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Home grown journals

Journals Australia, an initiative of the Australian Public Intellectual Network [<http://www.api-network.com/>], is a showcase for Australian journal publishing. It provides an alphabetical list of hundreds of Australian journals as well as extensive information on each title included. Information available includes cover images, excerpts, tables of contents, guidelines for contributors, subscription information, links to journal websites, ordering instructions and contact details. The journals listed cover a diverse range — *Australian Book Review*, *Eureka Street*, *Australasian Plant Pathology*, *Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia*, *Westerly* and others. See the list at [<http://www.journals-australia.com/>].

Stop the rot

Every library has to face the challenges of deteriorating print collections, so it is worth a look at Cornell Library Historical Monographs to see how one library implemented a digital solution to the problem. Brittle or ageing materials were scanned and placed online, and the collection, begun in 1990, now numbers more than 440 monographs, including such historically significant gems as Sir Richard Burton's 'Personal Narrative of a pilgrimage to el Medinah and Meccah'. You can search and browse by author or title, and the tools on the site allow you to jump to specific sections of items, such as illustrations. [<http://historical.library.cornell.edu/cdl/>]

Not only in libraries

Libraries are not the only organisations concerned with digitisation — museums and archival bodies are also heavily involved. A recent article in the (northern) Winter 2003 issue of *E-JASL: The Electronic Journal of Academic and Special Librarianship* covers the issue of digitisation in an archival environment. [<http://southernlibrarianship.icaap.org/>] Other articles in that issue include an examination of copyright law in cyberspace and usability testing at university libraries in Florida.

Avoiding a lockdown

In the new world of digital copyright where everything is possible, but so little is permitted, it is good to see a major scientific society pushing for greater openness and accessibility. The UK Royal Society's new report, 'Keeping science open: the effects of intellectual property policy on the conduct of science' deals with a range of issues around intellectual property and includes recommendations on copyright that could be adapted for other

types of material [<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/policy/>].

Delivery of documents...

People have been getting the full text of articles from electronic databases for some time now, but much library-to-library document delivery still relies on the production and mailing out of photocopies, a very labour-intensive business. The British Library's 'inside' service, in partnership with Adobe and Elsevier Science, has created an electronic delivery service that can deliver almost a million articles electronically, which should save a few pounds on postage. To get round the problems of copyright, the library has incorporated Adobe Content Server encryption and the Adobe Acrobat eBook Reader software into the document delivery process. This secure system is designed to protect intellectual property. Accordingly, Elsevier Science plan to make available backfiles of 1700 of their journals from 1999 for use by the electronic delivery system. Kluwer are also making hundreds of their journals available through the service. Full details are in the library's press release [<http://www.bl.uk/cgi-bin/press.cgi?story=1310>].

...and other things

The British Library is also planning a new service, called 'In Place' to showcase their collections. The site will launch on 21 May with the aim of getting around 100 000 images and sounds from the library's collections online by 2004. Materials planned for inclusion include maps, manuscripts, topographical illustrations, photographs, and sound recordings, including music hall songs. For those anxious to trip down memory lane, the collection will demonstrate how townscapes and landscapes have changed over time as green space is lost to tarmac, and towns steadily encroach on countryside. Preview the grand project at <http://www.bl.uk/about/inplaceintro.html>.

Giving the customer what they want

MyLibrary concepts have been around for a while now, some more successful than others. According to a new article by Susan Gibbons in the March 2003 issue of *D-Lib* magazine, 'Building upon the MyLibrary concept to better meet the information needs of college students', only around ten per cent of the potential user communities of academic libraries actually take up these kinds of services. The article describes a more successful attempt by the University of Rochester Librar-

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ies to deliver a flexible, targeted service. The 'CoURse Resources' system dynamically generates web pages tailored to university course offerings, thereby providing students with directly relevant online information, rather than material of borderline interest. Read the full article at <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/march03/gibbons/03gibbons.html>.

On air

Invisible web guru Gary Price apparently listens to Brisbane's radio station 4ZZZ-FM while working in Washington. Welcome to the world of internet radio, where you can tune into around 3000 stations worldwide. If you have not yet stuck a toe into this particular pool, a terrific starting point is Ian Winship's exhaustive article on the topic in FreePint [<http://www.freepint.com/issues/170403.htm.tips>]. He explains the mysteries of streaming audio and covers the kinds of things — music, news, religious services, parliamentary broadcasts, talkback, cultural offerings such as plays or book readings — you are likely to get. He also provides links for directories of stations online. Audio is less bandwidth-hungry than video, so even those with slow connections can often get to hear the station of their choice, and tap into a range of archived broadcasts. Public libraries, especially those in multicultural communities, might want to think about offering a guide to what's available, if they are not doing so already. Colleges and universities with large populations of foreign students would also find this article useful.

Checking up

Authentication is an important issue for libraries everywhere. Seamless access to licensed online resources is something customers want, but their right to use such services first has to be checked, usually through mechanisms such as username and password. A new (UK) Joint Information Systems Committee project called GLAM (which stands for Global Access Management) is evaluating one such authentication system called PAPI (Point of Access to Providers of Information) in the hope that it can solve the problems of authorised access to electronic library resources. The apparent advantage of the PAPI system is its ability to allow users access to all online resources in one go, rather than requiring new authentications for each resource. The project identifies three stages in this process — authentication, which identifies the person requesting access; au-

thorisation, which checks that person's rights to access; and accounting, which records all attempts at access for the purpose of generating management information and monitoring usage. Information on GLAM can be found at <http://www.glam.lon.ac.uk/>. Information on the PAPI protocol, including a FAQ and a beginner's guide, is at <http://www.rediris.es/app/papi/index.en.html>.

Working hard for their customers

Not every electronic journal publisher is beloved by librarians, but the Institute of Physics [<http://www.iop.org/>] certainly deserves an A for their efforts in offering new services to their users. All IOP e-journals are now z39.50 compliant, meaning that data from them can be searched and retrieved using the functionality of a subscriber's own library system, rather than that subscriber having to adapt to the publisher's very different system of search and retrieval. Cross-searching of all IOP journals in one go is thus made possible, which should be a time-saver. For those who would like to test it, the domain name is ej.iop.org, the port is 210 and the database name is ej. IOP say they are offering a 24/7 service. They are also offering e-mail alerting services — either tables of contents of specific journals or monthly updates on services such as IOP Select. You do not need to be a subscriber to any IOP journal in order to receive the alerts. You simply need to register by creating an account and then opting in to alerts for whatever journal interests you. Non-subscribers will be granted tables of contents and abstract access only, except for the freely available IOP Select and 'This Month's Papers' services. [<http://www.iop.org/EJ/options/>].

We're all Wellcome

New in the give-away business is the Wellcome Library's psci-comlit bibliographic database, a new, searchable source for journal and newspaper articles, reports and books on science communication, public engagement with science and the wider issues of science in society. With issues such as genetically modified food, cloning and global warming making their way into the daily press, databases such as these can help people stay informed. No full-text is currently offered, but many of the indexed materials would be available through other online databases or libraries. See it at <http://psci-com.org.uk/psci-comlit/>. ■

This column
[with URL links]
can be found at:



<http://www.alia.org.au/incite>

Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please contact Belinda Weaver via e-mail.

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