



N E W S

::: MAY 2002 :::

31 may 02

A new model for scientific publishing promises fast, fair, and efficient peer review, copyright retained by authors, immediate publication, and *free* electronic distribution. Dear Jesus, make it so! Initiatives like these have the potential to **revolutionize scholarly publishing** and unshackle our used up, washed-out serial lines. **JB**

Anyone who has taught an online course knows: **Virtual classrooms take more time** than those taught in "meat-space." **JB**

Why a simple public library at the World Trade Center site would make **the best 9/11 memorial**. **JB**

Maybe you didn't hear it here first, but the news bears repeating: **CIPA is history** (unless it gets appealed to the Supreme Court). "Any public library that adheres to CIPA's conditions will necessarily restrict patrons access to a substantial amount of protected speech in violation of the First Amendment." The full text of the 195-page decision is available **here** (WordPerfect, zipped) and **here** (HTML). **CB**

30 may 02

Sometimes, a good program isn't good enough. You need to **bring the people to the library** too. **JB**

28 may 02

A new survey on reading habits shows that 40% of people never read books, women are more likely to read novels than men, and at an average of two hours a week, newspapers outweigh the Web as the most widely read format. [**VAS&ND**] **JB**

WANTED: Literature Librarian at the University of Oregon. MLS graduate by August 31, 2002. Strong background in English lit. Reading knowledge of Spanish or French preferred. \$31,500 min. Eugene, Oregon. Great place to work and live. Deadline: July 8th. **JB**

One more reason to love Opera, the browser. **JB**

Call your library on their shit, and in two languages. Bruce Jensen writes an exceptional article on cultural accountability.

Library dinosaurs still haven't picked up the clue: any business that ignores and insults its biggest customer base might as well soap the windows. Though libraries don't have to satisfy stockholders, the unspoken truth is that without real community support they invariably languish in another kind of bankruptcy. [librarian.net] **JB**

27 may 02

Parasitic intensifiers (yikes!) ... cynic incubators ... mongrel verbs - today's **junk English**, tomorrow's linguistic abyss?

"Junk English is much more than sloppy grammar. It is a hash of human frailties and cultural license: spurning the language of the educated yet spawning its own pretentious words and phrases, favoring appearance over substance, broadness over precision, and loudness above all. It is sometimes innocent, sometimes lazy, sometimes well intended, but most often it is a trick we play on ourselves to make the unremarkable seem important....Junk English is the linguistic equivalent of junk food - ingest it long enough and your brain goes soft."

I'd have to agree with that; I once had an English teacher who would go ballistic (is that junk English?) over the use of the suffix "wise" (as in language-wise), as well as the word, "expertise." **CB**

23 may 02

In their latest installment, **Bookmouth's** Jeff Yamaguchi talks with **Clamor** magazine editor and **2002 Underground Press Conference** organizer Jen Angel on what will be happening at this year's UPC. **RS**

The **Maori** people of New Zealand are **exploring** ways in which intellectual property law and digital technology can be used to insure control over, and the integrity of, their art and artifacts. **RS**

Yet another report of a **spectacular book heist**, this one involving a French monastery, illuminated manuscripts, and a secret passage. **RS**

"If an item does not appear in our records, it does not exist."

...said the "librarian" to the **Jedi** - an example of customer service in a galaxy far, far away? **CB**

I suspect that for most of us, customer service is already very important - the Ohio Library Council has designed a **series of web tutorials** based on the **model reference behaviors** - great tips for new reference librarians, experienced reference librarians, and those who train reference librarians, and great stories from Ohio librarians. **CB**

Library Media Specialist and middle school role-model **wins her age group (45-49) at 2001 Ironman Triathlon World Championship**. Time: 11:20:19.

Jays... 46 and she's still setting personal bests. What's more, she employs her accomplishments to motivate her students. Two enthusiastic pats on the muscle-bound back of [Laura Sophia!](#) [[librarian.net](#)] **JB**

Birdhouses made from old books that “have history.” [[coudal](#)] **JB**

While working the reference desk last night, I discovered that the University of Oregon is the only American University that offers credit courses in [trampolining](#). We have precious little by way of trampolining in [our collection](#), and as subject specialist for the [Physical and Recreational Activities Department](#), I have some [catching up](#) to do.

