Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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R umo(u)rs from Paddington

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Today is World Book Day and as I write from my office in Paddington, I’m left wondering whether there are flurries of activity in libraries throughout the world. I do hope so. The official World Book Day Website for the UK and Ireland (http://www.worldbookday.com/default.asp) details all the events planned today. I am impressed to see that there is a World Book Day Online festival events programme (http://www.worldbookdayfestival.com/) with opportunities to download short videos of interviews with authors and get involved with “live chat.” Each schoolchild will today receive a pound book token. I wonder whether any “playground consortia groups” with purchasing power will form. Give them time.

This month the London Book Fair takes place at Olympia (16th-18th March) and in Birmingham (25th-27th March), we have the Internet Librarian meeting (http://www.internet-librarian.com). At the Internet Librarian event there are a range of workshops offered on Survival Skills for Internet Librarians. They look particularly interesting. It promises to be a busy and lively event. We are spoiled with library related meetings this Spring as we also have the Library and Information Show to look forward to (30th April and 1st May), this time at ExCel in London. There is a chance to “meet the authors” and, in this case, it is Roger McGough and Joanne Harris. I will be interested to attend Deborah Radden speaking about project WILL: What’s in London Libraries and John Dolan speaking about the New Library in Birmingham. I will report back on these two meetings.

I hear that The People’s Network, the project to connect all public libraries to the Internet, and learningdirect, a scheme to provide learning online and information services, have jointly launched an information initiative for public libraries in England. The new facility available on The People’s Network Website enables all public libraries to introduce their users to learningdirect and the many online learning opportunities it provides (http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/2816775.stm). There is a major project underway to bring free access to the Internet and online services across Scotland. It says of the project that it is a “£11.5 million scheme that signals the most radical shake-up of the country’s public libraries in its 150 year history.” All 557 libraries in Scotland will be linked online and offer free Internet access by the end of March. I look forward to my next trip to Edinburgh!

It’s a delight to see that Penguin has relaunched its Penguin classics for the first time in eighteen years (http://www.penguin.co.uk/) and to celebrate, they are offering individuals the opportunity to replenish their stocks with a 3-for-2 offer.

I am also intrigued to see that the proceedings from the Old Bailey London from 1674 to 1834 are now all available online at http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/. I hope I don’t find any ancestors mentioned!

Other news, I hear that David Murray, the first Director of the LLDA (London Libraries Association), is leaving the LLDA to be Divisional Director, Culture and Community at the London Borough of Newham. The job advertisement for his replacement mentions that the ideal candidate must have “an empathy with library services!!”

The Duke of Devonshire has launched an appeal to raise £3 million to preserve the John Rylands Library in Manchester. Already a £8.5 million Heritage Lottery Fund has been secured. The library holds a million books including a 1476 Chaucer’s works, the first book to be printed in England. Guess you can’t take that out in your library ticket!

And the news from xrefer (http://www.xrefer.com) is that we have launched our own blog in collaboration with the library world’s own blog celebrity, Peter Scott from the University of Saskatchewan <scott@lights.com>. I do hope you visit: http://blog.xrefer.com.

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LinkFinderPlus Knowledge Base to reflect the library’s holdings. The XML file was designed and built through a joint effort of Endeavor and Serials Solutions, drawing on Endeavor’s knowledge of open technologies and Serials Solutions’ expertise in electronic journal management. The XML file is now available from Serials Solutions for a minimal charge and can be used with Endeavor’s most recent release, LinkFinderPlus 3.0. More information can be found at www.serialssolutions.com/dm/lfp and www.endinfosys.com/prods/lfpbatch.htm.

TDNet has reached an agreement to purchase Journal Web Site and will take over the service contracts for subscriber libraries in the U.S. and Canada. Journal Web Site has decided to pursue other business opportunities apart from the library marketplace. Payments made to Journal Web Site will be honored by TDNet and service will continue under similar terms through the end of each customer’s service period. For further information, contact Mike Markwith <michael@tdnet.teldan.com>.