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WEBWORTHY

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editor's note

sional requirements! These folks want to help each patron. Could you comment on that?

JB: It's important that each patron feels that he or she received the best possible service and we tried as hard as possible to help that person. We don't always succeed, but the effort put forth is very important. We want our patrons to be repeat customers. It's noteworthy that the library is one of many activities our patrons participate in. As in any business environment, poor service results in patrons going elsewhere for their library needs. Good service, fulfilling patron expectations and quick problem resolution ensures patrons will come back.

JL: Finally, could you talk about plans for the future at WHL?

JB: Immediate plans revolve around enhancing the children's Internet units with new workstations and modular walls. This will allow us to do some renovations in the computer room, add another PC there and make the room more accessible and comfortable. Some of our other plans include increasing children's programs, collaborating with other agencies to provide some unusual programming and continued use of the library as a civic and cultural center.

JL: On behalf of ATG's readers, thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedule, providing us with a brief in-depth look at an invaluable and delightful community resource.

This profile, *William Hall Library* and interview with WHL's John Buccci was adapted from an article in the Pawtuxet Village, Rhode Island, newspaper, *The Bridge*, May 2003 issue. Pawtuxet Village was founded in 1638. Divided by the Pawtuxet River, the village's north side is in Cranston (including Edgewood), and the south side is in Warwick. — **JL**

WEBWORTHY

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Webworthy has reviewed 286 Websites to date! Websites selected for broad appeal, depth of information, functionality and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and are visited just prior to publication. Please let the 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; 716-829-3900 x129; <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in *Science's NetWatch* column. — **PR***

Anatomy

If you've decided to donate your body to science, you might want to check **The Heidelberg Institute for Plastination** first — they have a specific body donation programme, part of **Runter von Hagen's** patented "plastination" process for preserving corpses, and the subject of his famous **Body Worlds** exhibit. The real human and animal bodies are preserved so they do not rot or smell, and maintain the same texture and color of the original tissue. Exhibited are startling combinations such as a cadaver holding his peeled-off skin, a basket-

ball player in mid-dribble with fileted muscles trailing behind as if blown by the wind, and a human rider mounted on a horse. Not for the faint of heart, the exhibit is scheduled to travel to Munich this Spring. — <http://www.bodyworlds.com/>.

Archives

Profiles in *Science* documents the history of 20th century biomedical research through a growing collection of lab notebooks, letters, audiotapes, diary entries, photographs, and a few video recordings. Watch an interview taped in 1996 with **Joshua Lederberg**, who shared the **1958 Nobel Prize** in Physiology or Medicine with **Edward L. Tatum** and **George W. Beadle** for studies on the genetics of bacteria. Or view the actual lab notes of **Julius Axelrod** on his study of "Caffeine Analysis of Various Commercial Brands of Soluble Coffee" in pdf format. Each entry includes a biography and timeline, as well as a complete record of original input date and all subsequent updates. — <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/>.

Although **Charles Darwin** often suffered from illness, his love of and devotion to his botanical observations regularly "recreated" his ability to continue. A fascinating look into his day-to-day life is now available to all at the **Cambridge-based Darwin Correspondence Project**. The Project "exists to publish the definitive edition of letters to and from **Charles Darwin**, the most influential naturalist of the 19th century." Currently 12 volumes have been published online,

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spanning the years 1821 to 1964, of more than 15,000 letters known to exist that were written by or sent to him. When complete, the **Project**, which continues to turn up previously unknown letters at a rate of 60 or so a year, expects to include more than 32 volumes. — <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/Departments/Darwin/>. [*Science Random Samples section.*]

Earth Science

Recycling at **Yellowstone National Park** isn't about paper or cans; the article discusses the remelting of rock that once formed the dome of a huge volcano whose eruption 600,000 years ago was 1000 times the size of **Mt. St. Helens**! Welcome to the **Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE)**, created by a coalition of scientists, teachers and students and supported by the **National Science Foundation**. Users can search for resources by subject and grade levels/audience, hence the tidbit above was found through a general public audience search for information on volcanos. All the resources are fully annotated and assigned a grade level, resource type and subject terms. Users can just browse by topic, level or type, or do a power search to limit by media type, portal, dataset, etc. Access to Earth data sets and imagery, support services for educators, and communication networks is also available. **DLESE** also sponsors community projects and collaborates with a wide range of partners. Best of all, the library grows by contributions from any user. — <http://www.dlese.org/>.

Engineering Physics

If you think perpetual motion machines might actually work if only properly constructed, check out the **Museum of Unworkable Devices**, highlighting creators' follies due to misunderstood or overlooked crucial physical principles. **Donald Simanek**, emeritus professor of physics, gathered many designs from history books and reader submissions. Fatal flaws are clearly explained. As the site states: "Marvel at the ingenuity of the human mind, as it reinvents the square wheel in all of its possible variations. Exercise your mind to puzzle out exactly why they don't work as the inventors intended." — <http://www.lhup.edu/~dsimanek/museum/unwork.htm>.

