



N E W S

::: APRIL 2002 :::

**30 apr 02**

*... if there are rowdy young children running around in the library, I would be able to catch them and somehow calm them down.* How can you turn that down? **JB**

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**29 apr 02**

As usual, **Gary makes some observant comments** on the new Google Answers. Of particular interest is that users might have to pay only to be referred to a library. Further, what about recommendations to buy a book? Perhaps a future partnership with an *established, trusted, retailer*? Most importantly, as information professionals, we must do a better job at marketing our skills.

Meanwhile, Carrie is **still waiting** on **the question** she asked Google last week. NYPL answered the same question within a day — for free. **JB**

Michael Opat, Chair of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners Commissioner, responds to the **Berman Petition**. Opat has the ability to discontinue the destruction of the Berman database. **JB**

**Understanding user behavior:** I support local independent music stores and bookstores and will continue to do so despite the fact that Amazon makes it very tempting by offering *immediate access* to the full album. **Buy now - listen now**, even though the album is slated for release on May 7th. It's services like these that I believe pull people away from independents and from libraries. Services that demonstrate perspicacity of customer's desires and behavior. **JB**

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**28 apr 02**

**Get 'em while they're young:** books and an activity that just might put your kids on the path to librarianship (or at least make them dedicated patrons.) **RS**

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**26 apr 02**

Attn Academic Librarians: **How has the Internet changed the way in which campus libraries are used?**

- Less library usage
- Depends on status: student, grad, or faculty researcher
- Varies among disciplines and type of institution
- High priority on *speed and ease of access, information quality, and search functionality*

The Council on Library & Information Services (CLIR) plans to publish the full results of their study this summer. [VAS&ND] **JB**

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**25 apr 02**

Head over to **LIScareer** for lots of new inspiration on **interviewing**, sharpening up your **technical side**, the benefits of **committee work**, and **practical tips for growing** in your library career. **JB**

Now, don't you think he should be playing *Woman of My Dreams* in the library? Afterall, the \_woman of his dreams\_ is "some quietly sexy librarian-type at the end of the subway platform, playing blues for change." And she's not sitting on a Harley. **JB**

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**24 apr 02**

I'm all for creative fund-raising and image boosting; yet, **donning a leather bustier and fringed jacket whilst straddled atop a Harley** to bust a **stupid stereotype** is false advertising *unless* you actually ride.

I would rather see librarians being their **interesting selves**. Want to improve our image? Pay us more. Maybe we can afford that Sportster, **'59 Caddy Coupe DeVille** or whatever it is that makes us stimulating as people and librarians. [librarian.net] **JB**

**Library Report Cards**: useful and advantageous, albeit at times, ungratifying to catalog and respond to all those **gripes**. Every library should have a user-feedback mechanism such as this one if they honestly care about improving services and keeping in touch with their community. **JB**

For all the biblioholics in our midst, **Biblioholism: The Literary Addiction**. Revised. [Library Underground] **JB**

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**23 apr 02**

**Taking Our Salary Fight to the Streets**: Why we need a new "Campaign for America's Librarians." **JB**

Idea a Day: **This guy** obviously doesn't understand libraries. Thomas Mann 101: You don't *have* to be a specialist if you know how information is arranged and disseminated. But this, **THIS** is more like it! **JB**

**Library Cats Map** and a different kind of **Pillow Book**. Squeakers has his **own page**. [thanks, Nick] **JB**

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**22 apr 02**

**ALA announces new Executive Director** Keith Michael Fiels, currently the director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. **JB**

**Jessamyn** checks out 13 of the public library branches in Milwaukee. Phew! Visit her library day-tour **here**. **JB**

Worrying about the preservation of **online library zines**? Mulling over the state of **library weblogs**? Then check out the latest issue of **Cites and Insights**. **RS**

