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EDITORIAL

Welcome everyone, to the first newsletter of a year with three 000's in it! ! I refuse to jump on the 'new millennium' bandwagon, simply because

- we've all heard enough of it and
- we're not in it yet! As there was no year 0, the third millennium AD only starts on January 1, 2001 - so we've still got another year until we can say that!

Congratulations to Glenda Myers who is now on the new SAUVCA/CTP Electronic Copyright Task Team. For ignoramuses like me, SAUVCA/CTP stands for South African University Vice-Chancellor's Association/Committee of Technikon Principals.

It's good to know our interests are being strongly represented at the highest levels.

Just as this newsletter went to press, the news was sprung that Dialog had sold the Information Services Division (ISD) for \$275 million to The Thomson Corporation. The ISD includes the Dialog, DataStar and Profound services. These will continue to operate as Dialog, DataStar and Profound, and the ISD will become the Dialog unit of Thomson.

The remainder of The current Dialog Corporation - including the WSD and ECD Divisions - will be changing its name to Bright Station pie, and the new Company will be focusing its efforts and resources on growing its technology divisions.

For a press release about this, look at 'DIALOG refocuses on fast growing chnology divisions ' sells information services division to the Thomson Corporation and raises \$44 million to fund. Company to be named Bright Station PLC to be found on the web at <http://www.dialog.com/info/home/qa>

For an analysis of what this means to us, look at Maryjee Odalas article on <http://www.onlineinc.com/news/news00/march2.html>.

From a personal point of view, our accounts department is already completely confused by the Maid/Profound/Dialog names, so if another one is added to the list they will have nervous breakdowns and walk out!

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The meeting was held in the beautiful Botanical gardens in Pretoria on 12 November 1999. Approximately 120 people attended. Dr Peter van Jaarsveld spoke on 'Emotional intelligence, self mastery and personal success' and was a very entertaining speaker was entertaining. This was followed by a delicious Potjie lunch in the gardens.

NEXT MEETING

Please diarise the next meeting:

Thursday 6 April 14:00 Mintek, Main Foyer, Hans Strydom Avenue, Randburg, Johannesburg

Lauren Liebenberg. 'The Net Imperative: The Emergence of the E-Economy and the Impact on the Global Financial Markets'

Lauren Liebenberg is currently employed as an electronic commerce strategic analyst for Rand Merchant Bank. She recently completed an MBA at the Wits Business School and had previously worked for Fidelity Investments in London.

1999 - A BUSY YEAR FOR SWETS

In, November 1999, Academic Press and Swets Subscription Service announced an electronic journal linking agreement - this enabled authorised subscribers to Academic Press electronic journals service, to be able to access the journals in IDEAL, via the SwetsNet interface and gateway service.

Users of SwetsNet, whose institutions subscribe to Academic Press, will be able to browse and search tables of contents of AP journals within SwetsNet and then link seamlessly to IDEAL to view the fulltext articles and to use the full features and services of IDEAL. Users also continue to have the option to access the journals directly with IDEAL.

Academic Press is the publisher of IDEAL, the International Digital Electronic Access Library. The IDEAL library contains 150,000 articles from 11,000 journal issues with journal backfiles available from 1993 to the present. The full-text journals on IDEAL include 176 Academic Press journals and 60 journals from Harcourt Health Sciences. IDEAL users currently download 3 million full-text articles a year.

SwetsNet provides the library and research communities with a single interface for the

access and management of electronic journal subscriptions. A range of user functions are offered including searching, browsing, SDI, email alerting and seamless linking from secondary bibliographic databases providers (such as SilverPlatter, CSA, MDL) and library OPACS. The service also offers administration functions such as usage data and holdings information. Currently there are agreements with close to 50 publishers for participation in SwetsNet, representing some 2600 titles, of which 2100 are now accessible. For the year 2000, Swets will be offering a pay-per-view option in SwetsNet which will allow individual article purchase online. Further SwetsNet information for both libraries and publishers can be found at: www.swetsnet.ni or www.swetsnet.com.

The service will be available to those customers of Swets signing up for the AP APPEAL license via Swets Subscription Service. The linking facility will be available in early 2000.

