

Don't re-invent the wheel

The hard-working Bernie Sloan of the University of Illinois has put together an online collection of documents on library consortia at <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/~b-sloan/consort.htm>. The site currently houses about 100 web-accessible documents on the governance and administration of library consortia and co-operatives. The documents have been divided into four types — Bylaws, Memoranda of Understanding, Resource Sharing Agreements and Strategic Plans.

Giving it away 1

Maybe it is the proximity to Christmas, but things are changing fast in the database world. Previously expensive databases are reinventing themselves as free services. Beilstein Abstracts is the latest to announce it will be freely-searchable on ChemWeb [<http://chemweb.com/databases/beilstein>]. Members (you need to register at ChemWeb, but joining is free) can now gain unrestricted access to Beilstein on the web and search for titles, abstracts and authors from journals in organic and related chemistry. There are currently more than 600 000 articles in the Beilstein Abstracts database which covers the period from 1980 to date.

Giving it away 2

NorthernLight's usgovsearch, which allows users to search for United States government documents across the whole range of government sites, is also now free for libraries. The service was originally launched in partnership with NTIS as a paying service. It became free for a trial period, then went back to charging for some users. Then NTIS closed down. NorthernLight seems to be keen to promote the new free service so it is worth a look at <http://usgovsearch.northernlight.com/publibaccess>. There is still a charge for material from NorthernLight's Special Collections, but searching there, as at usgovsearch, is free of charge. GovSpot will also find United States government information. This commercial online resource provides links to other worldwide government sites [<http://www.govspot.com/>].

Going into the portal business

Dialog have developed three new portals for business, science and technology [<http://www.dialog.com/>]. You can see the front pages of each portal — which include news, weather and sports — for nothing, but further access, for example to databases or publications, is chargeable. You can pay by credit card if you want an individual subscription. Once signed up, you can personalise your portal to match your interests, choosing from more than 50 000 publications, including market research reports, journals, magazines, newspapers, newsletters and newswires.

Images from the National Library of Australia

You can search more than 20 000 images from the NLA's pictorial collection, at the Images1 web site [<http://www.nla.gov.au/products/images1/>]. The site also offers a browse function, but it is actually more of a search — no menus or lists of

names are offered. However the site is very easy to navigate and use.

Italian archive

The Medici Archive [<http://www.medici.org/>] was established by Grand Duke Cosimo I in 1569, and consists of nearly three million letters. The Medici Archive Project, an American non-profit organisation based in Florence, is attempting to organise this material to make it available to scholars and researchers. It currently contains 2600 pages of sample document reports. The project allows you track references to people, places and topics and then combine them in searches. The project is also involved in documenting the history of Florentine costume and textiles, and in projects on Jewish history, religion and culture. The site also provides information about jobs and fellowships.

Mailing list for digital historians

If the subject of digitising history interest you, check out a new mailing list just opened on the topic. History digitisation aims to bring together experts in the field and academics or librarians who are looking to digitise material. You can find out how to join the list at the site. Have a look at the searchable archive of existing postings to see whether it will be useful at <http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/history-digitisation/>.

New style search tool

Oingo aims to improve the relevance of 'net search results by checking first which of several possible meanings of a word you actually want, for example train as in teach or train as in transport. Try it out at <http://www.oingo.com/>.

Virtual Santa's helper

Just in time for Christmas comes Safe Shopping, <http://www.safeshopping.org/>, from the American Bar Association. The site shows you how to shop safely online. Sections answer questions about security, privacy, payment, product, terms, delivery, records, complaints, and tips. The Association has also released a handy little guide called *How to research companies on the net*, <http://www.internetlawyer.com/facts/company.html>. This is a good, simply laid-out starting point for anyone wanting to find United States company information. It is a partial reprint of the print publication *The internet fact finder for lawyers: how to find anything on the net*.

Oz business online

Australia on Display makes finding Australian companies easier. This site from AusTrade allows you to browse by industry category, for example, mining and energy, food and beverage, or perform a keyword search. The results provide useful information about a company's products or services, as well as giving comprehensive contact details, many of which include web or e-mail addresses [<http://www.austrade.gov.au/AOD/index.asp>].

Sharing it round

UK Libraries Plus is a major new initiative by universities and colleges across the country to pro-

Weavers web



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vide reciprocal library access to one another's students. The scheme is being offered on a trial basis until the end of the academic year when its future will be reviewed. Over fifty higher education institutions in the United Kingdom are participating in the trial which will allow part-time, distance, and placement students to borrow from libraries near their homes or workplaces. Find out more at <http://www.lisa.sbu.ac.uk/uklibrariesplus/>. The trial does not include access to computer facilities or provide reciprocal electronic rights. As more Australian students choose to study remotely, the issue of reciprocal electronic access to resources will probably become an issue for Australian academic libraries to grapple with.

