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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;
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I spent all of last winter waiting, in anticipation, for warmer days and now that 30 degrees C has arrived I'm thinking—maybe autumn won't be so bad after all. You have to consider that the word "air-conditioning" does not exist in the English vocabulary. I've also been blighted by hay-fever for the first time in my life, which I still can't quite believe. How do these allergies suddenly arrive?

Enough of the weather and my health. In spite of the heat, there has been lots happening over here.

I notice from the **BBC Website** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/3053423.stm> that a manor house that once belonged to **Jane Austen's** brother is opening to the public later this month as a library and study centre for women's writing.

The **National Library of Norway** has selected **FAST Data Search** to power its many digital information archives, including: **The Digital Radio Archive (DRA)**, **Culture Net Norway (Kulturnett Norge)**, **The Digital Newspaper Library**, **Cultural Heritage Ekofisk**, **The Nordic Web Archive (NWA)**, **Paradigma**, and **The National Library's** own public Website. For those of you that speak Norwegian <http://www.nb.no/>.

Vitek Tracz <vitek@cursci.co.uk> and his colleagues at **BioMedCentral** <http://www.biomedcentral.com/home/tell>

me that they have now published over 2,500 articles of peer-reviewed biomedical research, all of which are covered by their open access agreement.

I am also pleased to announce that our friends at **Palgrave Macmillan** have announced that **Statesman Yearbook Online (SYB World)** is now available for trialing <http://www.sybworld.com>.

The **3rd Scottish eBooks Seminar** will be taking place in Edinburgh on September 24th organised by **SLAINTE** <http://www.slainte.org.uk>. **Colin Galloway** of **Glasgow University** will be chairing the event and there will be speakers from the **National Institute for the Blind**, **North Lanarkshire Council** and the **NHS e-library**.

I can't write this column without mentioning **Harry Potter** and the *Order of the Phoenix*. I am told that British library supplier **Askews** made special arrangements to ensure that **Harry Potter** and the *Order of the Phoenix* reached library shelves on the same day as it hit the bookshops. Scheduled events in the UK included **Potter** workshops at **Newcastle City Libraries**, a midnight vigil at **Cheltenham Library** and breakfast events by **Gloucestershire** libraries. If you don't know your howlers from your owls, go to the **Harry Potter** site at <http://www.bloomsbury.com/harrypotter/> and find out more.

The **University of Edinburgh** and the *Sunday Herald* newspaper have launched a plea for books to send to the looted library of **Baghdad University**, reputedly the oldest university in the world. The campaign has successfully secured a copy of every book in the catalogues of **Edinburgh University Press** and **Canongate Books**. Further donations have come from **Blackwells** and **Elsevier**. To help, contact **Ian Revie** +44 131 650 8415 <ian.revie@ed.ac.uk>.

I am told that the information services centre for **Kings College London**, the **Maughan Library** has won the **2003 City Heritage Award** for the most outstanding conservation project in the City of London. The **Maughan Library** is thought to be the largest new university library facility in Britain since the Second World War <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/iss/sites/chancery/topchancery.html>.

Congratulations to **Tim Owen** and **Barbara Buckley** who became **Mr. and Mrs. Buckley Owen** recently. **Tim** is Head of External Relations at **CILIP** and **Barbara** secretary to the **Statistics Commission**. The **North West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (NWMLAC)** has appointed **Clare Connor** as Chief Executive. We wish you luck, **Clare**! I am also pleased to announce that **Christine Milne** previously **Liaison Librarian** at the **University of Reading** has been appointed librarian at **Christies Education**.

It was good to see **Helen Henderson** <helen@helenhenderson.com> earlier this month as she came to visit us in **Paddington Station**. She was as effervescent as ever as she told me about all her new projects including **Book-Link** a project which involves publishers sending books to libraries in Ethiopia. If any publishers want to know more about this good cause they should contact **Helen** on the address above.

xrefer are hosting their own event this week in the Hilton in **Paddington Station** called "Libraries on the Web: collections or services?" **Ben Schott**, the author of *Miscellany* is speaking along with **Elizabeth Malone** head of e-content and strategy at **Kingston University** and **Michael Lightowler** of **Westminster Libraries**. If you can't make it in person full details of presentations will be posted under news and events at <http://www.xrefer.com/>

That's all for now. Until next time...

Rumors from page 10

QINETIQ - UK Defense Research Agency). www.ieee.org.

EBSCO Publishing (EBSCO) has acquired two popular databases from **Information Today, Inc.** — **Information Science & Technology Abstracts** and **Internet & Personal Com-**

continued on page 14

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