NIH Adopts Scaled-Down Open Access Policy

After much wrangling and several delays, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, finally has adopted a new open access policy for the more than 60,000 research journal articles emanating annually from NIH-funded research.

The new NIH policy, however, is not as strong as originally proposed. The final version of the policy statement, published in the Federal Register on February 9, 2005, is titled "Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-Funded Research."

Beginning May 2, 2005, researchers engaged in NIH-funded research (in whole or in part) are requested to submit to the PubMed Central database operated by the National Library of Medicine an electronic version of manuscripts accepted for publication, usually in a journal.

The intent of the new policy is threefold:

■ to create a stable archive of peer-reviewed publication resulting from NIH-funded research;

■ to create a searchable compendium of peer-review research publications to be used by NIH and its awardees to better manage research portfolios, monitor scientific productivity, and to set research priorities; and

Google Globalization—TV, Maps, the NBA, and . . .

Google continues to tear through the information formats as it pursues its mission "to organize the world's information." In late January, the Mountain View, Calif.-based company made available to the public Google Video, a search engine for television program content. During this beta phase, the indexing only goes back to late December 2004, and only eight channels are indexed: KGO, the San Francisco (SF) Bay Area ABC affiliate; KQED, a SF Bay Area station; KRON, a SF Bay Area station; KNTV, the SF Bay Area NBC affiliate; PBS; Fox News; C-SPAN; and C-SPAN2.

The National Basketball Association is involved in the beta test, too.

Closed-Captioned (Gulp) Search
Google Video searches the closed-captioned text for programs in the archive. Google admits that sometimes the closed-captioned text contains misspellings, garbled

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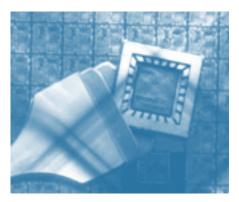Subscribers that would like an e-mailed version of the newsletter each month should forward one e-mail address and all of the mailing label information printed on page 8 of the newsletter to jfoley@ala.org. Type "e-mail my Smart Libraries" into the subject line. In addition to your monthly printed newsletter, you will receive an electronic copy via e-mail (to one address per paid subscription) at no extra charge each month.

RFID: COMING TO A LIBRARY NEAR YOU?

At the January American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Boston, the ALA Council formally adopted a "Resolution on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology and Privacy Principles." While the resolution notes RFID has the potential to improve library operations and service to library users, it also observes many consumers, consumer groups, librarians, and library users have expressed concerns about the technology's promise. As the possibility of RFID implementation in libraries has been bandied about, many have pointed out the possibility of the misuse or unethical use of RFID in order to collect information about patrons' reading habits as well as other information-seeking activities of library users (for example, Internet searches)—without their knowledge and informed consent.

The resolution calls on ALA to endorse the RFID privacy principles adopted in 2004 by the Book Industry Study Group (BISG), which worked with other stake-

holder groups, including ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP).

ALA Council's resolution also calls on ALA to continue to monitor the development and deployment of RFID technologies; to continue to address concerns about potential misuse; and to develop "implementation guidelines for the use of RFID technologies in libraries."

For a brief discussion on the pros and cons of RFID utilization by libraries, see the "Policy and Library Technology" issue of *Library Technology Reports* (41, no. 2 [Mar./Apr. 2005]: 25), by Walt Crawford.

Crawford provides two sides of the RFID "argument," including some of the

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■ to make the published results of NIH-funded research more accessible to the general public, including health care providers, educations, and scientists.

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of ALA, sent a formal letter to NIH praising the new policy but also pointed out some of the continuing areas of concern, including:

■ The new policy allows researchers as long as to twelve months after the official date of publication in a journal to provide open access to research reports, up from the six months initially recommended by NIH and the U.S. Congress.

■ Compliance with the new policy is completely voluntary on the part of researchers.

ACRL encourages NIH to implement a method for monitoring and measuring the impact of the new policy.

During the sixty-day public-comment period about the proposed policy late last year—during which NIH reports receiving more than 6,000 responses from organizations and individuals—the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) generally supported both the spirit and details of the proposed policy. SPARC, however, expressed several concerns:

■ The NIH plan does not alleviate the financial strain placed on research libraries by high-priced and inflating biomedical journal prices.

