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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 www.xreferplus.com

Weather update (very important if you are English!): after an appalling summer, there were hopes, supplied by the weather gurus, that we would experience an Indian summer. Some hope. It's been raining and overcast for the past six weeks —But life has been sunny and bright in the world of information!

The **Man Booker** prize for fiction 2004 shortlist has been announced. <http://www.bookerprize.co.uk/>. As controversial and colourful as ever. The winner will be announced on October 19th. I will let you know.

Wiltshire have launched their **Wiltshire Community** history pages <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/>. The site <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk> contains information on 261 **Wiltshire** communities covering the whole of the **Wiltshire County Council** administered area of the county. Every community page has certain basic information, such as local administrative bodies, population from 1801, newspapers for the area, lists of maps, registration district, and links to other sites of interest.

Therapy a unique initiative from **Future Drugs Ltd** <http://www.future-drugs.com> has launched. The publishers say that it will be an open-access bimonthly forum for rapid publication of original research findings in medicine, augmented with commentary and analysis from international experts. All articles submitted for publication will be subject to rigorous peer review.

CILIP are organizing "an executive briefing" on 3rd November to explain and discuss the implications of the **Freedom of Information Act** which comes into force in the UK on January 1, 2005. <http://www.cilip.org.uk/training/training/foi.htm>

The **EUSIDIC** annual conference is taking place in October in Helsinki, Finland — October 17-19, 2004. Along with representatives from **Factiva** and **xrefer**, the program features a keynote by the director of the **National Library of Finland** <http://www.eusidic.org/>.

The **Open Repository** has been launched. This is a repository service for institutions provided by **BioMed Central**. It offers professional help to quickly and easily build, launch, maintain, and populate institutional repositories. The service has been designed to be flexible and cost-effective. **BioMed Central's** economy of scale makes it possible for institutions that could not otherwise afford to, or lack the infrastructure or technical capacity in-house, to set up repositories <http://www.openrepository.com/>.

Librarians have triumphed on a British quiz show called **University Challenge**. The team from the **British Library** beat off a challenge from **Oxford University Press**. The show's host said that he was particularly impressed with the **British Library's Kathryn Johnson**. He praised her knowledge of "extreme ironing and railway engine designers!"

I hear that the **Australian Digital Theses Program** has been launched <http://adt.caul.edu.au/>. Its aim is to create a national collaborative distributed database of digitised theses produced at **Australian Universities**. The **ADT** database provides access to PhD and Masters by Research theses.

I'm pleased to announce that **Sue Mace** is the new Executive Officer for **CILIP Cymru/Wales**. **Sue** replaces **Huw Evans** who left in May to be head of Advice and Support at **cyMAL**. Good luck, **Sue**.

Don't forget to put **Online 2004** in your diaries. It will be running from 30th November - December 2nd at Olympia, London

office) or <mark_walter@verizon.net>. Mark is still pursuing other editorial and consulting opportunities. Hope to hear more from him some day soon.

Nature Publishing Group (NPG), in partnership with the **European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)** has launched a new international publication — **Molecular Systems Biology**. The journal will be available as a peer-reviewed online-only publication in Spring 2005, with an 'author-pays open access' pricing model. www.embo.org www.nature.com www.signaling-gateway.org/

Sue House, lis-e-books list owner tells us that "Ebooks in UK Public Libraries: Where We Are Now and the Way Ahead" is the latest Issue Paper from the **Networked Services Policy Task Group**. It can be located at

BRAINTEASER

QUESTIONS:

1. In which American city is the White House — the home of the president?
2. What is the present name of the country that used to be called "Siam"?
3. Which country consists of two islands separated by the Cook Strait?
4. What is the largest state of the USA?
5. The city of St. Petersburg had two different names before it reverted to its present name. Give one of these two former names.
6. The island of Crete is part of which country?
7. Which large island, a dependency of Denmark, was discovered in about 982 by Eric the Red?
8. Is the city of Mecca in Iran, Iraq or Saudi Arabia?
9. Which group of English islands includes St Mary's, Tresco and Bryher?
10. The Kiel Canal joins which two seas?

ANSWERS:

To find out the answers, and to see just how well you did, visit <http://www.xrefer.com/atg>.

<http://www.online-information.co.uk>. Hope to see some of you there!

Until next time! **Daryl**

Rumors

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email.unc.edu who has sent me several meeting reports for **And They Were There**. You'll see at least some of them in the **Dec/Jan** issue coming up.

And one more baby. Was talking to the beautiful **Colleen Campbell (Casalini Libri)** <ccampbell@casalini.it> who was telling me that her colleague, **Marta**, has been on maternity leave and is expecting a baby shortly.

The wonderful **Mark Walter** (Consultant in Content Technology Strategies) <mark_walter@verizon.net> who spoke to us many years ago in Charleston about the eBook phenomenon is now doing work with **Frank Gilbane's Bluebill Advisors** <http://www.bluebilladvisors.com> as well as on his own. He can be reached at: (215) 643-1878 (home

www.ukoln.ac.uk/public/nsptg/e-books/.

We told you this in September (see **ATG**, **Rumors**, p.16) but it's worth repeating. **AcqWeb**, created and maintained since 1994 by **Anna Belle Leiserson** of **Vanderbilt University**, has now been migrated to **Appalachian State University** (current home of the electronic list, **ACQNET-L**) and will be henceforth maintained by **Paul Orkiszewski**, Acquisitions Coordinator for **ASU Libraries**. Contact Paul at: <orkiszewskip@appstate.edu> with any questions or concerns. And more importantly, change your bookmark for **AcqWeb** to: www.acqweb.org.

Patrons of the **Las Vegas-Clark County Library District** can now access popular eBooks from Internet-connected computers — <http://ebooks.lvccld.org/>. **OverDrive, Inc.** supplied the technology for the new service.

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<<http://www.against-the-grain.com>>