Geoscience

If you've ever visited the **Grand Canyon** and wonder if it's really changed since 1903, you can find out at the **U.S. Geological Survey Photographic Archive**. The site offers access to over 16,000 photographs, dating from 1868 to the present, emphasizing national parks and monuments, earthquakes, the 1980 eruption of **Mount St. Helens Volcano**, and mining operations. Pioneer photographers such as **W.H. Jackson**, **J.K. Hillers**, **T.H. O'Sullivan**, and **A.J. Russell** are also

included. None of the photos are copyright protected, and may be downloaded and used free of charge. — <http://libraryphoto.er.usgs.gov/>.

History of Medicine

From the **Wellcome Library** in the U.K., a meta-site of history of medicine resources. Browse by personal names, MeSH 2002 keywords, or medhist categories including diseases, electronic publications, locality, miscellany, reference, education and research, historical period, medical specialty, people, or science and technology. — <http://medhist.ac.uk/index.html>.

Human Embryology

The **Virtual Human Embryo** hopes to encourage researchers to re-examine human embryology because much of what is currently available in textbooks was extrapolated from animals and is just wrong. Digitally **Reproduced Embryonic Morphology (DREM)**, the site, billed as a "Digital database of serially sectioned human embryos from the Carnegie Collection," aims to create 23 atlases corresponding to the 23 states of an embryo's formative first two months of pregnancy. To date, stages 10, 12 and 13 can be viewed in browse, 3D animated, or scan mode. DVDs and CDs with fully interactive software can be purchased for the cost of shipping. The site also includes a schedule for future releases. — <http://virtualhumanembryo.lshsc.edu/>.

Infectious Disease

SARS — the saga continues, along with other emerging disease like **Newcastle** disease which affects poultry, as well as **West Nile Virus** and **Ebola**. Keep track at **ProMED-mail** — the **Program for Monitoring Infectious Diseases**, a program of the International Society for Infectious Disease, serving as the global electronic reporting system for outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases and toxins, open to all sources. Daily updates on emerging diseases including **SARS** and **Newcastle** disease, as well as special sections on **SARS**, **West Nile Virus**, and **Ebola**. Available in English, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese. — <http://www.promedmail.org/>.

Information Technology

Wonder where you can donate that ten year old computer taking up space in the basement? Check the links of institutions accepting such materials for their museum collections at the **Charles Babbage Institute (CBI)**. Founded in 1978, the **CBI** is the only academic research center dedicated to the history of information technology. Now a historical archive and research unit of the **University of Minnesota**, **CBI** preserves relevant historical documentation in all media, conducts and fosters research in history and archival methods, offers graduate fellowships, and sponsors symposia, conferences, and publications. They own an impressive collection of materials, but only some are available electronically. Of particular interest are

their photographs, although only the **Burroughs Collection** is online. The **Burroughs Image Archive** includes many of their early machines, including the **B205** which my husband actually used for his first programming job! — <http://www.cbi.umn.edu/>.

Invasive Species

From Kudzu to West Nile Virus, the **Invasivespecies.gov** Website offers a wealth of information and tools for recognizing, identifying, learning about, and managing invasive species that threaten local ecosystems. The **National Agricultural Library** maintains the site for the **National Invasive Species Council**, which coordinates federal responses to the invasive species problem. Search the species profiles or geographic information databases; find grants and funding to help your local situation in the **Managers Tool Kit**; or use the **Resources** page to find listservs, agencies, and publications. — <http://www.invasivespecies.gov/>.

Marine Conservation

In our media age, the best way to stir up interest in a cause is through movies, and **Randy Olson**, a former **University of New Hampshire** marine biologist is applying multimedia to the cause of marine conservation. View the slide show, videos, and lenticulars-old print images that changed when you tilted them recreated through mouseovers. The tongue-in-cheek commentary doesn't diminish the sobering reality: marine ecosystems have been in decline for over 200 hundred years due to human impacts such as overfishing and pollution. The medium offers opportunity to use humor as a hook, generating interest and inspiring people to take action by realizing the problem, learning the cause, telling their friends, joining the **Ocean Conservancy**, watching for reports, and getting ready to help. — <http://shiftingbaselines.org/>.

Mathematics

Confused about chaos theory? How about an animal introduction to the topic, available at **Math Archives**, targeted toward college math teachers and students. Users can choose from a list of math topics, from abstract algebra to trigonometry, or search using keywords. Icons attached to each annotated listing indicate level of training required for understanding as well as java and other interactive pages and sites with images, animation or movies and metasites. — <http://archives.math.utk.edu/>.

Microbiology

Extremophiles are not your new neighbors who do strange things late at night. Rather, they are micro-organisms that thrive in some of Earth's most hostile and extreme environments. Organisms such as **Archaea** comprise many of the newly discovered creatures who live in extreme temperatures (-2°C to 15°C and 60°C to 115°C), salinity (2-5M NaCl), pH (<4 and >9), anaerobicity, and/or pressures. **Neil Saunders**, a postdoctoral fellow

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at the **University of New South Wales**, set up the site to gather latest information for researchers who work with **Archaea** and other extremophiles. Browse the latest publications and articles, search one Coldbase or the protein or enzyme database, read about the application of extremophile research to exobiology (is there life on the Jovian moon Europa?), or learn about **Lake Vostok** which is completely sealed off from the surface and a potential source of many new discoveries. — <http://www.archaea.unsw.edu.au/>.

