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Webworthy-Unique and Interesting Websites

Pamela M. Rose

Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu

Sandra K. Paul

SKP Associates, SKPAssoc@cwixmail.com

Albert Simmonds

SKP Associates, awsimmo@ibm.net

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librarians object to separating information by format and find the Web page list, now close to 500 items, cumbersome to maintain.¹³

One way of reducing the time and effort needed to maintain Web pages which list electronic resources is to export data from cataloging records and use it to dynamically generate Web pages which list electronic products. A small number of the institutions surveyed for this article (7%) do so, and another 7%, including the author's institution, are working to develop such products. At a recent ALA discussion on electronic serials, the audience leaned towards using a combination of dynamically generated Web pages and catalog records. They felt that users would prefer to find information displayed in a grouping that might prompt use as opposed to finding individual items in the catalog.¹⁴

A wide variety of staff positions is needed to support electronic resources and maintain the means of accessing them. Not surprisingly, the survey used in this article found that a broad cross-section of library staff may be notified upon arrival of an item. The survey results indicate that those notified include the selector who ordered it (55% of libraries), the systems office (42%), head of reference (37%), head of collection development (35%), and electronic resources librarians (10%). Notified at less than 10% of responding libraries were catalogers, faculty members, media science librarians, and administrators. Two-thirds of the libraries responding to the survey indicated that they notified librarians in more than one of these categories upon receipt of electronic resources. Two libraries issued a library-wide electronic mailing.

Impact on Personnel

The explosion of electronic resources being incorporated into everyday library work has changed work routines, and, in some places, has resulted in the creation of new jobs or the re-structuring of already existing positions. **Ellen Finnie Duranceau's** informal survey of postings to listservs in 1997 revealed advertisements for newly created technical services positions, including "electronic access librarian," "Electronic Publishing and Collections Librarian," and "Scholarly Communication Librarian."¹⁵ Of those libraries responding to the survey done for this column, 35% of libraries report such changes, most often in acquisitions (10% of respondents), serials cataloging (7%), electronic resources (7%), cataloging (3%), serials acquisitions (5%), or collection development (3%). Another trend is writing new responsibilities into library positions. As examples of this trend, Duranceau's 1997 study also mentions serials librarians with electronic resources added to their job descriptions, and acquisitions librarians who are asked to assume responsibility for licensing and negotiating.¹⁶

An instance of such a change is the recently created Acquisitions Coordinator at the **University of Wisconsin**. This trend is ongoing: several respondents cited examples of new or re-written positions for which they were planning or seeking approval.

Conclusion

Electronic products do not fall neatly into traditional definitions of information products; digital resources, therefore, compel libraries to change practices and staffing in order to accommodate these new resources. For example, electronic products blur the lines between monograph and serial, and addressing the issues of copyright, access, and quality control raised by electronic resources does not fall exclusively into any

one traditional library unit. Dealing with electronic resources is a trial and error process; a variety of approaches are currently evolving. One observer notes that the challenges presented by adjusting workflows to integrate electronic resources provide the potential for

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"confusion, ambiguity, and turf wars."¹⁷ These challenges have doubtlessly had such effects. However, as this article demonstrates, it is also true that librarians and library staff from many parts of the library are successfully working together to meet these challenges. 

Webworthy

Column Editor: **Pamela M. Rose** (Web Services and Library Promotion Coordinator, Health Sciences Library, University of Buffalo)
<pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu> <http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~pmrose>

Web sites are selected for broad appeal, depth of information, and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and visited just prior to publication. Please let the editor know of any sites that are not accessible. Comments and suggestions welcome. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in *Science*, NetWatch column edited by **Jocelyn Kaiser**.

Cancer

The second leading cause of death in the nation affects everything from art to finances to wills. The **University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center** maintains **Oncolink**, which offers a wealth of information to patients and their doctors, information which not only in-

forms treatment choices, but also provides financial assistance (American Viatical Corporation which purchases Life Insurance Policies for cash), aesthetic relief (Confronting Cancer Through Art), conference information, and book reviews. <http://oncolink.upenn.edu/>

Chronology

Need to know the exact time, to the fraction-of-a-second? Check the **National Institutes of Standards and Technology Official U.S. Time** site, where you can select a time zone, drop over to the exhibits area and find out what Daylight Saving Time is and why we use it, or wander through a complete history of time. Note that **Coordinated Universal Time**, one of the zones available, is

