



N E W S

::: JUNE 2001 :::

29 jun 01

Fulbright opportunity for a librarian or archivist. UK, £22K. **CB**

Zowie, Howie! We've got ourselves a volunteer working on a meta-search engine for library-related job databases - thanks, Jonathan. We'll keep you posted on the progress. **CB**

From the **latest issue of Current Cites**:

- The lowdown on **personalization of web services**
- **Artificial intelligence and the breadth of human knowledge** - 17 years in the making, and now they're ready to let the world know about Cyc (from "encyclopedia," pronounced "psych")
- From **copyright infringement to deep linking** - how to avoid getting into trouble with web design
- A good article that explains **how OpenURL resolvers** - like **SFX** and **OpenResolver** - work. **CB**

Web sites for evaluating charities:

- **BBB Wise Giving Alliance**
Recently merged with National Charities Information Bureau. Evaluates charities based on financial and management practices. This is the only major site that names names of charities that do not meet standards.
- **JustGive Guide**
Maintains a database of screened and approved charities, along with financial statements.
- **American Institute of Philanthropy Charity Watch**
Provides names and ratings for top-rated charities only; lesser-rated listings are in their print publication "Charity Rating Guide".
- **GuideStar**
The idea here is to provide enough information to make your own judgment. The database includes all IRS-registered tax-deductible charities, comprising over 700,000 organizations. Some listings do not provide full data. [thanks Warren] **CB**

I'm tired of living out of a suitcase, United Airlines is causing a lot of travel headaches, and if you can avoid connecting through San Francisco and Denver I'd highly recommend it. But I had a great time at the **AAHE Assessment Conference**. Tomorrow I head off on two precious weeks of vacation - straight

up the I-5 to Vancouver, B.C., then spending quality time with family and friends. I guess I can stand living out of a suitcase for a couple more weeks - see you then. **CB**

21 jun 01

E-Government Act of 2001 (S. 803) seeks to create a federal CIO (Chief Information Officer) position. It's unclear at this point what impact this will have on the information profession, but it's clear that this one bears watching. **CB**

Pew study on **Teenage Life Online** finds that **U.S. teens are generation "IM"** (instant messaging): "We don't know enough about that yet. It will be a big question to researchers and the world once these teenagers are grown up. We'll be able to see whether they are distracted, fragmented workers or whether they can concentrate, whether they can finish a task to its completion or whether they get waylaid." Maybe there will be something to this digital reference thing after all. **CB**

New issue of **Digital Web magazine** focuses on **simplicity**. **CB**

If you're interested in the digital divide issue, check out **Bridges.org** - "Properly used, information technologies offer huge potential to empower people in developing and emerging countries to overcome development obstacles, to address the most important social problems they face and to strengthen communities, democratic institutions, a free press, and local economies." **CB**

Peter Suber of Earlham College offers the **Free Online Scholarship** newsletter "to share news and discussion on the migration of print scholarship to the internet and efforts to make it available to readers free of charge." [thanks Paul] **CB**

Shine up your library card: readers respond to Laura Bush's summer reading picks with suggestions of their own. [thanks Andrew] **CB**

Calling all school librarians:

"I have been asked to conduct several library workshops at a teachers conference in South Africa in early August 2001. One of these workshops is for non-trained personnel who have been assigned to the school library without any previous training or experience. Having never been in that situation I would love to hear from anyone who has, or any newly trained librarians working in schools - about what they found difficult initially, and what they did to overcome any feelings of inadequacy.

"I would also like to hear from school librarians about any fun activities that are run in conjunction with the library in their schools.

"I can be contacted by email at abblitt@bigpond.com.

"Thank you,
Linda Abblitt
Library Consultant to International Schools"

Please respond directly to Linda. **CB**

Juanita's off on her road trip, but I'm back from ALA and I have to say I had the best time. Maybe it was the hotel - perfect location, lots of character - or maybe it was the company - Juanita and I shared a room - or maybe it was the city, all the people I met, seeing old friends. Whatever it was, but it was fun. I went to a bunch of meetings, a program or two, the exhibits, and a reception. I ate at some great restaurants, saw some sights, took a ferry ride, and got a genuine California sunburn. Now it's back to work for a couple of days. Thanks to all of you who stopped by to tell us what you think of our site, and welcome to those of you who are now visiting for the first time. **CB**

14 jun 01

Like Juanita, I'm heading to San Francisco for ALA and looking forward to a change of scenery. My schedule is packed, but it includes plenty of fun and socializing. If you get a chance, stop by the poster sessions in the Exhibits on Monday, 11-12:30 and say hi - we'll be there talking about NBL. I'll be back next Wednesday - see you then. **CB**