I've found, however, that for guide books, all sports, outdoors, and categories along that mien, publisher's catalogs and blurbs — no matter how well written — won't do. It's much better to [make the trek](#) and pursue with object in hand. Equipped with the library's credit card, these excursions serve to remind me how much I love my job. **JB**

62% of American Internet users have gone online for health information. This report by the Pew Internet Project focuses on [How Internet users decide what information to trust when they or their loved ones are sick](#). Included is a basic profile of health seekers, hot topics, search strategies, evaluation of sources, and more. [[VAS&ND](#)] **JB**

22 may 02

Oregon's mail-in primary election ended last night at 8pm, and the results are (almost) in. Voters in [Eugene](#) and Portland voted to support their libraries, but the voter turnout in Multnomah County (Portland) was less than 50%, and the [library is now looking at making service cuts](#) and buying fewer books and stuff. Eugene voter participation just squeaked over the 50% mark. Strange that in a year marked by flag-waving and extreme patriotism, you [can't even get half the folks](#) to cast a vote. **CB**

Shift outlines a year in review of the [wild and whacky WWW](#). **JB**



Laced with legend and running lore, [Hayward Field](#) is home to [Steve Prefontaine](#) and [Bill Bowerman](#), three Olympic Trials and eight NCAA Championships. The UO Special Collections and University Archives houses an impressive collection of [UO Track & Field photos](#). Putting this site together was hugely inspirational to me as a librarian and as a runner. **JB**

21 may 02

If you're trying to make a case for the obvious, here you go: [Why someone should be in charge of your website](#). [[Digital Web](#)] **JB**

Bookmark-worthy: Portage. **JB**

[Stephen Jay Gould dies at 60](#). More coverage on today's [Fresh Air](#). **JB**

20 may 02

University of Oregon, home of the Belushi cult film *Animal House*, **goes dry** or gets **dry humped**, depending on how you look at it. **JB**

19 may 02

Rip & Run: Apparently, **map thieving is lucrative business and a serious problem** across European libraries costing them millions of pounds a year.

“In the last 18 months, more than 100 valuable maps dating back up to 600 years have been carved, ripped and hacked from atlases kept in Europe's high temples of knowledge from Aberystwyth to Helsinki, the Hague to Paris.” **JB**

An NPR **profile** of **Bookcrossing**, a unique site that has enlisted generous ordinary folks and the power of the 'Net in its effort to "turn the whole world into a library." **RS**

17 may 02

Bloggers take note: another **ominous tale** of "deep-linking" related legal threats. **RS**

Minnesota underwrites **radical library materials**: "Our students are very interested in these ideas," [a librarian] said. "Forty percent of our students are . . . minorities. When they read a book on welfare reform and how it's hurting society, or how toxic wastes are dumped in poor inner-city neighborhoods, it validates their intuition that the system isn't geared to benefit them." [**librarian.net**] **RS**

16 may 02

A **generally dismal view of libraries** with one piece of good advice: “One of the problems is that when libraries discuss development, they tend to talk to their users — they need to get out there and talk to the people who aren't in the libraries.” I would add that they don't talk to their users enough, or if they do, they're aren't listening.

Tangentially related is the concept of service. A recent thread on a library listserv centered on *giving crap service*. I hope I don't come across as dour and bereft of spirit, but to me, treating people substandardly with a somewhat superior attitude only works to alienate them. Futher, it perpetuates damaging librarian stereotypes. Who wants to get help from a (perhaps sexually frustrated) stodgy smart ass? **JB**

15 may 02



Over 2000 copyright-free [wildlife conservation photos](#) from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Includes a [searchable database](#). **JB**

Digital Web celebrates 6 years of independent publishing with a [very thoughtful and commemorative piece](#). **JB**

[Where Do the Next "We" Come from?](#) That's what [we](#) want to know. Recruiting, Retaining, and Developing Our Successors from ARL's Bimonthly Report. [[VAS&ND](#)] **JB**

14 may 02



[Children's Books of the Early Soviet Era](#) from the Rare Books and Special Collections Division of the McGill University Libraries. [[Portage](#)] **JB**

Whether you're looking for 5 citations for a Psych 201 paper or just-the-right accessories for that little number you'll be wearing Saturday night, you want information. We could be talking libraries [here](#) instead of Lord & Taylor's new president, Jane Elfers, demonstrating her prowess of information seeking behavior.

- “I don't want 100 choices. I want the people to do the editing for me.”
 - “They can't be all things to all people...” [[v-2.org](#)] **JB**
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13 may 02

Oh, baby, do you wanna [dance](#)? LC's [American Memory](#) is currently featuring over two hundred social dance manuals at [An American Ballroom Companion](#). Absolutely rich. Some finds: [Lady's Left Hand](#), [Irine skipping rope dance](#), and [Social dancing inconsistent with a Christian profession and baptismal vows](#). To poke around on your own, start with the [conceptual categories](#). **JB**

Nice write-up at *Wired* on [Marshall McLuhan](#) and a new documentary focusing on his “fluorescently colorful life.” **JB**

Supreme Court [punts on COPA](#) - in an 8 to 1 decision, the Supreme Court decided that COPA's reliance on "community standards" is not unconstitutional, but declined to rule on any other aspect of the legislation, and remanded the case back to an appeals court for further review. **CB**

"Hello Colleen-

Newbreed published news about an article that was retracted from Human Immunology last Fall.

