

Virtually digital

For those who did not get to spend spring in Moscow this year, the proceedings of the *Managing the Digital Future of Libraries* conference held there in April are now online at <http://www.rsl.ru/tacis/menuceedings.htm>. The papers, written by presenters from more than twenty countries, cover a wide range of digitisation issues, such as electronic document delivery, digital audio collections, the digitisation of early books and newspapers, quality assurance, metadata, library co-operation and retro-conversion. Some of the papers can be viewed in PowerPoint format, but text-only links are also provided.

Could try harder?

The US Library of Congress has been at the forefront of digitisation, with mammoth projects such as American Memory. However, a new report from the US National Research Council questions how well the LC really is handling digital information. The full report, *LC21: A digital strategy for the Library of Congress*, is available through the National Academy Press (<http://www.nap.edu/books/0309071445/html>). While recognising the work the Library has done in converting material to digital formats, the report raises, as a matter of urgency, the question of how the Library should go about collecting and preserving materials that are already digital, for example websites. The report includes recommendations for action.

Hot topic

The preservation of digital material is a hot topic at Documents in Information Science [<http://dois.mimas.ac.uk/>] too. This web-based database of full-text articles and papers is free to use, and includes documents in both HTML and Portable Document Format. The current holdings include 939 articles and 75 papers, but more are being added all the time. The source journals include *D-Lib*, *Ariadne* and the *Journal of Electronic Publishing*, as well as the *CLIR Reports*. Not all documents are in English; some are in French and Spanish. You can browse the list of articles or papers search the lot by keyword.

Picture this...

Picture Australia is a very nice-looking site [<http://www.pictureaustralia.org/>] that provides searchable access to a large collection of images of various kinds from Australian cultural institutions. The images may be of people, places, objects or events. Many are historical. If you are not sure what you are looking for, you can follow a pre-set trail, such as the Olympics.

The site also accepts suggestions for new trails, so if you would like to see an idea or theme represented, e-mail the site and ask. The image providers include the Australian War Memorial, the National Library of Australia, and the State Libraries of NSW, Tasmania, and Victoria.

... and this

The National Gallery of Australia has also launched a search facility at <http://www.nga.gov.au/Search/>. The site looks rather stark and bare, but includes a range of search options, such as artist or culture, title or keyword, collection area, and record type. Make sure you check the record type option, Imaged search, if you want to see a picture of the art works you are seeking. Otherwise, all you get is collection information, which is a mildly disappointing result for an art gallery collection search. There is also a much more detailed advanced search.

News from the Caucasus

EurasiaNet [<http://www.eurasianet.org/>] is a new service for news and analysis on Central Asia and the Caucasus. You can also find news here about other regions such as Russia and Southwest Asia that have an impact on this region. This looks to be a comprehensive information service for this area, with daily news by country, newswires and longer news features, and an analytical section on current affairs called Eurasia Insight. There is some cultural information, for example book reviews and photo essays as well. You can also get analytical pieces grouped by topic, for example business and economics, and environment and resource pages for particular countries. Election and human rights information is also available.

Multimedia finding tool for classics

This handy site, On-Line Survey of Audio-Visual Resources for Classics [<http://www.drjclassics.com/>], allows you to track down multimedia resources for classics and ancient history teaching and learning. The site links you to commercial and free providers of resources which range from CD-ROMs, slides and audio tapes to websites and videos. In some cases, you can get straight on to an online catalogue or order form.

Australian EEVL

Engineering librarians will probably know all about EEVL, the Edinburgh engineering virtual library. The Australasian Virtual Engineering Library (AVEL) [<http://www.avel.edu.au/>] is a new Australian portal to good-quality Australasian engineering and IT resources on the web. You can search or browse within the database. Other features

Weavers web



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include conference announcements, jobs, some full-text papers, and a link to the EN-GINE database which contains more than 30 000 papers published by the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Better online?

The *Atlantic Monthly's* [<http://www.theatlantic.com/>] free online version, Atlantic Unbound, offers a few features, such as the reader comment Post and Riposte section, not available to print readers. You can browse back issues and search for past articles as well as read the latest issue. There is also an online archive of articles that have appeared in the web version. The archive is virtually complete for issues from November 1995, to the present. Only selected older articles (November 1857, to November 1995) are archived.

Metadata

The introduction to metadata — Pathways to digital information, edited by Murtha Baca, is now online at <http://www.getty.edu/gri/standard/intrometadata/>. This is the full, revised, online version of this work, published by the Getty Standards Program, and it includes essays, metadata standards, a glossary and a list of acronyms. It also has some useful images, such as the Life Cycle of Objects Contained in a Digital Information System, for those who like their information visual. All sections of the book are available in both HTML and Portable Document Format.

Online book browser

Bookface is an online bookshop where you can read snippets of new publications as a taster. The site offers a fairly broad range of novels, non-fiction, and short stories which you find directly by keyword searching or by browsing the list of genres, for example fantasy, history, romance, listed down the side. You need to register before being able to read pieces online, which might put some people off — the form has the kind of personal questions that spell junk e-mail ever after. However, it is a way of checking out books you might never see in your local bookshop, and it is definitely a way of peeping between the covers of gossipy ones you might be embarrassed to pick off a real bookshelf, so check it out at <http://www.bookface.com/>.

Sounds like?

The Book Forager [<http://www.branching-out.net/forager/>] may be handy after you have read something at Bookface, as it aims to help you find other books similar to ones you have read and liked already. This could

be a handy service for readers who have read every romance going and want something new. The database was compiled for the United Kingdom Chief Librarians' Branching Out Project, and is intended for public library staff use. At first the categories seem somewhat whacky — happy/sad, easy/demanding, safe/frightening — but they come to make sense when you think about how people actually ask for material. You can check up to four of the options, on a sliding scale, for each search. There are also extra search options such as settings (Australia does not get a mention — presumably we are lobbed in with South Pacific), plot and character. So the next time a reader comes in wanting a nice, safe, easy read about a South Pacific person going on a quest, this could just be the perfect tool.

Busy bees

The Bookhive [<http://www.bookhive.org/bookhive.htm>] is a searchable collection of reviews of children's books, written by public librarians in North Carolina. You can look for reviews of books in a particular genre, for example adventure, classics, fantasy and sci-fi, or search for particular authors, titles and illustrators. You can also search for books that match a particular reading level or interest.

Legal one-stop-shop

LawPORTAL [<http://www.lawportal.com.au/>] is a new online guide to Australian legal resources. It links to a range of daily court lists, and also provides links to legislation, regulations, cases, Hansard, Parliamentary Papers, tax information, accounting standards, business and domain names and more. It also contains links to Australian newspapers, to E-Trade, and to other banking investment information, so you could satisfy a range of inquiries here.

Get the evidence

Whether you use the term Evidence Based Health Care, or Evidence Based Medicine, the new Evidence Based Health Care Web directory (a collaboration of the University of Chicago's Library of the Health Sciences and HealthWeb) has all the information you need on this burgeoning field of medical practice. The directory is simply laid out, and entries are annotated. Follow the categories of information that you need, for example organisations, databases, journals and e-journals, internet resources, and other, related sites. There is also a guide to searching the literature on evidence based health care [<http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/projects/resources/healthweb/ebhc/>]. ■

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.

This is the full, revised, online version of this work and it includes essays, metadata standards, a glossary and a list of acronyms...