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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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Issues in Vendor/Library Relations from page 88

librarians! If we become overwhelmed and paralyzed, if we cease selecting good books to read, and finally cease reading ourselves, we are frauds. In my pamphlet, I explore the problem and offer some approaches to deal with it (provided one isn't lazy) including this advice from **Lawrence Clark Powell**: "How does the librarian find time for books? I want you to listen carefully while I give the answer, for it is a precious secret I am about to disclose. One finds time for books by taking it."

BN: One of the ways librarians have been able to deal with the number of books published today, of course, is to have an approval plan. If an approval plan profile is accurate enough — and I know a lot of librarians and vendor reps who work pretty hard at that — that frees time for librarians to deal with other things. Sometimes librarians don't spend much time anymore with the approval books. So approval plans — a way to handle the great quantity of books out there to buy — has distanced some librarians from books. I'm beginning to feel a little guilty.

PB: I only wish librarians felt the same way — a little guilty — for not reviewing the weekly approval plan shipments. Many have decided "why bother?" The flow of books seems good, the coverage seems good, the approval profiles are working. Why not just fly on automatic pilot? After all, we're all very busy. Anybody who thinks this way, of course, should not be working in collection development. A collection development librarian delights in looking at new books. It's the best part of the job, and an indispensable source of knowledge. When a particularly good title appears, it triggers a series of questions: What other books has the author written? Does the library own them? In general, what are our holdings on this subject? Are we lacking any key works? Noticing that the title is a translation, does the library have the original foreign language edition? Noticing that the title is part of a series, what other volumes might be useful? This kind of inquiry leads to real collection development as distinguished from mere book selection. Occasionally one discovers that a part of the collection is in need of an overhaul, and then the fun really begins.

Talk of the Trade from page 86

in the formation of American culture, and feminist scholars have even found evidence of lesbianism in the series. Commenting on this insight, **Benson** said, "This is the silliest, most out-of-the-picture thing I ever heard. I'd like to blow a cork!" **Benson**, who outlived two husbands and is survived by a daughter, worked at the *Toledo Blade* newspaper until the last day of her life, when an ambulance transported her from her desk to the hospital.

Furthermore, one must monitor approval plans to know what is not coming in. Many small independent publishers despair at how few orders they receive after sending out announcements and advertising to libraries. I am referring to publishers of excellent literary titles, not silly pop stuff. For example, small publishers will risk publishing foreign literature in translation, which is quite appropriate for college and research libraries. Yet sales are dismal. Why? Probably because some inattentive, lazy selector assumes that the title will come in on approval, and so simply trashes the announcement.

BN: Well, I'm once again feeling some guilt, since I will confess that we vendors could do a better job than we sometimes do in covering those small publishers. And yet if we were perfect, and were able to track down everything, the trend you describe, Peter, might just accelerate. Years ago, vendors would promote approval plans as a way to cover the "core" — basically university presses and the major commercial publishers. But librarians asked for more, and sometimes made "more" a condition of keeping or winning their business. So we did cover more and went well beyond anyone's "core," to the point that some librarians may think that we cover about everything on approval. Which we never did and I'm sure never will. Maybe we need to be clearer about that, that approval plans are about covering a certain core of material — wide as that "core" has

grown to be — and that they are not the complete answer to collection development.

PB: Approval plan vendors do a remarkable job of providing a wide, solid core (and beyond) but there will always be off-beat, small, regional, ethnic, independent, and brand new presses that escape the net. For example (and this is only one of a hundred different examples), books on Hispanic genealogy are almost always published by independent researchers, who are very hard to track down. We purchase them from a specialist bookseller, who is constantly scanning for off-beat titles of potential importance to research libraries. Selectors must be able to spot these waifs amidst the mass of publishers' advertising made redundant by approval plans. If they just play the percentages, they will never build truly distinguished collections.

BN: Maybe we could end just where we began, then, Peter. Let's help librarians obtain one particular title of value from a small and independent press. What are the details for buying your *Reading the Map of Knowledge*?

