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TechScans

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INSIDE:

From the Officers:
OBS-SIS Chair 4
TS-SIS Chair 3
OBS Executive Board Election 5
TS Executive Board Election 6

Announcements:
2005 Chapman Award 25
TS SIS Educational Grants 4

Articles:
Judith Hopkins, pt. 2 7
TS-SIS Update on Annual Meeting Programming 16
Cataloging ICAO Materials 18
Reclassification of a Law Collection 20
Importance of Involving Technical Services Staff in Library Marketing Efforts 19

Reports:
2004 Chapman Award Intro 23
2004 Chapman Award Speech 23
ALCTS Creative Ideas in TS 24
Codified Innovations 21
Impact of ISBN-13 25

Columns:
Classification 8
Collection Development 8
Description 10
MARC Remarks 11
Management 12
Preservation 13
Private Law Libraries 14
Serials 15
TechScans 1
From the Editor 26

TECHSCANS

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Welcome to the debut of "TechScans." The idea for this column originated with Brian Striman and Elizabeth Geesey Holmes a couple of years ago. They recognized that many of us just do not have time to read the publications dealing with new technological innovations and thought a column to "provide a forum to alert the *TSLL* readership of new technology ideas and actual applications in the arena of technical services" would be a mechanism to help us accomplish that. The scans will not be limited to traditional publications, but will include blogs, electronic discussion lists, reports from professional library conferences and websites.

In order to pull this off, we are fortunate to have six contributing authors who are "scanning" various publications and looking for information to include in this column. Please join me in thanking Marlene Bubrick, Elizabeth Geesey Holmes, Yumin Jiang, Ellen McGrath, Andrea Rabbia, and Patricia Turpening for their efforts.

The column will be divided into the following areas: acquisitions/collection development, cataloging, government documents, information technology, local systems, management, preservation, processing, and serials. This should make it easier for readers to focus in on the areas that interest them the most.

Acquisitions/Collection Development

Here is a selective list of both print and web information resources on licensing and managing electronic resources. It was originally compiled in 2002, and was verified by the author in August 2004. The list is relatively short -- containing only eight print sources and 16 web resources, but it does include some well-established websites on electronic resources and copyright issues.

Christine Wondolowski Gerstein, "Long Island Library Resources Council Committee on Resource Sharing and Coordinated Acquisitions, Interlibrary Loan Committee: Licensing and Managing Electronic Resources" *Against the Grain* 16(4) (September 2004): 60-64.

In this article for the column "Issues in Vendor/Library Relations," the author interviewed a group of librarians at the Cornell University Libraries (CUL), recounted

continued on page 26

Newsletter of the Technical Services Special Interest Section and the On-Line Bibliographic Services Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

continued from page 1

how they created the Integrated Tool for Selection and Ordering (ITSO) system, and how ITSO fits into Cornell's selection and acquisitions workflow. Essentially, ITSO imports title records from major sources of bibliographic data (e.g., Library of Congress, YBP, Harrassowitz) into a local database for selectors to examine, and the records of selected titles are then loaded into Cornell's library system for acquisitions and cataloging actions. According to the article, about 35 percent of Cornell orders are processed through ITSO, and Cornell is trying to bring in more vendors and more record formats.

Bob Nardini, "Way CUL" *Against the Grain* 16(5) (November 2004): 82-83.

Read the results of a study of 155 academic librarians worldwide concerning selection of electronic resources for their collection. (OCLC Abstracts)

"Global Electronic Collection Trends in Academic Libraries: 2004," at http://www.pcgplus.com/resnresource/research/GlobalElTr.pdf.

Cataloging

Doing original cataloging with the help of artificial intelligence—is such a thing possible? Based on the premise that a considerable part of the cataloguer's expertise lies in the ability to recognize the bibliographic conditions that determine the choice of cataloging rules, this study analyzes the ways a computer can be taught to recognize bibliographic elements from the title page of a document.

To develop rules for recognition that a computer could understand, the physical characteristics of the data elements from the title page were analyzed. Heuristics developed from this analysis were converted to a rule base, which was then implemented in a Java program. Finally sample title pages were scanned, saved in HTML format, and used as input for the program. The results of this study showed that 46 of 50 title pages input were successfully analyzed, but some problems were identified.

