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## Bet You Missed It -- Press Clippings -- In the News -- Carefully Selected by Your Crack Team of News Sleuths

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# Bet You Missed It

## Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

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**Column Editor's Note:** Hey, are you reading this? Your esteemed column editor would like to know what you think! Zip off a quick email to <pmrose@buffalo.edu>. Does BYMI fill your needs? Do you have any suggestions for changes? I'm listening! — PR

### ALIVE AND GROWING!

by **Sandra Beehler** (Lewis & Clark College)

At 500,000 articles and growing, it's currently the largest encyclopedia on the planet. The controversial online **Wikipedia** has updated the model for encyclopedia-building from "one smart guy" (e.g., Diderot) to "one for all" — a pure form of open source. An encyclopedia by and for the people, it is written by an army of amateurs guided by two principles: neutrality and good faith. Attempts to corrupt the database are quickly spotted and repaired by one of the many volunteers who monitor the site (average repair time 2.8 minutes!). Critics object to the lack of authoritative vetting of content, but this encyclopedia has what **Britannica** lacks — it's growing and responding in a way only possible for sources that are alive.

See — "The Book Stops Here" — *Wired 13.03* (March 2005), p. 125-139

### FOX FROM THE ASHES

by **Sandra Beehler** (Lewis & Clark College)

From the ruins of **Netscape** comes the open-source, secure browser **Firefox** which is cutting an noticeable swath in **Microsoft's IE** market share. It appeals to the many users tired of dealing with the viruses, spyware and pop-up ads plaguing **IE**. Techies like the ease of writing add-ons, and general users like its simplicity and speed. While **Microsoft** had been putting most of its energies into its next operating system, **Longhorn**, and virtually ignoring **IE**, the loss of 5% browser market share in the last 6 months has forced it to return to the browser warfront. This time round, the war is not mano-a-mano (**IE v. Netscape**), but **Microsoft v.** thousands of open source programmers behind **Firefox's** freeware — and the outcome is far from certain. **Firefox** had its beginnings in 1998, when a demolished **Netscape** released its code — renamed **Mozilla** — to the world. A 14-year-old in Florida, **Blake Ross**, began tinkering with the code; he then teamed up with a former **Netscape** programmer and "forked" the **Mozilla** code, with the idea of offering a simpler interface that would appeal to the mainstream user. **Firefox 1.0** was released in November 2004 and now has over 10 million downloads (I just downloaded it myself).

See — "The Foxfire Explosion" — *Wired 13.02* (February 2005), p. 92-96

### HIGHER ED AS A BIZ

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

**Constantine "Taki" Papadakis**, President of **Drexel** got the faculty in an uproar when he responded to complaints of library budget cuts by telling them he wanted an all digital library. He says he was exaggerating to make a point, but is not about to pursue prestige based on how many library dollars per student **Drexel** spends.

Coming to **Drexel** from **Bechtel Corp.**, **Taki** is part of the new run-a-college-like-a-business trend and wants to dump the 25% of the faculty who are part-timers and replace them with e-Learning.

See — **Bernard Wysocki, Jr.**, "How Dr. Papadakis Runs a University Like a Company," *The Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 23, 2005, p.A1.

### OLD MEDIA GLOOM

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Wall Street applauded when **Tribune Co.** acquired rival **Times Mirror** for \$8.3 billion. Then the Internet bubble burst and advertising slumped into its worst mire in decades.

Now the **Trib** is reeling from non-reading youngsters and ad sale competition from new-media. And of course the **Tribune's Newsday** got caught inflating its circulation numbers and \$90 million has been set aside to pay for that.

See — **Joseph T. Hallinan**, "Problems Are Scooping Tribune," *The Wall Street Journal*, Heard on the Street, March 25, 2005, p. C1.



### Rumors

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**Serials Solutions Access and Management Suite (AMS)**. **ERMS** helps librarians manage the entire life cycle of an electronic resource. Modules now in beta testing include: resource discovery, pre-acquisition evaluation, license management, terms-of-use management, contact management, and note tracking and reporting. The system is expected to be released Summer 2005. "We want to enable local control and eliminate local headaches," said **Mike Showalter**, **ERMS** product manager. "Based on our experience delivering hosted solutions to more than 1,300 libraries worldwide, we know that librarians want to manage their resources, not their software. With **ERMS**, they don't have to become IT experts and instead can focus their energies on managing and growing their collections." Building upon the guidelines of the **DLFs (Digital Library Federation) Electronic Resource Management Initiative (DLF- ERMI)**, **Serials Solutions** surveyed more than 50 libraries and had detailed

discussions with nearly two dozen beta-testing librarians during the development process.

[www.serialssolutions.com](http://www.serialssolutions.com)

[www.il.proquest.com](http://www.il.proquest.com)

<http://www.proquest.com>

Was reading through the **DLF Newsletter**, v.5#2, edited by the best-predictor-of-the-future-that-I-have-heard-speak **Michael Pelikan** of **Penn State University Library** (and a frequent speaker in Charleston, I might add). Anyway, the **DLF** is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Visit this Website. This newsletter alone has incredible reports of what is going on at **Stanford**, **North Carolina State**, **Indiana**, and the **New York Public Library** with digital initiatives. [www.diglib.org/pubs/news05\\_02/](http://www.diglib.org/pubs/news05_02/)

**Another anniversary** — In 2005, **HighWire Press®**, **Stanford's** electronic journal hosting service for the scholarly publishing community, celebrated its tenth anniversary. As of April 2005, **HighWire** assists in the online production of 850 journals. [highwire.stanford.edu/institutions](http://highwire.stanford.edu/institutions)  
[www.diglib.org/pubs/news05\\_02/stanfordnews5.htm](http://www.diglib.org/pubs/news05_02/stanfordnews5.htm)

Well, it's true. The numbers-guy **Bob Molyneux** <drdata@molyneux.com> has indeed moved. His new address is 6275 University Drive NW, Suite 37-113, Huntsville, Alabama 35806-1776. And he is, to quote him directly, "Busy busy." He also says that after he gets public libraries working, he is moving on to academic libraries. Statistics, that is Bob's game, in case you don't remember ... [www.sirsi.com/](http://www.sirsi.com/)

Couldn't believe it! Heard from the truly perfect and flawless **Mike Markwith** <michael@tdnet.teldan.com>!! Mike says he's now officially a member of the "Old FarTees" club (he turned 60 last week). Here's some info Mike knows we will find relevant. Exciting services are happening with **TDNet!** They are the first company to work with **OCLC** on a pilot project to provide an efficient means of setting and maintaining holdings in **OCLC WorldCat** for electronic resources, including individual e-journals and aggregated databases. Very exciting since **OCLC** will set and maintain the holdings automatically from the infor-

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