PB: My pleasure, Bob. The full citation is: **Peter Briscoe**, *Reading the Map of Knowledge: The Art of Being a Librarian*. Grand Terrace, CA: Palo Verde Press, 2001. Libraries may order it from their preferred vendor. For individuals, the easiest way to obtain a copy is to send a \$5.00 check payable to Peter Briscoe, 18608 Oak Park Drive, Riverside, CA 92504.

Bet You Missed It

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

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THE GHASTLY GETS MORE SO by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The tedious and tiresome has become maddening and gruesome. Vast databases vomit up page upon page of text out of the maw of cyberspace anarchy, and bibliographic citation is now officially a nightmare. With no single authority, punctuation, abbreviation and what-goes-in-what order is a jumbled mess. **NISO** is trying to unify standards, but it's bumping heads with **ISO** over library statistics. **NISO** wants to count them and **ISO** wants to measure them by the foot.

See — June Kronholz, "Bibliography Mess: The Internet Wreaks Havoc With the Form," *Wall Street Journal*, p.A1, May 2, 2002.

TEETERING GIANT by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Ziff Davis Media's auditors say the illness may very well be terminal. **Ziff Davis** magazines depend on technology advertising which is the hardest hit in the ad depression. It lost \$415.7 million over the nine months ending Dec. 31, '01. Ye-gads. Imagine being the CFO in charge of that.

See — "Ziff Davis Auditors Express Doubts On Its Survivability," *Wall Street Journal*, p. A6, May 2, 2002.

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED — START YOUR OWN JOURNAL!

by Phil Dankert (Cornell University)

In April 2001 a group of prominent scientists, calling itself the **Public Library of Science**, announced their plan to boycott journals that don't make their contents free online. The signers pledged that after September 2001 they would not "publish in, subscribe to, or serve as an editor for any journal that didn't offer 'unrestricted free distribution rights [for journal articles]...within six months of their initial publication date.'" Very few of these scientists actually followed through on that threat, which could have seriously disrupted the scholarly publishing system, and, no doubt as a direct result, the number of journals that changed their ways is small. Now the boycott leaders are planning a new tactic - starting their own journals. They plan to start publishing some of the journals, covering all of the major subdisciplines of biology and medicine, in January. They have not given up hope that they can revolutionize scientific publishing.

See — "Boycott Over Lack of Online Access to Journals is a Bust," by Jeffrey R. Young, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 31, 2002, p. A34.

ONE WORD: GRAPHICS

by Sandra Beehler (Lewis & Clark College)

In the competitive world of chipsets, newcomer **Nvidia** is emerging as a leader. **Nvidia** produces graphics processing units (GPUs)—specialized chips essential to gaming, 3-D imagery and video for PCs. Many other specialized processing units—soundboards for one—eventually shrank enough to become part of the CPU (centralized processing unit). **Nvidia** GPUs, however, may one day be powerful enough to swallow the CPUs manufactured by market leader **Intel**. **Nvidia** has earned its market share of graphics processing in part by imitating **Intel's** strategy of developing high-end uses and meeting delivery times. It has also landed a very important partner: its chipsets power **Microsoft's Xbox**. Many believe graphics is the future of computing, and as the demand for graphics applications grows exponentially, so should **Nvidia**.

See — "The Next Intel," *Wired*, July 2002, p. 101-103.

INTERNET IDEOLOGY?

by Phil Dankert (Cornell University)

Is distance education good only for technical subjects and other situations in which personal interaction isn't crucial for learning? The author of this article was attempting, through interviews, to find out answers to such questions as: "Are the professors who are the most beloved and respected for their teaching the ones who are participating in distance education programs, especially online? ...And, can technology convey the qualities that make a professor the heart and sole of a campus?" **Marvin Druger**, who has taught introductory biology at **Syracuse University** for 40 years, is concerned that students "who work solely from books, cassettes, or on a computer, will miss out on the sensory experience of the classroom and experimentation." Many of the professors interviewed by the author are comfortable using classroom-based technology and email, but few teach via distance education, and even fewer teach online. One commented that he didn't feel we would ever reach the point where 18- to 21-year olds aren't going into classrooms. On the other side, a professor at **Herkimer County Community College** in New York felt that the personal interaction that he can provide in the classroom isn't much different from what happens in a good online course. "What makes a heart-and-soul professor is the passion they bring to the job. That passion extends online or in the classroom."

