

when people refer to the Internet as a “flash in a pan,” they are likely being ironic. Nothing is easier to get a laugh at a conference than saying “This whole computer thing, it will soon blow over.” This wasn’t always the case, and Shuman does a good job equipping the librarian with the background information necessary to understand the new medium. This is important because resistance to the Internet is probably more a factor of a fear of the unknown than anything else. Librarians confronted with such challenges would do well to take advantage of Shuman’s enthusiasm for the Internet and read what he has to say on the subject. For an appreciation of any subject, it’s always a good idea to consult with a true fan.—*Steve McCann (steve\_mccann@ncsu.edu), North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh.*

#### Reference

1. The New Hacker’s Dictionary, [www.jargon.8hz.com/jargon\\_toc.html](http://www.jargon.8hz.com/jargon_toc.html). Accessed Nov. 18, 2003.

***High-Level Subject Access: Tools and Techniques in Internet Cataloging.*** Edited by Judith R. Ahronheim. Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth Information Pr., 2002. xii, 115p. \$39.95 cloth (ISBN 0-7890-2024-6); \$24.95 paper (ISBN 0-7890-2025-4). Also published as *Journal of Internet Cataloging* 5, no. 4.

This collection of papers examines a problem highly relevant at the present time—achieving access to the Internet in an orderly fashion. It includes a range of approaches, the majority based on the actual experience of individual library systems, adapting traditional classification schemes to the new environment and innovative methods of subject retrieval. Much work is currently being undertaken in this area, principally on the basis of projects and approaches to find solutions for the local situation, and there is little authoritative

monograph literature dealing with the problems and possible solutions from a universal rather than local viewpoint. The introduction notes that the tools that we have at present at our disposal for resource discovery are fairly crude and posits that an approach via high-level access may be a way forward for the future.

Diane Vizine-Goetz provides the first survey, taking a more detached approach than some of the other contributors. She looks at how library classification schemes have been adapted to use for the organization and retrieval of information from the Web. Further proposed improvements include the use of a hierarchical structure to complement the alphabetical approach, and she compares the tree structures of the Internet with the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). She also notes the all important fact that the use of a structure rather than just an approach by keywords rises above the problems of language—the only article to mention the need for multilingual access.

Three of the contributions examine the application of the Library of Congress Classification (LCC) to the retrieval of Internet resources. All are based on projects undertaken in university libraries, those of Columbia University, the University of Washington, and the University of Michigan respectively. At Columbia (Dewey’s old library), the first phase of a project to create a hierarchical interface to the LCC is described. LCC has been mapped to the vocabulary of a three-level subject tree. Reversion to DDC was unthinkable despite its clear hierarchies, and the case is rightly made that hidden within the structure of the enumerative detail of the Library of Congress’s scheme there is indeed a hierarchical structure. It was decided that the first-level display should include no more than about a dozen categories. Other sites were surveyed, and the findings are given, providing a guide to anyone contemplating a similar

undertaking. A case study of the sciences is made, and an outline of the scheme and the categories used is provided in an appendix. The author suggests that the Columbia findings might prove valuable as a basis for the revision or even complete overhaul of the LCC. The major benefit of this Hierarchical Interface to LC Classification (HILCC) is that it provides a tool that can act as a switching language or crosswalk that could easily be applied to other systems. The project has only reached the end of its first phase, and the final product may well be of much wider interest.

The Washington experiment is based on three years’ (1998–2001) experience in designing and implementing a database of electronic resources called the Digital Registry. It concentrates more on the management issues and provides advice that any institution intending to create a catalogue of digital resources could follow. The article is illustrated by screen captures that demonstrate how attractive such a resource may be made. It is very clear about the user problems involved and the difficulties in getting people to access records via the Subject Gateway. It also notes the hazards involved in highlighting certain resources as the “Top Twenty,” which has resulted in heavy use of certain items while others are totally disregarded.

The Michigan experience outlines the attempt to provide audience-based subject access to electronic resources. A two-level subject hierarchy has been developed, the first providing a suitable list of topics for the university’s electronic resources and the second based on the university’s schools and departments. Further levels were thought to be counterproductive to easy searching. The aim is to produce a system that will automatically map the library’s LC call numbers on to the specially created structure. A pilot test produced encouraging results and found that a high proportion of materials could be

automatically mapped into categories that users found useful, but that to undertake such a project on a large scale would be both extremely time-consuming and expensive.