Durga Sankar Rath and A.R.D. Prasad, "Heuristics for Identification of Bibliographic Elements From Title Pages" *Library Hi Tech* 22(4)(2004): 389-396.

OCLC is conducting a number of research projects involving IFLA's *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records* (FRBR). (Catalogablog)

http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/frbr/

See also Lorcan Dempsey's weblog entry for February 10, 2005 at http://orweblog.oclc.org/archives/000575.html.

For any library that uses the Connexion client (or even the browser), monitoring the OCLC-CAT list is critical. The list seems to be devoted to software 'problem' notification, resolution, and field-tested work-arounds. The list proves to be a very valuable tool and the archives can be searched at http://listserv.oclc.org/archives/oclc-cat.html.

From Gary L. Smith, Software Architect at OCLC, we learn that Passport and CatME are two different interfaces to the same database, and Connexion is a very different interface (actually two very different interfaces) to an entirely different database. A synchronizer connects the two databases, but otherwise the old and new systems are entirely separate. (OCLC-CAT)

The Open WorldCat program makes records of library-owned materials in OCLC's WorldCat database available to web users on popular Internet search, bibliographic and bookselling sites. The result: OCLC member libraries are more visible on the web, and their catalogs are more accessible from the sites where many people start their search for information. (Catalogablog)

http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/default.htm

The Library of Congress has launched a web-based learning center (Cataloger's Learning Workshop) to promote core competency curriculum development for 21st century cataloging practitioners. (AUTOCAT)

http://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/

MARBI discussion paper entitled "Subject Access to Images." (Catalogablog)

http://www.loc.gov/marc/marbi/2005/2005-dp01.html

Government Documents

The Government Printing Office (GPO) has released a plan to transform itself into a "digital information factory" staffed by those with a whole new set of skills and tools. (Library Journal Academic Newswire)

"A Strategic Vision for the 21st Century," at http://www.gpo.gov/congressional/pdfs/04strategicplan.pdf

Information Technology

Big, big news in both the search engine and academic library worlds this month. Google launched a new beta called Google Scholar, which "enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research." The buzz among information professionals, as well as the media, has been loud and raucous. One main issue -- if the average user thinks he or she is going to get free access to a wealth of full-text articles from academic journals, he or she is in for a rude awakening. Many of the results are citations, or citations and abstracts only. The searcher will have to pay to obtain the full article. Alternately, he or she could inquire at a public, special or academic library where affiliation permits full access to a set of proprietary online databases, and obtain the information being sought for free. Cheryl M. LaGuardia, head of instructional services for Harvard College libraries, notes in this article that Google Scholar seems to do a better job with science searches than humanities-related queries. She said she is looking forward to engaging CrossRef's technology "to blend the ease of Google with existing library systems." (Reprinted by permission from *Current Cites*, Vol. 15, no. 11, November 2004)

http://scholar.google.com/

Javier C. Hernandez, "Google Offers Journal Searches" *The Harvard Crimson* (November 23, 2004), at http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=504709

See also Carol Tenopir's "Online Databases" column in *Library Journal* (February 1, 2005) on the subject at http://www.libraryjournal.com/index.asp?layout=articlePrint&articleID=CA498868.

This article is a summary transcript of a debate-like discussion held at the Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference in October. Although it predated the announcement by Google that they were preparing to digitize the full collections of selected major research libraries, there was nonetheless enough fodder for a spirited discussion of issues. I doubt anyone will be "converted" from a given perspective to another from reading this piece, but that is not its purpose. If the piece causes us to think about our services in relation to the services of web sites like Google, and consider carefully our appropriate role, then it will have been well worth the reading. (Reprinted by permission from *Current Cites*, Vol. 15, no. 12, December 2004)

Brian Kenney, "Googlizers vs. Resistors" *Library Journal* (December 15, 2004), at http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA485756.

To learn more about Google's digitization project, read this related article, which questions whether Google's partnership with major research libraries to scan 20 million books is legal, due to copyright issues. (Library Link of the Day)

Lawrence Lessig, "Let a Thousand Googles Bloom" *Los Angeles Times* (January 12, 2005), at http://136.142.121.233/doc/Supplemental/Google/la-oe-lessig12ja.pdf.