**How Green is Your Library?** A few resources posted in celebration of **Earth Day** 2002: ALA SSRT coordinator and environmental librarian Fred Stoss' 1995 **Earth Day 1970-1995: An Information Perspective** and his 2000 **guide for libraries** to promoting Earth Day. Also worth checking out is the large and useful **Earth Day bibliography** compiled by the **California Academy of Sciences Library**. **RS**

Feels so good to have **these guys** back. Interesting commentary about their reentry **here**. **JB**

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**19 apr 02**

**Imagination Library**, a free book distribution program for rural school kids started by **Dolly Parton** is **expanding**, and aims to be giving away a million books a year by 2004. **RS**

New Bookmark: I've recently discovered **What Do I Know**, an excellent source for current awareness concerning new media, technology, web development, and popular culture. Further, there are no tables; the layout is all XHTML / CSS. For instance, check out the source code at his **library page**. Downright impressive. And the links, such as the **WeatherPop**, are first rate. **See for yourself**. **JB**

New at Google: **Live Researchers answer your questions on any topic for a fee**. Costs **\$4 to \$50**. And, they're looking for "**researchers**." If only the library-world had the tremendous PR Google has to pull this off while making it look so easy and *ubiquitous*. **JB**

Juneau's official city web site converts **from frames to a compatible CSS** design. Why? Greater freedom with design and increased accessibility. [**Zeldman**] **JB**

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**17 apr 02**

A **profile** of Barbara Haber, curator of books at Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library, and cultivator of its world renowned **cookbook collection**. **RS**

Spend your summer in St. Charles, IL. as an **intern** digitizing a local history collection. **JB**

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**16 apr 02**

Bringing the mountain to Mohammed: Portland, Oregon's Multnomah County Library's [knowmobile](#) is a prime example of good, innovative PR. [Stuff] **JB**

There's more than one way to [raise money for your school library](#). **CB**

A great librarian, a black list, rules, infractions, unconsummated love, cribbing, Bermuda shorts and a cape, Graham Greene and Germaine Greer. . . all this and more at the [Reading Room](#) at the British Museum. **JB**

At the reference desk the other day: "Can I use a highlighter in a library book?" Kinda like: "Grandma, can I draw in some more roses on your best china with my magic marker?" Just makes you wonder... **CB**

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**15 apr 02**

And now, for the swank and debonair, for the sophisticated men in our midst possibly going to an interview, conference, or dog pound, here is the first installment of The Morning News Men's Fashion Guide: [Suits](#), because face it, [those McGill students](#) aren't the only folks who care how they dress. **JB**

A New Zealand Youth Library gains cool hang-out status and the respect of its constituents by providing what they want: music. [Excellent](#). [Stuff] **JB**

The challenge: [Live](#) and [let live](#). **JB**

It's [Race Day](#)! Track your favorite Boston Marathoner [here](#). **JB**

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**14 apr 02**

Founded on a shoestring in 1987, [Bridge to Asia](#) has donated 5 million books to 1000 school libraries in China and other "developing" Asian countries over the last 15 years. The San Francisco Chronicle has a [profile](#). **RS**

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**12 apr 02**

ALL THAT: The [car](#), the [vibrator](#), and the [drink](#). [Juice] **JB**

Good news: Reference Is Better Than We Thought - A study reveals that the 55 percent rule is wrong and that the reference model should read "[User Satisfaction = Librarian Behavior](#)." [VA & ND] **JB**

Inmate 1: What are you in here for? Inmate 2: Ah, I forgot to turn in my library books on time and haven't been able to pay the \$120 fine. [Canyoubelieveit?](#) ! **JB**

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**11 apr 02**

I love O'Reilly's term "alpha geeks" for hackers who have such mastery of their tools that they "roll their own." In [Inventing the Future](#), he captures what he sees today and what we'll be talking about tomorrow. All of these technologies are integral to libraries — and I'd like to think of librarians capable of rolling their own as well. **JB**

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**10 apr 02**

[Portrait of a radical attorney](#): Lynne Stewart, a former librarian, has defended a "Who's Who of radicals" in the past two decades. Described as a "mild-mannered woman with unkempt gray hair" and as "the bravest and strongest advocate for the downtrodden." **JB**

