



Kerry Webb

Rushing to the Net

Hotwired magazine has a feature called Brain Tennis, where discussions can be held on a web page with the reader being able to follow the to-and-fro pretty much as they would the rallies in a tennis match. It's intriguing and it works. See it at <http://www.hotwired.com/synapse/braintennis/97/34/index0a.html>.

RLG metadata report

The Research Libraries Group hosted a summit in July this year looking at metadata issues. This arose from the work of the Task Force on Meta Access of the Association of Library Collections and Technical Services. The participants at the summit represented research information projects, standards groups and related communities. Its goal was to identify metadata issues that have special relevance for the research community so that a common action agenda could be developed. A full report is at <http://www.rlg.org/meta9707.html>.

Canadian initiative on digital libraries

Canadian libraries interested in improving communication and co-ordination in the development of Canadian digital library resources have formed a new alliance. The Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries (CIDL) will provide a forum for sharing information and experience related to digital libraries, discussing best practices in areas such as digitisation, metadata, encoding, and rights management, defining roles and responsibilities for long-term archiving of Canadian digital resources, and raising awareness of Canadian digital library activities both in Canada and internationally. More information on CIDL is at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cidl/>.

Address correction

In July I wrote about the Internet Medicus site. Sheelagh Noonan reports that the site is now called Internet Medical and can be found at <http://www.internetmedical.com.au>.

... and an update for art libraries

The IFLA Section of Art Libraries' International Directory of Art Libraries site has changed its address to <http://iberia.vassar.edu/ifla-idal>.

A cautionary tale

It pays to be careful about putting your e-mail address on what you write. An American author had an article published in an American publication last year with her address at the beginning of the article. Excerpts from the article were later used in promoting a conference in Australia, together with an in-

itation by the conference organisers to write to the author (who had no association with the conference) if you wanted more information. Quite a lot of people did write, which came as a surprise to the author.

Now you could say that she should have expected responses if she published her e-mail address, but it's the context that's important. People reading the journal may not have been moved to respond, but an invitation in a brochure is something else, isn't it?

PACS archives

The PACS-L and PACS-P moderators have announced the availability of PACS-L and PACS-P archives on the Web. The complete archives can be searched by keyword, word in subject line, author, and more. They are at <http://listserv.uh.edu/archives/pacs-l.html> and <http://listserv.uh.edu/archives/pacs-p.html>.

Penrith online

The people at Penrith City Library are proud of their OPAC on the Web — they are the first public library in Australia to have one. The OPAC itself was designed by the staff at the library with the aid of a consultant, and has been in operation since 1993. The Web interface is also a local development and now allows patrons to access the catalogue at the same terminal as they access the library's homepage and its CD-ROM network. See it at <http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/Lib/searchcat.htm>.

King hit

The King County Public Library in Seattle (<http://www.kcls.org/>) last year won an ALA Award as a result of their work in tracking down a hacker who had brought down their system. After the publicity they got, they heard from other libraries who'd had similar problems but had been too embarrassed to report these incidents. My advice is — if you've been hacked, admit it and work with the police to apprehend the perpetrator.

When push comes to shove

The ZDNet AnchorDesk site provides regular news and comment on IT and Internet issues. In a recent issue (http://www4.zdnet.com/anchordesk/story/story_1113.html), they discussed 'push' technology of the type used by Pointcast. Here's an extract:

'Push vendors are convinced that we want to know the second anything is delivered. As a result, they constantly set off alerts and banners and pop-ups and animations and screen savers... It's one thing for the paperboy to place the morning edition on your doorstep. It's another for him to barge

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into your bathroom at 6:45am screaming "The news is here! The news is here!"

African libraries list

At the Summit of World Library Leaders held in New York last year, a group decided to establish a discussion forum for libraries in Africa, to encourage contact and communication between and among professionals on the continent. It is open to all libraries and information workers and others with an interest in librarianship and information work who are working in Africa or have a strong interest in Africa.