See — "Many Students' Favorite Professors Shun Distance Education," by Michael Arnone, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 10, 2002, p. A39-A40.

I'M YOUR VEHICLE BABE

by Phil Dankert (Cornell University)

The subtitle of this quite interesting article, "controversial projects at some colleges move the printed word out of sight," gives the reader an insight re its content. The author notes, quite correctly I believe, that while some libraries continue to expand their book collections, they are "housing them in compact shelving, separate buildings, remote storage, or vaults inaccessible to casual browsing." The new library at **Marquette**, for example, will hold a small collection of popular and recent titles, along with reference material and part of the special collections. Most of the building, however, "will be devoted to multimedia stations and instruction rooms, computer labs, reading rooms, and group study areas." They are not alone as other institutions have renovation and construction plans that emphasize the new technological roles of the library. [One of these is the **College of Charleston**!] There is a concern expressed by some faculty members who wonder whether the new library will give too much emphasis to the new technologies at the expense of traditional media. Is there "a drift toward regarding libraries as on-ramps to the Internet rather than alternatives to the Internet?" This is a worry of at least one librarian.

See — "Do Libraries Really Need Books?," by Scott Carlson, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 12, 2002, p. A31-A33.

PORTAL NUMBER ONE OR PORTAL NUMBER TWO?

by Jane Tuten (USC Aiken)

The article consists of a selection of experiences that take a good look at the concept of portals and their use in the academic environment. The article recounts questions, successes, lessons learned, and some challenges that universities face when new IT concepts are implemented on campuses.

See — "Portals: The Lady or the Tiger?" by Annie Stunden, *Educause Review* May/June 2002 pp. 58-59.

18.5 OR BUST

by Sandra Beehler (Lewis & Clark College)

The race is on to recapture the lost 18 and a half minutes of conversation from the **Watergate** tapes that brought down then-President **Richard Nixon**. Using the latest digital audio tools, audio engineers are currently working on the problem. New techniques have been developed to filter out extraneous sounds, enhance selected portions of the sound, or map the available audio data to an imaging program that could rebuild the original signal. The first person to demonstrate a viable method of retrieving the lost minutes will be given access to the original tape, which currently resides in a climate-controlled vault at the **National Archives**. There has been much speculation over the years as to why that particular portion of the tapes was erased. Though a few think that the conversation might have been ultra-controversial, the most likely explanation is that the tape with the missing minutes was the first in the series that discussed the **Watergate** coverup—and **Nixon** or whoever did the erasure simply didn't have time or expertise to do any more.

See — "Cracking the 18.5 Minute Gap," *Wired*, July 2002.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MYTHS

by Jane Tuten (USC Aiken)

This tongue-in-cheek short opinion piece takes a hard look at eight statements concerning IT. Each truism began as a general viewpoint about information technology held by **Stone**, a former Provost at the **University of Chicago**, until the reality surrounding each statement was exposed. While information technology and what it enables everyone to do is a critical component of higher education, much of what **Stone** writes will make us smile.

See — "Eight Things a Former Provost No Longer Believes about IT" by Geoffrey R. Stone, *Educause Review* May/June 2002 pp. 62-63.

