November 2013

If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain, kstrauch@comcast.net

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Getting More From Your Electronic Collections Through Studies of User Behavior

by Tim Bucknall (Assistant Director - Jackson Library, Head, Information Technologies and Electronic Resources, University of North Carolina at Greensboro) <bucknall@uncg.edu>

Libraries spend a lot of money on electronic resources and understandably want to get the best possible return — in other words, the most usage — on that investment. Publicity, bibliographic instruction, and prominent links on Web pages are all common ways we seek to enhance awareness of expensive commercial databases and e-journals. While these methods have achieved some measure of success in generating more initial Web hits, they do little to increase levels of use once a given resource is being utilized. By analyzing patron behavior and preferences within Web-based information sources and services, libraries can adjust their electronic collections environments to better meet user needs and generate significantly more traffic.

Integration Boosts Use

At most libraries several years ago, one hundred percent of database accesses were initiated when a user clicked on the name (such as "Infotrac OneFile") somewhere on the Library's Website. As libraries and technology have become more sophisticated, additional access points have been created. For example, the recent widespread introduction of link resolvers has produced another major pathway into commercial databases, and has generated a significant increase in the statistical picture of patron activity.

At the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), the library catalog and the majority of the subscribed databases link directly to journal titles or, in many cases, articles in other databases through a locally developed knowledge base and link resolver, Journal Finder. By comparing the number of times patrons access a given database by its name against the number of times they gain entry through links in Journal Finder, we can determine how expanded title and article level access has increased database usage. For the period of July 2002 to June 2003, I selected a random sample of UNCG's OpenURL-enabled databases, all of which were also linked from the catalog and from various Web pages listing our database offerings.

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If Rumors Were Horses

Well, the saddest news is that Lyman Newlin — Papa Lyman — passed away on Tuesday, September 20, at the ripe old age of 95. Papa Lyman will be remembered by all of us for his charm, wit, anecdotes, raspy voice, bell-ringing at the Conference, outspokenness, incredible memory and I could go on and on. We are going to try to institute a new column called Remembering Papa Lyman and John Perry Smith has agreed to be the editor of it. So, send reminiscences of Papa or of any of the era that was his (the twentieth century) to either me <kstrauch@comcast.net> or John <jps@totalinformation.com>.

We also have an obituary of Lyman by Richard Abel and Fred Gullett in this issue, p. 8. May he rest in peace.

Julie K. Miller has been promoted from Publicist to Marketing Manager at CQ Press. For he moment she is handling publicity projects until a new publicist is hired. Julie is also now using her married name instead of "Keisman." Her email address is <jmiller@cqpress.com>.

Just had an interesting conversation with the astute Douglas Black <dblack@copyright.com> of Copyright Clearance Center. The news is that Copyright Clearance Center has combined with Blackboard to dovetail copyright licensing with the Blackboard workflow. Nearly all colleges and universities use course management systems, and many users are faculty. This means that copyright responsibility has passed from librarians and information specialists to faculty, who usually do not have extensive copyright training. Meanwhile, college and university libraries have heightened sensitivity to all forms of copyright compliance. This integration is an important development within that trend. The product will typically be implemented so that the licensing trans

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I have just learned that my 31-year-old son Raymond is going to Iraq in the next two weeks. He is now at Ft. Bliss, Texas. So besides being happy and stressed about my daughter who just started medical school in August, I have more to chew my nails about. So, to take my mind off of it all, I have been working on the Charleston Conference and Against the Grain instead of taking tranquilizers. And we have another great Conference Issue! Jill Carraway has put together an intriguing group of articles by Emily Stambaugh, Elise Anderson, Cynthia Hodgson, Andrew Pace, and Jenny Walker, Tim Bucknall, and Chuck Hamaker on the trials, tribulations, challenges and opportunities of eBooks and eJournals. An intriguing Biz of Acq deals with a strategy for increasing print acquisitions and circulation. Mary Massey's final installment of "Leaving the Books Behind" starts her new column "Something to Think About." And speaking of new columns Anne Langley brings Case Studies to ATG. Her first study is on Collection and Technical Services. There are three ATG Special Reports in this issue. One we have Gene Waddell's "In Indiana Territory," then Helle Lauridsen tells us "How to Beat the Serials Crisis," and Doug Cook, Steve McKinzie and the ALCIP 40th Anniversary Planning Committee bring us "A Pennsylvania Library Collaborative Celebrates Its Past and Plans for Its Future: A Forty-Year Commitment to People, Service and Collection Development.”

