Libraries on the Move

Europe’s digital library, museum and archive, Europeana, opened to the public on November 20, and promptly crashed, after receiving 10 million hits per hour. Europeana allows access to more than two million digital objects, including films, photos, paintings, sounds, maps, manuscripts, books, newspapers, and archival papers. It provides a multilingual interface, and plans to have six million digital objects available by 2010. Digital resources come from national libraries and cultural institutions throughout Europe. While developers are working on a more robust version, go to the project site, http://dev.europeana.eu/home.php, for a preview and updates. The reconfigured version of Europeana will be available at http://www.europeana.eu/portal/.

Columbia University is the first American university to join Nereus, a European consortium of 23 institutions that provides access to academic economics resources of key libraries, academic publications and other online resources in Europe and beyond. For more information about Nereus, go to http://www.nereus4economics.info/index.html.


A Picture’s Worth a Thousand Words

Scanned documents on the Internet will now be available in Google’s search results, thus making more of the deep, or invisible, Web available to users. Scanned documents are basically pictures of text, so their content cannot be indexed, and remains unsearchable. Google is now able to OCR any scanned documents stored in Adobe PDF format, turning the scanned content into text, rendering it indexable and searchable. Thus, previously unavailable information resources, such as government reports and obscure academic papers, are now accessible. For full details, go to http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2008/10/picture-of-thousand-words.html.

Short Takes

The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) received a donation of $1.12 million from retired Virginia elementary school librarian and 1955 UNC alumna, Jane Iris Crutchfield. Her gift will go to a scholarship fund for students admitted to one of the SLIS master’s degree programs. This is the largest donation the SLIS has received. Press Release, November 14, 2008, http://sils.unc.edu/news/releases/2008/11_crutchfield.htm.

A proposed new search engine — Reference Extract — developed by OCLC, the University of Washington and Syracuse University is envisioned as a Web search engine, like Google, Yahoo and MSN. However, unlike other search engines, Reference Extract will be built by relying on the expertise and credibility judgments of librarians from around the globe. Users will enter a search term and get results weighted towards sites most often referred to by librarians at institutions such as the Library of Congress, the University of Washington, the State of Maryland, and over 1,400 libraries worldwide. For full details, go to http://referencextract.org/.

HathiTrust released the public beta version of a full-text search that searches across approximately 500,000 indexed volumes. The beta version is released primarily to learn more about large search indexes in a public setting. For full details, go to http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/ls/.

LibLime has released biblios.net, the world’s largest database of freely licensed library cataloging records. The database will be freely available to biblios.net subscribers and non-subscribers alike via Z39.50, OAI, and direct download. The database will be maintained by biblios.net users similar to the way that Wikipedia’s database is maintained by its users. For full details, go to http://biblios.net/.

McGraw Hill, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and Pearson announced they will adopt the PLUS (Picture Licensing Universal System) Picture Licensing Glossary definitions in their contracts. They also encourage image suppliers to begin embedding PLUS license metadata in all images within 1 year. The PLUS standards were developed by the PLUS Coalition, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to simplifying the communication and management of image rights. PLUS standards allow rights and attribution information to be embedded in an image in a machine-readable format that provides instant access and universal understanding. “Major Publishers Adopt PLUS Image Licensing Standards,” Weekly News Digest, Information Today, November 17, 2008, http://newsbreaks.infotoday.com/undReader.asp?ArticId=51577.

JISC, SCONUL, RLUK, the British Library and the Research Information Network (RIN) will collaborate on a major strategic initiative to help shape the future of the academic library. This project will build on existing work to develop a program that ensures the continuing relevance of libraries to both information creators and users. The two-year study will explore best practices at the local and national or international level. “Towards the academic library of the future,” JISC, December 4, 2008, http://www.jisc.ac.uk/Home/news/stories/2008/12/horizon.aspx.
The State of Scholarly Journals in 2008

Scholarly Publishing Practice 3: Academic journal publishers’ policies and practices in online publishing, 3rd edition, is the third in a series of surveys (2003, 2005, 2008) by the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) that aim to establish current scholarly publishing practices and track changes in policy and practice since 2000. Some highlights of the survey of 400 commercial and non-commercial journal publishers include:

