

# Librarianship 1-2-3

Three useful places this month for professional materials. The Library Association makes a lot of full-text reports available in the professional issues section of its site, including responses to government on a range of topics [<http://www.la-hq.org.uk/directory/profissues.html>].

The Internet Library for Librarians [<http://www.itcompany.com/inforetriever/index.htm>] is a very large gateway to internet resources related to librarianship. The site functions partly as a virtual reference collection (some good directories and other ready reference materials here) as well as providing links to resources on acquisitions, cataloguing and other staples.

PICK provides a subject gateway to library and information science resources on the internet. The site is compiled and maintained by staff at the Thomas Parry Library, University of Wales. There are four ways to navigate the site — by browsing the contents list, or by using subject, classmark or keyword searches [<http://www.aber.ac.uk/~tplwww/e/>].

## PubSCIENCE launched

The United States Department of Energy launched PubSCIENCE on 1 October [<http://pubsci.osti.gov/>]. The free service allows you to search peer-reviewed journal literature in the physical sciences and other energy-related disciplines. Results are hyperlinked to the web servers of publishers participating in the service. Access to the full text of articles should be easily obtained by subscribers. Non-subscribers will have to pay, but there is a range of payment and access options, including pay-per-view.

## Finding tool for e-mail lists

Catalist [<http://www.lsoft.com/gatalist.html>] is a searchable catalogue of LISTSERV public discussion lists, which provides current information on more than 28 000 lists. It is constantly updated so you should be able to find very new lists quite easily. You can search for a mailing list on a specific topic or view lists by host country (good if you only want Australian lists). You can also opt to browse lists by size of membership.

## On the topic but off the list

A new service called 'Take It Offline' looks handy for the times you need a quick way to discuss a topic that is not your discussion list's main focus [<http://www.takeitoffline.com/>]. Setting up is straightforward. Fill in a form at the site, and select 'Start topic'. The site creates a private discussion space for your topic and sends you the web address of the space via e-mail. You can then forward the address to your discussion list and ask people to contribute comments. Useful if you wanted to host a web forum or set up a temporary e-mail conference.

## Coming soon to a computer near you

Netweek is a guide to live internet events. It is a bit like the TV guide, only for the 'net. So if you want a 'What's on in sport, concerts, or forums', have a look here [<http://www.netweek.com.au/>].

The *Sydney Morning Herald's* recently revamped Icon section also has weekly what's on listings for the 'net' [<http://www.smh.com.au/icon/>].

## Report central

The Virtual Technical Reports Center may evolve into a useful site for finding research papers and technical reports. The institutions listed at the site aim to provide either the full-text or searchable extended abstracts of reports they publish. This site also contains links to preprints, reprints, dissertations, theses, and research reports of all kinds. The site should be updated weekly [<http://www.lib.umd.edu/UMCP/ENGIN/TechReports/Virtual-TechReports.html>].

## The virtual article

InfoJump is a new free service offering journals and journal articles. It looks a bit like a portal — you can browse by broad category — but you get articles instead of websites [<http://www.infojump.com/>]. The site claims to have over five-million articles. You can search the entire database of articles or within particular categories, for example, music or arts and humanities.

## Brains trust

Compiled by the Japanese National Institute for Research Advancement, the *World Directory of Think Tanks* [<http://www.nira.go.jp/ice/tt-info/nwdtt99/>] lists almost 300 research institutes worldwide, organised alphabetically by country or area.

## Millennium watch?

*Entering the 21st century — the World Development Report 1999/2000* is the twenty-second edition of the World Bank's annual report [<http://www.worldbank.org/wdr/2000/>]. It examines the effects of globalisation and localisation on the world economy in the coming millennium. Earlier reports (from 1998 and 1997) are also still available at the site if you need to make comparisons.

## Millennial working

The US Department of Labor has tried to imagine the way we (or Americans, anyway) will work in the next century. Their report *Futurework — trends and challenges for work in the 21st century* [<http://www.dol.gov/dol/asp/public/futurework/report.htm>] examines the social impact of the changed economic system. If you don't like the sound of it, you could have a look on Labor Unions and the Internet [<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/library/reference/Guides/LUI.html>], a good gateway for national and international unions, and other industrial related material such as government laws, regulations, and judicial decisions, collective bargaining.

## Australia/United Nations partnerships

Good timing for the appearance of this site from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, given Australia's current involvement in East Timor. The site, 'Australia and the United Nations', provides information about Australia's contribution to United Nations activities [<http://www.dfat.gov.au/un/>].