E-journal guide

Harrassowitz has produced a resource guide for electronic journals at <http://www.harrassowitz.de/ms/ejresguide.html>. Publications cover the history of e-journals and the main issues involved in their production, management and use. There are sections on e-journal lists and directories, on publishers of e-journals and on standards such as metadata, preservation and archiving, and intellectual property issues.

Library e-newsletter

Library juice is a brief, no-frills news digest for librarians and library and information science students. It includes announcements (often clips from such services as the Scout Report), handy web resources, calls for papers, and other news affecting the library world. You can read it at the site, or opt to get it via e-mail [<http://www.libr.org/juice/>].

List service

If you just can't get enough of e-mail lists, visit List-News.com and get all the latest industry news. You can find out just about everything to do with e-mail lists, such as software, hosting, advertising, current research, archiving technologies, content and publishing [<http://list-news.com/>].

Zoom in on your favourite spots

The new Map Machine from National Geographic should be a fun place to go, as well as a useful and educational one. The site allows you to zoom in on specific areas of the world map. You can choose different themes for what you view, such as satellite imagery, land use, environmental threats, and earthquakes. You will need a reasonably fast link to get the best out of it as the map images can be slow to load [<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>].

Monica need not apply

Internship programs offer students a chance to 'try out' an area of work that interests them, whether in business, in voluntary organisations, or in government. Internship Programs <http://www.internshipprograms.com/> provides searchable access to over 2700 such programs (offering 200 000 jobs) from 'around the world' (actually only the United States or Europe). The programs are offered by a range of companies, governments, and not-for-profit organisations.

Cite it right

There are already a number of good websites on electronic citation styles, but Online Citation Styles is a good addition. The site makes it very simple to cite a range of electronic communications from MOOs and MUDs to chat, e-mail, newsgroup postings and web forums. It caters for different guidelines and styles, for example, MLA, APA, and the *Chicago Manual of Style* [<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html>].

Negotiating United Nations information

The United Nations (UN) has two helpful places to start finding information. The United Nations System <http://www.unsystem.org/> is the official website locator for UN programs, specialised agencies and organisations. The United Nations Documentation Research Guide provides basic research tools for deciphering document symbols, codes, numbering systems, and indexes to UN documents [<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/>]. If that is not enough, have a look at the Spire Project's guide to tracking down UN information at <http://cn.net.au/un.htm>. It provides advice on locating documents, organisations and depository libraries for UN publications.

We are all information workers now

The Commonwealth Government's vision for Australia in the information age is spelled out in the document *A strategic framework for the information economy — identifying priorities for action* <http://www.noie.gov.au/docs/strategy/strategicframework.html>.

Business news

If you want to link to a range of business publications easily, then the Business Publications Directory is not a bad start. It contains links to 120 publications such as *Forbes*, *Barron's*, *Business Week* and *Bloomberg's*, that provide some or all of their content online [<http://gwin.net/latestnews.cfm>].

Reference desk

For those who have not developed their own Virtual Reference Collection, try out Andrew's Online Reference which is a simple online guide to virtual sources [<http://www.lib.usf.edu/~abreiden/reference.html>]. My only quibble is the formatting which makes it hard to distinguish between what is text and what is a link.

Northern Ireland conflict resource

The CAIN (Conflict Archive on the INternet) site contains information and source material on the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' from 1968 to the present. The site is aimed at academics but anyone can use it. The Sutton Index of Deaths has recently been added to the site. This lists all people who have died as a result of the conflict since July 1969. Other links include the background to the conflict, and its key events and issues, links to the Northern Ireland Society and to other researchers, and a gateway to other Net resources on the topic [<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/>].

See you in 2000. ■

Library juice is a brief, no-frills news digest for librarians and library and information science students. It includes announcements, handy web resources, calls for papers, and other news affecting the library world...

SAVE YOURSELF THE TROUBLE OF TYPING THESE URLS!

This column (with associated hyperlinks) can be found on the Association's website, ALIANet, at <http://www.alia.org.au/incite/>

[Please note that full-stops at the end of any URL or e-mail addresses appearing in *incite* should NOT be used]

Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please e-mail Belinda Weaver at weaver@alia.org.au or via the ALIA National Office, incite@alia.org.au