

# Webb's web

## Still evolving

Darwin Online has been six years in the making, and the result is at <http://darwin-online.org.uk> It certainly is comprehensive, with all of Charles Darwin's publications, thousands of his private papers, supplementary works, an audiobook of his Beagle diary and much more...

## Proceedings

Last June I reported on the Old Bailey Online site <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org> featuring the records of 100,000 trials from 1674-1834. The wheels of justice have continued to grind and they're now up to 1913 with another 100,000 trials being added to the database.

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ices, the third report in a series beginning in 2004-05. There are no great surprises - people are using the Web more to get to Government, and would increase their usage further if there were better and cheaper networks. Government agencies seeking to expand their range of services will find useful justification here <http://tinyurl.com/46y42v>

## Open Mike for Open Source

There's a new take on the open source concept called LibriVox <http://librivox.org>. Nothing to do with software this time - it's a way of providing audiobooks of literature to a wide audience. Volunteers read the works which are then uploaded to the main site. If you're looking for a quality rendition - perhaps by someone like Patrick Tull or Robert Hardy - you'll be disappointed, but they do provide value for money. And they're always looking for volunteer readers.

## A bold front

While the Newseum, an interactive museum of news and journalism in Washington DC, has been operating for eleven years, it's in the headlines now because of its brand new location closer to the centre of power. A feature of its website is the daily display of front pages from 650 newspapers in 59 countries around the world <http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/default.asp>

Australia appears represented by five of the major papers.

## Credit where it's due

There's been plenty of debate over the years about how to cite online resources. I came across a discussion recently on how this might apply to what you might call hybrid online material: Google Books for instance. There were a few very sensible suggestions made - decide for yourself: <http://tinyurl.com/3z6tow>

## What goes round...

I'm still amazed and impressed at how the Web is undermining existing models of how things should be, just by getting around some of the inherent obstacles in the status quo. The latest example is BookMooch which puts people with too many books (ha!) in touch with others who would be pleased to look after them for a while. The remarkable thing about this service is that they've found a way of making some money on the side from Amazon. The whole story is at <http://tinyurl.com/4furr9> and in the comments section, you'll find descriptions of similar services.

## Little fish in the Amazon

You have to marvel at the march of technology, and the way that everyday human behaviour gets in its way! There have been a few enterprises becoming active in the print-on-demand (POD) field, especially those catering for lesser-known authors who would be quite attracted to the idea of a simpler way to get their works to the public, and of course the Internet has proved to be a splendid avenue for promotion. Until very recently, Amazon happily featured such works from a number of sources, with a 'Buy now' button - no longer, it seems. A couple of years ago, Amazon bought a POD supplier and now they're playing hard ball. If the publishers won't switch to their in-house outfit, the 'Buy now' button goes. The latest on this is at <http://www.writersweekly.com>

## From the Mother of all Parliaments

The Parliament of the United Kingdom has a plan to put two centuries (1804 to 2004) of Hansard online by the end of the year. A small sample has already been scanned and published at <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com> and shows that there will be a treat for all of us when it's completed. My favourite so far has been the discussion on the Ecclesiastical Dilapidations Measure in May 1923, but I'm sure there will be plenty of material of more import in time. And a note for lovers of trivia: the earliest entries will predate the use of the name 'Hansard' in 1829.

Don't forget to visit my blog  
<http://www.alia.org.au/webbsblog>



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