I hear that **The People's Network**, the project to connect all public libraries to the Internet, and **learnirect**, a scheme to provide learning online and information services, have jointly launched an information initiative for public libraries in England. The new facility available on **The People's Network** Website enables all public libraries to introduce their users to **learnirect** and the many online learning opportunities it provides (<http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk>). I also note from the **BBC** Website, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/2816775.stm> that there is a major project underway to bring free access to the Internet and online services across Scotland. It says of the project that it is a "£11.5 million scheme that signals the most radical shake-up of the country's public libraries in its 150 year history." All 557 libraries in Scotland will be linked online and offer free Internet access

by the end of March. I look forward to my next trip to Edinburgh!

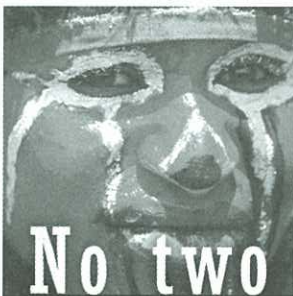
It's a delight to see that **Penguin** has relaunched its **Penguin** classics for the first time in eighteen years (<http://www.penguin.co.uk/>) and to celebrate, they are offering individuals the opportunity to replenish their stocks with a 3-for 2 offer.

I am also intrigued to see that the proceedings from the **Old Bailey London** from 1674 to 1834 are now all available online at <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>. I hope I don't find any ancestors mentioned!

Other news, I hear that **David Murray**, the first Director of the **LLDA (London Libraries Association)**, is leaving the **LLDA** to be Divisional Director, Culture and Community at the **London Borough of Newham**. The job advertisement for his replacement mentions that the ideal candidate must have "an empathy with library services!!"

The **Duke of Devonshire** has launched an appeal to raise £3 million to preserve the **John Rylands Library** in Manchester. Already a £8.5 million **Heritage Lottery Fund** has been secured. The library holds a million books including a 1476 **Caxton Chaucer**, the first book to be printed in England. Guess you can't take that out in your library ticket!

And the news from **xrefer** (<http://www.xrefer.com>) is that we have launched our own blog in collaboration with the library world's own blog celebrity, **Peter Scott** from the **University of Saskatchewan** <[scott@lights.com](mailto:scott@lights.com)>. I do hope you visit: <http://blog.xrefer.com>. 



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### Rumors

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**LinkFinderPlus Knowledge Base** to reflect the library's holdings. The XML file was designed and built through a joint effort of **Endeavor** and **Serials Solutions**, drawing on **Endeavor's** knowledge of open technologies and **Serials Solutions'** expertise in electronic journal management. The XML file is now available from **Serials Solutions** for a minimal charge and can be used with **Endeavor's** most recent release, **LinkFinderPlus 3.0**. More information can be found at [www.serialssolutions.com/dm/lfp](http://www.serialssolutions.com/dm/lfp) and [www.endinfosys.com/prods/lfpbatch.htm](http://www.endinfosys.com/prods/lfpbatch.htm).

**TDNet** has reached an agreement to purchase **Journal Web Cite** and will take over the service contracts for subscriber libraries in the U.S. and Canada. **Journal Web Cite** has decided to pursue other business opportunities apart from the library marketplace. Payments made to **Journal Web Cite** will be honored by **TDNet** and service will continue under similar terms through the end of each customer's service period. For further information, contact **Mike Markwith** <[michael@tdnet.teldan.com](mailto:michael@tdnet.teldan.com)>.

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