ONE UNIVERSE, ONE RULE

by Sandra Beehler (Lewis & Clark College)

In 1992, *Wired* author **Steven Levy** met scientist/entrepreneur **Stephen Wolfram** for dinner and was handed the manuscript of a book on the verge of publication. That manuscript, **Wolfram's** attempt to explain the universe and everything in it, was finally released in May 2002 under the title *A New Kind of Science*. In the intervening 10 years, **Wolfram** became a total recluse, devoting all his time, and a considerable portion of his income from a self-owned software company, to the book. He became nocturnal to minimize distraction, running thousands of computer simulations, surfing the Web for information, and consulting friends at 2 AM.

At the center of **Wolfram's** book is the principle of computational equivalence: the idea that simple rules generate complex results—and the rules are the same for everything. In fact, he postulates that there is only one rule underlying the entire universe, and that it consists of no more than four or five lines of mathematical code. This conclusion is based on his work with computer-based systems called cellular automata. Needless to say, "**Wolfram's Law**" is highly controversial in the scientific community. However, **Wolfram**, having spent ten years of his life on this book, will be satisfied if readers take the time to absorb his arguments and seriously reflect on them. Meanwhile he'll be working on finding that one "rule."

See — "The Man Who Broke the Code to Everything," *Wired*, June 2002, p. 132.

IMMUNITY INTIMIDATES ICC

by Sandra Beehler (Lewis & Clark College)

Europe and the U.S. went head to head last week over the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. By threatening to use its UN veto power to stop all peacekeeping missions unless its citizens are granted immunity from prosecution by the court, in effect, the U.S. is killing the ICC treaty. The **Bush Administration's** fear is that Americans will be prosecuted vindictively by those who don't like U.S. foreign policy. Europeans and other nations who have signed on feel that the ICC treaty already has so many safeguards written into it to prevent misuse by "rogue" judges, that the probability of American personnel being targeted is infinitesimal. The intent behind formation of the Court is to provide a forum to prosecute atrocities such as the Pol Pot reign in Cambodia, surely a praiseworthy aim, but unless America backs down on its demand, the opportunity to provide such a forum will be lost.

See — "The International Criminal Court: Right to the Brink," *Economist*, July 6, 2002, p. 29.

ABLE ABEL GREENS ON CHLOROPHYLL

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

British gardening theory and books dominated the home horticulture scene until **Richard Abel** (yes, that's R.A. of approval plan fame) began **Timber Press** in the late 1970s. He launched with a book on Japanese maples and found a public that would buy a book on one tree alone. The modern American gardening movement was about to flourish and **Timber** blossomed with it. Now **Timber** has 406 titles in print and sells briskly in the UK as well.

See — **Adrian Higgins**, "Toward an American Garden, One Tree at a Time," *Winchester (VA) Star*, May 28, 2002 (*The Washington Post*).

I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE AND IT WORKS FEEBLY

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

ICANN - Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers - the NGO policy setter of the domain name business - was supposed to keep control of the internet in the hands of users and not governments. But **ICANN** lacks money and staff and without governmental authority relies on contracts with members. Many domain managers around the world refuse to join, and governments including the US Congress are eager to meddle.

See — **Esther Dyson**, "Whose Domain Is It Anyway?" *The Wall Street Journal*, June 17, 2002, p.A18.

DOIN' THE SECURITY SLOW STEP

by Sandra Beehler (Lewis & Clark College)

America's new **Container Security Initiative (CSI)** may delay shipping coming from foreign countries by as much as a week. U.S. Customs officials are requiring that foreign port authorities pinpoint and inspect suspect containers bound for the U.S. Legislation being considered by **Congress** may further stipulate that cargo manifests for all shipments coming into this country arrive 24 hours before the shipments leave a foreign port. Each port must apply for membership in the **CSI** before being allowed to ship anything—including books—into the U.S. Customs officials are targeting the top 20 ports from which 70% of containers enter the U.S. for membership, leaving the other 30% out in the cold until the approval process can be completed. The effect on world trade of increased security measures is sure to be higher costs and a drop in efficiency.

See — "Ports in a Storm," *Economist*, July 6, 2002, p. 62.