■ The NIH plan does not address the long-term health of the overall system of distributing and providing access to biomedical research literature.

■ "Any extension of the delay beyond six months would be excessive and not in the interest of taxpayers."

Some librarians and stakeholder organizations, summarized by Walt Crawford in the March 2005 issue of his monthly *Cites and Insights* publication, openly wonder if NIH caved in to pressure from the major publishers of scientific, technical, and medical information, as well as from the Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers.—*Tom Peters*

Contact: www.nih.gov/about/
   publicaccess/Enhanced
   _Public_Access.pdf
www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/
   scholarlycomm/nihletter2.htm
www.arl.org/sparc/
   announce/111504.html
http://cites.boisestate.edu/civ5i4.pdf

Google *from page 1*

text, and grammatical errors. The brief results display features snippets of the closed-captioned text along with still images from the television show. A "preferences" link on the Google Video beta homepage enables a user to input her or his ZIP code so that information about the next broadcast of a show is localized. A left-hand column of information about a show in which the search term entered is found indicates:

- when the next episode airs locally;

- a link to the show's Web site;

- upcoming episodes of the show; and

- a link to launch a Google web search for the search terms you entered.

More Maps

Google also recently launched an online map service. Supplied by Tele Atlas, the map records only include the United States and Canada. Yet the Multinet mapping database from Tele Atlas claims to cover the United States and Canada (which their Web site erroneously claims is "all of North America"), plus eighteen European nations, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

When using Google's maps, you'll find (in the left-hand navigation area) fifteen available levels of zooming, from the continental down to the block level. One nice feature of Google Maps is the ability to move the map in any direction just by grabbing it and dragging it with your mouse cursor.

But some of the maps still leave something to be desired. For example, the map of my hometown, Fort Dodge, Iowa, does not display parks, rivers, and other bodies of water. There's only a blank space ripping through the center of the map of the town. Just to the north of town, Dakota City is listed, but there's no mention of Humboldt, its sister town. Also, bicycle and walking trails often are portrayed as if they are roads, which could result in some interesting vehicular confrontations. I could not find any indication of map scale, either.

I imagine somewhere on its development schedule Google has Morse Code listed.—*Tom Peters*

Contact: http://video.google.com
http://maps.google.com
www.teleatlas.com

E-Books: BookLocker to Cut DRM and User Snarls

SanDisk is sharpening its shears to cut through the dual Gordian knots of a secure digital rights management (DRM) system that *doesn't* alienate legitimate users, and a system that delivers simple digital access to, and use of, digital books (particularly textbooks). This manufacturer of flash memory storage announces its well-honed BookLocker, an enhanced flash memory device, USB connector-equipped, with ebook software preloaded onto it.

According to SanDisk, the digital content on the BookLocker can be read online or offline, and the device's reader software enables a user to take notes, highlight text, and execute full-text searches. The company designed the device for use both in higher education and the K–12 market.

According to a digital brochure posted by SanDisk in January, "BookLocker balances the digital copyright

BLOGLINES BOUGHT BY ASK JEEVES

Ask Jeeves, Inc., has acquired Trustic, Inc., the company that operates Bloglines. In case you don't know (which is unlikely), Bloglines is the popular weblog aggregator that calls itself "the most comprehensive, integrated service for searching, subscribing, publishing and sharing news feeds, blogs, and rich Web content."

The first paragraph of the press release announcing the acquisition asserts that Bloglines will remain independent in its outlook and operations: "Bloglines will continue to operate as an independent brand in the Ask Jeeves portfolio and retain its name and unique URL: www.bloglines.com." The purchase price has not been disclosed.

Some librarians responded to the news by wondering if Bloglines will continue to be a *free* aggregator for end-users (for both blogger and bloggee).

Ask Jeeves also owns other well-known Web-based services, such as Excite and Teoma.—*Tom Peters*

Contact: www.bloglines.com/about/pr_02082005

THE ILS SCOOP

by Marshall Breeding

Go Centralized, Young Ones!

