Webb's web

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More hotlinks in court

The legal system just can't help becoming involved in Net affairs. Remember the Shetlands newspapers court case about hotlinks, reported in the February *inCite*? Well, it's now happening in the United States. A service, TotalNews, has been taken to court by CNN, The Washington Post, Dow Jones, Times Mirror and Reuters, because they object to hotlinks from TotalNews to their Web sites which results in their content being framed by the TotalNews home page and its banner ads.

Check it out at http://www.totalnews.com. One interesting feature is that when you select most newspapers, the TotalNews frames continue to surround the pages from the selected newspapers (thus the lawsuit). The New York Times — not so much. After a couple of seconds, the surrounding frames disappear and the Times page takes over the entire screen. With some help from Lisa Spillers from the Australian National University, I've found out that this is done using Java. Other newspapers' sites (so far) haven't managed to do this.

Meanwhile in Georgia, USA, they have a law that makes it a crime to have a link without the permission of the linked site. Full details are at http://www.clark.net/pub/rothman/ga.htm. The ACLU, joined by Electronic Frontiers Georgia and others, filed a suit last September against this law. Move and countermove. Keep tuned. We ain't seen nothing yet.

CSIRO web pages
Cynthia Love and the team at CSIRO Information Technology Services have put together a Web site full of surprises. Some of the facilities (such as on-line ILL requests) are only accessible from within the organisation, but others like the links to copyright resources at http://www.cis.csiro.au/cis/lib/copyright/cpyright.htm can be used by anyone.

News from the north
From former ALIA president Jenny Cram comes word that Education Queensland (formerly the Department of Education) has a new website at http://www.qed.qld.gov.au, I particularly liked the calendar of special events.

Bills on-line
Since early in March, the House of Representatives has made available through its website copies of all Bills initiated in the House, together with explanatory memoranda where these have been supplied in the appropriate format by the sponsor department. It intends to remove each bill following assent. The material will be available initially in .pdf format, but when the existing Parliamentary DataBase System is replaced later this year, different formats may be employed.

To find the bills, click on Bills under the Legislation heading on the House of Representatives page at http://www.aph.gov.au/house/.

Computer Law Observer
The *Computer Law Observer* is a free monthly e-mail newsletter that discusses legal issues relating to computers, the Internet and technology. Topics include encryption, privacy, unauthorised e- mail, copyrights, trademarks, multi-media rights and more. The *Observer* is written by William Galkin, a US attorney and academic specialising in this area of law. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to lawobserver-request@charm.net with the word subscribe in the message area.

JoDI
The *Journal of Digital Information*, JoDI, is a new electronic journal (it will not be published in paper form) for the multidisciplinary field of digital information. The journal aims to be the primary electronic source for high quality refereed articles, as well as a forum for the on-line discussion of articles. It was launched at Hypertext '97, the 8th ACM Hypertext conference held at Southampton University in April.

The journal invites submissions on a wide variety of topics, such as digital libraries, hypermedia systems, information management and the social consequences of digital information. Articles can be submitted in most electronic formats, but as the journal will be made available over the Web, material in HTML form will require less modification prior to publication.

Access to JoDI will be free at least until December 1998. For details on how to submit articles to JoDI, details are at http://jodi.ecs.soton.ac.uk/.

Spot the sheep
The National Library of New Zealand has launched its *Timeframes* project, providing a pictorial snapshot of life in New Zealand. Through it you can view, search, browse, print and order copies of heritage images from the pictorial collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library. There are currently 1000 images to choose from, with around 25 000 expected to be available by the turn of the century. You can access it at http://timeframes.natlib.govt.nz/ with the username timeframes and the password images. (For the record, a search on 'sheep' gives fourteen hits and 'rugby' gives seven).

Needle in a cyberstack
John Albee from the Davenport Community Schools in Iowa, has collected a lot of links to search engines and Internet resources (including a few Australian sites) at http://

home.revealed.net/~albee/index.html. It's definitely worth bookmarking.

Legal information on the Net
The law firm of Gilbert and Tobin has published guides on various topics relating to commerce and the law. You can find a number of recent publications on matters like Net censorship and intellectual property concepts in Web browsing at in full or abstracted at http://www.gtlaw.com.au/gt/bin/frameup.cgi/gt/pubs/.

Duplicates list
Tom Girke from the Biomedical Library at Monash University has established DUPSTM-L, a list devoted to the exchange of journal duplicate and back issues between Australian libraries in the areas of Science, Technology and Medicine. All the information that you'll need to use the list is at http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/biomed/dupstm.htm. Seems like a good idea.

International scholarly communication
Tony Barry is certainly staying active following his departure from the ANU. He has been asked by CAUL to write a paper on network co-operation with their UK counterpart. Following last year's Scholarly Communications Conference, they agreed to co-operate and are now developing the concept. Tony's initial draft of the paper is at http://www.anu.edu.au/CNASI/pubs/cauluk.html. Comments on the paper are welcome.

Scientific American and the Net
The March 1997 issue of *Scientific American* concentrates on the Net with a special report, 'The Internet: Bringing order from chaos'. With articles from Michael Lesk on building electronic libraries and Clifford Lynch on searching the Internet, it's a very good read. Check it out at http://www.sciam.com/0397issue/0397intro.html.

LC RFP
If you're planning to do some serious digitisation, you might want to look at this. The Library of Congress National Digital Library Program (NDLP) has made available the full content of the RFP which supports all paper scanning activities within the program. It appears as part of the LC American Memory/NDLP website at the Background Documents and Technical Reports page, under Technical Operations Documentation. You can find it at http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ftpfiles.html. The document was written by a team of staff from the LC National Digital Library Program, and supports the conversion of a variety of LC archival, paper-based and primarily textual collections into raster-scanned digital images of the original pages and, in some cases, into

machine-readable texts encoded with Standard Generalised Markup Language (SGML).

Internet research
MCB University Press has launched *Internet Research: Electronic Networking Applications and Policy*, an electronic journal which 'offers scholarly papers on key issues and technological development in this fast-developing area of information technology'. Further information (including the subscription cost can be found at http://www.mcb.co.uk/liblink/intr/jourhome.htm.

Metadata seminar
As reported in the previous column, The Metadata caravan paused briefly in Canberra early in March and has now passed on *[ed. see our story on p12]*. A report on the National Metadata Seminar at the NLA can be found through http://www.nla.gov.au/niac/metadata.html.

A new approach to on-line journals
The *Journal of Interactive Media in Education* (JIME) was launched late last year by the UK Open University's Knowledge Media Institute. It is an on-line peer-reviewed journal covering the theoretical and practical aspects of interactive media in education. It doesn't have a chronological concept of an issue, but instead publishes articles for open peer review as they are received. Submissions are available for on-line peer review for about a month. The initial papers and the reviewers' comments are posted on the Web to allow readers to trace the flow of the review process and add their own comments as well. It's at http://www-jime.open.ac.uk/jime/.

Australian library projects
In the latest edition of *Ariadne*, the UK's e-journal on developments in library internetworking, there's a report on some Australian projects including DSTC's Resource Discovery project, the University of Sydney Library's SETIS, Monash's University Electronic Reserve project, Preserving Oral History Recordings at the NLA, and the Australian Co-operative Digitisation Project. It's all at http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/ariadne/issue8/.

The making of America
At the University of Michigan Digital Library, they're putting together a new collection of material about the development of the infrastructure of the American nation. The collection currently contains around 200 000 pages of American publications from 1850 to 1900, and by the end of 1997 it will extend to include approximately 650 000 pages, including several journals. The MOA collection is at http://www.umdl.umich.edu/moa/. ∎