

NYPL launches emergency campaign

In response to deep public funding cuts and the potential for further reductions, the New York Public Library (NYPL) has launched the Emergency Campaign for the Library, which seeks to raise \$18 million in private funds over the next three years to sustain essential collections, programs, and services. NYPL is seeking \$4 million per year for the branch libraries and \$2 million per year for the research libraries. The Emergency Campaign will seek to fund the areas of the library that have been hardest hit by the city's budget cuts. Funding needs to be addressed for the branch libraries include books and materials, computer pages, educational and cultural programming, and branch spruce-ups. For the research libraries, funding needs to be addressed by the campaign are collections, public service, and preservation.

EBSCO acquisition of RoweCom's U.S. and European operations approved

The United States Bankruptcy Court has approved the sale of certain RoweCom U.S.A. assets to EBSCO, pursuant to a definitive purchase agreement previously executed by the two parties. The sale includes the U.S. operations of RoweCom, Inc., which includes the operations of Dawson, Inc.; Dawson Information Quest, Inc.; The Faxon Company, Inc.; Turner Subscription Agency, Inc.; McGregor Subscription Services, Inc.; and Corporate Subscription Services, Inc. Final closing of the sale is contingent on verification of publisher support representing at least 50 percent of the aggregate monetary amount prepaid to RoweCom by customers (which was not subsequently forwarded to publishers) and successful closure by EBSCO of its acquisition of RoweCom's European operations.

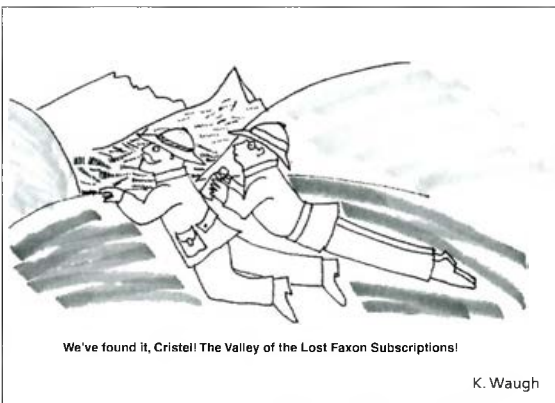
EBSCO has received approval from the French Ministry of Finance for the acquisition of the European operations, pursuant to the defini-

tive purchase agreement executed between the two companies in February. Assets of RoweCom France are being integrated into a newly created wholly owned subsidiary of EBSCO, "EBSCO Information Services, SAS." EBSCO and RoweCom Europe are in the process of completing the final steps necessary to definitively close the acquisition.

EBSCO has also finalized its purchase of RoweCom Australia, PTY Ltd. and has completed the acquisition of certain assets of RoweCom's Canadian subscription operations, Divine Solutions, ULC.

University of Louisville to launch library expansion

The University of Louisville is planning a \$14.2 million expansion of Ekstrom Library, which will add 42,500 square feet to the library and include many features to make it a state-of-the-art facility. The facility will include such new features as an automated storage and retrieval system that will provide highly efficient, secure, and environmentally controlled storage of up to 1.2 million volumes. This will enable the university to increase its holdings to 3 million volumes, while providing rapid, robotic book retrieval. Also included will be a 24-hour study facility and technologically advanced instructional laboratories and conference space. The university expects to break ground in late 2003 or spring of 2004.



Records of Iraqi civilization destroyed

Historians are of the view that Iraq is the cradle of civilization and the seat of major ancient civilizations of the world dating back to the Fifth Millennium B.C., including Sumerian and Babylonian cultures. It is the birthplace of Abraham and the first urban settlements. People of this historic region started agriculture, invented writing, and wrote the world's first code of law. Baghdad University is one of the oldest universities in the world. Until recently, Iraq had one of the best national libraries, archives, and museums to document her civilizations and the history of mankind, but suddenly everything has been lost due to the looting and fire that followed the fall of the Capital City of Baghdad in April 2003.

Documenting ancient civilization

The National Library had a collection of over one million books and over twenty million documents. It included copies of all books published in Iraq and all Ph.D. dissertations written in the country. In addition, there were many rare books on Islam, Judaism, government documents, and records of royal courts dating back to the Ottoman Empire. Many old hand-written manuscripts, which were being converted to the print form dating back thousands of years, were lost, including the number systems and the first examples of written words of human civilization.

The Islamic Library had thousands of books on Islam, including the oldest copy of the Koran, which were destroyed in fire and/or looted. The Mosul University Library had

many excellent rare manuscripts in the Arabic language, which were also lost.