LIBRARIANS OF TODAY: UNLIKE THE STODGY STEREOTYPE OF OLD. PROFILE OF PROFESSION SKEWS POLITICALLY, SOCIALLY LIBERAL

WashingtonTimes October 29, 1999 1999 By Julis Duin

Libraries used to be quiet, musty temples to the god of reading, whose rites were listed in card catalogues overseen by the local book deity; actually, the stereotypical bespectacled head librarian with a pencil through her bunned hair. Today, they are Grand Central Stations of culture, stocked with computers capable of downloading the entire filth and fancy of the Internet, and targeted for such by radio talk-show hostess Laura Schiessinger.

What she may not realise is how librarians are a changing breed, often politically liberal and apt to invite speakers such as Gloria Steinem, Cornell West, Marian Wright Edelman, Deborah Prothrow-Stith and Patricia Schroeder to their semi-annual conferences of the American Library Association

They are less than strait-laced in the sexuality department, as evidenced in columnist Will Manley's librarian sex survey in *American Libraries*, the house organ of the 58,000-member American Library Association. Dubbed the 'Kinsey of libraryland, Mr. Manley's 1993 survey revealed that 91 percent of his 2,797 respondents had read 'The Joy of Sex,' 82 percent believed Anita Hill told the truth, 78 percent of the female librarians polled said they had been sexually harassed by a patron and 61 percent had rented an X-rated video. Forty percent felt that *Playboy* magazine should be in the public library, 22 percent thought there should be condom dispensers in library restrooms and just 6 percent believe AIDS is a punishment from God. There's nothing to the rumour that a librarian has posed for *Penthouse*, reports Louisiana librarian Stacey Hathaway-Bell in the August 1998 issue of *American Libraries*. But the Manley survey reported 24 percent of the librarians would pose nude in *Playboy* or *Playgirl* for \$1 million.

'The story is repeated with relish in the profession because it defies the bun-wearing old-maid view of librarians that our society for some reason embraces,' she writes. 'Too bad it's probably not true.'

The typical librarian, according to the ALA, is over 45 years old (66 percent), is female (73 percent) and white (91 percent). Instead of fighting for the right to shelve J.D. Salinger's 'Catcher in the Rye,' she tries to stock copies of Madonna's book 'Sex.'

She is also tolerant toward homosexuality, reports Mark Herring, the dean of library services at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C.

Mr. Herring, who has spent 20 years in the business, first got the hint of this trend when, in 1981, the independent magazine Library Journal ran an almost full page of ads for homosexual bars in conjunction with an upcoming ALA conference in San Francisco. 'Why in the world would a professional association be doing this?' he asks. 'When the American Bar Association meets in San Francisco, do they publish locations of all the gay bars for their members?'

In Library Journal's June 1999 issue touting the ALA's recent New Orleans conference, a nightlife survey touted the lesbian bar Rubyfruit Jungle and other hotspots for homosexuals. 'It's the new cause celebre,' Mr. Herring says. 'When you talk to individual librarians, you find people who are squeamish about this. The bespectacled, dour-faced librarian has been replaced by something out of Playboy - or that is the perception they'd like to convey. Actually, there's still a lot more of the former kind of that librarian around.'

The ALA was the first professional organisation to have a homosexual caucus, according to the book "Reclaiming the American Library Past" by Susan Hildenbrand. The association has an annual "Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Awards" contest and Library Journal prominently listed "Lesbian and Gay Book Month" for June in its May 15 issue. "You think to yourself: Who is buying this except individual gays?" Mr. Herring said. "I can't think of very many public libraries that would buy this stuff.'

Public libraries have been under fire this year for opposing Internet filters, which the ALA deems impediments to free speech. For instance, when the Loudoun County library system tried to impose filters on its computers, articles in American Libraries called the policy "rigid" and "draconian.'

The association got broadsided this year for this stance by Miss Schiessinger, who termed the ALA as having "done something evil." She was particularly miffed at the ALA Web site (www.ala.org), which sports a "Teen Hoopla" page for teen-agers. One of the links is to the "Go Ask Alice" Website maintained by Columbia University, which has a long list of explicit questions and answers on sex, sexual experimentation and sex toys. Judging by the questions posed by self-identified virgins, many of the users are obviously young.

The ALA says "Teen Hoopla" is for ages 12-18. The same site also has a spirituality link to sites on Buddhism, the Foursquare Gospel Church, Scientology, Teen Missions, Christianity Online and Young Life, a Christian group.