- In 2008 publishers are launching journals at a higher rate than 2005; conversely, they are also closing more journals, with closures averaging 1.78 per publisher compared with 1.06 in 2005.
- Online availability of journals continues to rise, with 96.1% of STM and 86.5% of arts, humanities and social sciences titles accessible electronically in 2008, compared with 92.7% and 84.2%, respectively, in 2005.
- Nearly all publishers, 95.7%, make back volumes available online.
- Pricing remains complex, with multiple pricing models available, although fewer publishers provide print plus free online access, and now offer online-only subscriptions.
- Open Access options are increasing: 9% of publishers offered this option in 2005, compared with 30% in 2008.
- There were 199 fully Open Access journals in 2005, increasing to 786 in 2008.
- 24.5% of publishers produce at least one Open Access journal.
- In 2003 83% of publishers required copyright transfer when an article was published; in 2008 only 53% required such transfer. Publishers, however, are not allowing articles to be published on the Web or in online repositories.
- Publishers are at different stages of development in their implementation of Web 2.0 technologies, with 20% enabling collaborative tagging, and between 10% and 15% implementing forums, blogs, and podcasts for a journal.


By the Numbers

75%... of academic libraries and half of public libraries in the UK plan to increase their collection of e-books in 2009, in a survey of 300 libraries conducted by NetLibrary.


10,000+... the number of apps added to the iPhone App store from August 2008 to November 2008, 148Apps, http://148apps.com/10000/.

10,000... the number of photos donated to Wikipedia by the German National Archive, with a total of 11 million to be donated at the completion of the project. “National Archive posting millions of photos to Wikipedia,” The Local, December 4, 2008, http://www.thelocal.de/scitech/20081204-15913.html.


20,000... the number of publishers who have done deals with Google for full-text scans of their books that allow users to view snippets based on their Internet searches, twice as many as compared to one year ago. “Google doubles book-scan publisher partners,” Reuters-UK, October 15, 2008, http://uk.reuters.com/article/technology-media-telco-SP/idUKL50763420081015?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=10171.


Mark Your Calendars


A report on a study Conducted at the University of Rochester

“The Next Generation of Academics: A Report on a Study Conducted at the University of Rochester,” by Ryan Randall et al, studied graduate students at UR to see how to improve the Libraries’ support of their work. Based on the results of the study, listed below are a few of the ways that UR librarians would make use of that information:

1. Add names of advisors to dissertation records in Voyager (the library’s online catalog). Students want to see dissertations done by other students with the same advisor, not just any dissertation, or even a dissertation in the same department.

2. Create a Web page that lists targeted tools and capabilities of interest specifically to graduate students. This page would include both the tools and a list of resident experts on those tools.

3. Build a widget that can grab bibliographic information from any place on the Web and turn it into a library request (purchase or ILL).

4. Build a recommender tool for articles that would suggest, “If you are interested in X article, you may be interested in Y article.”

5. Create a very powerful and quite targeted RSS feed, perhaps pulling from ISI. This feed will very specifically target ten journals of interest to graduate students on narrow terms that appear in the title or the subject field.

6. Create specific applications for iPhones, smart phones, and other devices widely used by students.

For details of the study and all the UR librarian suggestions, go to https://urresearch.rochester.edu/handle/1802/6053.
London Online 2008: The View from Judy Luther, Informed Strategies

Traffic at this year’s Online Information Conference and Exhibition and Information Management Systems (IMS) seemed light with roughly 9,000 attendees but the 230 exhibitors seemed pleased with the conversations.

A noticeable trend down from the balcony was the increased space allotted to technology companies as publishers continue to consolidate. This mix enabled attendees to preview AIP’s new Web 2.0 platform in the front of the hall and then talk with their technology vendor Polopoly in the back of the hall. Audiences packed the seminar rooms on the floor of the hall to hear case studies from both buyers and sellers.

In the conference center Clay Shirky, NYU professor and author of Here Comes Everybody, spoke to over 750 delegates from 70 countries. He noted that we’re in a time of experimentation — not transition — and it’s important to keep the cost of failure low. Content can be organized at the moment of creation or the moment of use as evident in the story of two groups of IBM researchers who discovered they were working on the same problem when they found they used the same tags. With ready access to each other and to content over the network, individuals are motivated to participate in communities that they find productive and satisfying. http://www.online-information.co.uk/index.html

Did You Know?


In the next five years, IBM predicts users will be able to surf the Web by using their voice. The technology is in place. In India, for example, where the spoken word is preferred over the written word in education, government, and culture, “talking” to the Web is outpacing all other interfaces, and the mobile phone is overtaking the PC. “IBM’s 3rd annual ‘Five in Five’ foresees influential tech changes,” IBM, November 25, 2008, http://www.ibm.com/news/us/en/2008/11/25/w235085e22633j31.html.


The Survey Says . . .