The penultimate article adopts a more philosophical tone and examines the requirements for the creation of a satisfactory library portal by examining work that has been undertaken both in the United States and in the United Kingdom. It emphasizes the need to avoid jargon, including such acronyms as OPAC, CAM, and LC in order to provide easy user-access and provides an interesting think piece that contrasts with the remainder of the work, all of which is based on actual experience.

The final contribution crosses the Atlantic and is an account of the preliminary findings of the High Level Thesaurus project undertaken in Scotland to provide a High Level Thesaurus to permit cross-searching and browsing by subject across the library, archive, and museum communities. The growing attention to interoperability between different vocabularies and categorization schemes and the need to standardize and coordinate approaches was the driving force for the project, which is still on-going. Once again, mapping is seen as the key to success, and the workshop organized for the project's stakeholders found unanimous agreement on this and felt that an Interactive Terminologies Route Map might provide a satisfactory way forward. Time, expense, and expertise needed again militate against its speedy completion.

In all, the collection provides valuable guidance both on what approaches might be taken and what the pitfalls are in attempting to provide high-level access to digital resources. It is realistic in pointing out the economics involved and is well worth examination by anyone considering a similar undertaking. It could have been usefully rounded off by a concluding essay to balance the introduction, and the index has some

idiosyncracies such as an entry under "library classifications" followed by a number of subheadings and references, one entry for the Library of Congress Classification referring only to page 2 whereas three articles are devoted to the application of that scheme, and a cross-reference to Dewey Decimal Classification. A similar cross reference to LCC appears under DDC, but neither is mentioned in the entry under Library Classification schemes. It also has several unsought terms, such as "McDonalization" [sic]!—*I. C. McIlwaine (i.mcilwaine@ucl.ac.uk), University College London, London, England*

***The Librarian's Guide to Intellectual Property in the Digital Age: Copyrights, Patents and Trademarks.*** By Timothy Lee Wherry. Chicago: ALA, 2002. 170p. \$38; members, \$34.20 (ISBN 0-8389-0825-X).

One has to admire an author who attempts to provide an overview of intellectual property concepts and issues at a time when so many of the topics under discussion are moving targets. This relatively short book (170 pages) covers the basic legal framework and some practical issues within the three principal areas of intellectual property—copyright, patents, and trademarks. The author, Timothy Lee Wherry, has extensive experience writing and speaking on these subjects. With this book, his goal is not to produce experts, but to help novices gain competency in fundamental concepts "without a great deal of confusion and toil" and to enable readers to make "informed decisions about their creative efforts" (viii). He particularly notes librarians and educators as the intended audience, both because of intellectual property issues arising in our workplaces and because of our role in providing information to others. The narrative is straightforward and interesting, including practical examples that make concepts memorable, and the book's brevity allows

beginners to easily compare different purposes of the law in each area.

Approaches to writing about intellectual property include historical treatments, textbook-like treatments that elucidate established concepts, practical guides for making workplace decisions, how-to instructions for obtaining intellectual property protection, and writings that address developing trends and current issues. In this book, copyright, patents, and trademarks are covered separately, and a different mix of approaches is adopted in each section.

The patent searching section—the middle and most extensive part of the book—is mostly a practical searching guide, and basic concepts are brought to light through a description of the patent search process. An excellent multistep search procedure is described, demonstrating the use of key patent search tools. The "moving target" that Wherry copes with in the patent search area is the transition by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) from a CD-ROM-based system to online search systems, and some readers will be disappointed that the search strategy he describes doesn't cover all the current features of the USPTO's Web site capabilities. However, Wherry points out that systems are evolving, and because he describes the functions of the tools clearly, albeit in particular formats, the reader can translate the skills and the process to other formats, a plus since users are likely to encounter multiple formats for a while. Patent history is presented more as entertainment than an attempt to describe historic trends, and little is included about current issues. Admirably conveyed is the fact that patent searching, for inventors who want to ensure they have patentable inventions, is complex and requires perseverance. Strategies are outlined to help inventors decide how much of the patent application work to do themselves and when to think about relying on expert help. Wherry describes commercial