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Chaos — Think Thirteen — Here Comes The NEW ISBN!

by **Sandra K. Paul** (SKP Associates) <SKPaul@ibm.net>

Column Editors: **Sandra K. Paul** and **Albert W. Simmonds**
<awsimmo@ibm.net>

Tell your systems people to get ready for the next problem after Y2K. By January 1, 2006, their systems must be able to contain a 13 Digit International Standard Book Number (ISBN) instead of the 10 digit ISBN we've all come to know and love. This article describes the background and reasoning for moving to the 13 digit ISBN and what is now known about the transition, along with lots of questions to be answered in the future. YOUR INPUT TO THE PROCESS OF ANSWERING THOSE QUESTIONS WILL HELP!!!

Why Move to a 13 Digit ISBN?

There are several concerns prompting the move to 13 digits. One of the primary ones is the need to accommodate more "editions" of books in the future. Today, we have the hardback, trade paperback, mass market paperback and audio versions of the same work. We also have the **Rocket e-Book** edition, the **Softbook** edition, and, as we heard in Frankfurt, the **Microsoft e-Book** reader edition. **Pearson Education** tells us that they will provide intellectual property marked in XML, SGML, or whatever ML or PDF you want. Print-on-demand editions may or may not need a different ISBN, depending upon whether they are produced by the same publisher in the "same format" as the original, or if the product is now owned by a different rights-holder and/or is printed to look different from the original. All of these editions will proliferate and may/will need ISBNs in the very near future.

Another reason is that books carry the **Bookland EAN** bar code on their covers and it is often scanned by wholesalers, retailers and some libraries. To insure that the numbers in the EAN and those in the database are identical, the full 13 digit Bookland EAN is recommended for databases.

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the term used for **Greenwich Mean Time**.
<http://www.time.gov/>

Geography

You'll never have to buy an updated globe for your study again. Just rely on the **National Geographic**, whose latest digital world atlas provides free customized maps. View a Mercator projection of the world from a political viewpoint, or browse the satellite im-

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Further in this area, sheet music identified with the **International Standard Music Number (ISMN)** actually may appear to be books—and duplicates of ISBNs—when bar coded using the Bookland EAN. Therefore, thought has been given to differentiating ISBNs and ISMNs in bar codes and databases.

A final reason—and the reason to move to 13 digits instead of 11 or 12—is to accommodate the requirement that books appear in databases in a retail environment (and the same may well be true of many libraries) with non-book materials that carry the 12 digit U.P.C. if they come from North America or the 13 digit EAN if they are from some other country. Retailers in North America have been given until December 31, 2005 to be able to hold the 13 digit EAN or U.P.C. (the current one with a leading 0) in their databases. So, that's the date we've selected for this implementation as well.

How Will We Do It?

The agreement signed by the **Uniform Code Council** (U.S.-based owners of the U.P.C.), **EAN International** (in Brussels) and the **International ISBN Agency Headquarters** (in Berlin) provided the prefixes 978 AND 979 to the book community. So far, we have only used 978. In fact, in our 10-digit ISBN world of today, if we used 979 in front of our ISBN, it would simply identify the SAME ISBN, although it would have a different 13th (check) digit, confusing many systems that scan the bar codes. The only legitimate use of 979 has been by the sheet music folks who have used it, converting the leading "M" in their identifier to a 0 (zero). Therefore, were we to put the full 13 digits of ISMNs into a database, they would all start 9790.

So, in order to DOUBLE (or almost double) the number of possible ISBNs in the future to accommodate those new types of editions described earlier in this article, this author made a presentation to the **International ISBN Agency Advisory Panel** session in late October in London (from which this article is actually being written) on behalf of **Book And Serial Industry Communications (BASIC)**. It is the folks in BASIC who are being asked to deal with the new formats in EDI and to assign these formats standard identifiers that can be distributed with bibliographic information about them. The concepts presented there (and below) have the general agreement of the BASIC constituents and the Director of the International ISBN

Agency. (If they are not accepted in this week's Advisory Panel meeting, I'll send Katina an update of this article.)

The exact "how" is to assign all future sheet music identified by the ISMN to the range of numbers starting 9790, since that's where the current group sits. Next, all books currently are identified with numbers starting 978, so that would be retained, as well. That leaves the numbers 9791xxxxxxx through 9799999999999 available for assignment to new editions of books.