According to the 2008 Frankfurt Book Fair survey of over 1,000 industry professionals from over 30 countries: 66% still expect print books to dominate the market in five years’ time, 40% expect e-book sales will overtake print book sales in 10 years, and 33% predict this will never happen; 29% expect the U.S. to be the leader in the e-book market in five years while 28% predict China will be the leader. Research Information, October 16, 2008, http://www.researchinformation.info/news/news_story.php?news_id=393.

The JISC Open Access Publication Charge Surveys report (Oct. 22, 2008), a two-survey report — one of 160 UK higher education institutions and the other of 4,055 biomedical authors — finds in the author survey that of the 730 respondents:

- 72% have published in a fully-OA journal in the last five years, 64% in a hybrid OA journal during the same time-period;
- 43% of these same authors have on at least one occasion paid an OA publication charge, and 47% have had to pay colour charges or other charges to a publisher of a subscription journal.

In the institutional survey, of the 61 respondents:

- 23 have an OA policy, 34 do not and 4 were unsure;
- 5 institutions mandate OA, 13 encourage it, 10 allow it, and 1 discourages it;
- 6 institutions have a central OA fund, 4 have a School or Faculty or Departmental OA fund.

To read the entire survey, go to http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/aboutus/workinggroups/jiscoapubcharge.doc.

Cloud Computing: It’s on the Rise

In a survey of 1,553 Internet users, 69% have done at least one cloud activity and 40% two or more activities, such as, used Web-mail services, used online applications, stored photos online, stored personal videos, paid to store computer files online or backed up a hard drive to an online site. For an overview of cloud computing, read “Let it Rise,” http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12411882.

And some recent cloud computing developments:


Amazon Web Services (AWS), a subsidiary of Amazon.com, launched Amazon CloudFront, a worldwide self-service, pay-as-you-go Web service for content delivery that provides content distribution to end users with lightning speed and performance. For full details, go to http://aws.amazon.com/cloudfront/.

IBM announced new cloud computing services to help businesses of all sizes take advantage of this computing model to offer secure, practical services to companies in public, private, and hybrid cloud models.

The Google Settlement and Google Book Search

Google, the Authors Guild, and the Association of American Publishers (AAP) reached a settlement on behalf of authors and publishers worldwide that will expand online access to millions of in-copyright books and other written materials from the collections of U.S. libraries participating in Google Book Search. The agreement stipulates that Google will pay $125 million to establish the Book Rights Registry to resolve existing claims by authors and publishers and to cover legal fees. U.S. copyright holders can register their works with the Book Rights Registry and receive compensation from institutional subscriptions, book sales, ad revenues and other possible revenue models, as well as a cash payment if their works have already been digitized. If approved, the agreement provides: more access to out-of-print books; additional ways to purchase copyrighted books; compensation and control over access to authors and publishers; institutional subscriptions to millions of online books; and free access from U.S. libraries via a single, designated computer. “Authors, publishers, and Google agree on copyright,” Research Information, November 3, 2008, http://www.researchinformation.info/news/news_story.php?news_id=400.

To read the 130-page agreement, go to http://books.google.com/booksrightsholders/agreement-contents.html.

For details of the future of Google’s Book Search, based on the agreement, go to http://books.google.com/google-books/agreement/.


UM Library Adopts Creative Commons Licensing Model for Library-Created Resources

The University of Michigan Library has adopted the Creative Common Attribution-Non-Commercial licenses for all works created by the Library for which the Regents of the University of Michigan hold the copyrights. These works include all original copyrighted material created by the Library staff, including bibliographies, research guides, lesson plans, and technology tutorials. These resources will now be available for adaptation and reuse. For full details, go to http://www.lib.umich.edu/creativecommons/.

Check These Out!

The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) is a digital project to organize all information about life present on Earth. When complete, the encyclopedia will have a Website for each of the approximately 1.8 million known species. Each site is constantly updated and features content ranging from historical literature and biological descriptions to images, videos, and distribution maps. To view the EOL, go to http://www.eol.org/.

The LIFE photo archive of 10 million images, from the 1860s to today, is now available on Google. Go to http://images.google.com/hosted/life.


Emerging Trends

Miami University of Ohio claims a number of firsts for 2009: (1) the first English Department to approve as a dissertation a digital edition that will be published by Rice University Press, print-on-demand; (2) the first university to partner to host a digital resource — a database that can be upgraded by scholars — for a university press; (3) the first university to make high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarship available on Facebook; (4) among the first universities to grant promotion on the basis of a digital archive. For further details, go to http://aims.muohio.edu/?p=927.

