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Re-inventing the library

The Idea Stores (featured in Weaver's Web in May) were all about creating a new image for UK libraries. Now Coffee Cup [<http://www.librarysupportstaff.com/coffeelibs.html>] comes along to do a little of the same thing. The site is about cafes and libraries, and how both can re-invent themselves to attract more customers. There are links to articles on how libraries can use coffee bars and cafés to attract students back into libraries as well as more thoughtful pieces on the evolution of libraries.

Learning for bookstores too

While we are on the topic of re-invention, it would be worth looking at *Change in store?*, a report by Helen Cartwright, a United Kingdom Foreign Office librarian, on what impact the book superstores are having on public libraries. The article, a reworking of material from Cartwright's master's thesis, appeared in the July 2003 issue of CILIP's *Update* [<http://www.cilip.org.uk/update/issues/jul03/article3july.html>], and includes reports from focus groups about their perceptions of both libraries and bookshops. Library comments ranged from 'Pleasant but formal', 'Well-meaning but shabby', 'A bit forbidding, inaccessible' while bookstores got a better wrap-up — 'Friendly and modern', 'Very relaxing and accessible', 'It's one of these airy, inviting places'. Time to add a coffee shop? Anyone wanting to read the full thesis can find it at <http://dagda.shef.ac.uk/dissertations/2000-01/cartwright.pdf>.

Light entertainment

I found a peep into the *BookFinder.com Report* [<http://report.bookfinder.com/>] absolutely compelling. This list of the most sought-after out-of-print titles in America is designed to help librarians decide whether to toss something out or try to find replacements for worn-out material. Who would have thought a book by Larry Clark called *Teenage Lust* would make the cut? Or that people in droves are desperately seeking Hervey Allen's *Anthony Adverse*? John Denver's autobiography, *Take me home*, is also highly sought-after. The books are arranged by category, for example, Arts and Music, History, Fiction, Biography, and so on.

Getting the DTDs

With the US National Library of Medicine releasing a standard model for archiving and exchanging electronic journal articles using Document Type Definitions (DTDs), it is time for all librarians to get to grips with XML. Download or print the easy-to-use 'Getting started With XML!' written by Eric Lease Morgan [<http://www.infomotions.com/musings/getting-started/>]. This workbook and introduction to the

eXtensible Markup Language (XML) provides examples and structured hands-on exercises to help you come to grips with the language, and evaluate the uses of XML in making your library's data and information more accessible to people as well as computers. Information on the NLM's plans can be found in their press release, 'The National Library of Medicine defines standard content model for electronic archiving and publishing of journal articles' at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/press_releases/dtd_ncbi03pr.html.

Fed up with high priced journals?

Who isn't? The Information Access Alliance, which comprises such as bodies as SPARC, the Association of Research Libraries, the American Library Association and others, has put together a report, 'Publisher mergers: a consumer-based approach to anti-trust analysis' [<http://www.arl.org/scomm/mergers/WhitePaperV2Final.pdf>] to try to lobby for greater anti-trust review for possible future serial publishers' mergers. It calls for much greater consideration by authorities investigating the effects of mergers of the decision-making processes libraries use when deciding what to buy. Anything that helps the consumer, especially in the increasingly high-cost STM journal arena, must be good.

Legislating for open access to science

In a somewhat similar vein, the Public Library of Science (PLOS) is lobbying for new US legislation to make the results of all US federally financed research freely available to the public. The legislation, the Public Access to Science Act, would prevent the results of government-funded research becoming inaccessible because of copyright restrictions. American taxpayers invest about US\$45 billion a year in scientific and medical research. Since the research is primarily published in subscription journals, many people are locked out of the results of the research. This legislation aims to end that and open up the field to greater scrutiny. There is more information about the legislation the PLOS is proposing at http://www.plos.org/news/announce_wings.html. PLOS's complete press kit on the proposals is at http://www.plos.org/downloads/PLOS_Press_Kit_Final.pdf.