The [link I am sending](#) is an editorial from the J. of Medical Library Assoc. discussing ethical and copyright implications of withdrawing that article (and others) in the digital world.

You may have picked up the information on the same list that I did, or elsewhere, but I thought I'd mention it anyway. Its a good article that begins discussions we should continue in our profession.

Thanks!
Jennifer Brown"

Amen, sister! I also wonder what the implications of this are for research. In science labs, students are required to maintain the integrity of their lab books - they cannot remove pages when they make mistakes. What happens when publishers - whether professional societies or commercial enterprises - take it upon themselves to remove materials already published? Where's the peer review process in all of this? **CB**

[Note: you shouldn't need a subscription to JMLA to get the full text, but just in case you do - the full citation is PlutchkaK, T.S. (2002). Sands shifting beneath our feet. *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, 90(2), 161-163.]

10 may 02

In Gotham, **everyone's behaving like dogs:**

- Yeah?
- Yeah.
- Oh Yeah?
- YEAH!
- Well, what do you want to do about it?
- What do I want to do about it? What do I want to do? I just want to read!!

Via Rogue Librarian who is currently offering 5000 **finespun pencils**. **JB**

The resilience of information: From the Enron debacle to the library of Ashurbanipal, folks aren't as good at deleting, burying, and burning as they think they are. **JB**

Good interview with Jeffrey Zeldman: Keywords = Zeldman; standards; projects; future. **JB**

The 10 Newest Copyright Crimes: is that legal bricolage or mulligan stew? [Thanks, Yvonne] **JB**

09 may 02

Fine tune your PC and give the ozone layer a break. **RS**

"Putting unwanted books into the hands of those that want them," it's **Bookthing** of Baltimore. [**Library Juice**] **RS**

This is sacrilege. JB

08 may 02

I worked a busy reference desk tonight. At one point, a student asked me to help him look up some call numbers for a few journals. He then passed over his Palm Pilot, and there, neatly packaged in a tiny screen, were his citations. He told me he wrote entire papers on his Palm Pilot, and that the process is faster than using a keyboard. I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised to see this kind of use — rethinking, I'm surprised I haven't experienced more students passing over the Palms for a quick look-up. **JB**

07 may 02

I cannot let this day pass without mentioning that today marks the release date of two, count 'em: TWO new Tom Waits albums. Good God Almighty, thank you. Since this interview mentions the world *library*, I thought it would be alright to link to [it](#). **JB**

Today in Literature, from the Toronto Public Library. [[wood s lot](#)]. **JB**

Lesbian Pulp Fiction Cover Art, from the one of the Zeldman] **JB**

Report from the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board of the National Research Council on **Youth, the Internet, and Pornography** confirms what many librarians have been saying all along: protecting children online is complex; filters - along with other technological and legislative quick fixes - are not the only or best solution; and the Internet is good for kids. **CB [she's alive!]**

06 may 02

GPO may lose its exclusivity to contractors: This plan has been blocked twice because of the cost and significant threat to public access to government information. Further, this plan would dissolve the GPO's depository program in 1,300 libraries. **JB**

Want to create a skyline for a web site, handout, or just for fun? You can with Dingbat Fonts at [font-ville](#). Check out Shirley's [helpful tips](#) first. Here's [mine](#) **JB**

Albeit unconnected yet queerly related to **Friday's news**, an **apologetic robber** takes off with more than \$20,000 worth of rare comic books. **JB**

It's more than the Internet connections and high-tech that make this **beacon library** a favorite community hangout skyrocketing with demand. [Thanks, Shelley] **JB**

03 may 02

How do you walk out of the library with 22 volumes of the World Book encyclopedia **without being noticed**? What's more, the library had spent two years trying to raise the funds for the new set and now, they're gone. May fire, brimstone, and baaaad karma rain upon their thievin' heads. **JB**

By the way, you're more than welcome to **walk out with a comic book** tomorrow, and it won't be stealing. **JB**

One more thing: **Verisign**, the *Value of Trust*. **JB**

02 may 02

The ins and outs of **deep and consensual linking**. **JB**

"Findability will eventually be recognized as a central and defining challenge in the development of web sites, intranets, knowledge management systems and online communities... Findability is about designing systems that help people find what they need."

Great article, and I wholeheartedly agree. Just yesterday morning, I wondered aloud if library catalogs are ever going to enrich their records with table of contents, jacket covers, summaries, basically everything you find at Amazon. And when will the catalog ask you if you meant *Kyrgyzstan* when you've eyed in *Kyrgistan*? Why are libraries so behind when there are progressive examples all around us? [**Digital Web**] **JB**

01 may 02

Day 121 — 244 Remaining, and a good time to be **caught reading**. **JB**

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