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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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by **Daryl Rayner** (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212)
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Now I don't want you telling anyone else, but I celebrated a new decade in February, so I'm writing this column from a fresh perspective of maturity and wisdom. ... Actually I've been told that 40 is the new 30, so I don't have to be too sensible yet.

The training for the **London Marathon** is not where it should be, but I've taken the attitude that if I can have friends at strategic points on the course cheering me on, I'll get round somehow! I have set up an online charity page at <http://www.justgiving.com/daryl>. All donations readily accepted. I thought I should set myself the task of counting how many libraries I pass en route. I'm sure there will be several. I'll let you know next time.

Now for the news from **Platform One**.

I see that the 7th edition of *Eurojargon: A Dictionary of European Union Acronyms, Abbreviations and Terminology* has been published <http://www.eurojargon.info/>. A must for any North American librarians heading across the pond!!

I am interested to learn that the entire works of Russian writer **Boris**

Pasternak, banned by the Soviet authorities for 30 years, are to be published in his home country. **Pasternak** was banned in 1958 from the **Union of Soviet Writers** after receiving the **Nobel Prize** for literature for his classic love story *Doctor Zhivago*.

I'm pleased to report that the winners of the **2003 Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition** from the **National Library of Scotland** have been announced <http://www.nls.uk/news/awards/bookbinding/2003/>. Take a look — they are really works of art!

For those of you interested in Library evaluation and fancy a trip to the UK, in June there is a one-day conference aimed at library practitioners and researchers called **Library Evaluation in Practice: Electronic Information Services in Higher Education**. It's to be held on June 16th in Birmingham. There will be a keynote address by **Professor Charles McClure of Florida State University** <http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/evaluated/conference.htm>.

I urge you to take a look at **Picture Australia** <http://www.pictureaustralia.org/>. It is an Internet based service — part of the **National Library of Australia** —

that allows you to search many significant online pictorial collections at the same time.

For those budding linguists amongst you, **The Goethe-Institut** aka **The German Cultural Centre** in London has developed some Internet resources for students of high school level German. This includes annotated lists of links and electronic texts chosen to reflect the coursework topics, as well as explanations of how German search engines work and suggested search <http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/pro/alevel/enindex.htm>.

Vaclav Havel, dissident-turned-Czech president, plans to set up a presidential library! <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA385495?display=breakingNews>.

A quarterly book review called "Slightly Foxed" is being launched. The publishers write that the review is "for people who don't want to read only what the big publishers are hyping and what the newspapers are reviewing." More information can be found at: <http://www.foxedquarterly.com>.

UK Silver Surfers day will be taking place again on the Friday of Adult Learners week. The organizers are aiming for 1,000 events across the UK and are keen for libraries to get involved. <http://www.silversurfersday.org>

That's all for now!

Daryl

Rumors from page 10

The **International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA)**, comprised of six trade associations and their over 1,300 companies representing the U.S. copyright industries, applauded **US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick** and his able team of negotiators for reaching final agreement yesterday on a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** with Australia. The **IIPA** is a private-sector coalition formed in 1984 to represent the **US copyright-based industries** in bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve international protection of copyrighted materials. **IIPA's** six member associations represent over 1,300 US companies producing and distributing materials protected by copyright laws throughout the world — all types of computer software including business applications software and entertainment software (such as video game CDs and cartridges, personal computer CD-ROMs and multimedia products); theatrical films, television programs, home videos and digital representations of audiovisual works; music, records, CDs, and audiocassettes; and textbooks, tradebooks, reference and professional publications and journals (in both electronic and print media).
<http://www.iipa.com/>

Even more from **Australia** — this time from **Ex Libris (Australia)**. **Bond University** has chosen **ALEPH 500™** for its university library. Australia's only private, not-for-profit, independent university, **Bond University** consists of six academic units: the Faculties of Business, Health Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, Information Technology, and Law as well as the Institute for Learning Communities. **Bond University** also has its own English Language Institute on campus which provides intensive academic English language courses to enable its international students to prepare for University entrance. The University is situated on a beautiful campus on the Gold Coast about an hour's drive from Brisbane, the capital of Queensland. The **Bond University** library collection includes over 235,000 volumes and 1,800 journal titles in print, as well as hundreds of DVDs, laser discs, CD-ROMs, video and audio cassettes. Access is provided to over 22,000 fulltext electronic journals, and over 100 journal databases.
<http://www.bond.edu.au/exlibris.co.il>

This issue of **ATG** (see page 74) includes **Trends in Book Pricing for the half-year ending December 31, 2003** by **Jamie Vandenberg** (Approval Coordinator, **Blackwell's Book Services, Inc.**) Meantime, I was looking around on

the **BBS Website** and noticed that they have many approval and cost studies loaded at <http://www.blackwell.com/pdf/CC0203.pdf>.

And speaking of **Blackwell's**, have been corresponding lately with **Don Satsky** <donaldsatsky@hotmail.com> who was a long-time employee (27 years). Don says that between 1974 and 1984 were some of the most interesting times for him. This was when **Blackwell North America** was still building on the ashes (the Phoenix was their first logo post Abel). I'm young enough myself to remember those times. In fact, cleaning up our offices the other day, preparatory to the move into the new library, we located a pamphlet entitled "Blackwell's Organization and Services." It's not dated sadly, but there is a great picture of **Chris Tyzack** and many of the people whose names we have heard over the years. I wonder if we could get permission to reprint some of these pictures?

And speaking of other times, the fantastic **Myer Kutz** <myerkutz@aol.com> and his wife **Arlene** were recently renting a place on Kiawah Island. I was going through back issues of **ATG** looking for an article I remember we did with him. It was called something like **Bird's Eye View** but I CANNOT find it! Hmmm ... we need

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