The ALA released a statement in May defending 'Alice' as "factual" and 'straightforward,' adding that 'if young people are not interested or not ready for certain material, they won't read it.' 'The reports have been highly exaggerated,' says ALA spokeswoman Linda Wallace. '[Looking up porn sites] is not what young children do naturally.'

Mr. Herring suggests the ALA ignores the strength of teen-age libido. "I wouldn't want any 12-year-old of mine looking at it,' he says. ALA policy is to ask parents to let their children explore libraries' contents without any restrictions. It sponsors a Banned Books Week every year, with displays such as the banned-book table at the Arlington Central Library in Northern Virginia. About 20 books were lined up below a poster of Mark Twain behind bars, as his 'Huckleberry Finn' has been deemed too racist or sexist by various groups. In its monthly "Censorship Watch" column, the January 1998 issue of American Libraries included a disapproving note on efforts to ban "Daddy's Wedding," a sequel to the homosexual-friendly "Daddy's Roommate" in Alien County, Ind. The magazine was unhappy that Indiana state Sen. Dick Worman was trying to get it off the shelves.

"Because of the taciturnity associated with librarians and libraries, not much attention has been given to this," Mr. Herring says. "And now they're into this insanity like no Internet filtering. If you have a young child and you send them to the public library,

there's nothing to prevent them from hopping on line and looking at everything under the sun."

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE COUNTDOWNS

- International Library Expo In conjunction with: Asia International Book Fair
April 26-28
Singapore
 - Medical Library Association
May 6-9
Vancouver, Canada
 - National Online Meeting
May 16-18
New York, New York
 - Special Libraries Association
June 12-14
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 - 8th Annual Congress on Medical Leadership
July 2-4
London, England
 - American Library Association Annual
July 8-11
Chicago, Illinois
 - International Federation of Library Associations
August 14-18
Jerusalem
 - Online World
September 18-20
San Diego, California
 - Global 2000
October 17-19
Brighton, United Kingdom
 - Internet Librarian
November 6-8
Monterey, California
 - London Online
December 5-7
London, England
-

WHO SAID LIBRARIANS WERE STAID?

Looking at the following sites can dispel any illusions you may have had about the image of librarians:

Have a look at: [Rockin' Rina's Women of 1970's Punk - Meet "Rockin' Rina" a punk rocker turned librarian](#)

Lots of other interesting stuff at: <http://valinor.purdy.wayne.edu/waycool.html>

NEW PRODUCT FROM LEGI-LINK

News for all the legal and policy boffins LEGI-LINK's exciting "BILL TRACKER"

"Tracker" is a brand new online product that gives you details and progress of every Bill before Parliament - at a glance, and updated each morning! It is driven by the same Logi-Link Bill database that has been proven over many years but now available to you on the Legi-Link website.

Special offer for SAOUG members: Free trial for the month of April and subscription rates reduced.

Contact Legi-Link for more details:
Web site: <http://www.legilink.co.za>
Telephone: 021-461-0229 Fax: 021-465-3971
Email: tracker@legilink.co.za

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

When libraries faced the future: Online information isn't just a new medium but a whole new way of doing business. Here's how research libraries mastered it.

STROLLING THROUGH the university library used to be a walk down memory lane for returning alumni. Cavernous reading rooms evoked similar memories for both the 50th reunion class and the 5th. Not anymore. During the past decade, card catalogues have become little more than decorative furniture, and the periodical room is now likely to be full of terminals to access online journals. Not even the class of 1995 would recognise the Encyclopaedia Britannica; it has abandoned hard copy and CD-ROMs for a Web-based product.

What's really different is the way the library does business. At universities across the country, librarians have been forced to master new skills. Where they once devoted themselves primarily to acquiring resources for specific fields, they must now be adept at negotiating with publishers, setting policy for using online material, and building consortia to increase their economic clout. The result is a revolution. In just a few years, librarians have invented electronic media acquisition strategies that are as different from buying books as surfing the Web is from browsing the stacks. They have rolled back--or at least stalled--a publisher-driven assault on fair-use copyright law, and they have

come up with standards that--for the present--are more influential in structuring research and scholarship than copyright law itself once was.