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to AFLIB-L@statelib.pwv.goc.za with subscribe <your e-mail address> in the body of the message.

Z39.50 issues

Fay Turner of the National Library of Canada has established a site dealing with Z39.50 as applied to holdings data at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/iso/z3950/>. This supplements the official NLC page for general Z39.50 Application Issues at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/resource/vcuc/z3950ap.htm>. Fay is looking for additional documents, so if you have any suggestions send them to carrol.lunau@nlc-bnc.ca.

Law comes to the Net

There's an interesting on-line journal called *Cyberspace Law* which put out its first issue in November 1996. The latest is dated August 1997 and is at <http://www.ssrn.com/CyberLaw/lawpaper.html>. Some papers are stored at the site and can be downloaded in PDF format to be read by an Adobe Acrobat reader. Others are stored at the authors' sites, which means that you can't be sure that they're still there. Papers in the August issue cover topics such as the right to 'read anonymously' and intellectual freedom aspects of the PICS rating system.

IFLA on libraries and the Internet

The IFLA Internet Discussion Group (IIDG) is looking for papers on the use of the Internet by libraries and librarians around the world. The first collection of these papers will be published in a monograph, entitled *Libraries and the Internet: global case studies* to be edited by Nancy R John and Edward J Valauskas.

Papers may cover all aspects of library activity, and will identify a given library problem, discuss the opportunities that the Internet provides to both library personnel and patrons, and discuss the effectiveness and impact of an Internet-based solution. For

Author guidelines, see <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/VII/dg/index.htm>.

FINS Archive

One of the more colourful writers on the Net is Vigdor Schreiberman, author of the *Federal Information News Syndicate* (FINS) which appears from time to time on lists such as PACS-L — indeed a couple of years ago there was spirited debate on PACS-L about whether the moderators should continue to tolerate his outspoken postings.

He's announced that the Fins Information-Age Library (FIAL), has been established at the SunSITE (Sun Software, Information, and Technology Exchange) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The FIAL includes an archive of his FINS columns and a set of directories for 'relevant information, critical synthesis, and dialogue focused upon the emerging philosophy of the information age'. Make up your own mind by seeing it at <http://sunsite.utk.edu/FINS/>.

RLG DigiNews

The second issue of RLG's *DigiNews* can be found at <http://www.rlg.org/preserv/diginews/>. *DigiNews* is a quarterly web-based newsletter focussing on issues of particular interest and value to managers of digital initiatives related to preservation. This issue covers the Cornell Digital to Microfilm Conversion Project and a review of initiatives in film scanning of newspaper collections. There's also a report on a survey of service providers who offer conversion between microfilm and digital image files, either as COM recording or microfilm scanning.

Content regulation

Michael Baker, a Board Member of Electronic Frontiers Australia has established a page with links to press coverage of the ongoing debate on Internet content regulation in this country. You can see it at <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~mbaker/presscoverage.html>.

First Monday

First Monday is a peer-reviewed journal on the Net, about the Net. Issues first appear via e-mail and are then archived on the Web site at <http://www.firstmonday.dk/>. An annual CD-ROM of published articles is also planned. It's published by Munksgaard.

In the September issue, there's a description of the Digital Scriptorium at Duke University, where users can conduct research into digital material from the library's collections and also enhance the collection with their own work. ■

The ALIA home pages and the ALIA web service, ALIANet, can be found at the following URL:
<http://www.alia.org.au/>

SAVE YOURSELF THE TROUBLE OF TYPING THESE URLS!

This column (with associated hyperlinks) is on ALIANet, and has the URL of <http://www.alia.org.au/incite/www/>

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

Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please e-mail Kerry Webb at kerry.webb@alianet.alia.org.au or via the ALIA National Office, incite@alia.org.au

*It's one thing for
the paperboy to
place the morning
edition on your
doorstep. It's
another for him to
barge into your
bathroom at
6:45am screaming
'The news is here!
The news is here!'*