We have interviews with Jane Burke the General Manager of Serials Solutions and Howard Harris the General Manager of Library Dynamics, and David Moore who has furnished his profile encouraged. Plus there are reviews of reference titles from Tom Gibson and Debbie Vaughn and Richard "Monographic Musings." Peter Shepherd has taken on "International Dateline" and brings us more on open access in Europe. Don't miss Eleanor Cook's "Drinking from the Firehose — The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same" and Greg Tannanbaum's "I Hear the Train A Comin'" which is an interview with Heath Joseph who follows Rick Johnson as Executive Director of SPARC. And finally we have Jack Montgomery's "Wandering the Web — Subcultures on the Internet? Whew! That's a lot..." and believe it or not, there's even more! Well, time to take a tranquilizer. See y'all soon in Charleston! Cheers, Yr. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor,

Susan Campbell <scampbel@ycp.edu> and I are offering our services as Mentors to new people coming to the Charleston Conference this year. We hope that people will contact us with questions, ideas, suggestions, and whatever they want to talk about.

Sincerely, Pam Cenzer
University of Florida, Marston Science Library
<pamcenz@mail.uflib.ufl.edu>

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES
VOLUME 17 & 18 — 2005-2006

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Edna Laughrey, Ads Manager. Address: 291 Tower Drive, Saline, MI 48176; Internet: elaughrey@aol.com; Phone: 734-429-1029; Fax: 734-429-1711.

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action moves from Blackboard to the college library staff, which handles the licensing details.

Guess what? David Levinson’s niece’s wedding is the same weekend as Charleston! The nerve! Plus the wedding had to be moved from New Orleans so Karen Christensen and David will not be in Charleston this year. In the meantime, we can read all about them and Berkshire Publishing Group in Business Week, July 26, 2005. In the article “CEO’s Tool box,” it says that “podcasts, RFID tags, and mesh networks are among the ten new technologies that should be on the radar of every chief exec.” And Karen is one of those quoted (do you know that her father worked for Honeywell and since she grew up with computers she wasn’t a fan of them...until lately?). Karen is talking about Wikis and their importance for scholars collaborating on the same text. Anyway, this article should be read by Stephen Spielberg or maybe Michael Crichton for movie material.

http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/2005/c20050726_8027.htm

And speaking of Wikis, in this issue we have a Technology Left Behind on Wikis by the incredible Cris Ferguson <cris.ferguson@furman.edu>, see this issue, p.83.

And speaking of Cris Ferguson. She is wonderful. Cris and Jack Montgomery <jack.montgomery@wku.edu> (who is also double wonderful) have worked hard to put together the Memory Book for the 25th Charleston Conference, included with your Conference booklet. Plus Cris has put together the history of the Charleston Conference Table Talk on Friday afternoon at four o’clock at the Conference. See you all there!

And speaking of the Table Talks, many, many thanks, credit and kudos go to Barbara Schader <bschader@calpoly.edu> (Science, Math & Engineering Librarian, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo) who agreed to be the Director of the Table Talks which have never been done before. Barbara was Johnny on the spot (or Jeannette on the ball) and brokered the whole event. Thanks to Barbara. And Barbara was helped in Local Arrangements by the intrepid Debbie Vaughn of the College of Charleston who doesn’t miss a trick either.

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News

Heard from one of my favorit-e people in the world, Audrey Melkin <audrey@atyon.com>. She tells me there’s lots of news at Atyon. First, the awesome Martin Marlow has been named Vice President, Global Sales & Marketing, and is heading up the UK/International office in Abingdon, near Oxford. You’ll remember that Martin was formerly Director of Strategic Marketing, ProQuest Information & Learning International and also served in management positions at Blackwell, Ltd. and Silver Platter. There’s more. In July Atyon migrated the 45 former Extenza publishers to Atyon’s Literatum platform. New publisher signings include the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), CFA Institute, MIT Press, and the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR). Watch for our upcoming interview with Georgios Papadopoulos speaking about the new free service, Atyon Institution Registry, AIR.

The resourceful Martin Cohen <martin.cohen@sympatico.ca; martin.cohen@videotron.ca> has a new address. Here it is — Martin Cohen, 10 Beechwood Place, Unit 610, London, ON N6C 1H7, Canada.

