

Member to Associate		Annmaree Harper	VIC
Katrina Toufexis	WA	Zoe Dyason	QLD
Jennifer Gibson	VIC	Amanda Dickinson	VIC
Sarah Fearnley	NSW	Jessica Macri	NSW
Laura Faulkner	VIC	Charmaine Connan	VIC
Sian Woolcock	SA	Aileen Davis	VIC
Louise Tallon	NSW	Catharine Kelly	SA
Annette O'Brien	VIC	Stephen Brinton	NSW
Member to Technician		Laini Fisher	NSW
Kimberlea Turner	QLD	Angela Kriesel	QLD
New Associate		Anne Hawkins	SA
Wendy Hopkinson	VIC	Sheridan Faletti	QLD
Melissa Evans	NSW	Tomoko Dowling	QLD
Irene Suladze	ACT	Jennifer Cooke	NSW
Catherine De		Luo Hui Yao	NSW
Cristofaro	SA	Nelida Rasgido	SA
Dimitria Papadelos	SA	Alice Hewitt	WA
Linda Forbes	NZD	Beverley Wallace	VIC
Barbara Parnaby	WA	Clare Fripp	WA
Susan Rollings	QLD	Matthew Walter	SA
Easter Tang	NSW	Mohmed Sajid	
New Technician		Foazdar	AED
Sherryl Annette		Michael Adams	NSW
Charley	NSW	Ceridwyn Bloxham	QLD
Iain Barson	ACT	Readmitting Associate	
New Institution		Malcolm Horn	VIC
Australasian College		Gabriele Haveaux	VIC
of Health Service		Readmitting Technician	
Management	NSW	Dianne Turner	QLD
New Member		Readmitting Member	
John Christou	VIC	Martina Pysing	VIC
		Joshua Bull	SA
		Anne Tsang	NSW
		Pamela Johnstone	NSW

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DIY Online Education

There's a new service offered by Google: Course Builder (<https://code.google.com/p/course-builder/>). With online education being the Next Big Thing, it's worth looking at it to see how it might help you. There's a bit of a warning that you may need some familiarity with HTML and Javascript, so I've checked to see just how much is required. From a brief look, the HTML shouldn't provide any problem, but the Javascript is possibly beyond the competence of the beginner. It seems to be used for analysis of interactions between the student and the course. My tip: Google will soon enough implement a better way of handling simple interactions.

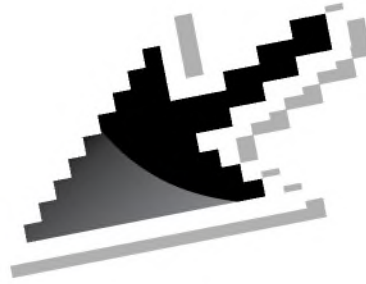
What's in the cloud might have to stay there

There's news and, of course, discussion aplenty on Google's decision to drop support for older Microsoft Office formats (<http://tinyurl.com/8ndzkor>), such as .doc as from 1 October. Of course it's their right to do this, and the newer formats have been available in Microsoft software from 2003, but I'm sure that some users with older systems will be hit by this. But it's not really as simple as it sounds. The problem is that when users uploaded documents to the service they may have elected to convert them to the Google Docs internal format. It was always an option not to convert, but at the time many users would not have been aware of the implications of that choice. So, if they did permit Google to convert the documents or they created them online via Google Docs, they might be in trouble.

Open metadata

It's around five years since I wrote about Europeana (<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>) the European Digital Library – and I'm happy to see that it's now presented in languages other than French! Now, they've taken the massive step of opening up the metadata from their collection of over 20 million cultural objects for free re-use. This initiative will create new opportunities for app developers, designers, and other digital innovators. The metadata is released

's Web



under the Creative Commons Zero 1.0 Public Domain Dedication (CC0), meaning that anyone can use the data for any purpose – creative, educational, commercial – with no restrictions. This release offers a new boost to the digital economy, providing electronic entrepreneurs with opportunities to create innovative apps and games for tablets and smartphones and to create new web services and portals.

Now, those who've been paying attention will ask why the metadata is so important; surely it's the data itself (images, sound recording, etc) that people will want. To which I reply: yes and no. There was a team of developers a while ago who had the idea of putting together an app that would link bus routes and archival photos of places and events along the routes. To do this, they searched the image collection based on the location metadata and used this to extract the images. The only trouble was that the location specified the repository where the image was stored rather than the location of the subject of the image. The results were not what the user expected.

So, what we need is more open access to usable metadata. Simple.

And then there are Open Textbooks

In a move welcomed by hard-pressed parents everywhere, the Government of California has enacted legislation to give students free digital access to 50 core textbooks for courses offered by the University of California, California State University, and California Community College systems. If they need hard copies of the texts they'd have to pay \$20 for each. The free texts will be published on a special website. See the full story at (<http://tinyurl.com/8zqbq39>).

Opening up the paywall – just a little

Three years ago, News Limited shut down access to *The Times* to all non-paying customers and (most importantly) to the search engines. See <http://tinyurl.com/ctsluol>. Now, despite their assurances that the move has not been a disaster, they have relented a little and are permitting Google and Friends to index their content, although they will only get two lines of each story. This is a cunning strategy, predicated on the belief that a couple of lines identified in a search result might convince a user to sign up for the full service. Of course, as any fan of Baldrick knows, a cunning strategy doesn't necessary lead to success.

The future of storage

There's some bad news for those who have any concern about the future of digital preservation. In a paper by a team led by David Rosenthal titled *The Economics of Long-Term Digital Storage*, they suggest that Kryder's Law, which has held true for 30 years and indicated that the cost of digital storage media keeps dropping exponentially and is based on the density of bits on disk platters, may not apply for too much longer. Read the paper at <http://tinyurl.com/9s3oqxb>

 Posted by Kerry Webb

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