

Reed Elsevier sells Bowker to Cambridge Scientific Abstracts

Information Today, Inc. (ITI) has entered into a joint agreement with Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) to buy R. R. Bowker from Reed Elsevier. Cambridge is purchasing the major portion of Bowker, and ITI is acquiring the publishing rights to about ten reference books.

Cambridge is acquiring the entire *Books in Print* family of products; Ulrich's *Periodical Directory*; *Magazines for Libraries*; a number of abstracts and indexes, including *British Humanities Index* and *Library and Information Science Abstracts*; a number of journals and newsletters, such as *Business Information Review* and *Journal of Information Science*, and miscellaneous other products.

In addition, Cambridge retains the contract for Bowker, LLC (newly formed) to have the exclusive right to operate the U.S. office of the ISBN (International Standard Book Number) agency.

Joint Conference on Digital Libraries calls for papers

The Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) will be held July 14–18, 2002, in Port-

land, Oregon. It is sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery and its Special Interest Groups on Information Retrieval and on Hypertext, Hypermedia, and the Web; the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers; IEEE Computer Society; and the Technical Committee on Digital Libraries.

By *digital libraries* JCDL means new forms of information institutions; operational information systems with all manner of digital content; new means of selecting, collecting, organizing, and distributing digital content; and theoretical models of information media, including document genres and electronic publishing. Both full (approximately 5,000 words) and short (up to two pages) papers are sought, as are panel and poster proposals.

Additional information and details on requirements for submission may be found on the conference Web site at <http://www.jcdl2002.org>.

RLG-OCLC joint repository report released

The second RLG-OCLC report intended to advance long-term retention of digital research materials is now available for review and comment. "Attributes of a Trusted Digital Reposi-

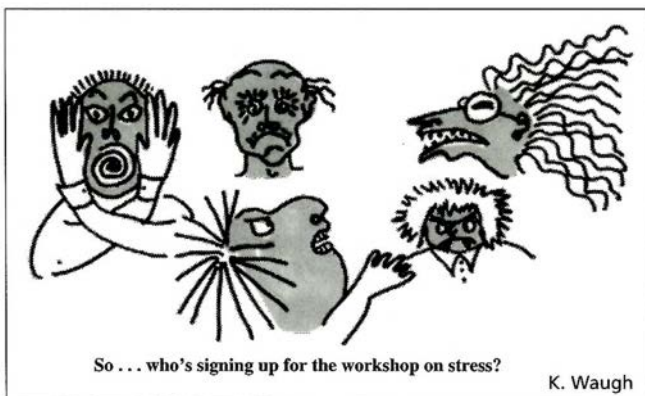
Save the date! Digital reference workshop

Consider the opportunities and challenges, and consider what niche may be available for academic librarians in the digital reference environment during the ACRL workshop "Digital Reference: Trends, Techniques, and Changes." This half-day workshop will be held prior to the ALA Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans, Friday, January 18, 2002.

Get up-to-date with the latest digital reference developments, including assessments, software, training, research, and standards. Gain a basic concept of state-of-the-art digital reference, digital reference projects, software packages, and likely is-

sues in creating a digital reference initiative in your local settings. The format of this workshop will be that of an executive briefing for decision makers. Speakers include R. David Lankes, Virtual Reference Desk; Steve Coffman, LSSI; and Joseph Janes, University of Washington.

Registration materials for this session, as well as the ACRL workshop "Experience the Power of Collaboration: Five Steps to Creating Relationships with Faculty," will be included in the October issue of *American Libraries* and will be available online in the fall. Questions? Contact (800) 545-2433, ext. 2519, or e-mail: acrl@ala.org.



So ... who's signing up for the workshop on stress?

K. Waugh

tory: Meeting the Needs of Research Resources” may be found at <http://www.rlg.org/longterm/attributes01.pdf>.

Intended primarily for research institutions and specifically for libraries and archives, the report highlights some key strategic issues as it focuses on practical assistance to administrators and implementers of digital archiving services.

Comments to robin.dale@notes.rlg.org by October 12, 2001, are encouraged.

Swets Blackwell to acquire Martinus Nijhoff International

Swets Blackwell has acquired Martinus Nijhoff International, the Dutch subscription agent and book dealer.