Heard from the fantabulous Loren Pinckerman <lpinckerman@lagrange.edu> (Director, LaGrange College Library, LaGrange, Georgia) who is sending his electronic resources librarian Mary Lou Dabbs <mldabbs@lagrange.edu> to Charleston for two preconferences. I remember Loren back when he was a sales rep for Brodart and the McNaughton Plan. Well, Loren, you will be happy to learn that we have just signed up for McNaughton and just had a delightful meeting with Sharon Showell about the whole procedure and cataloging and processing setup, etc. We are excited!

NELINET, Amigos Library Services, Inc., Nylink, Palinet, and SOLINET have launched the Network Education Exchange, a cooperative training program that makes selected online courses available to the members of the five networks. Students are expected to register directly with the providing network and are required to pay by credit card. The selected courses and descriptions are available on the five networks’ Websites. The Network Education Exchange will offer library and technology-related programming on a wide variety of topics ranging from Internet searching and Web publishing to MARC basics and emerging metadata topics. www.solinet.net www.nelnets.net/edserv/online/nee.htm

This from the awesome Mark Walter <mwalter@maned.com>, former Seybold editor now working at Managing Editor Inc. (www.maned.com). (I still remember the great eBooks presentation, when eBooks were just a twinkle in our eyes, that Mark gave us the year that we had the Conference in the Sottie Theater on George Street.) Anyway, volunteers from the local publishing community have started an XML User Group in Philadelphia (www.xmlphiladelphia.org). Recent speakers have covered XML publishing projects at Elsevier and SAP, XML tutorials on schema languages and Xquery, and product presentations from Arbortext, Mark Logic and Adobe. Meetings are hosted once a month at Elsevier, and anyone interested in learning more about the current use of XML in publishing is invited to attend and participate. www.maned.com

Wow! Talk about letting your inbox get away from you! Was talking to D. Ellen Bonner (Head of Technical Services, Library, Information and Technology Services, Mt. Holyoke College) <dbonner@mt holyoke.edu>, who should be in Charleston in November. Some memories — Ellen worked for 10 years at Technical Services at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for almost five years. Before that, she worked at YBP for six years. After accomplishing what she set out to do at RPI, Ellen was looking for new challenges — and wanted to move back to New England and Mount Holyoke was the perfect place, with a great director (Pat Albanese). It let Ellen get closer to her humanities roots. (In a former life — i.e., pre-libraries, Ellen was an art historian.)

And speaking of RPI, be sure and say hi to Tanis L. Kreig <tkreig@rpi.edu> (Acquisitions/Serials Librarian, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rensselaer Research Libraries). Tanis is going to attend the Charleston Conference and her husband will be accompanying her on the trip. Hopefully they will be at the Anniversary Celebration at the SC Aquarium and/or the Addlaxstone Library Reception.

Remember Otto Rapp and Inge Valentine <ingeval@aol.com>, both once Sales Reps for Perigotam? I was talking to Inge the other day. She’s enjoying retirement and has reached the ripe old age of 78. She says she is cherishing every day God is giving her. She is still in her big old house and sends wishes for a jolly good time to all of us.

Got an apology from the awesome Bill Russell (Director, Academic Market, Emerald Group Publishing Limited) <brussell@emeraldfringe.com>. Bill says that he is going to miss Charleston for the first time in six years. Why? His wife Cilla is expecting their second set of twins (the older ones are nine), and he says he’d better stick close to home to help out. Bill says that moving from three to five children is going to be daunting. Good luck! I can’t imagine. Anyway, he says that there will be others from Emerald at the Conference so he will be here in spirit.

More good news. Liz Lorbeer <Elizabeth_R_Lorbeer@rushe.edu> was just promoted to Assistant Director of Collections Management at Rush University. Liz sent in her registration information for the Charleston Conference in July and was promoted in August. We are looking forward to congratulating her in November.

The alert Ramune Kubilis (Galter Health Sciences Library, Northwestern University) <rkubilis@northwestern.edu> sends this journal saying it sounds like it could be from a Charleston Conference skit — Parker, Kimberly, and Daniel Dollar. “E-Termology: Why Do I Need to Know What You Mean?” portal: Libraries and the Academy 5(3)(July 2005): 421–426.

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<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
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Yahoo is making news with its recent news that it will build its own online library of copyrighted works to contrast with rival Google. Read all about it at www.msneh.msn.com/id/9569930&KC.