Great books have a place in our libraries. "In high school I had a teacher who said she would rather we read a comic book than to read nothing. I see her point, yet our spending priorities seem out of whack. Our culture is being vastly 'dumbed down' and our libraries need to resist this trend by first filling the shelves with quality literature." **CB**

Britain's public libraries in danger? "Modernisers are seeking to close run-down libraries and replace them with hi-tech centres. But traditionalists are angry." **CB**

Noise? that's learning going on - Summer Reading kicks off at Brooklyn Public Library. **CB**

Wow! According to Nielsen//NetRatings, **429 million people worldwide have net access**. Of course, the report only measures 27 countries. [link via **ResourceShelf**] **CB**

ACLU wades into the fray after Anchorage mayor tells library to take down its gay pride display. [link via **UnknownNews**] **CB**

Microsoft-free Fridays? - a "take back the web" idea that won't stop the steamroller, but it will at least give us an illusion of freedom. **CB**

A loophole in CIPA? "The U.S. Department of Justice argues that the law mandates only that public libraries install the content filters; not how - or whether - to use them." **CB**

Here's some good news: the American Bar Association **may vote to oppose UCITA**. [link via **Newstrolls**] **CB**

Netscape 6.1 is coming - currently in beta, this promises to be a much more stable version than 6.0. **CB**

From **learning to read to reading to learn** - reading fundamentals and more at the **Brain Connection**. **CB**

13 jun 01

Dear Reader,

I, and many of the people I work with, are very happy that I'm going to be gone the next three weeks on a roadtrip. After ALA, I'm headed off to Rolla, MO, and then to Houston, San Diego, and finally back home to sweet Eugene, OR. No interstates, no watch, and no computer - thank the baby jesus for that one! - and hence, no updates. See you when I get back on July 9th.

Miss you already,

JB

BROWSE THIS: Excellent blog entry on today's Zeldman. **JB**

Kicking computers, throwing the monitor down the escape stairs, breaking a finger while beating up a computer, and bullying the IT department when things go wrong. It's the latest: **computer rage**. **JB**

An **invitation** to join San Francisco Bay Area library workers in three days of protests. **JB**

12 jun 01

The **Library of Congress** at the **ALA Placement Center**. LC reps will discuss vacancies and answer questions on working at the Library of Congress. **JB**

It's true, **libraries are magnets for the strange**, inscrutable, and in this case, scatological. **JB**

You are cordially invited to the **Students to ALA Reception**. **JB**

Today, **ebrary** announced that it has joined **OCLC**, and that it will add its online collection of copyright-protected books and journals to WorldCat. It even sounds like OCLC libraries will have access to the full text - wonder how much this will cost. **CB**

Know It Now: 24/7 virtual reference desk for the Cleveland area. **CB**

What did a late romantic woman poet read? This and other scintillating topics at **Print Culture in the Age of the Circulating Library**, 1750-1850, a conference at Sheffield Hallam University, 19-22 July 2001. [thanks Jeff] **JB**

Netscape quits? Maybe not just yet. [**Digital Web**] **JB**

On the eve of graduation - receptions, dinners, goodbyes...and lugging 7 suitcases of books back to the library. I witnessed the same phenomenon yesterday in my own library. **CB**

The worst is when you **don't even realize something's missing**. **CB**

Today is the birthdate of **Anne Frank** (1929) and two Georges - a former U.S. president and my oldest brother. Happy birthday. **CB**

The bastardization of copyright: "Historically, copyright protections were afforded to promote expressive discourse fundamental to a democratic society. Today, the very notion of intellectual property serves to commoditize expressive ideas, rather than fostering their dissemination." **CB**

In mourning for **Feed, Suck**, and **Plastic** - bright lights of the web extinguished too soon. **CB**

Virtual exhibit of **the first 100 years** of Australia's National Library. Oral histories, photographs, timeline - well done. **CB**

Extensive list of **e-journals in library and info science** - yowza! **CB**

I teach an online course, and I think I do it well. But the online classroom has its frustrations, and **web-based education has its critics**. The impact is seen even in the library: "A story about student's lack of critical skills was told to me by a librarian, demonstrating how the profession has been effected by the underconsidered introduction of Web-based education. PowerPoint is framed as an effective way to convey information in lectures. Many staff make these Power Point 'slides' available to students. The size of these files means that students cannot download them onto floppy discs. Librarians are pestered every day to explain why the student's saves to disc 'do not work.' The idea of using a pen and paper to write their notes is not viewed as an option. Some technologies are obviously more important - and determinant - than others." **CB**

11 jun 01

More Marriott: Mark Rosenzweig, co-founder of **PLG**, ALA Councilor at large, and **SRRT** Action Councilor, urges ALA attendees opposed to the boycott-busting should put themselves on the line: "If there is ONE time during the conference at which you can lend your hands, feet and voice to a demo/protest/leafleting in support of the Marriott boycott it should be, without doubt, the President's Inaugural Ball and the proceeding official Award ceremony.

