Bet You Missed It

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Bet You Missed It

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

Column Editor: Rosann Bazirjian (Florida State University)

The Bestseller Trade
by Twyla Racz
(Eastern Michigan University)

A bestseller list published in 1931 was thought to be “vulgar and un-English,” but the advent of TV necessitated new marketing strategies. Therefore, bestseller lists began appearing in The Bookseller in 1979. In this article the authors investigate these lists and reach conclusions regarding the trade. See — Feather, John and Reid, Martin, “Booksellers and the British Book Industry,” in Publishing Research Quarterly, vol. 11 (1) (Spring 1995), p. 57-72.

Copyright and Digital Technology
by Twyla Racz
(Eastern Michigan University)


The Advantage of Hacking
by Twyla Racz
(Eastern Michigan University)

According to the reviewer, the authors are sympathetic towards the MOD gang, young computer hackers who “cracked AT&T’s security codes, rewired phone lines, broke into files and stole confidential passwords and credit histories.” They even crashed a university computer system. The hackers, all in prison, have computer jobs waiting for them upon release. See — Slatta, Michelle and Quittner, Joshua, “Masters of Deception: The Gang That Ruled Cyberspace.” Reviewed by Eddie Dean, in American Spectator, vol. 28 (5) (May 1995), p. 68-70.

What You See Is What You Get
by Pamela Rose
(SUNY at Buffalo)

One goal of the ambitious National Science Foundation “digital library” program is to build tools which will allow Internet users to retrieve pictures, such as yellow flowers, from the flood of digital information by developing software that searches for image characteristics rather than keywords. See — Chang, Kenneth, “Plucking Images from the Digital Floods,” in Science, vol. 267 (March 10, 1995), p. 1425.

John Steinbeck
by Twyla Racz
(Eastern Michigan University)


The Long Reach
by Pamela Rose
(SUNY at Buffalo)

In April the National Science Foundation met its four-part program goal to privatize the Internet, which will bring higher costs, but hopefully longer-term savings. See — Lawler, Andrew, “NSF Hands Over the Internet,” in Science, vol. 267 (March 17, 1885), p. 1584-1585.

New York Times and Cold War
by Twyla Racz
(Eastern Michigan University)


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Recording Studio on Your Own Desktop?

by Sandy Beehler
(Cornell University)

A brief article describes the work of Peter Gotcher, CEO of Digidesign, Inc., a company which makes hardware and software systems that turn a PC into a 48-track, all-digital recording studio. Digidesign's systems greatly lower the cost of recording — freeing musicians from the tyranny of studios and providing the basis for music distribution over the Internet. See — "Music Liberation," in Wired, March, 1995, p. 49.

All The World's a Grain of Salt

by Sandy Beehler
(Cornell University)

Focusing on Seth Lloyd, this article describes work on developing a "quantum computer" — one which will use atoms to store and process data. Lloyd quote: "If we can find a way for each atom to store one bit of information... a single grain of salt could contain as much information as the RAM in all the computers in the world." See — "A Million MHz CPU?" in Wired, March 1995, p. 125.

Getting a Handle on Things

by Rosann Bazirjian
(Florida State University)

This article highlights David S. Magier, a librarian at Columbia University who says that the Internet could benefit from "an expert's eye for collection development and an efficient way to locate useful items." Magier's collaborative efforts at "taming" the Internet are described. See — Jacobson, Robert L., "Taming the Internet," in Chronicle of Higher Education, April 21, 1995, p. A29-A31.

Take Your Business Elsewhere

by Rosann Bazirjian
(Florida State University)

The author of this article states that businesses planning to use the Net as a sales tool should look elsewhere. Interesting comments on the Internet from a marketing perspective. See — Nulty, Peter, "Why You Can — and Should — Wait to Get on the Internet," in Fortune, vol. 131 (12) (June 26, 1995), p. 148.

Texaco, Again

by Pamela Rose
(SUNY at Buffalo)

Texaco Corporation has offered an out-of-court settlement to the coalition of scientific publishers to which they have lost two court rounds in a decade-long battle over what constitutes fair use of copyright materials. If accepted by all parties, Texaco will pay more than $1 million to the 83 plaintiffs in addition to purchasing licenses. See — Lawler, Andrew, "Texaco Offers to Settle Copyright Case," in Science, vol. 268 (May 26, 1995), p. 1127.
Web Guidelines
by Philip Dankert
(Cornell University)

As more four-year colleges put Web pages on the Internet, administrators are struggling to determine what sort of policies are needed to govern how this popular tool is used. These administrators, who are seeking to exercise more control over Web pages are the individuals "who traditionally are charged with crafting the university's public image." Not surprisingly, reaction to the development of guidelines draws a mixed reaction, especially among students. See — DeLoughry, Thomas J., "Well-Appointed Web Pages," in Chronicle of Higher Education, May 26, 1995, p. A19, A21.

Abel and the Approval Plan
by Twyla Racz
(Eastern Michigan University)


My Mom Was A Computer
by Sandy Beehler
(Cornell University)

The author seeks to prove that humans will be extinct by the year 2088, replaced by computers. His logic defies disbelief. See — "Faded genes," in Wired, March, 1995, p. 107.

Too Many Authors?
by Philip Dankert
(Cornell University)

As the average number of authors of scientific papers has steadily increased (doubling from 1.8 per paper in 1955 to 3.5 today), some quite interesting questions are being asked. References are made to the existence of papers with more than 500 authors (18 in 1994). This has perhaps been one reason to ask "what, exactly, is a real author?" See — McDonald, Kim A., "Too Many Co-Authors?" in Chronicle of Higher Education, April 28, 1995, p. A35-A36.

An Anti-Trust Update
by Sarah Tusa
(Lamar University)


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