We've heard so much about it lately, the question is more like what isn't next for Google. I'm sure they're hoping that butting heads with Microsoft isn't. However, Charles Ferguson argues that both giants' current development of user-search systems for search & retrieval from all sources of digital information (the public web, the "dark" web, your intranet, your hard drive, and so on) makes a collision highly likely. Part explanation of the technology, part analysis and advice about business strategy, the article resonates with the experience of someone who's walked with the giants and avoided getting stomped: Ferguson co-founded Vermeer Technologies, which released the FrontPage website development application and immediately faced competing technology from Netscape and Microsoft. (He sold to Microsoft for a nice big number.) Those of us who care about control of vital markets will find this quite interesting; those who don't can still use this preview of the tools in our future. Information providers, prepare to adjust yet again. (Reprinted by permission from *Current Cites*, Vol. 16, no. 1, January 2005)

Charles H. Ferguson, "What's Next for Google" *Technology Review* 108(1) (January 2005): 38-46, at http://www.techreview.com/articles/05/01/issue/ferguson0105.asp

Here's another article about Google's enterprises. "Google's new initiatives are rocking our world. Here's how to rock back."

Stephen Abram, "The Google Opportunity" *Library Journal* (February 1, 2005), at http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA498846

In a survey from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, technology experts and scholars evaluate where the network is headed in the next ten years. This survey finds that only one in six users of Internet search engines can tell the difference between unbiased search results and paid advertisements. (Library Link of the Day)

"The Future of the Internet," at http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/145/report_display.asp

In celebration of libraries and their heritage of technological innovation, OCLC Research is sponsoring a software contest to encourage innovation in the use of web-based services for libraries. (Catalogablog)

http://www.oclc.org/research/researchworks/contest/default.htm

OCLC is launching a pilot to evaluate library users' experiences with searching and display of search results using a

visual interface developed by Antarctica Systems, Inc. (D-Lib Magazine)
http://www5.oclc.org/downloads/design/abstracts/01102005/index.htm

Technology experts who are members of the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA), a division of the American Library Association, met for a discussion in Boston, MA on January 16, 2005 to discuss what they feel are the top technology issues and trends in today's libraries. (LITA)
http://www.ala.org/ala/lita/litaresources/toptechtrends/midwinter2005.htm

Lorcan Dempsey's weblog "on libraries, services and networks." Too many items here to list, check it out yourself. (LITA)
http://orweblog.oclc.org/

"To deliver information about library news, services and resources to the science faculty and students at Georgia State University, several librarians developed a blog, Science News." Preprint available online prior to publication. (Library Link of the Day)
Teri Vogel and Doug Goans, "Delivering the News With Blogs: The Georgia State University Library Experience" *Internet Reference Services Quarterly* 10(1) (expected March 2005), at http://www.library.gsu.edu/scholarship/articles/vogel-2004-11-IRSQ-blog.pdf

"It appears the floppy disk is going the way of the long playing record and the rotary dial telephone. Is there any cause for concern?" (Cites & Insights: Crawford at Large)
Richard Entlich, "One Last Spin: Floppy Disks Head Toward Retirement" *RLG DigiNews* (December 15, 2004), at http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=20492#article4

A report of the Cornell University Library Task Force on Open Access Publishing was presented to the Cornell University Library Management Team on August 9, 2004. See the report at http://techreports.library.cornell.edu:8081/Dienst/UI/1.0/Display/cul.lib/2004-3.

The Scan List Of Sources
Some of the sources the authors are scanning, above, may be new to you, so for this first column here are websites that give more information about the publications being scanned.