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**09 apr 02**

[The Russian Avant-Garde Book, 1910-1934](#): A beautiful exhibit spotlighting 1,100 books from the collection of the [MOMA](#). [[wood s lot](#)] **RS**

The Wall Street Journal redesigns and gives us a rousing [tour](#) of the renovations. **JB**

Glenna Nowell, a retired small-town librarian, is compiling her "[Who Reads What?](#)" list in advance of [National Library Week](#), April 14-20. Since 1988, she's been polling [a range of celebrities](#) for their favorite reads. **JB**

[The GATS and Public Libraries](#): this page links to readings about the likely impact on public libraries of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). It's an excellent starting point if you're unfamiliar with these issues. **JB**

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**08 apr 02**

Public libraries for the public good: St. Louis libraries trade [fines for food](#). **CB**

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**07 apr 02**

Signatures are being [gathered](#) to encourage the preservation of the unique bibliographic database and authority file created by librarian-activist Sanford Berman for the Hennepin County, MN public library system. More information can be [found](#) at Berman's [homepage](#). **RS**

Looks like **Oprah will be abridging** her book club, promoting only those titles that procure her "heartfelt recommendation." Seems like a good time to **step-up on the PR** and improve our vehicles of dissemination and reader's advisory services to a community clamouring for some good books. **JB**

**Why do we need to keep this in print if it's on the web?** This and **more** at **Progressive Librarian**. **JB**

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**06 apr 02**

An **interesting piece** from NPR on Kentucky's Depression-era **pack horse librarians**, who circulated books on horseback in the remote recesses of the Cumberland Mountains. **RS**

**Cast your votes** for the 2002 Firecracker Alternative Book Awards, and help "[celebrate] insurrectionary culture that lights a fire under the complacent mainstream booty." [**Bookmouth**] **RS**

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**05 apr 02**

Finally, **books you can read in the bath and shower**. **JB**

**Miss Charlotte Brown, Librarian, Goes Mad**. A short and pretty poem, tastefully executed. Found on **Owen Massey's** collection of **Librariana**. I've been to Owen's site before, but was prompted to go again after reading his intro on the newly created, and quite successful, **radcat list**. **JB**

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**04 apr 02**

Libraries: from **less of a storehouse to more of a switching station** — yet principles remain the same. [**VAS & ND**] **JB**

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**03 apr 02**

If you're planning on a career in cataloging at a research institution, make sure you read **Tales from the Tenure Track** for a look into not only the whimsical, but the scholarly and professional requirements. **JB**

If you're a fat librarian you may want to join Katia's lovely and low-traffic **list for fat library workers**. **JB**

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**02 apr 02**

The newly re-designed and personal favorite, **Morning News**, features a new essay on city-wide reading. The author opines that in order for the idea to work, "you must **choose a book that everyone's**

**already read.** It also helps if the book has been made into a movie, so the local film critics, art theaters, and better-looking singles can get in on the action.” Otherwise, mightaswell just go smoke a big fat cigar. **JB**

Recognize any of these **library types**? He forgot to mention the **conspiracist**. **JB**

Some **Q & A on the role of modern librarians** and today's libraries given the pervasive presence of the Internet and the argosy of information therein. **JB**

Do you wonder, as I do, about the number of library web sites that include a **Code of Conduct** page? Better behave yourself at NUI, Galway -- and keep that cell phone turned off! **JB**

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**01 apr 02**

For April, we're serving up some **Sex in the City** with a side of **stimulating behind-the-scenes work** librarians do in preparation for the Academy Awards® announcements. We've interviewed an **engaging librarian** who works as a personal assistant to Digerati and cofounding editor of *Wired Magazine*, Kevin Kelly. Susu discusses **paraprofessionals at the reference desk** and Travis Ritter tells all about **terminal servers**, or at least about ours. Enjoy! **JB**

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