

November 2013

## Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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### Recommended Citation

Rayner, Daryl (2004) "Rumo(u)rs from Paddington," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 16: Iss. 1, Article 35.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5438>

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# Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

by **Daryl Rayner** (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212)  
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Its official. Its cold. I'm hoping that by the time you read this the Spring flowers will have arrived and the temperature improved! Our flurry of snow last week is, of course, not a patch on what you suffer in some parts for many months a year. But the difference is that we just can't cope with it. One downfall of snow and the railways and roads descend into chaos!!

The marathon training is going well. When I say "well" I mean that I have not pulled an obscure muscle or got terrible blisters to prevent me from running. But the problem is that I just haven't run far enough. So I've entered myself for a half Marathon in March to really put my legs through their paces. I am running the **London Marathon** on April 18th for **Cystic Fibrosis** <http://www.cftrust.org.uk/> and will let you know when my sponsorship form is up at [http://www.justgiving.com/home\\_uk.asp](http://www.justgiving.com/home_uk.asp).

So what been happening on this side of the pond? The **Women's Library** [http://www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk/exhib\\_home.html](http://www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk/exhib_home.html) is running an exhibition entitled: Office Politics: Women and the Workplace: 1860-2004. The entrance is free. **Netskills** <http://www.netskills.ac.uk/workshops/forthcoming.html> are running a full range of workshops over the forthcoming months.

**Mark Haddon** won this year's **Whitbread Book Award** <http://www.whitbread-bookawards.co.uk/> with his book "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." "Vernon God Little" by **DBC Pierre** won the **First Novel Award**.

We are all excited to see that **Ricky Gervais** of "The Office" fame <http://www.bbc.co.uk/comedy/theoffice/> is going to be the special guest speaker at **The Booksellers Association Conference** <http://www.booksellers.org.uk/index.htm>.

Fascinating to read that between January 9 and April 16, 2004, **Discovering Dickens** will rerelease the facsimile of **Dickens'** famous novel of the French Revolution, "A Tale of Two Cities" <http://dickens.stanford.edu/>.



The **Open Access** agenda continues with a boost of £150,000 of seed money being offered to publishers by **JISC** <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/> to make journals freely available online using the open access model. This new funding follows an agreement with open access pioneers **Biomed Central** <http://www.biomedcentral.com/>.

Furthermore, a Commons committee in the UK is to conduct an inquiry on access to STM journals focusing on "price and availability" The Chair of the committee, **Ian Gibson**, has said: "{We} will have some very tough questions for publishers, libraries and government." [http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/science\\_and\\_technology\\_committee.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/science_and_technology_committee.cfm).

The **National Library of Scotland (NLS)** <http://nls.uk> has made a request for views on its draft strategy. One of the key themes of the strategy is to widen access beyond traditional

scholars using the **NLS** as a last resort. A groundbreaking study commissioned by the **British Library** <http://www.bl.uk> has found that it generates 363m of value for the UK — more than £4 for every £1 of public funding it receives. 125 titles have been nominated for the **Impac Dublin Literary Award**. This is the largest and most international book prize of its kind <http://www.impacdublinaward.ie/>.

Its good to hear that the **National Electronic Library for Health's** library for cardiovascular disease specialists has been launched. Though aimed primarily at **NHS** staff, it is also available to patients and the public: <http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/cardiovascular>.

**World Book Day** is on March 4<sup>th</sup> this year. Libraries and schools will run hundreds of events, and the people's network will be central to delivering the all day **Online Festival**. The **Reading Agency** will lay on a mix of films and live **Webcasts**. It will be launched by **JK Rowling** on **Webcast**. <http://www.worldbookday.com>

Apparently Forty-two European national libraries (including the **British Library**) have endorsed a plan to create a new pan-European library service. The **European Library (TEL)** will offer "integrated access" to European national collections. The scheme is due to start at the end of 2004. (I'm told that its already been three years in planning!) <http://www.europeanlibrary.org>

It's good to read that **Karen Stanton** has been appointed Director of **Sheffield Hallam University's** Learning Centre and at Calderdale, **Gary Burrows** has been appointed Head of Libraries, Museums and Arts. We wish them both luck!

That's all from me for now. Until next time. **Daryl** 🌱

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<digby@uctlib.uct.ac.za>. He says he's now settled into his new apartment. He has had a busy but rewarding year running Acquisitions and Collection Development (a permanent job change for him). He is supervising 13 staff members including the Electronic Resources Librarian. His son **Donald** is working at a pizza restaurant, getting ready for his driving test, and plans to study history and drama at UCT next year. No word on Andre. Have to check on him!

**RFID** was a word I heard on the exhibit floor at **ALA Midwinter**. I didn't know what it was, ignorant me, so, of course, I asked one of my knowledgeable colleagues. **RFID** is **radio frequency identification**. It's like an electronic barcode but better (or worse) depending on your orientation. This small bit of computer expertise can contain much information about you

and/or an item for your consideration. The latest **BiblioTech Review** has a technical briefing on RFID and you will be glad if you read it. <http://www.biblio-tech.com/html/rfid.html>

Anyway, related, I was reading on **BusinessWire** (Feb. 2, 2004) and picked up this press release. **i2 Technologies, Inc.** (OTC:ITWO), a provider of end-to-end supply chain management solutions, has announced a new radio frequency identification (RFID) partnership program designed to enable companies to use RFID technology to enable real time closed loop supply chain management. **i2** is initiating the partner program to include target solutions, industries and partners such as **GlobeRanger**, **IBM**, **Informatica**, **Sun Microsystems**, and **webMethods**. For further information contact, **i2 Corporate Communications** **Melanie Ofenloch**, 469-357-3027 <melanie\_ofenloch@i2.com> RFID is something about which we will no doubt be hearing more.

More related. Continuing to read in **BiblioTech Review**, I discovered technical briefings on **Z39.50** parts 1 and 2. [http://www.biblio-tech.com/html/z39\\_50.html](http://www.biblio-tech.com/html/z39_50.html)

Also under discussion at **ALA Midwinter** was **Elsevier's** pricing of **ScienceDirect**. The insistence by **Elsevier** on "bundled" pricing of their journals, many of which are not used or are used very little, has caused several prestigious libraries (Cornell, Harvard, Germany's University of Oldenburg) to rebel. See: "Reed Elsevier Feels Resistance to Web Pricing," by **Charles Goldsmith** *The Wall Street Journal Online*, January 19, 2004. <http://online.wsj.com/article>

More on this — **Duke University**, **North Carolina State University** and the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** are ending a joint agreement by which their libraries gained electronic access to approximately 1,300 jour-

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