Thorny issues remain. But at a time when digital technology can seem out of control, posing a threat to traditional academic values, libraries already look like a success story.

Available at: <http://www.universitybusiness.com/0002/library.html>

Negotiating the Deal: How Libraries Craft Their Contracts With Publishers

Available at: <http://www.universitybusiness.com/0002/libcraft.html>

TEACH YOURSELF CHINESE

Our meeting was scheduled for next week - Wai Yu Kum Nao

- They have arrived - Hia Dei Kum
- Stay out of sight - Lei Lo
- He's cleaning his automobile - Wa Shing Ka
- Your body odour is offensive - Yu Stin Ki Pu
- Stupid Man - Dum Gai
- Small Horse - Tai Ni Po Ni
- Did you go to the beach - Wai Yu So Tan
- I burped into a coffee table - Ai Bang Mai Ni
- I think you need a facelift - Chin Tu Fat
- It's very dark in here - Wai So Dim
- Has your flight been delayed - Hao Long Wei Ting
- That was an unauthorised execution - Lin Ching
- I thought you were on a diet - Wai Yu Mun Ching
- This is a tow away zone - No Pah King
- Do you know the lyrics to the Macarena - Wai Yu Sing Dum Song
- You are not very bright - Yu So Dum
- I got this for tree - Ai No Pei
- I am not guilty - Wai Hang Mi?
- Please, stay a while longer - Wai Go Nao

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: GREAT PRODUCTS NOW ON THE MARKET

Software producers are really starting to move now with some fantastic new products. Of most interest to me are those that produce automatic interest profiles of people - an absolute boon to librarians! One wonders how long the standalone library catalogue will last, there is more and more integration with the entire company information holdings.

Products that have been brought to my attention recently are the those of Dialog (K-working) and Lotus (Raven) Here are press releases about each:

Dialog K-Working

A Plan for Maximising Your Company's Knowledge Asset Value Through k-working.

With the k-working suite of software, we've put together a set of products to automate knowledge-working processes and to help the worker deal with ever-increasing volumes and types of internal and external information. This article will review the key steps that your company must take to maximise its knowledge asset value through k-working.
<http://library.dialog.com/chron/2000/0003/1000329.html>

How the British library Uses k-working Discovery to Offer Easy Access to Its Vast Collection

'Discovery's technology has been superb,' Mark Davies of the British library concludes, 'it's fast, reliable and really much better suited to our needs than anything we've had before.' Find out why the British Library chose k-working Discovery over other leading search engine technologies to provide easy access to its vast collection.
<http://library.dialog.com/chron/2000/0003/1000328.html>

Lotus Gives Flight To New Knowledge Management Tool

At Lotusphere Europe 99 in Berlin, the company introduced Raven, a suite of tools for building business portals that identify knowledge assets within an organisation and provide links to people who hold specific expertise.

'Companies are challenged with making sense of all this electronic content and identifying who has the knowledge,' said Maria DeRosa, Lotus' director of knowledge management business strategy. 'With Raven, we're bringing the content and the people together,' she said.

Raven will have a customisable interface designed to help users organise information and to link communities of users in virtual meeting places, said DeRosa. Behind that will be a discovery engine, based on technologies from Notes/Domino R5 and IBM, that searches content, then labels and categorises it. That content will be linked to user profiles built on the Domino directory, updating information on those employees' expertise and knowledge which can be searched by other employees. Raven will incorporate presence indication technology from Lotus' Sametime that indicates whether or not an individual is online.

With Raven, Lotus is trying to make the blurry subject of knowledge management more realistic for many companies, said Giga Information Group analyst Daniel Rasmus. The company said Raven will be available mid- 2000. No pricing was announced.

TEN WORDS THAT DON'T EXIST (BUT SHOULD)

1. AQUADEXTROUS (ak wa deks'trus) adj. Possessing the ability to turn the bathtub faucet on and off with your toes.
2. CARPERPETUATION (kar'pur pet u a shun) n. The act, when vacuuming, of running over a string or a piece of debris at least a dozen times, reaching over and picking it up, examining it, then putting it backdown to give the vacuum one more chance.
3. DISCONFECT (dis kon fekt') v. To sterilise the piece of candy you dropped on the floor

by blowing on it, assuming this will somehow 'remove' all the germs.