School library automation has seen a major shift in the last three years. More and more, school districts are moving away from products installed in individual school libraries and toward systems designed for centralized automation. Products designed for installation in individual schools have experienced steady sales declines over the last few years, while emerging technologies, produced for centralized, district-wide automation, chart sales increases.

Given that a school district may include dozens of individual libraries, installing library automation software on computers in each school library can be quite a burden on the IT staff, while operating a single centralized system offers great benefits in terms of manageability and technical support. Centralized systems also provide advantages for the acquisition and cataloging of new materials and offer great opportunities for sharing materials throughout the district. What's more, the costs for licensing a single centralized system can be less than purchasing software for each of its individual libraries.

Manifest Destiny

Among the library technology vendors, Follett Software Company is a pioneer in the K–12 school software territory. Its venerable Circulation Plus and Catalog Plus PC-based automation systems have been installed in more than 35,000 individual libraries. And as sales for its PC products slow, Follett reports strong interest in its new Destiny automation system, which set out on its course in 2003.

Destiny follows an all-Web approach, meaning all access to the system for both staff and students is done through a Web browser, eliminating the need for installation of local software. Since Destiny began its journey, Follett reports it's been selected by almost 200 school districts in the United States.

In 2004 alone, the company reported 141 new sales for Destiny. Many of these sales have been to large municipal school districts, including Miami-Dade County in Florida (for its 320 schools), the borough of the Bronx, New York (116 schools), Clark County in Nevada (301 schools), as well as to Polk (120 schools) and Pinellas (132 schools) counties in Florida.

In the transition from PC-based systems to centralized district-wide automation, Follett has preserved its status as the leading software provider.

The Automation Trail

Most other companies in the K–12 school library market also are heeding the call for centralized automation. Sagebrush Technologies—the only other company that approaches Follett's market presence—offers Accent, a 2001-launched school automation system based on technology from Sirsi Corporation.

Additionally, in 2004 several of the smaller companies specializing in K–12 schools launched products for centralized automation, including Book Systems, Inc., Mandarin Library Automation, and Surpass Software.

Softlink America, a subsidiary of an Australian-based company, likewise has shifted its course to centralized Web-based systems. The company targets a wide range of library types, and it offers customized versions of its Web-based Liberty3 automation system for each, but Softlink Oliver is the company's product customized for K–12 school districts.

Softlink recently announced a partnership with VIP Tone, a company specializing in administrative support software for schools. VIP Tone offers the School MATRIX enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. According to the vendors, Softlink's Oliver system will be integrated into the School Matrix School Portal to provide library automation for the district in an environment completely integrated with the

AquaBrowser Dives into ILS Technology

Almost all libraries today offer a Web-based online catalog that allows their patrons to virtually search or browse through their collections. These Web OPACS have evolved steadily over the last decade, incorporating more features such as personalization, e-commerce, and automatic notification. With most catalogs offering structured and keyword searching and browsing capabilities, the framework for searching has stayed within a conservative boundary set.

Today, many librarians believe the current generation of OPACs lag behind other search environments that their users experience on the Web, and many are eager to implement more sophisticated search capabilities.

Medialab Solutions, B.V, an Amsterdam-based software development company, has developed a search environment called AquaBrowser that takes quite a different approach. As with a standard catalog, a search session begins by typing search terms. In addition to the list of results returned by a conventional online catalog search, AquaBrowser Library presents an interface designed to help the searcher pinpoint material that matches their investigation topic.

To the left of the results list, AquaBrowser displays a graphical map of terms related to the result set—a "cloud" of associations. Each term serves as a suggestion for narrowing or refocusing the search. Clicking on one of the suggested topics re-executes the search.

On the rights, the browser displays a list of formats, subject terms, and categories that can be applied to limit the search results.

Overall, the AquaBrowser Library transforms topic searching into an interactive progression through concepts and terms beyond what the searcher might have originally known to try.

Relying on a set of technology components, the AquaBrowser Library is designed to operate as a front-end search and retrieval interface for a variety of environments that deal with information, whether it is unstructured (as in a repository of Web pages or e-mail messages) or structured data such as a library catalog. Data connectors extract and translate data from its source, while a knowledge builder layer analyzes the data, builds word frequency tables, and organizes the data according to internal dictionaries and thesauri.

