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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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Weather update (very important if you are English): after an appalling summer, there were hopes, supplied by the weather gurus, that we would experience an Indian summer. Some hope. It's been raining and overcast for the past six weeks — but life has been sunny and bright in the world of information!

The Man Booker prize for fiction 2004 shortlist has been announced. http://www.bookerprize.co.uk. As controversial and colourful as ever. The winner will be announced on October 19th. I will let you know.

Wiltshire have launched their Wiltshire Community history pages http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/. The site http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk contains information on 261 Wiltshire communities covering the whole of the Wiltshire County Council administered area of the county. Every community page has certain basic information, such as local administrative bodies, population from 1801, newspapers for the area, lists of maps, registration district, and links to other sites of interest.

Therapy: a unique initiative from Future Drugs Ltd http://www.future-drugs.com has launched. The publisher says that it will be an open-access bi-monthly forum for rapid publication of original research findings in medicine, augmented with commentary and analysis from international experts. All articles submitted for publication will be subject to rigorous peer review.

CILIP are organizing an executive briefing on 3rd November to explain and discuss the implications of the Freedom of Information Act which comes into force in the UK on January 1, 2005. http://www.cilip.org.uk/training/training/foi.htm

The EUSIDIC annual conference is taking place in October in Helsinki, Finland — October 17-19, 2004. Along with representatives from Factiva and xrefer, the program features a keynote by the director of the National Library of Finland http://www.eusidic.org/.

The Open Repository has been launched. This is a repository service for institutions provided by BioMed Central. It offers professional help to quickly and easily build, launch, maintain, and populate institutional repositories. The service has been designed to be flexible and cost-effective. BioMed Central’s economy of scale makes it possible for institutions that could not otherwise afford to, or lack the infrastructure or technical capacity in-house, to set up repositories http://www.openrepository.com/.

Librarians have triumphed on a British quiz show called University Challenge. The team from the British Library beat off a challenge from Oxford University Press. The show's host said that he was particularly impressed with the British Library's Kathryn Johnson. He praised her knowledge of “extreme ironing and railway engine design”!

I hear that the Australian Digital Theses Program has been launched http://adt.cmult.edu.au/. Its aim is to create a national collaborative distributed database of digitised theses produced at Australian Universities. The ADT database provides access to PhD and Masters by Research theses.

I’m pleased to announce that Sue Macie is the new Executive Officer for CILIP Cymru/Wales. Sue replaces Huw Evans who left in May to be head of Advice and Support at cyMAL. Good luck, Sue.

Don’t forget to put Online 2004 in your diaries. It will be running from 30th November — December 2nd at Olympia, London.