Against the Grain, http://www.against-the-grain.com/
American Archivist, http://www.archivists.org/periodicals/aa.asp
American Libraries, http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/aboutal/aboutamerican.htm
Archival Outlook, http://www.archivists.org/periodicals/aoeditorial.asp
Blogwithoutalibrary.net, http://www.blogwithoutalibrary.net/
Catalogablog, http://catalogablog.blogspot.com/
Cites & Insights: Crawford at Large, http://cites.boisestate.edu/index.htm
CLIR Issues, http://www.clir.org/pubs/issues/index.html
Collections, http://www.altamirapress.com/RLA/Journals/Collections/
College and Research Libraries News, http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/collegeresearch.htm
Computers in Libraries, http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/default.shtml
Conserline, http://www.loc.gov/acq/conser/consrlin.html
Current Cites [Reprinted by permission from *Current Cites*], http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/
D-Lib Magazine, http://www.dlib.org/dlib.html
Information Today's NewsLink, http://www.infotoday.com/newslink/default.shtml
Informed Librarian Online, http://www.informedlibrarian.com/
Library and Information Technology Association electronic list (LITA), http://www.ala.org/ala/lita/litahome.htm
Library Cataloging and Authorities Discussion Group electronic list (AUTOCAT), http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/cts/autocat/
Library Hi Tech, http://iris.emeraldinsight.com/vl=3585070/cl=56/nw=1/rpsv/lht.htm
Library Journal, http://www.libraryjournal.com/
Library Journal Academic Newswire, http://www.libraryjournal.com/index.asp?layout=eletters&industry=Academic+Newswire
Library Link of the Day, http://www.tk421.net/librarylink/
Lii.org, http://lii.org/
OCLC Abstracts, https://www3.oclc.org/app/listserv/
OCLC-Cat archives, http://listserv.oclc.org/archives/oclc-cat.html
Smart Libraries, https://techsource.ala.org/rna.pl?section=lsn
TS-SIS electronic list, http://www.aallnet.org/discuss/list_index_sis.asp

Andrew Albanese, "Cornell: Open Access Costly" *Library Journal* (February 1, 2005), at http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA498857

Furl is a free service that allows the user to save web pages into their own personal searchable web archive. It allows the user to create folders for filing pages in different categories. This information can easily be accessed from both a computer at home and at work. In addition, *Furl* offers a way to **share** content found on the Web, and recommends new Web pages that may be of interest to the user. *Furl* can also be searched to find the best sites that other people are saving. Give it a try for saving actual web pages, organizing them, and accessing them from multiple computers. It could also be used as a tool to share documentation within a department or with colleagues off site. (blogswithoutalibrary.net)
http://www.furl.net/home.jsp

Local Systems
This article provides an overview of the Electronic Resource Management (ERM) systems offered by the various integrated library systems

(ILS) vendors. The vendors covered include Dynix, Endeavor, ExLibris, Innovative Interfaces, SIRSI, and VTLS. ERM features compared include: ERM system availability, standalone or integrated, operating system/platform/interface, pricing model, expected customer base, architecture, degree of integration with print, data maintenance. All this information is contained in a two-page chart. Of course, by now some of the information may no longer be current, but it is a good starting point for ERM comparisons.

Ellen Finnie Duranceau, "Electronic Resource Management Systems from ILS Vendors" *Against the Grain* 16(4) (September 2004): 91-94

Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) and Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (III) announced an integration partnership that will provide direct access to CCC's rights database from III's electronic course reserves solution. There are also news items of interest concerning Thomson West acquiring NETSCAN iPublishing and Yahoo's introduction of its new Yahoo Desktop Search application at the same URL. (Information Today's NewsLink)

http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/wnd050117.shtml

Management

Designers, decision-makers, and creators of digital collections can gain a Certificate of Advanced Study in Digital Libraries at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. (Library Journal Academic Newswire)

http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/gslis/degrees/cas_dl.html

Preservation

OCLC and Safe Sound Archive have signed an agreement to provide digitization services for libraries' audio collections, including digital reformatting, archiving and improved access through Open WorldCat. (OCLC Abstracts)

http://www5.oclc.org/downloads/design/abstracts/01242005/index.htm

Serials

OCLC has invited holdings experts Frieda Rosenberg and Diane Hillmann to advise staff on interpretations and common usage of the MARC 21 Format for Holdings Data (MFHD) in order to speed OCLC's implementation of the standard. (TS-SIS electronic list)

http://www5.oclc.org/downloads/design/abstracts/01032005/holdingsexperts.htm

TSLL Editor's note: this column is an ambitious undertaking, to have put all this information together with all the contributing "scanners." We welcome your ideas and comments about how to make the column better. Please contact Corinne Jacox, the column editor, with your thoughts.

—Brian Striman