Some Basic Decisions Needing Your Input

There are several areas of concern about the "understanding" folks get from "reading" an ISBN today. The first relates to the lead digit; it is said to represent the country or language of the geographic location of the publisher. Thus, English language countries, including the U.S., U.K., Australia, English-speaking Canada, etc. use the lead digit 0 (zero) or 1 (one); Japan uses the leading digit 4. However, right down the block from my office is the U.S. office of **Kodansha Publishing Company**, and they assign ISBNs starting with 4 to all of their new titles, which are published in English.

Another aspect of the ISBN is our ability, they say, to identify the publisher from the digits that follow the first dash. So, when I worked there, we knew that **Random House** was always 0-394. However, now that Random House sold all of its college textbooks to another publisher and was subsequently purchased by those responsible for assigning ISBNs to **Bantam, Doubleday** and **Dell** titles under the new corporate name **Random House**, what can I really tell about a book with an ISBN starting 0394? Not too much!

Is there anything to be gained by putting ANY MEANING into the new 979-based ISBNs? This is the question in my presentation and the one I ask you. The **International ISBN Agency** will be seeking advice from local agencies and affected parties over this next year, so that they can prepare for 2005. If you see reasons for meaning in the number, contact me at **BASIC** (Sandy@bookinfo.org), phone 212/929-1393 or fax 212/989-7542. I will coordinate your thoughts with the input received by the US ISBN Agency, so that we can provide solid, meaningful U.S. input to the International Agency next year. Thank you!! 🐱

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agery and zero in on Kosovo. Features include buttons for zooming in and out, the ability to click on an area to recenter the image, the ability to save views, and to download printable versions. In addition, you can see the flags and facts for many areas. The site also has a section on **GIS (Geographic Imaging Systems)** data and training. <http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine>

Infectious Diseases

You might wish you had sickle cell anemia if you lived in an Anopheles mosquito infested climate. Malaria kills several million people each year, although its geographical prevalence has been reduced over the years. **Malaria Foundation International**, founded in 1992, is a private international entity dedicated to the effective prevention, treatment, and control of malaria. To that end, their Web site offers an impressive array of resources to learn about malaria, how it is transmitted, the culprit organism's ability to develop drug resistance, how it can be treated, and how to best prevent exposure in the first place. The site includes numerous links to institution and university homepages, as well as travel advisories. <http://www.malaria.org/>

Neuroscience

Dr. Eric Chudler offers kids the chance to explore the nervous system through explanation, activities and experiments, and when that information can't answer their questions, he offers a pool of experts to answer questions online. There's a lot here for adults as well in the **Other Resources for Teaching Neuroscience** section. <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html>

Science

Did scientists really install tiny robotic controls on a cockroach? Do wild shrimp really taste better than their tame counterparts? These are just some of the "fun factoids" you can browse on **National Public Radio's (NPR)** "Sounds Like Science" program Web site. Although the last program aired on September 26th, the episodes live on. You can listen to the latest show if you have RealPlayer 2.0 or higher, rummage through the archives, or challenge yourself with the science quiz. <http://www.npr.org/programs/science/>

Described in the November 1999 **ATG's "Bet You Missed It"** column (p.80), the **Department of Energy (DOE)** has now unveiled its **PubScience** Website, a "PubMed" for the physical sciences. The site debuted with 21 publishers and about 1,000 journals, providing over 1 million citations. Happy searching! <http://pubsci.osti.gov/>

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devoted to children and parents and lists of consumer products companies that do not engage in animal testing.

Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) <http://www.pcrm.org/> — Information available at this site includes alternatives to animal experimentation and reasons for pursuing such alternatives; facts about vegetarian diet, including special sections related to pregnant women and to children; and ethical issues in medical education.

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SPAIN

c/ Estany 13, Nave D - 1
08038 Barcelona - Spain
Tel. (011 3493) 298-8960
Fax (011 3493) 298-8961
e-mail: info@puvill.com

MEXICO

Miguel Angel de Quevedo 871 Bis-3
Col. Los Reyes Coyoacan
Coyoacan 04330
Telf. (011 52 5) 689-6507
Fax (011 52 5) 549-9803
e-mail: pulme@mpsnet.com.mx

USA

264 Derrom Avenue
Paterson, NJ 07504
Tel. (973) 279-9054
Fax (973) 278-1448