At the core of the system lies a full-text search engine, called "Igor," that includes a number of advanced features, such as results ranking, variations based on word stems, fuzzy matching, and matches based on statistical and semantic relationships to the search terms. The user interface sits on top of these layers of technology components at the ready to assist and guide the searcher.

Libraries in the Netherlands have demonstrated considerable interest in Medialab Solutions' technology, with at least twelve major public libraries and four academic libraries using the product. The company aims to expand its presence internationally through partnerships with other technology companies that have complementary products.

To date, three North American library automation companies have engaged in partnerships with Medialab Solutions to integrate the AquaBrowser interface with their automation systems. With an agreement in November 2002 to bring AquaBrowser into their Zones suite of library portal products, BiblioMondo was the earliest.

Two other library automation companies have recently announced their plans to make AquaBrowser Library avail-

> ## Many librarians believe the current generation of OPACs lag behind other search environments that their users experience on the Web.

able to their library customers. At the recent ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston, AquaBrowser was one of the notable new technologies, available for view at the booths of The Library Corporation (TLC) and VTLS.

TLC entered into a partnership to offer AquaBrowser Library in September 2004; AquaBrowser will be offered as an optional search interface for each of TLC's three automation systems: Library.Solution, Carl.Solution, and the company's newest offering, Carl.X. Lexington Public Library in Kentucky, a municipal system of six branches with a collection of more than 325,000 titles, will be first United States library to implement the product.

Announcing its partnership with Medialab

THE ILS SCOOP

EX LIBRIS FINE TUNES U.S. TENOR

Israel-based Ex Libris Group reports a number of changes in the executive leadership of its United States subsidiary, Ex Libris (USA).

While the company maintains United States offices in Chicago and Boston, the Boston office has been the focus of the company's Information Services Division (ISD). Under the leadership of Oren Beit-Arie, this division has led the development of the company's new products, including SFX, MetaLib, and, most recently, the Verde electronic resource-management system. According to Ex Libris, the organization has made several changes in management to provide a more unified organizational structure and to build on the ISD accomplishments.

■ Beit Arie now serves at the chief strategy officer, with responsibility for the strategic development for all of Ex Libris' current products.

■ Jennie Walker assumes the VP marketing position for Ex Libris (USA), with responsibility for all Ex Libris products. Walker previously had been responsible only for marketing only ISD products.

■ Susan Stearns advances to VP of customer services, with responsibility for managing the activities of United States offices relating to support, implementation, and training for all Ex Libris products. Sterns joined Ex Libris in September 2004 as the director of operations for ISD.

Automation *from page 4*

schools' other administrative functions. The system providers say this environment will allow the library automation component to share student and staff data, eliminating the need to re-key or duplicate information.

To date, Softlink has been a relatively small player in the United States K–12 school library automation market, but this relationship with VIP Tone enables it to expand its presence in the states.

Contact: www.fsc.follett.com/products/destiny/index.cfm
www.sagebrushcorp.com/tech/accent.cfm
www.booksys.com
www.mlasolutions.com
www.surpasssoftware.com/centriva.htm
www.softlink.co.uk/gateway/gateway.exe?displayform=index&library
    =-1&category=solutions&section=oliver

AquaBrowser *from previous page*

Solutions in January 2005, VTLS will offer the AquaBrowser Library search interface to its customers as an optional add-in to its VECTORS, the portal interface for the VIRTUA library automation system. Early adopters of AquaBrowser Library through VTLS include Scugog Public Library in Canada and Nyenrode University in the Netherlands.

The ARL Stats

In the academic library automation market, the 123 members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) represent the most prestigious and lucrative players. Institutions with complex, large-scale needs, research libraries push even the most competitive automation systems to their limits.

Recently, Innovative Interfaces won two additional ARL accounts, shoring up its position in this group of libraries. With the addition of the University of South Carolina in December 2004 and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in February 2005, Innovative now automates thirty-seven research libraries. Endeavor ranks second with thirty-five.

In December 2004, with the migration of the Five Colleges, Inc., from INNOPAC to ALEPH 500 (which includes ARL member University of Massachusetts at Amherst), Ex Libris scored one at Innovative's expense. (Since its North American market entry in 1999, Ex Libris has accumulated twenty-one ARL accounts.)