OverDrive, Inc. has entered into a distribution agreement with Egami Media, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Image Entertainment, Inc. (NASDAQ: DISK), to digitally distribute its extensive catalog of video titles for download by public and school libraries. Under the terms of the agreement, OverDrive is encoding hundreds of concert videos, classic films, TV and Broadway programs into digital format for download delivery to students and patrons’ desktops or other Internet-connected devices. OverDrive eBOOK and download audiobook titles are currently available online from over 1,000 public and school library Websites. www.overdrive.com.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has funded the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill to lead a once-in-decades project: A National Study on the Future of Librarians in the Workforce. ARL is one of several partners collaborating with UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science on the study. The two-year study will identify the nature of anticipated labor shortages in the library and information science field over the next decade; assess the number and types of library and information science jobs that will become available in the US through retirement and new job creation; determine the skills that will be required to fill such vacancies; and recommend effective approaches to recruiting and retaining workers for these jobs. The project will provide better tools for workforce planning and management, a closer match of labor demand with supply, and improved recruitment and retention of librarians. Also partnering in the study are the University of Pittsburgh, Syracuse University, the Special Libraries Association (SLA), and the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). The principal investigator (PI), Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, is the Dean of the School of Information and Library Science at UNC. In addition to Dr. Griffiths, key researchers include Tony Debons, Donald King, Chris Toner, and Scott Beach from the University of Pittsburgh; Bruce Kingma, David Lankes, and Ray Voorhees from Syracuse University; Martha Kyriillidou from ARL; John Latham from SLA; Dick Hill from ASIS&T; and Joel Popkin from Joel Popkin & Company. www.arl.org/www.ils.unc.edu/www.imls.gov/

And while we're discussing UNC-Chapel Hill, despite a jam-packed weekend plus three days of class to prepare for, the awesome Lolly Gasaway <laura_gasaway@unc.edu> delivered her usual Copyright Questions and Answers for this issue. See p.54.

And speaking of this issue (November 2005), we have produced it early because my incredibly hard-working assistant, Toni Nix’s daughter, Dana, is getting married October 23 in Atlanta, Georgia. Pretty exciting!

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And speaking of weddings, did you know that Becky Lenzini’s <brenzini@earthlink.net> oldest daughter Sarah <Slenzini@drugfacts.com> (who works for Wolters Kluwer Health and was recently promoted — see ATG, Rumors, v.17#3, June 2005, p.8), is getting married October 15! That’s, gulp, soon. And to add icing on the cake, Becky was doing a little bike riding and fell off, leaving her finger. And speaking of falling, remember when Becky fell/jumped off the stage one year when the Conference was at the Dock Street Theatre in downtown Charleston? Talk about dramatic! Anyway, she didn’t skip a beat! And I am sure the same is true this time. Congratulations to Sarah and Jason!

And while we’re talking about Becky, be sure and look at the current issue of The Charleston Advisor which is included in your registration packet for the 2005 Charleston Conference. For the fifth year, The Charleston Advisor has given a series of awards for the best and worst electronic services and databases for libraries. The awards are not necessarily limited to products covered by TCA, but TCA reviews (if available) were consulted in the final consideration. These awards are published on an annual basis and are given in ten standard categories. Check it out. www.charlestonco.com/

Do you read LNSnews.com by the incredible Blake Carver? It’s great. This just out from the October 7 posting — “The Search: How Google and its Rivals Revolved the Rules of Business and Transformed Our Culture” has been selected as the Librarians’ Book Club selection for October-December 2005. To join in the discussion all you need to do is get a copy of the book, read it, and discuss it by posting comments on LNSnews.com/bookclub.lnsnews.com.

Be sure and read about the Pennsylvania Library Collaborative ACLCP, this issue, p.88. There is about to be a big celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Consortium. In fact, Bob Edwards (of NPR fame) is slated to speak at the fall meeting. Kind of cool, eh? Thanks to the Johnny-on-the-spot Steve McKinzie (Collection & Research Services Librarian, Dickinson College) <mckinzie@dickinson.edu> for keeping us up on this.