ACCENTUATE THE NEGATIVE

by Pamela M. Rose (University at Buffalo)

Are null results valuable? **Harvard Medical School** cell biologist **Bjorn Olsen** believes so, enough that he has launched a new online journal, the *Journal of Negative Results in Biomedicine*, due to appear by August (www.biomedcentral.com/info/newjournals.asp). Critics think they will have trouble getting publishable manuscripts that aren't failures of design, but **Olsen** and many scientists agree that having negative results widely available would save duplicate efforts.

See — "Getting Null Results into Print" in *Science*, Random Samples section edited by **Constance Holden**, in *Science*, June 21, 2002, p.2137.

BEHIND THE PRETTY PICTURES

by Pamela M. Rose (University at Buffalo)

Several projects are in the works that aim to collect, store, link, search and retrieve biological data such as microscope images and wildlife shots. **BioImage**, the broadest in scope and part of a **European Commission (EC)** initiative, will begin with images from the *Journal of Microscopy*. The **National Institutes of Health** has several projects: one, dubbed **Gene Expression Nervous System Atlas**, is creating a database of embryonic images using fluorescent marked genes. Another initiative begun last Fall, the **Biomedical Informatics Research Network (BIRN)**, focuses on brain disorders. And yet another large scope project, **Open Microscopy Environment (OME)**, will allow researchers to keep track of data from observations of cells and their behavior. The key to all these initiatives is accessibility of the quantitative information behind the pretty pictures.

See — "Beautiful Bioimages for the Eyes of Many Beholders" by **Vivien Marx**, in *Science*, Jul. 5, 2002, pp.39-40.

BODLEIAN FLAILS ABOUT BUT STILL HAS SOME GREAT ARCHITECTURE

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The four-year restoration to the Duke Humfrey's Library at the **Bodleian** is a major achievement, but **Oxford's Bodleian** is badly hurting for money and space. It "sprawls over an archipelago of twelve separate buildings" and absorbs 4 kilometers of materials a year. Which means many librarians will soon perform their tasks far from the center of Oxford in a run-down industrial estate.

Which is not unheard of in the UK. **The British Library** in London does its acquisitions and cataloguing on a converted airfield in North Yorkshire.

See — **Peter Snow**, "A State of Singularity," *Oxford Today*, Vol. 14#3, Trinity Issue 2002, p.16-18.

THE MARTHA STEWART LOOSE LIPS PROBLEM

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Advance copies of science journal articles sometimes sent to thousands of MDs, journalists and professors gives ample opportunity for trading in a company's shares long before others get the word. Journals typically use "embargoes" to allow journalists to analyze and docs to digest breaking science studies prior to release to subscribers. If no one else, authors know the results of their studies and when they will be published. Which puts a lot of savvy folks out there to short a pharmaceutical stock when bad news is about to be unleashed.

See — Scott Hensley, Peter McKay & David Hamilton, "Leaky Lid on Science News," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 25, 2002, p. B1.

ACADEME CHASES THE PATENT DOLLAR

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Universities are hot to make big bucks off scientific research. **Florida State, Columbia, Brigham Young** and **Dartmouth** lead in bang for the research buck. **U. of Michigan**, despite its big research reputation, lags badly due to faculty distaste for the university licensing personnel and "the notion of commercializing inventions." Plus the land of the frozen automotive oligopolies lacks a go-go entrepreneurial climate like Texas and California.

See — Goldie Blumenstyk, "How Colleges Get More Bang (or Less) From Technology Transfer," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 19, 2002, p.A24-26.

WEBWORTHY

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Webworthy has reviewed 256 Websites to date!

Websites selected for broad appeal, depth of information, and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and are visited just prior to publication. Please let the editor know of any sites that are not accessible. Comments and suggestions welcome to Pamela M. Rose, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002; 716-829-2408 <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in Science, NetWatch column edited by Mitch Leslie. — PR

Archives

Math wizard **Alan Turing's** (1923-1972) unpublished materials held by **King's College**, Cambridge, U.K. and previously accessible only by visitors are now available and searchable on the Web at **The Turing Digital Archive**. The site includes letters, obituaries and memoirs written by colleagues, talks and publications on the **Automatic Computing Engine**, his work at the **National Physical Laboratory**, the theories of computable numbers, digital computers, morphogenesis and the chemical development of cells. — <http://www.turingarchive.org/>.