All activities currently handled from Nijhoff's head office in Zoetermeer, the Netherlands, will continue until the April 2002 integration of their subscription data into Swets

Blackwell's system. Swets Blackwell services Dutch libraries and information centers from their office in Lisse, the Netherlands. Business currently serviced from Nijhoff's local offices in the United States, Brazil, Thailand, Bulgaria, and Russia will be gradually integrated into the Swets Blackwell system over the next eight months.

Waseda University Library adds records to WorldCat

Waseda University Library added 277,481 new records to WorldCat (the OCLC Online Union Catalog), the second in a two-phase OCLC batchload project to enrich the world's largest bibliographic database with Japanese language records from one of the most prestigious research universities in Japan.

National Library of New Zealand chooses ENCompass

The National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) is the first library outside the United States to select the ENCompass digital library navigation, organization, and linking tool. Implementation of ENCompass will begin immediately at NLNZ, the eighth library to select ENCompass, commercially released in March 2001.

Heritage Health Index launched

The Heritage Health Index, which will for the first time measure the condition of the nation's

Information Literacy Immersion Program seeks applicants

The ACRL Institute for Information Literacy Immersion Program seeks applicants for its two 2002 summer programs to be held at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Dates for the first program are July 26–31, 2002; the second program will be held August 2–7, 2002.

The programs will be four-and-one-half days of intensive training and education for instruction librarians. Participation for each program is limited to 90 to ensure an environment that fosters group interaction and active participation. The program's two tracks offer librarians a chance to enhance their own teaching skills or to develop an information literacy program for their institution.

Comments from the 2001 Immersion program include:

“All instruction librarians should attend the Immersion Program.”

“It was fabulous. I've been a librarian for 22 years—this was the best staff development experience I've ever had.”

“This is, by far, the most learning I have done since grad school. I have been challenged beyond my expectations.”

Complete details and application information for the 2002 programs are available on the Web at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/nili/immersion02.html>.

Questions? Contact (800) 545-2433, ext. 2519; acrl@ala.org.

Tropical storm Allison

When Tropical Storm Allison circled over Houston, Texas, on June 5–9, it dropped as much as three feet of rain in parts of the city, causing catastrophic flooding in many areas. Damage estimates for the region exceed \$5 billion.

One part of the city that was hardest hit was Texas Medical Center. The Houston Academy of Medicine–Texas Medical Center Library that serves the academic institutions affiliated with the medical center experienced severe flooding. The Street Level of the Jesse H. Jones Library Building was filled with water and raw sewage.

The Street Level of the building housed the computer lab and classroom and the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center, among other facilities.

Approximately two-thirds of the public-access computers were destroyed. About one-fourth of the McGovern Center's manuscripts, hospital newsletters, and personal papers were damaged. The records from the Medical Arts Hospital were completely destroyed. Historical videos and audiotapes have been sent to a professional company for restora-



Photo by Steve Boss

David Page, journey electrician, rolled up his pants and put on his beach shoes to help remove water-damaged books from the University of Houston Law Center's library.

tion and transfer to new media. More than 800 boxes of documents, journals, reference books, and historical books were sent to be freeze-dried. Despite the damage, the library reopened with limited hours on June 14, with regular hours resuming on July 16.

Another area hit hard by the storm was the main campus of the University of Houston. However, the University Libraries were extremely fortunate in that none suffered any water damage, although high humidity will require vigilance against mold and mildew damage.

Unfortunately, the independent O'Quinn Law Library was not as lucky.

It suffered heavy damage to the facility and its collections. The entire lower level, which housed the government documents and international collections, was totally flooded, while collections on the upper level were damaged by the extremely high humidity.

—Barbara E. Kemp, *University of Houston*, bkemp@ub.edu (some information provided by Deborah Halsted of the HAM-TMC Library)

collections, is being launched by Heritage Preservation, Inc. in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and with major funding from the Getty Grant Program.

The index will measure the condition of collections in the nation's museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies every four years. It is endorsed by prominent conservation professionals and national organizations who will participate in its development and implementation.

The purpose of the index is to assist long-range planning, fundraising, and education in the field of preservation and conservation.

Pitt's School of Information Sciences wins affirmative action award

The 2001 Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award honoring the "outstanding University of Pittsburgh program area or individual that has made a significant contribution in affirmative action" has been awarded to the Affirmative Action Committee of the School of Information Sciences (SIS).

SIS was cited for its recruitment efforts; the role of professor emeritus E. J. Josey as SIS Minority Council advisor; reinstatement of the Minority Resource Office; ongoing support of ALA's Spectrum Scholars; and establishment of the SIS/University Library System minority fellows program. ■