Publishers Communication Group is launching the Market Segmentation Study. This service analyzes a publisher’s Core and Non-Core Markets and determines if they are underperforming in any specific market segments compared with competitors. The hambowie Douglas Wright <dwright@pcgplus.com>, General Manager of PCG, commented, “PCG has succeeded in customizing a solution in response to the American Physiological Society’s needs, and we are pleased to now extend this service to all of our clients. Doug will be in Charleston so you can talk to him about it when you see him! www.pcgplus.com/news/

This is sent courtesy of the incredible Chuck Hansker (AUL, Collections and Technical Services <cchamake@email.unc.edu> and the digital-copyright Digest 5 Oct 2005 — The Copyright Office is preparing to conduct proceedings in accordance with section 1201(a)(1) continued on page 14

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Of title 17 U.S.C., which was added by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. This section provides that the Librarian of Congress may exempt certain classes of works from the prohibition against circumvention of technological means that control access to copyrighted works. The purpose of this rulemaking proceeding is to determine whether there are particular classes of works as to which users are, or are likely to be, adversely affected in their ability to make noninfringing uses due to the prohibition of circumvention. The Copyright Office requests written comments from all interested parties, including representatives of copyright owners, educational institutions, libraries and archives, scholars, researchers, and members of the public, to elicit evidence on whether noninfringing uses of certain classes of works are, or are likely to be, adversely affected by this prohibition on the circumvention of measures that control access to copyrighted works. Written comments are due by December 1, 2005. Reply comments are due by February 2, 2006. Although the Copyright Office will accept comments delivered by hand or by the U.S. Postal Service, it prefers that comments be submitted through its Website, which will contain a submission page at http://copyright.gov/1201/comment_forms that will be activated approximately 30 days prior to each applicable deadline.


ALCTS Blackwell’s Scholarship Award honors an author or a group of authors who have written an outstanding monograph, article or original paper in the field of acquisitions, collection development or related areas of resources development in libraries. Blackwell will donate a $2,000 scholarship to the United States or Canadian library school of the winning author/’s choice. The scholarship will be given to a student concentrating in the acquisitions or collection development areas. Publications from 2004 and 2005 are eligible. Reprints of earlier publications will not be accepted. The evaluation criteria include: intellectual content; practical value; theoretical value; scholarship; presentation; and style. Send nominations, along with a statement giving the full bibliographic citation of the article, book or paper being nominated and reasons for the nomination to: Deb Thomas, chair, Blackwell Jury <deb-thomas@utk.edu>. I believe the deadline is December 1.

Have spent some time talking to the estate Donald Dennis <dennismailbox.syr.edu>, student, School of Information Studies at Syracuse University. Donald is doing a report for his library school class on Against the Grain. Anyway, sent him some back issues and will be adding some of his colleagues to the ATG subscriber list.

I tell you. What did we do before email and the Internet? Our lives were pretty boring. Besides hearing from Donald Dennis (above), I also heard from Ronald Howel <Ronal.Howell@ mail.cuny.edu>, editor of CUNY Matters who wanted to reprint a book review that Tom Gilson <gilson@coc.edu>, our fabulous Reference Desk editor, wrote about Encyclopedia of Law Enforcement, edited by CUNY faculty member Larry E. Sullivan. See ATG, v.17, no.3, p.74. Like I said, email, what would we do without it?

Speaking of email. I got a hard typed letter, just like old times, from the awesomely scholarly Matthew J. Bruceoli which we ran in the September issue (see p.6). We will have an interview with Dr. Bruceoli in the Dec/Jan issue about his fascinating career and activities.

There has been a ton of discussion on liblicense about the wellcome Trust and the position statement that grant recipients deposit a copy on PubMedCentral. Read the continuing dialog, liblicense-l@lists.yale.edu www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc_wtd/002766.html

Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, 1789-2000, public domain version, is available on the University of Michigan Website at http://www.lib.umich.edu/p/pppotps/. It currently covers the published speeches and documents of Presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. Working in conjunction with GPO, the University of Michigan agreed to digitize PPTOP, and will continue to host it, as well as providing GPO with a copy of the files (TIFFS, OCR and metadata). The project was intended to demonstrate that useful digital copies of Government legacy collections could be produced as part of the routine reformating efforts of larger libraries. www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/

And speaking of scanning (above) — From OCLC Abstracts October 3, 2005 (v.8, issue 40) — Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, has a new tool in its preservation efforts. With the OCLC WorldCat Collection Analysis service, the university is comparing its library collection to two of those participating in Google’s massive book digitization project. The goal is to identify unique items the university should digitally scan and avoid duplicating Google’s work. www.oclc.org/news/publications/newsletters/oclc2005/408/tipsandtricks.htm

Moving right along. Open Repository offers professional help to institutions in building, launching, maintaining and populating institutional repositories. Open Repository is now offering institutions the chance to try out a customized pilot repository for a 6-month period with no charge. Institutions currently trialling pilot repositories include: Medical University of Vienna (Austria); Gaetano Pino (Milan, Italy); Epilepsy Research (USA); University of Connecticut (USA); Université Louis Pasteur Strasbourg (France); Landsdymapital (Iceland) and Institut de recherche pour le développement (France).