4. ELBONICS (el bon' iks) n. The actions of two people manoeuvring for one armrest in a movie theatre.

5. FRUST (frust) n. The small line of debris that refuses to be swept onto the dust pan and keeps backing a person across the room until he finally decides to give up and sweep it under the rug.

6. LACTOMANGULATION (laid to man gyu lay' shun) n. Manhandling the .open here' spout on a milk container so badly that one has to resort to the "illegal' side.

7. PEPPIER (pehp ee ay') n. The waiter at a fancy restaurant whose sole purpose seems to be walking around asking diners if they want ground pepper.

8. PHONESIA (fo nee'zhuh) n. The affliction of dialling a phone number and forgetting whom you were calling just as they answer.

9. PUPKUS (pup' kus) n. The moist residue left on a window after a dog presses its nose to it.

10. TELECRASTINATION (tel e kras tin ay' shun) n. The act of always letting the phone ring at least twice before you pick it up, even when you're only six inches away.

WHEN NET NANNY GETS INTO THE SHERRY

Danielle Crittenden - National Post

Perhaps you are familiar with the miserable situation I find myself in as I write this. For the past four hours I have either been talking to a computer technician or holding for a computer technician. Right now I'm on hold again, writing on my husband's laptop, and listening to Muzak over the speaker phone as the current technician consults -- what? the skies? Tarot cards? A voodoo doll of Bill Gates? -- to figure out exactly why my operating system has collapsed.

This disaster was triggered by my research into Internet screening software. My eldest child has just reached the age eight at which the internet can be what the stash of old Playboys in the basement was to kids of my generation. When she was a baby, her father and I used to look forward to the day when her abilities would outstrip the dog's (walking, word recognition, and finally talking). Now her abilities on the computer have outstripped ours, and she is eagerly passing them to her younger brother.

I turned first to Net Nanny, a program that promises to filter out offensive and pornographic Web sites. I chose it largely because I liked its logo of a traditional English nurse pulling the plug. I thought this was exactly the sort of censorious, prune-faced electronic babysitter I wanted monitoring my children's computer use. I downloaded the software from its Web site for a free trial, and relaxed -- until I tested Net Nanny myself.

It seems that Net Nanny had got into the sherry when I wasn't looking. Or maybe she was just less prune-faced than she appeared. With nary a blush from her, I was able to pull up the homepage of Chippendale's -- a chain of male strip clubs - WITH flashing advertisements for click-on pictures of 'top nude male models,' and Pamela Lee

Anderson. I was also able to reach the 'Go Ask Alice' sex advice column (sponsored by Columbia University!), which offers guidance on such topics as group sex and even bestiality (which Alice says is fine so long as it's legal in your state).

Net Nanny also didn't object when I did a Yahoo search for 'paedophilia.' Nor did she blink as I entered the site of 'Philia-interfaith News on Boylovers and Girl-lovers' (sic). She cheerfully accompanied me to a joint called 'Mad X Where Teens Are Real Horny'

I was so astonished I went back to the software controls to ensure Net Nanny was, in fact, on the job. The controls assured me that 'Net Nanny is Turned On,' as indeed she must have been (baby!). I decried to do one last search of a different kind -- for politically incorrect Web sites. It was at this point that Net Nanny revealed to me her blue stockings. Suddenly she got very balky. She began madly flashing warning signs when I went to the Family Research Council's press release on the danger of the new gay curriculum in public schools. And while she wouldn't let me near the Web site for the anti-immigration group AmericanRenaissance (access denied), she permitted me without a murmur to visit both the communist party Web site, as well as one belonging to Muslim extremists.

That's what led to my computer disaster. I sent Net Nanny packing, and signed up for Cyber Patrol, the filtering software by Mattel. Cyber Patrol seemed altogether tougher-minded. Its motto, 'To Surf and Protect,' is accompanied by a police badge logo. Did I say tough? It was so effective it immediately shut down my entire computer, threw my operating system against the wall, and imprisoned it without bail. So here I am, on hold -- the computer equivalent of Riker's Island. As I sit strumming the table and cursing Cyber Patrol (the technician told me he fields 10 to 12 calls a day from people who've had similar experiences after downloading this software), I have another thought: I can now see why someone like Bill Clinton wants the Internet in every classroom. But do the rest of us?