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If you're information-deprived, you're just not trying...

The *How much information?* study [<http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/how-much-info/>] attempted to measure how much print, optical, magnetic, mail or internet information is produced in the world each year. Produced by academic staff and students at the School of Information Management and Systems at the University of California at Berkeley, the study examined several media and estimated yearly production, accumulated stock, rates of growth, and other variables. They concluded that the world's total yearly production of print, film, optical, and magnetic content would require roughly 1.5 billion gigabytes of storage — the equivalent of 250 megabytes per person for each man, woman, and child on earth. Surprisingly, print documents only accounted for 0.003 percent of the total. Magnetic storage was the clear winner with an estimated 635 660 to 1 693 000 terabytes per year. For each medium, the report offers a detailed chart and there are links to several current articles. Different recommendations are offered, depending on how badly you feel that you are suffering from information overload — the choices go from heavy to information-deprived.

Describing Canada

Canadian subject headings on the web [<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cshweb/index-e.htm>] will assist any cataloguer working with Canadian materials. Created by the National Library of Canada, the Headings are an online version of the Library's *Canadian Subject Headings*, itself a complement to the *Library of Congress Subject Headings*. The web version is a freely-searchable database of about 6000 subject headings that focus specifically on Canadian topics. The web version includes the full, third edition of the print version, as well as later revisions to it. In addition to providing full subject authority records in both thesaurus and MARC21 display formats, CSH on the web also provides access to a version of the CSH Lists of Subdivisions in Portable Document Format. The entire site is updated monthly, in both English and French versions.

Footprints before me...

... is a new online resource for indigenous Queenslanders who want to begin researching their family or community history. The site has been developed by the Indigenous Libraries Unit of the State Library of Queensland [<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/publib/footprints/>]. Under 'Working and Living', you can search military records or newspapers and journals. There is also advice on accessing

and using the records of land councils, stations and the police. There is a births, deaths and marriages section and one for mission, reserve and church records. The site also provides 'Link-Up', a service for people who have been adopted or placed in an institution and want to find their family, as well as message boards for people who want to post information or questions. You can also e-mail comments to ilu@slq.qld.gov.au.

100 years on

The National Program for the Centenary of Federation was launched in November 2000 at Parliament House. It outlines a calendar of events and projects to mark the 100th anniversary of Australian nationhood. The national centenary website [<http://www.centenary.gov.au>] has a lot of useful information but any gravitas is undermined by flashing, scrolling and blinking bits which become annoying after a while. Kids may get a bit of fun out of the Federation quiz (you need the Flash 4 plug-in); I will wait for the plain text version. So what can you get at the site? The 'Resource Library' has online versions of print publications such as the *Federation timeline*; 'What's Happening' lists events and activities; and the 'Media Centre' will keep you up to date with news releases and announcements. The site is sponsored by Coles-Myer, and there are links to Centenary merchandise for those who like to collect memorabilia.

Snippets from the cutting-room floor

I have been a Scout Report fan [<http://scout.cs.wisc.edu>] for many years, finding it one of the best web-alerting services for substantial new Net materials. Now the folks at Internet Scout have launched a Weblog at <http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/weblog/>. They say the Weblog will feature 'numerous interesting items that for some reason or another don't quite fit our selection criteria.' While most of the material will be borderline Scout Report material (read academic) many items will be for general interest, for instance, a piece about internet scams — known as Dot Cons, or fun Halloween science.

Free e-books

The On-Line Books Page [<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/>] is a no-frills service that links to more than 12 000 freely-available, non-copyrighted e-texts. You can search the listings by author and title, or browse by author, title, or subject. The Archives section links to a raft of e-text archives such as Bibliomania, Project Bartleby and etext.org, so what you can not find here, you

might find somewhere else. Let your mouse take the strain. There are also Archives listings for full-text material in foreign languages.

Multi-cultural talk

A new mailing list has been set up to discuss issues and ideas about multi-cultural library services and services to linguistically diverse populations. It's called mclforum and it's hosted on eGroups, so you can sign up online to receive postings to the forum. Issues to be discussed include the use of technology, the effects of globalisation, multi-lingual website design and opportunities for international co-operation. To subscribe, go to <http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/mclforum> and follow instructions from there. The forum will be supplemented by the MCL-net website (currently being created) at <http://www.openroad.vic.gov.au/libraries/>. For more information, e-mail Andrew Cunningham at andrewc@vicnet.net.au.

Community of information professionals

Researcha [<http://www.researcha.com>] may sound like an information service set up by the Sopranos, but it is a nice-looking site for information professionals, and it provides a lot of free reports to members. To access them, you need to register (free) with the site. Membership also provides access to Researcha's recruitment services, as well as news and features (including interviews) on the information sector. Report topics currently include the wireless internet, information technology in patient care, authentication and certification in a globally networked society and knowledge-based industries in Asia. There is also a searchable researcher directory for people seeking paid help with knotty questions.

Mad cows

If you lived in, or visited, the United Kingdom during the late 1980s or early 1990s, you may be interested in the government report of the inquiry into Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). The contents of the multi-volume Report are at <http://www.bseinquiry.gov.uk/report/contents.htm> while the Inquiry's home page is at <http://www.bseinquiry.gov.uk>. The Inquiry was based on oral and written evidence from over 600 witnesses including scientists, farmers, civil servants, local authorities, former ministers and families of victims of variant CJD. What is interesting is the admission by former British Conservative ministers that they misled the public repeatedly about the dangers of the

disease. The BBC have also released an in-depth site about the epidemic at http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/in_depth/uk/2000/bse_and_cjd/. This includes background and analysis as well as information about people who died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) as a result of eating infected beef.

Get the right chemistry

The November 2000 issue of *College & Research Libraries News* [<http://www.ala.org/acrl/resnov00.html>] has a very good piece on internet chemistry resources by Ibironke Lawal, an engineering and science librarian at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. It is basically a potted web guide and would be a great starting point for anyone needing to get the lowdown quickly. Lawal covers metasites, databases, pre-print services, technical reports, patents, reference tools on data and spectra, e-journals and newsletters, associations and organisations, newsgroups and discussion lists and lastly, safety sites.

Getting through the development gate

The World Bank has launched a new gateway on global development to provide access to better information and know-how for people working in development world-wide. The gateway [<http://www.worldbank.org/gateway/>] will provide a forum for development partners to share information on development activities, trends, funding, and commercial opportunities. The site will include specially developed country gateways which will help you zero in on the area of interest to you. There's not a lot at the site as yet, but you can take the demo to see how the site will eventually pan out. The site provides many opportunities for users to make suggestions.

Full-text Nuremberg

All credit to the Avalon Project at the Yale Law School which has digitised the full proceedings of the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials [<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/imt/imt.htm>]. The proceedings encompass twenty-two volumes of materials from the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. A keyword search engine is available. The site includes information on Nazi conspiracy and aggression, the rules of procedure at Nuremberg, documents cited in the official records of the Tribunal, as well as links to other web resources on the trials and the Holocaust such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the United States Holocaust Museum and Yad Vashem. ■

This column
[with URL links]
can be found at:



Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please contact Belinda Weaver via e-mail.