More here. JB

NETBIB, a tight library weblog from Deutschland. **JB**

I couldn't sleep this morning so I thought I would catch up on the news. I woke up just in time to hear that Timothy **McVeigh had just been executed**. No last words, but he did leave an English poem of "unapologetic defiance" - *Invictus*, as a handwritten statement. **JB**

First the Showgirl Librarian and now this, **Conan the Librarian** - the Ultimate Reality Info Guy... well, maybe: he needs our votes. **JB**

Meet **Goeff Alexander**, the "Nicholson Baker of Educational Film World." He is writing a book on saving classroom academic files and is setting up a non-profit for this purpose. [thanks Steve] **JB**

Browse no more with Netscape: "The browser is a crown jewel. However, six months from now, you won't consider Netscape to be a browser company." Meanwhile, Microsoft is up to some serious **evasive marketing techniques**. [Zeldman] **JB**

If you plan on buying the new Radiohead cd, the [special library book packaging](#) is certainly worth the extra cash. How this made me smile! **JB**

Gretchen Wronka. recipient of this year's [Sanford Berman Social Responsibility Award](#). [thanks Steve] **JB**

On the topic of Sandy Berman, Stephen sent in an [online bibliography](#) of print and web sources on SB and I'm just now getting around to linking to it. [thanks Stephen] **JB**

08 jun 01

Prediction: [Eugene](#) will be our next favorite regular. There ought to be a show on library regulars... **JB**

[E-books, Again](#) - oh and [Clifford Lynch](#) too. **JB**

The Royal School of Library and Information Science announces a [PhD scholarship](#) for 2001-2004. Begins August 2001. Deadline: July 3. Denmark. **JB**

Invisible (because there are so many), confusing (because they're in librariansese), and lame (because they are) [signs](#) extend beyond the airport ken too, ya know - signage woes are strong and plenty in just about every library. **JB**

For [your first time](#). **JB**

Blake @ LISNews is [looking for bloggers](#). **JB**

Tim Wojcik has put together an About Guide that's spillin' over the sides with [library related resources](#) including job titles, jobs, schools, and career issues. **JB**

07 jun 01

I absolutely love the idea of [collectively creating a weblog in order to learn](#). Weblogging readings, inspirations, and musings emphasize owning the class curriculum. This technique brings back the idea of the engaging and stimulating salons. Props to Clint Wrede and his Electronic Publishing class. Makes me want to go back to school! [link via [library_geek](#)] **JB**

A nice compilation of references about [web publishing and design](#). [thanks JQ] **CB**

[Rush, not hush, in the library](#) - story about the King County system, 3rd busiest in the U.S. [thanks Peter] **CB**

[Kids teaching kids about the Dewey Decimal System](#). Fun, creativity, aliens, and [Yucky Worm World](#) (595.1) - what more could you ask for? **CB**

[Digital copyright issues](#) get more interesting by the minute. **JB**



For immediate release, and with permission: [What would Martin do?](#) [thanks Steve] **JB**

I was a big Kuhlthau fan in library school, and presented on [considering the patron's affective states](#) throughout the research project for my interview. Diane Nahl has written an excellent article on the topic for Studies in Media and Information Literacy Education, a new e-journal, currently free and refereed. **JB**

[Daily Senate Hearings](#) via RealPlayer. **JB**

Delegates from 50 countries are discussing Internet regulations at the [Hague Convention](#)... *just how and when the world's legal systems, all of them nationally based, will mesh with the Internet, whose great virtue is that it straddles the globe, is still far from clear.* My fear is watering down commerce sites to the lowest common denominator of acceptability. **JB**

[Languages of the World](#) **JB**

Wowzee... half of Internet usage is spent on sites and services owned by just four companies: AOL Time Warner, Microsoft, Yahoo and Napster. More disturbing finds [here](#). **JB**

[IDblog](#), a new weblog for information design. **JB**

06 jun 01

[Livejournal Library Lovers Community](#): a cooperative weblog on all things library! [link via [Juice](#)] **JB**

[La Salle gets down with Dylan](#): "The library houses copies of every Dylan LP ever released-on vinyl, cassette, and CD-not to mention various bootlegs, and tons of biographies, reviews, interviews, etc." [link via [librarian.net](#)] **JB**

A lot of stuff going down with the [Marriot Boycott at ALA](#). Also at ALA, if you get a chance, go to the [10th Annual Free Speech Buffet](#) featuring the wares of local alternative and independent publishers. **JB**

