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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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year and offers fulltext copies of more than one million dissertations dating from the 19th century forward. Some 3,000 (or 5%) of dissertations submitted for publication in 2002 were in electronic format, and that number is expected to increase significantly in the next few years. The new system allows a graduate student to upload his or her approved dissertation into the publishing system, where it is automatically reformatted into **Adobe PDF** and sent directly to the graduate school. There, the document is reviewed for compliance with graduate school policy and format. Using an administrative tool, the graduate school reviewer can accept the document or request formatting revisions. The author is automatically notified by email of the actions taken. Once the thesis is accepted, the document and all relevant data are delivered to **UMI Dissertation Publishing** and to the university library for expedited processing, cataloging, and posting. The new automated system is expected to substantially improve the publication process. The backend technology to support the new process was developed by **The Berkeley Electronic Press** (www.bepress.com). The service is available now and is being rolled out to graduate schools throughout the next year. Graduate schools interested in signing up may contact **ProQuest** at <electronic_submissions@il.proquest.com>. **UMI** continues to accept dissertations for publication in print format. www.il.proquest.com.

Speaking of which, did y'all read our interview with **Greg Tananbaum** of the **Berkeley Electronic Press** in *ATG*, v.13#6, p. 51. **Greg** has submitted a proposal for the **2003 Charleston Conference** (November 4—preconferences and vendor showcase—November 6-8—main conference). Have you sent in your proposal? Time's a wastin'! See this issue, p. 39.

Heard from the wonderfully stupendous **Ineke Middeldorp-Crispijn** (Area Manager, Coutts Nijhoff International) <imiddeldorp@couttsinfo.com> or <icrispijn@couttsinfo.com>. **Andreas (Andy) Alferovs** has just been appointed **VP Sales & Marketing** at **Coutts Library Services' North American** operation. **Andy** is from **Coutts'** sister company in the UK where he was the European Sales & Marketing Director. Among other professional positions held in the library and publishing world, **Andy** worked as an acquisitions manager at the **British Library** before joining **Coutts** nine years ago. We are all looking forward to working with **Andy**. Welcome! www.couttsnijhoff.com or www.couttsinfo.com.

Oxford University Press (OUP) has appointed **Ingenta** to build a scholarly books Website to provide online subscription-based access to its books collection. The Website will offer scholarship in the humanities and social sciences and will be online and cross-searchable in the fall of 2003 <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com>. The site will fea-

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By the time you are reading this the Seasonal Festivities will be long behind us and Spring on its way but Happy New Year, all the same! It hardly seems like yesterday that we all met up in Atlanta for the June **ALA** meeting and, here we are, preparing for the mid-winter session in Philadelphia. We are hoping to see many of you there.

There is a lot happening on this side of the Atlantic. The 2nd International Conference on Information and IT Literacy is being held in Glasgow, Scotland on 11-13 June 2003. The meeting is called **eLit2003**. For more information go to <http://elit2003.com/>. Libraries throughout the world, as we know, are facing an uncertain future and a £3m appeal is to be launched to preserve one of Britain's most remarkable libraries: **The John Rylands Library** in Manchester. According to the *Guardian* newspaper the library is "in dire need of refurbishment, and the plans will make it more accessible and popular."

There is some good news. **The People's Network** in the UK have been reporting on a major success story in the Government's drive to get people online.

The People's Network is an ambitious project to connect all public libraries in the UK to the Internet, provide new ICT (information and communications technology) learning centres, and train library staff to offer support, training and advice. By the end of 2002 over 30,000 terminals have been installed in 4,000 public libraries, offering over 60 million hours of free Internet access a year, giving people of all ages, interests and backgrounds the opportunity to participate in the "wired" society.

Not only is the **Public Record Office** in London holding an exhibition of **Samuel Pepys** materials from February but so is the **Guildhall Library** — from Feb. 10th to June 7th. The exhibition of books, prints

and documents illustrates how **Pepys** enjoyed life in 17th century London to the extent that he once remarked that he was "as happy a man as any in the world." More information can be found at the **City of London Website** <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/index.htm>.

Internet Librarian International 2003 <http://www.internet-librarian.com/> is being held at the **National Exhibition Centre**, Birmingham from 25th-27th March. A very interesting conference schedule is planned, covering everything from Survival Skills for Internet Librarians; to Web Design & Development to Digital Libraries and Electronic Resources. The long list of speakers includes **David Sloan** from the **University of Dundee**, **Sheila Webber**, **University of Sheffield**, **Marianne Christensen** & **Susanne Kierkegaard** from **Copenhagen Central Library** to the tireless **Louise Edwards** Collections Manager at **JISC**. It's also good to see many friends from the US on the agenda: no Internet conference would be complete without **Darlene Fichter**, Data Librarian, **University of Saskatchewan** and **Gary Price**, Library Research and Internet Consulting.

Gary Price has just emailed me to say that his speaking engagements over the next few months take him from Philadelphia to Toronto to Orlando to San Francisco. Wow — that's some travelling schedule. Hope he makes good use of the air miles!

I've just come back from **The University of Aberystwyth** in Wales where the **Huw Evans of People's Network Group** in Wales gathered together representatives from all 24 Welsh Authorities and six content suppliers to exchange views on electronic collections. It was a useful meeting — even though none of the suppliers managed to conduct their presentation in Welsh!!

That's all from me in Paddington for now, until the next time, **Daryl**.

ture: 750 current and selected backlist titles available in fulltext at launch, equivalent to 250,000 printed pages as well as comprehensive coverage of four key disciplines: Economics and Finance; Political Science; Philosophy; Religion and Theology. Access to all of the abstracts and keywords in **Oxford Scholarship Online** will be freely available alongside journal abstracts through a wide variety of services, including **ingenta.com**,

offering research opportunities for scholars and students in the humanities and social sciences. www.ingenta.com or www.oup.co.uk.

Liblicense-l lists.yale.edu has been seriously abused with many important issues. One issue which has gotten much discussion is the practice of deleting published articles from electronic archives. You'll remember that **T. Scott Plutchak** gave a paper on this at the

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