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### **Publishers' catalogues online**

Are publishers making their catalogues more widely accessible by posting them on the web, or just passing on printing and distribution costs to end users? Either way, it is a trend that is probably going to continue. Cambridge International Science has put up their latest catalogue at <http://www.demon.co.uk/cambsci/ctlg.pdf>. The catalogue is in Portable Document Format, so you will need Adobe Acrobat (free from <http://www.adobe.com/>) to read it. Baker and Taylor have a new web site at <http://www.btol.com/>. The site provides a free pricing and availability service for titles published in the United States, and online ordering is in the pipeline.

### **Virtual behaviour examined**

'The virtual society?' research project is a United Kingdom-based program that looks at whether people behave and interact differently because of new electronic technologies. The project, which began in 1997, will run until 2000 and comprises twenty-two projects, involving researchers at twenty-five universities throughout the United Kingdom [<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/research/virtsoc/intro.htm>].

### **No frames, please**

Dr Jakob Nielsen, who writes the excellent AlertBox Web column, has archived earlier columns and writings at Usable Information Technology [<http://www.useit.com/>]. The content on the site includes information about how people read on the web, the top ten mistakes web designers and managers make (and sadly are still making), technical information about bandwidth and browsers, and more. You do not have to be a geek to get something useful from here — Nielsen's writing is for everyone.

### **Best legal practice**

A big hand to the Legal Information Standards Council who have developed draft best practice guidelines for Australian legal websites [<http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/lisc/recommend/bpguide.html>]. The guidelines aim to foster the development of good legal websites and also to start aspiring legal website developers off on the right track. Comments on the draft can be directed to Sue Scott, Law Foundation of NSW, [sscott@lawfoundation.net.au](mailto:sscott@lawfoundation.net.au).

### **Invisible web**

Diana Botluk of LLRX has an online column this month called 'Exposing the invisible web' [<http://www.llrx.com/columns/exposing.htm>]. The invisible web is gaining currency as a term — even the National Library of Australia (NLA) has adopted it and created a section in its internet resources section [[http://www.nla.gov.au/pathways/pthw\\_global.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/pathways/pthw_global.html)] to link to this material. The NLA calls it the information search engines cannot find. Basically, the invisible web stands for sites such as IntelliSeek's InvisibleWeb [<http://www.invisibleweb.com/>], Lycos's searchable databases [[http://dir.lycos.com/Reference/Searchable\\_Databases/](http://dir.lycos.com/Reference/Searchable_Databases/)], WebData [<http://www.webdata.com/>] and DirectSearch [<http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/direct.htm>] which provide gateways to online databases, whether they be bibliographical, statistical, or archives. Botluk

provides links to some of the main gateways to track down relevant databases.

### **Australiana**

The National Library of Australia has recently added key Australiana collections to its excellent resource, the Australian Libraries Gateway [<http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/resource/australiana.html>].

### **Cyber effort**

CyberDewey is a new site that seeks to catalogue the web by Dewey class number. If you click on 070, for example, you will find sites related to journalism. It is still in the early stages, but worth a look at <http://www.telerama.com/~mundie/CyberDewey/CyberDewey.html>.

### **Ignite your career**

The Commonwealth, State and Territory governments and the Industry IT&T Skills Task Force have launched a new site, Ignite, for people wanting jobs or courses in the information technology and telecommunications (IT&T) fields. The site [<http://www.ignite.net.au/>] should be a useful resource for librarians and library users who want to find out about IT&T education and training pathways, career profiles, and skills in demand. There might be a career just waiting for you.

### **Researching Australian taxation**

Colin Fong, librarian, Australian Taxation Studies Program, University of New South Wales, has put together three library research guides to finding Australian taxation materials. Visit the site at <http://www.atax.unsw.edu.au> then follow the link 'For students'. The first two guides are designed for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The third guide, Research guide to GST, is for anyone interested in the GST. It includes references to Canadian, New Zealand and United Kingdom materials as well as Australian.

### **New name, new address**

The *Research Bulletin* of the British Library Research and Innovation Centre has had a name change to the *Library and Information Commission Research Bulletin*. The earlier Bulletin was published from 1987 to 1999. Find the new publication at <http://www.lic.gov.uk/publications/bulletin/index.html>. It is free and you can get it in two versions — a complete PDF version to download and an HTML version containing only the substantive articles.

### **The scope of digitisation**

The final report of the Scoping Study conducted by Oxford University on the future of digitisation of its collections is now available from the project's website [<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/scoping/>].

### **Measuring the web**

OCLC's Office of Research has an ongoing 'Web characterisation project' that includes statistics and analysis of the size of the web. Research results from the project are publicly available at <http://www.oclc.org/oclc/research/projects/webstats/>. OCLC staff are also working with the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Characterisation to promote the web through analysis of its structure, content, and usage. ■

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### **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]

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