The Turing Archive for the History of Computing (linked from **The Turing Digital Archive**) is another notable collection of digital facsimiles of original documents by **Turing** and other pioneers of computing, plus articles about **Turing** and his work including artificial intelligence. Hosted in the U.S. and Australia by the **University of San Francisco** and the **University of Canterbury**, the site, still under development, also includes a section on codebreaking and a series of reference articles concerning **Turing** and his work. — <http://www.alanturing.net/>.

Turing's most famous contribution was the **Turing Test**, meant to determine if a computer program has intelligence. Graduate student **Ayse Pinar Saygin** maintains **The Turing Test Page** (from which devotees can subscribe to the **Turing Test List**, which notifies users when the page is updated). Browse through a list of references to online articles on the subject (for example, "Objections to the **Turing Test**: Is the Brain a Digital Computer?") or a list of background reading resources on artificial intelligence. Learn about the **Loebner Prize** and other contests, and actually interact with programs that have won prizes. — <http://cogsci.ucsd.edu/~asaygin/tt/ttest.html>.

For biographical information on **Turing**, visit **The Alan Turing Homepage**, maintained by **Andrew Hodges**, author of *Alan Turing, the Enigma*, where he describes the brilliant man as "Eccentric, solitary, gloomy, vivacious, resigned, angry, eager, dissatisfied." A short online biography describes the punishment meted out for **Turing's** affair with another man — mandatory injections of "oestrogen" to curb his libido. — <http://www.turing.org.uk/turing/>.

Biogeography

Talk about easy research! This bibliography of primary sources (especially periodical articles) that have most affected the evolution of our thoughts on the geographical and ecological distribution and diversity of life offers a serious shortcut to students of biogeography, "the study of what creatures live where, and why." Compiled by **Charles H. Smith**, Science Librarian at **Western Kentucky University**, the list includes several hundred primary sources published between the 1700s and 1950. Links are to free online full-text where possible, or to **JSTOR**, an archive service subscribed to by many libraries. Many of the listed authors are also linked to their online biographies. Although no search feature is included at the moment (it's in the works, as is a

thesaurus!), visitors can use their browser "find" feature to locate particular titles or authors. — <http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/biogeog/>.

Bioterrorism

Anthrax, smallpox, and mail workers take center stage on this site devoted to information on all aspects of bioterrorism. **Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response**, from the **Centers for Disease Control**, offers FAQ pages for each topic, as well as the latest news, listings of biological, chemical, and radiological threats, surveillance and training information, and special sections with more detailed information for public health professionals. — <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/index.asp>.

It's not just for **SETI** anymore! Scientists at **Oxford University** developed a screen saver run on individual PCs which functioned as a powerful distributed supercomputer to help find a cure for anthrax. The computing power was used to identify for future research some 300,000 molecules, some of which may thwart anthrax bacterium proteins from assembling on cell surfaces and producing toxins. — <http://www.chem.ox.ac.uk/anthrax/>.

Dinosaurs

Even 10 seconds of watching **T. rex** guard a recent kill was enough for me! This wonderful resource for dinosaurs resides at the **Natural History Museum** in London's Website, which includes not only the **Quicktime** video, but also a "Dino Directory"—a guide to 105 different dinosaurs; "Dinosaur data files" — 28 nifty formatted data sheets with basic statistics like size, weight, food, teeth and group, as well as relevant comments; a treatise on the importance of dinosaur fossils found in the **Gobi Desert**, and "Science casebooks" (some are interactive) which address whether scientists can actually extract DNA from fossilized insects encased in amber (NOT!), and the story of tracking the beast of **Bodmin Moor** from a

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