This courtesy of Bernie Sloan <bneri@uoguelin.edu> and liblicense <liblicense-l@lists.yale.edu> — As you may recall, shortly after Google announced its plans for Google Print for Libraries, several European countries began discussing the idea of doing the same sort of thing for European resources. There are now some details available about the European project (called “2010 Digital Libraries”). See Gary Price’s Search Engine Watch blog entry for more info: blog.searchenginewatch.com/blog/051003-192507.

<http://www.againt-the-grain.com>
Webworthy has reviewed 341 Websites to date! Are you reading this intro? If so, we’d like to know if you find this column useful! Email the editor at <pmrose@buffalo.edu> with your comments and any suggestions for improvement!

Websites are chosen for uniqueness, depth of information, functionality 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 broken links. Comments and suggestions are welcome!

Pamela M. Rose, <pmrose@buffalo.edu>, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo

Earth Sciences

You might have found the Website for the International Work Group on Geospatial Analysis of Glaciered Environments (GAGE) by surfing, but consulting the Geo-Guide for an organization working in the field of Historical Geography is much more efficient! This meta-site sponsored by two German university libraries catalogs, using the Dublin Core Metadata Element, more than 3000 Websites covering all areas of earth sciences, including geography, oceanography, paleontology, cartography, and geodesy (the discipline that deals with the measurement and representation of the earth). A section entitled Virtual Libraries & Source Materials anchors and validates each listing and includes a section of links to sites that offer full-text journal articles. My Geo-Guide keeps track of your search history and saved sets even if you don’t register a login. A few misspelled words here and there do not affect usability!

— http://www.geo-guide.de/

Elephants

It may be lumped under mammalian studies, or more generally biological sciences, but this site is really just about elephants! The five year Savanna Elephant Vocalization Project (continuing through 2007) focuses on elephant communication based on knowledge gained from decades of research by the Amboseli Elephant Research Project in one of Kenya’s best-known National Parks — Amboseli. Hosted by two Norwegian researchers, the site offers Visual and Tactile Signal Database photos which interpret more than 100 forms of African savanna elephant communication, and their small archive of elephant sounds gives viewers/listeners a real sense of the complex communication and social network that these marvelously huge animals enjoy. With a goal of providing better understanding and imaginative new tools that will help future conservation managers avoid more brutal methods of controlling populations, the project also raises funds through sales of original photos and audio recordings on request. Part of the SEVP Tools for Conservation section postulates a future “Elephants Bill of Rights.” — http://www.elephantvoices.org/

Exhibits

A major achievement of the French Enlightenment, a collaborative effort by some 140 “men of letters,” the 32-volume Encyclopedia — Encyclopedia of Diderot and d’Alembert is now being translated and made accessible to the world through a project at the University of Michigan. Volunteer translators have already finished more than 100 articles that can be browsed or search, with links to the original French. Also translated is the Map of the System of Human Knowledge. Browse by original title, translated title, or subject, or do a simple, proximity, or Boolean search. Enthusiastic linguistic talent can still volunteer to help! — http://www.kt1.umi.ac.edu/d/dad/

Ornithology

Bird watchers can now examine close-up in cyberspace the specimens used to described 151 avians from around the world. 3-D images of the birds on the Zoological Museum Amsterdam Website can be viewed in small, medium, or large sizes, and accompanying information describes where and when the specimen was collected, provides measurements, and comparison to other specimens. The site also has detailed entries for 453 threatened and extinct species. Plans for the future include 3-D images of their skulls and skulls collections. — http://ip30.eti.uva.nl/zmc3d/

Paleontology

Art or science? Palentological illustration is a special branch of scientific illustration whose work can be classified as fine art if draftsmanship is superb, but art is never the goal. The degree of creativity and drawing techniques are always bound first by the strict rules of science. Now many of these fine original pieces are available for viewing on a new site from illustrator Mary Parrish of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History. The online gallery displays photographs of the original illustrations, along with background information on the illustrator, the original use of the material, and descriptions of the preservation efforts and the discipline. A brief description of the craft is offered for the young wannabe: “Paleontological illustrators draw and reconstruct fossil specimens, prepare life restorations of ancient plants, animals and environments, and depict abstract concepts such as evolution and extinction.” — http://www.nmmh.si.edu/paleo/PaleoArt/