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Webb's web

This issue of *inCite* features the themes of Web 2.0 and Copyright, so that's what I'll concentrate on this time.

2.0 many to count

There may be some of us (apart from me) who haven't tired of Web 2.0 by now, and you'll find plenty of products to ponder at <http://www.web20searchengine.com/web20/web-2.0-list.htm>. I'm sure they've missed many in this categorised directory, but it would take quite a while to sample them all. It even has its own search engine at <http://www.web20searchengine.com/>.

In general though, maybe it's time to stop, take a deep breath and consider what it's all about. I've seen people getting into heated debates about Web 3.0 and what it may/will/must contain, but this just misses the point. Web 2.0 is a term that was applied after the event, after the various components and examples had been developed and become popular; it was just a convenient way of describing a movement whose time had already come. And all such classifications are bound to be rubbery anyway. So, my advice is: enjoy it for what it is, and don't worry about what the experts say will or won't be happening. Internet entrepreneurs have a habit of not listening to the gurus.

Going back to the list of applications, let's see what might interest you in the upcoming long, hot summer. To take the big guys first, Facebook <http://www.facebook.com> seems to be motoring along fine, although they may either benefit from or be threatened by a new alliance that's defining a standard for developing applications. For those of you who haven't been involved in the social networking sites, there are applications like Pirate and Vampire games, Online

Scrabble, Favourite Films etc and they are the glue that will bind the users to the site. Granted the ordinary features like posting your photos or sending messages are basic activities that you use the site for, but it's the extra entertainment that keeps you there and brings in the advertising dollars. With this new standard though, it should be easier for developers to move their applications across various sites, which should result in better ways to waste (sorry, use) our time.

Other sites might be struggling a little, partly because they have chosen not to offer games and other diversions. Examples of more serious networking sites are LinkedIn <http://www.linkedin.com> and the little Aussie startup LinkYa <http://www.linkya.com.au> and they seem to provide a way of maintaining professional networks — although the pictures of members that LinkYa displays on their home page are from the youthful and attractive end of the demographic. But many workplaces are now blocking Facebook access on their networks, so the less frivolous sites may have an advantage there.

Summer may be the time to catch up on cataloguing the home library on LibraryThing <http://www.librarything.com> which continues to make improvements (and is possibly under threat from a cut-down version on Facebook). There'll also be the opportunity to discuss important matters on their Groups (although I didn't see anything about ABC TV's *The Librarians* — you'll have to check the ALIA Blog to follow that discussion).

Of course, one thing we always have to remember about great new things like social networking sites is that they take time, or rather they grab time, bundle it up

and stash it away where you'll never find it again. Every new thing means that you won't have time for one or more old things, and that's another reason why the sites will scramble to offer lots of attractions to keep you around.

Copyright in digital libraries

The EU's High Level Expert Group on Digital Libraries has produced an advisory report on copyright issues for the European Commission. This is part of the European Commission's efforts to provide large amounts of Europe's rich cultural and scientific heritage available online. The report points to voluntary agreements between libraries and rights holders that will facilitate work on digital preservation, orphan and out-of-print works. In the case of orphan works, for example, where the holders cannot be identified or located, some agreed solutions could support libraries, museums and archives to better exploit the benefits of information technology to carry out their preservation and dissemination mandates. For the background to the report, see <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/10432>.

... and elsewhere in the world of copyright

The National Library's Australian Newspapers Digitisation Plan is coming along well. This is based on one newspaper per state from its first date of publication to the end of 1954, when copyright began to be applied to Australian newspapers. The papers will be digitised by OCR from microfilm to produced keyword indexes to articles. Users will be able to have page images displayed, with the future possibility of display of the text of each article. The service is expected to be available in 2008. In the meantime, check out the project's site at <http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/index.html>

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