The National Park Service is hiring a [Librarian for the Grand Canyon](#). **JB**

[Lord of the Rings](#): book of the century - nay, the millennium. **CB**

05 jun 01

[Tolerance? In a library?](#) What a truly novel idea. [link via [Library Geek](#)] **JB**

Estimable new book on copyright that addresses culture, law, race, and technology entitled [Copyrights and Copywongs](#): The Rise of Intellectual Property and How It Threatens Creativity. **JB**

Introduction to and bibliography for [Evidence-based Librarianship](#) [thanks Owen] **JB**

[Advice for undergraduates considering graduate school](#) and [How to help someone use a computer](#) from [Phil Agre](#), associate professor of [information studies](#) at UCLA and editor of an informative and timely news service, [Red Rock](#). **JB**

04 jun 01

[Contacting the Congress](#) is a very up-to-date database of congressional contact information for the 107th Congress. **JB**

[Infodrome](#): a Dutch think tank which aims to understand the social implications of information and communication technology. Interesting stuff. **JB**

Jeffrey Zeldman, Todd Purgason, Lynda Weinman, Jakob Nielsen, and David Siege on [where the Web has been and where it's going](#). [link via [Zeldman](#)] **JB**

The [Center for Studying Plagiarism](#) distributes software to detect plagiarism and assess its impact via survey. Plagiarism is a real problem. Just last week, one of my students cut and pasted her entire paper off a web site - and now I'm going through the unfortunate steps of dealing with it. [link via [LISNews](#)] **JB**

01 jun 01

We love the attention! [Letters](#) has been updated. **CB**

[Libraries are hot](#). [link via [Library Underground](#) listserv] **JB**

How to [be your own publicist](#). **CB**

ALA has a new web site devoted to [LSTA success stories](#). No stories yet, so if you've got one to share, send it on in. **CB**

Another report from the February/March [trip](#) to Cuba: [Alfabetización y computadorización: La experiencia cubana](#). **CB**

[Participaction](#): a word that conjures up images of the Canadian government telling me to get up off the couch and do something active. In a way, I find it a perfect call to action for the information profession.

This past spring, I boarded a yellow school bus and headed to Salem, OR where I stood on the capitol steps along with about 3,000 other faculty, staff and students from Oregon's public higher ed schools. We made a lot of noise, so that the legislators inside - many of them without a college degree - would understand the importance of funding higher ed. The rally was loud and boisterous, but mostly what I felt was a deep sadness that higher ed is not considered a basic value in Oregon. This year, Oregon's

governor is proposing massive cuts to the higher ed budget, but he didn't hear all the noise - he was in Japan that day trying to work out a deal for direct flights between Tokyo and Portland.

It's a sad reality that the common good is more and more often ignored in the face of economic and political considerations that place corporate welfare above cultural welfare. Politicians and lobbyists at the local, state, and federal levels in the U.S. (and elsewhere) threaten to erode the values we hold dear as information professionals. Legislation such as **CIPA** holds library funding hostage by those who would impose their own values on our communities, while **UCITA** threatens free access to information by turning every book purchase into a legal contract, throwing almost a century of copyright law out the window.

So, like the commercial says, it's time to get up off the couch and get busy, or we may find ourselves in even more dire circumstances. When the call comes out to contact your legislator in support of or against a legislative action, pick up the phone - it takes less than 2 minutes. Find out what's happening in the state and federal arenas that could impact you or your library: subscribe to **ALAWON**, ALA's legislative news alert service, read your state association's newsletter, and sign up to its listserv. Pick an issue that interests you, learn everything you can about it, talk to your colleagues about it, make others care about it, too. Getting your family and friends to care is good practice for talking to the politicians.

With this in mind, let me draw your attention to the **Lobbying 101** workshop being offered by ALA Friday, June 15, 2-5pm in the Moscone Convention Center 236-238. It's practical, it's hands on, it's featuring a line-up of outstanding political animals of the library world, and - best of all - there's an absolutely decadent chocolate break in the middle of the session.

If I hadn't already made my plane reservations, I'd be there. **CB**

The University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences announces its **professional workshops for summer**: web development, database design and development, e-reference, genealogy, change management, authority control, metadata, learning to teach, and more. **CB**

Spankin' new issue of NBL is out:

- **FEATURE**: Somebody's lit a light under Sandy Berman's bushel!
- **INTERVIEW**: Hector Escobar, Jr. talks about the Spectrum Initiative
- **TECHTALK**: Open source software for libraries
- **PEOPLE**: A librarian discusses his double life
- **ASK SUSU**: Does it really matter where you get your MLS?

Read and enjoy! **CB**

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