Pollution

Animals produce almost two TRILLION pounds of waste every year, much of it from "factory farms." Although **Environmental Defense** clearly has a green agenda, their **Scorecard** Website provides a wealth of information on the presence, health effects and uses of more than 6900 chemicals of varying toxicity found in our bodies. Learn if your county is among those that have the highest release of Dioxin and find out who is releasing what pollutants in your community. — <http://www.scorecard.org/>.

Science

"E-government in action," **Science.gov**, a collaborative effort by 14 separate government agencies hosted by the **Department of Energy**, offers a "unique ability to search across the content within databases as well as across Websites." The site brings together all science related content on ten government science agency Websites for everyone from children to professional scientists. Content is selective rather than automatically cumulative, and considered authoritative. — <http://www.science.gov/>.

Rumors

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tual Reality helmets and **V-mail**, and utilizing diagnostic tools to customize resources to individual profiles, 'cybrarians' will provide effective support for problem solving and discovery groups." <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/may03/marcum/05marcum.html>.

And, one last thing. As we go to press, have received word that **Rosann Bazirjian's** issue of **ATG** (April, Retention of Print) got prominent mention in the **University of California, Berkeley's Current Cites** (volume 14, no. 5, May 2003) edited by **Roy Tennant**. Mentioned specifically was **John McDonald's** "No One Uses Them So Why Should We Keep Them?" — Scenarios for Print Issue Retention" (**ATG** v.15#2, p. 22, 24). Says **Charles W. Bailey, Jr.** — "Print retention is one of the most significant long-term decisions that any library can make. It is especially critical for academic and re-

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- Regular church services where I attend have now been cancelled for four weeks running.
- When my wife and I went to the movies the other night we got free face masks with our expensive popcorn.
- A 14 year old computer hacker put up a fake newspaper page saying that because truckers were infected there wouldn't be any more food deliveries — the shelves were cleared fairly quickly in some areas.
- Air travel, irrespective of the industry's assurances that the filtered air on a plane is cleaner than on a city street, is way down. Moreover, in addition to careful body and baggage searches, airport staff now check each person's temperature before they can be cleared to board a flight. There are jokes about people resorting to carrying frozen chickens in their brief cases to make sure they can cool down and make their flights. (if you do this, please precook your chicken)
- However, a good cough or sneeze (perish the thought) both clears a crowded room and gets you a seat on the subway/bus.

So, what are the epidemic questions/issues with which you should be wrestling? Here are some that occur to me:

1. How will you continue to get your administrative work done when meetings become more of a danger to good health than usual? Battling an epidemic, in addition to all the regular work of a library, needs leadership. Meetings will have to be held, but how?

search libraries. McDonald's article and the other articles in this special issue help initiate what I hope will be a long, careful, and thoughtful debate on a topic of considerable social significance." I couldn't agree more. <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/2003/cc03.14.5.html>.

**It's Time To Register For The
23rd Annual
Charleston Conference**
This year's registration form is
included with your copy
of *Against the Grain*.
Fill it Out and Mail it in Today!
Or Visit Our Website and
Register Online at
www.katina.info/conference

2. Will face masks be required, recommended? For staff, for patrons?
3. If face masks are required, how many should be purchased now and where can you buy more?
4. What are the liability issues for libraries if a patron claims they contracted the disease while using a public terminal?
5. Does your library have a travel policy that gives guidance about what kinds of trips should or should not be taken after the epidemic hits? You will find that just because your library is experiencing the epidemic, others won't see it necessary to cancel meetings — although they may quietly un-invite you.
6. Are there sufficient hand towel and liquid hand soap supplies on hand once hundreds of patrons want to wash and dry their hands multiple times a day?
7. Do you have sufficient staff to wipe down all surfaces touched by patrons with a disinfectant every 3 or so hours daily? Do you have sufficient supplies of disposable wiping cloths and disinfectant on hand?
8. Are your staff policies concerning what constitutes an approved illness/reason clear and known?
9. Does your university have an emergency response team with medical staff on it? Does the team have access to a Web master who can provide easy to find and understand information about what the university is doing to combat the disease?
10. Does your library, computer center, IT and learning group all have a Web page that details the resources available to teachers who will find that they need alternative ways of contacting their students, conducting discussions, administering tests/exams, etc., linked to the emergency response team's Web page? Is there a link from this page to the library's electronic resources? Does your university have a rigorous video taping program to handle all the requests for taping lectures? Can your library terminals handle streaming video?
11. Does every teacher have a current list of student email addresses? Is your campus using WebCT or some other learning platform that will become a critical element in continuing to teach and learn?
12. Do students realize that teachers will use/have a right to use email to contact them in an emergency? Some students here have seen it as an intrusion.

I am sure once this is over — if ever — that lots of other ideas will occur to me. But for now, stay healthy and hope that better diagnosis and treatment options will be discovered before SARS visits your campus.