But few additional sales from this group of libraries can be expected in the near future; only three remain with legacy or locally developed systems.

Contact: www.iii.com
www.endinfosys.com
www.exlibrisgroup.com

Contact: www.medialab.nl
www.bibliomondo.com
www.tlcdelivers.com/tlc/press/
    pr092704.asp
www.vtls.com/Corporate/
    Releases/2005/11.shtml

NanoChromics to Save Eyes and Energy

In February NTERA, Ltd., based in Dublin (Ireland, not Ohio), announced the availability of NanoChromics display (NCD) technology. The press release describes NCD as ". . . an intelligent electronic display technology featuring ink-on-paper readability and low power consumption at a competitive cost." NTERA claims the NCD provides four times the contrast of older electronic display technologies, such as liquid crystal display (LCD) and organic light-emitting diodes (OLED), and the low energy consumption results in up to ten times the viewable life of the display on a battery charge.

NCD displays are made using "proprietary nanostructured materials." It is unclear what "proprietary" means in this context for members of the general consumer market.—*Tom Peters*

Contact: www.ntera.com/
technology/NteraNanoTech.asp

advantages summarized by Richard W. Boss: rapid charging/discharging; simplified patron self-charging/discharging; high-speed inventorying; and automated materials handling.

According to Crawford, another librarian, Karen G. Schneider, also has helped flesh out the RFID and library utilization story. In her late-2003 testimony to the California Senate, Schneider identifed potential RFID utilization problems, including:

■ lack of profession-wide best practices: "Libraries *should* only store barcode numbers on these tags, but . . . at least one library in California has acknowledged that [it] store[s] patron information on RFID tags."

■ library systems' access security (or the lack thereof);

■ RFID cheaply and efficiently automates surveillance; and

■ libraries' vulnerability to national agendas: "With the PATRIOT Act, we have seen the government become increasingly inventive and aggressive in its efforts to track the reading habits of library users."

Yet, adds Crawford, "None of this means libraries should shun RFID chips. It does mean that . . . libraries need to develop best practices and deep understanding of the possibilities."—*Tom Peters*

Contact: www.ala.org/Template
.cfm?Section=ifresolutions
&Template=/
ContentManagement/
ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID
=85331
www.bisg.org/docs/BISG_Policy
_002.pdf
"RFID and Libraries: Both Sides of the Chip" (Testimony presented by Karen G. Schneider at Committee on Energy and Utilities, California Senate, Nov. 20, 2003.), www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/
SEN/COMMITTEE/STANDING/
ENERGY/_home/11-20-03/karen
.pdf
ALA Tech Notes, "RFID for Libraries" (Richard W. Boss), www.ala
.org/ala/pla/plapubs/technotes/
rfidtechnology.htm
www.libraryrfid.net
ALA TechSource, www.techsource
.ala.org

equation by providing a sound Digital Right Management (DRM) solution for book publishers, and at the same time a seamless, user-friendly experience for readers." An e-mail message from a BookLocker representative indicated the launch of BookLocker is slated for sometime during the summer of 2005.

A Double-Edged Sword

The storage area on the BookLocker is divided into two zones. The open zone is accessible by the user to copy and store files, while the secure zone (which cannot be accessed by the user) is used to store copyright protected digital content.

Whenever the BookLocker is connected to a PC connected to the Internet, the BookLocker automatically connects to a

MDRM content server to update content directly to the device. (Late last year, SanDisk acquired MDRM, a privately held Israeli company focused on developing end-to-end solutions for distributing secure content through flash memory cards.)

Although the early press releases and brochures from SanDisk focus on the market potential for education and professionals, the BookLocker may have some potential applications in libraries. It also raises some potential concerns. The breadth and depth of the master collection of content remain vague, and publicity statements such as the following cause my privacy and confidentiality antenna to quiver: "BookLocker supports tracking and reporting so publishers can know exactly how many e-books have been distributed."—*Tom Peters*

Contact: www.sandisk.com/retail/booklocker.asp
www.sandisk.com/pressrelease/20050104.htm

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April 2005
Research Journal Access: Did NIH Cave to the Publishers?

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