



Belinda Weaver

weaver@alia.org.au

New ideas

The Tower Hamlets council in London, which covers Docklands, ran a survey recently about library services and found a consistent viewpoint emerging: people want a high-quality, modern library service which provides a greater range of services, and they want libraries based in places where people actually shop and work, rather than being a destination in themselves. The survey highlighted a big demand, from young and old alike, for good public computer and educational facilities. Add a coffee shop, a welcoming look and a place to meet friends and you have a whole new community hub. Welcome to the Idea Store, a new concept in libraries that is really the old wine in new bottles. If you want to see the future of successful public libraries, go no further. The buildings and facilities will be all new, and the opening times and locations more in tune with what people want, but the libraries will still do what they have always done — provide information, books and services to those who want them. The first Idea Store opened in 2002 in the Roman Road at Bow, with more to follow in other parts of the borough. Find out more at <http://www.ideastore.co.uk>.

Business crawler

EBizSearch [<http://www.ebizsearch.org/>] is an experimental search service that seeks to build an open access database of business information sourced from the websites of universities, businesses, research institutes and government departments. The material collected comprises academic articles, working papers, government white papers, consultants' reports, magazine articles, and published statistics and facts. Much of this material would be laborious to track down and might not be indexed in commercial bibliographic databases. Currently, two searches are offered — you can search for documents on a specific subject or by a specific author (use the documents search), or check where an author or document has been cited (the citations search). Since it's still in the experimental stages, it might be worth visiting the site to give feedback and encouragement.

Get talking

Much of the best information I find online comes from e-mail lists of like-minded people, so it is good to welcome ERIL: Electronic Resources in Libraries to the host of groups librarians can join. The e-list is concerned with the practical side of managing electronic resources in libraries, and current list members

hail from all parts of the library system, such as acquisitions and collection development, administration, archives, cataloguing and serials, reference, and library computer systems. Library professionals who work for vendors are asked not to join. There are links on the site to partial and full-text journals, conference proceedings, blogs, reports and studies, workshops, and new additions to directories and archives. Find out more, including how to join, at <http://www.arches.uga.edu/~jconger/ERIL/index.htm>.

Going global

A new directory of fee-based researchers, information brokers and competitive intelligence professionals has been launched. The Global Directory [<http://www.ipconexions.com/>] actually covers only thirty-three countries at this stage, but hopes to grow into a recognised and reliable starting point for those seeking to outsource their research, information or intelligence needs, and to act as a point of reference and resource for those working within, or seeking to join, any of the fee-based research, information or intelligence professions. The site has advice on the information and intelligence profession, and tips for finding and choosing an information professional. It also links to professional organisations in the field, reports and studies, current awareness services, conferences and events, as well as publishing a monthly newsletter. There is also information on getting listed in the directory.

Professionally speaking

If you are more interested in your current library career and where it is going, have a look at *Impact* [<http://www.careerdevelopmentgroup.org.uk/impact/>], the journal of the Career Development Group of CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information (the new UK library and information professionals' association). The journal publishes three print issues a year on 'important issues in the library and information sector' and is investigating the potential of electronic delivery. The current online edition is thus a trial so feedback is welcome. 'The basics' sections deal in detail with a particular issue, such as copyright.

Out of the archive

Take a nostalgic walk back in time at the International CIPAC List. CIPAC stands for Card-Image Public Access Catalogues, and this is what you will see — scanned, digitised images of actual card catalogues, mostly

... Welcome to the Idea Store, a new concept in libraries that is really the old wine in new bottles...

Geac
LibrarySolutions
presents

vubis
smart

SMART
SOLUTIONS
FOR SMART
LIBRARIES

from libraries in Europe and the United States. Many of the cards have handwritten entries and some of the scripts are elegantly done [http://www.ub.tuwien.ac.at/cipacs/c-i.html].

Online little black book

IFLA has created a handy guide to those library associations around the world that have a current web presence [http://www.ala.org/work/international/associations.html]. For each association listed, the directory provides a linked web address, e-mail address (if available), phone and fax numbers, and the full street and postal addresses.

No-one thinks we're funny, but...

All occupations have their own in-jokes and librarianship is no different. IFLA has gathered a collection of library-related humour at <http://www.ifla.org/humour/humour.htm>. There are light-bulb jokes, lists such as 'Library principles for students from the Old Testament' and the 'Index of forbidden books for children'. My favourite section was 'Library laws', since these all seemed to ring completely true — for example, 'No matter how long you keep an article or piece of information you will never need it till you throw it away,' 'If you have lost one issue of a magazine there will be thirty-five students who will require that issue,' 'No books are lost except those that are most needed and hardest to replace,' and 'The books you need the most always come from your worst supplier'.

Online literacy

Bravo to the National Library of Australia for its Teach Yourself Online section [http://www.nla.gov.au/nla/tutorial/]. The tutorial aims to assist users with a range of information literacy needs such as breaking down a research or assignment topic, using databases to find information and so on. There is also advice on using the NLA itself.

Bigger than Ben Hur?

With Europe expanding enormously, the final scope of The European Library could be huge [http://www.europeanlibrary.org]. The project will take thirty months to complete and its aim is to lay the groundwork for a pan-European service. Ten European partners have formed a consortium to recommend ways of improving interoperability between the current separate, national systems. One European library that caught my eye recently was the Bibliotheque Louis Nucera, in Nice, which looks like a

giant neck and shoulders with a box on top for a head. Photographs of its inauguration in June, 2002, are at http://www.presse.nice.fr/bmvr_photos_inauguration_1.html and provide views of the library from different directions. It has an enviable location, but I was not sure about the design, though it is certainly startling. How does one get in to what is obviously a very modern interior?

Author, author

People are much more interested in authors in these days of seemingly non-stop book and literary festivals. Accordingly, AuthorYellowPages.com [http://authoryellowpages.com/] should be a handy site for people wanting to bone up on their favourite writers. The online directory provides links to sites that are either set up and maintained by authors themselves or by publishers on their behalf. You can browse the list of authors, or look for authors by genre of writing. You can sign up to get a newsletter from the site via e-mail.

Muscling in on research

Microsoft (<http://www.mirosoft.com/>) is a fairly dominating presence on many computer desktops, and the company hopes to attract even more punters with the new Microsoft Office 2003. This will offer a 'research window' from within applications such as Word to allow people to search for content from a variety of information providers, including Factiva, Gale, and eLibrary. Office users who are already subscribers to these services will get instant access to content, while non-subscribers will be prompted to subscribe or can opt to buy the content then and there. If Microsoft is successful in getting this to work seamlessly (beta tests are currently being conducted by users), then most online content providers will probably start a stampede to be included. Find out more at eContent (http://www.econtentmag.com/ecxtra/2003/2003_0311/xtra.html1).

Kids' stuff

BooksInPrint.com [http://www.booksinprint.com/] has launched a children's section called the Children's Room which gives details of both fiction and non-fiction books for kids. Subscribers only can see and use the content, which can be searched in a number of ways, for example, by author, title, subject, or keyword, and according to certain criteria, such as in print, forthcoming and so on. ■

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



<http://www.ala.org.au/incite>

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

SMART SOLUTIONS
FOR SMART LIBRARIES



For more information on our new product please call 1 800 621 668 or visit www.geac.com

...If Microsoft is successful in getting this to work seamlessly ...then most online content providers will probably start a stampede to be included.