28th Annual Charleston Conference: A Success in the Best of Times and even in the Worst of Times

Rick Anderson, University of Utah, Helen Henderson, Ringgold, and Dan Tonkery, EBSCO, all board members of the UKSG’s publication Serials, reported that the 28th annual Charleston Conference, held November 5-8, 2008, was “excellent,” with “top quality programmes and speakers,” and consistently rates as an “important library meeting.” Derek Law, Andrew Pace, and Pat Schroeder were some of this year’s favorite presenters. The delicious food, the sheer size of the conference, as well as the beauty of Charleston itself, were some of the favorable impressions of these attendees. “Charleston Conference,” UKSG Serials e-news, November 28, 2008, http://www.ringgold.com/UKSG/st_pl.cfm?AC=9432&PId=10&Zid=4206&issueno=184.
Open Access News

The 12-university, midwest consortium Committee on Institution Cooperation (CIC), the 11 university libraries of the University of California system, and the University of Virginia launched the HathiTrust Shared Digital Repository to create a single online repository of their digital collections that includes millions of books. Public domain resources will be available for reading online. Resources under copyright will be digitally archived, which allows member libraries a reliable way to preserve their collections. Currently, HathiTrust contains over 2 million volumes and over 750 billion pages, with approximately 16% in the public domain. “Major Library Partners Launch HathiTrust Shared Digital Repository,” Press Release, October 13, 2008, http://www.hathitrust.org/press_10-13-2008.

PEER (Publishing and the Ecology of European Research), a new collaboration between publishers, repositories and the research community in the European union, will investigate the effects of the large-scale, systematic depositing of authors’ final peer-reviewed manuscripts (so called “Green Open Access,” or stage-two research output) on reader access, author visibility, and journal viability, as well as on the broader ecology of European research. The project will last from 2008 to 2011. The aim of PEER is to build a substantial body of evidence, by developing an “observatory” to monitor the effects of systematic archiving over time. Participating publishers will collectively contribute 300 journals to the project. For full details, go to STMT_Press_Release_EU_Orphan_Works_Memorandum_20080604-3.pdf.

The first Open Access Day was held on October 14, 2008, by organizers PLoS (Public Library of Science), SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) and Students for Free Culture, to broaden awareness and understanding of Open Access, and was attended by 120 organizations from 20 countries. For full details, go to http://openaccessday.org/.

In conjunction with the first Open Access Day, organizers PLoS, SPARC, and Students for Free Culture, released a six-clip video series on the importance of Open Access to research across the higher education community and beyond. The videos are available for the public to view, download, and repurpose under a CC-BY license at http://www.vimeo.com/oaday08. They are also available as a single file for viewing at events. Press Release, October 14, 2008, http://www.arl.org/sparc/media/08-1014.shtml.

The Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) was launched in conjunction with the first ever Open Access Day. The OASPAs mission is to represent the interests of Open Access journal publishers globally. The founding members include: BioMed Central, Co-Action Publishing, Copernicus, Hindawi Publishing Corporation, Journal of Medical Internet Research (Gunther Eysenbach), Medical Education Online (David Solomon), the Public Library of Science (PLoS), SAGE, SPARC Europe and Utrecht University Library (lgitur). Press Release, October 14, 2008, http://www.oaspa.org/press.release.html.

Listen Up!

The Chronicle of Higher Education Website hosts a bi-weekly Tech Therapy podcast by Scott Carlson and Warren Arbogast. Two recent episodes pertain to libraries: Episode 33, “Libraries vs. IT Departments,” is a discussion about the rift between Libraries and IT Departments. To listen to this podcast, go to http://chronicle.com/media/audio/v55/i07/techtherapy. Episode 36, “The Future of College Libraries,” is a discussion about what college libraries mean to campuses, the buildings’ changing aesthetics, and how they will be designed for future use. To listen to this podcast, go to http://chronicle.com/media/audio/v55/i14/techtherapy/.

There’s a Great Future in Mobile Devices

Merriam-Webster’s dictionaries are now available for iPhone and iPod touch users, with one-click access to definitions as well as translations in its two bilingual dictionaries, Spanish-English and French-English. Once installed, the dictionary can be accessed without an Internet connection or additional charges. For full details, go to http://www.merriam-webster.com/info/pr/2008-collegiate-dict-iphone-ipod.htm.

Random House and Ballantine will be the first major book publishers to make available full-length e-books for download to iPhone and iPod Touch through Stanza, an e-book reader. To launch the project, they will offer nine free titles. For details, go to http://www.lexcycle.com/press/random_house_free.


Penguin Group launched Penguin Mobile, a free iPhone app that enables users to get the Penguin blog, podcasts, book excerpts and more. For details, go to http://us.penguin.com/static/pages/whatsnext/mobile.html.