Stopping plagiarism

A new article, 'Plagiarism and cyber-plagiarism: A guide to selected resources on the web', by Patience Simmonds, has been published in *College and Research Libraries News* [http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ACRL/Publications/College_and_Research_Libraries_News/June3/June4/Plagiarism_and_cy

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ber-plagiarism.htm]. It covers the many existing online resources about plagiarism, explains fair use, and provides information on paper mills.

Moving online

Australia has its own archive of moving images at ScreenSound Australia. Now the UK has launched a one-stop shop, Moving History [<http://www.movinghistory.ac.uk/>], for the UK's twelve public sector moving image archives. The site includes a number of film and video clips to give a taste of the available collections, as well as contact details and information on getting access to materials in the different archives. There is also information on individual collections such as the scope of their holdings, for example, dates or places covered or production type. Collections include the UK's National Film and Television Archive, the Imperial War Museum Film and Video Archive, the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales and the Scottish Screen Archive, as well as regional collections.

For all web managers

The Library Web Manager's Reference Center [<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Web4Lib/RefCenter/>] is an almost overwhelming list of links. According to the site, many of the resources have been announced on the Web4Lib list, but it is good to see them arranged by category in a more permanent setting. Topics include getting connected, which covers access providers, client software and browsers; web page authoring and design, which covers everything from HTML, XML, CSS and digital library software; and public access measures such as application launchers and recovery software. There is a lot here. It would be worth poking around in the Knowledge Sharing area as it lists organisations, e-mail lists, conferences and journals of use to library web managers.

Cutting the wires

Your library may not be going wireless yet, but chances are you are thinking about it already. If you want to see how it has been implemented elsewhere, and what systems libraries are currently using, check out The Wireless Librarian: Libraries with Wireless Networks site [<http://people.morrisville.edu/~drewwe/wireless/wirelesslibraries.htm>]. It provides a list of United States academic and public libraries with wireless networks, and links both to individual library web pages and to information about the wireless systems in use, where available. The site has been created by librarian Bill Drew, who also maintains a site called the Wireless Librarian at <http://people.morrisville.edu/~drewwe/wireless/>.

Staying alert

With such a bewildering array of table of contents and e-mail alerting services available from journal and book publishers now available, it is a relief to have them all arranged neatly in one place, which is what the Email Alerting Services of Major Publishers/Vendors site does [<http://www.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/information/publisher.htm>]. The site, maintained by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, lists and describes each separate alerting service, and provides a link to the publisher site for anyone who wants to sign up for what is on offer. All major publishers are included, from Academic Press, Blackwell and Elsevier to Springer, Taylor & Francis and Wiley. Online booksellers such as Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble are also represented.

Blog tools

With thousands of new weblogs being created every minute, it is good to see blog search tools appearing online. Technorati [<http://www.technorati.com/cosmos/search.html>] has joined tools such as DayPop [<http://www.daypop.com/>] in the search business. It offers a keyword search to more than 360 000 blogs. Standard Boolean searches can be run, and phrases should be enclosed in quotation marks.

Technical lowdown

EngLib [<http://englib.info/>] is a new blog for engineering and science librarians run by engineering librarian Catherine Lavallo-Welch to share news about 'conferences, classes, professional associations and other technological gizmos' of interest. The blog has current postings on the left and links on the right to relevant associations, conferences, databases, education, and employment opportunities. Past postings are archived.

Just for fun

Sometimes a tiny, personal archive can be one of the nicest things to visit online. Tamara Kennelly, University Archivist at Virginia Tech in the United States has mounted an online exhibition called A Gallery of Bloomsday Cards [<http://spec.lib.vt.edu/specgen/blooms/bloom.htm>]. These are digitised postcards which celebrate Bloomsday (16 June), the date of Leopold Bloom's odyssey through Dublin in James Joyce's novel *Ulysses*. The postcards are a collection sent annually to Kennelly by her Irish father and most of the places on the postcards are related to or represent scenes from the novel. Her father regularly includes quotes from the book in his messages. ■

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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