Iraqi Museums had an excellent archaeological collection and the National Museum in Baghdad had the greatest collection of Mesopotamian art. It had over 170,000 artifacts belonging to the prehistoric Assyrian, Babylonian, Greek, Islamic, Persian, and Sumerian civilizations. The major lost artifacts include a silver harp, 4,000 years old; a solid gold harp from the Sumerian era of 3360 B.C.; and a headless black statue of the King Entemena of the Sumerian era from 2600 B.C. Other priceless artifacts included a copper head of an Akkadian King, which was at least 4,000 years old; and many statues, pottery, cuneiform tablets, ancient seals and clay tablets of geometry, ivory figures of women and goddesses, ceramic jars, and urns that were at least 2,000 to 5,000 years old. Other important artifacts lost are a 5,000-year-old Warka vase from the Sumerian period; the Lion of Nimrud, known as an icon of Phoenician Art, from 850 B.C.; and rare 12th century decorated wooden doors of a mosque.

The loss was in billions of dollars and has been described as a disaster by UNESCO. Koichiro Matsuura, director general of UNESCO, issued a statement on April 15 saying, "Libraries, archives, and manuscripts must be preserved. . . . Libraries are the essence of knowledge societies. Nearly 20 centuries of written history of mankind are in danger; everything must be done to protect them from looting and destruction." The destruction of

ment to open source approaches where they prove applicable.

American Political Science Association announces new journal

The American Political Science Association (APSA) has announced that its new journal *Perspectives in Politics* is now available from Cambridge University Press. The journal, which debuted with Volume 1, No. 1 in March 2003, connects research findings, conceptual innovations, and/or theoretical developments within the discipline of political science to real problems of politics. APSA and Cambridge University Press journals are also available online.

Innovative to offer Linux option

Innovative Interfaces is introducing the option for libraries to run Millennium on Linux servers; this option is being developed in partnership with the Library of the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) in Australia. Porting the software to Linux expands the array of choices available to users and supports the company's goal of platform, operating-system, and database independence. UTS entered into the partnership based on the reliability and performance of Linux, the opportunity presented by Linux to integrate Millennium with core university systems, and a philosophical commit-

these collections was certainly one of the greatest cultural disasters and a tragedy in human history. Iraq had been collecting and safeguarding the treasures of its civilization in archives, libraries and museums for over 10,000 years but much of the material was looted and/or destroyed by fire within a few days in April 2003. A report published in the *Asabi Shimbun*, Tokyo, on April 21, 2003, states that "The damage of the library . . . only matches that of the 13th century when the Mongols invaded Baghdad and burned all the books."

National Library materials safeguarded

According to a recent report from Iraq, some important materials were moved from the National Library to the tourism administration building in mid-March due to the fear of war. The saved materials include documents from the period of the Ottoman Empire; back copies of the first newspaper *AAL-Thawra*, published in Iraq in the 19th century under the Ottoman's rule; old cadastral registers; and many books. The largest collection of the Saddam Manuscripts Library of Baghdad, with over 40,000 manuscripts in Arabic, Krurdish, Persian and Turkish, has also been saved.

Gazi Hassan, a staff member of the Iraq National Library, told the BBC News recently that the major part of the important materials and documents are safe. Many religious books and manuscripts, including copies of Qurans were moved to the Imamal-Hagg Mosque in Saddam City. It is possible that about half of the collection of the National Library has been saved. This

good news was also confirmed by the *Wall Street Journal* on April 28.

A time for recovery

The United States, UNESCO, the Library of Congress, ALA, and others are working together to recover and repair the damage done to the collections and artifacts of Iraq, but there is one question being asked by librarians, scholars, and others: Why did it happen? According to the 1954 UNESCO Convention held in the Hague, it was agreed that in case of an armed conflict, in any country, the cultural property, including libraries, archives, and museums will be safeguarded. Article X and XII of resolution deals with the protection and transportation of the materials to a safe place. One hundred three (103) countries, including Iraq, the United Kingdom, and the United States, signed and accepted this historic UNESCO resolution and document. On April 14, Senator Bob Brown of Australia reminded the Australian Broadcasting Company that all countries have "an obligation under the 1954 Hague Convention to protect the world's cultural artifacts during times of war."

There is no doubt that some of the lost materials will be recovered, but great damage has already been done, and libraries, archives, and museums will never recover fully. Donny George, director of research and discoveries at the Iraqi State Board of Antiques, told the BBC News on April 14, "It was the leading collection of a . . . continuous history of mankind. And it's gone, and it's lost. . . . It's too late, it's no use."—*R.N. Sharma, director of the library, West Virginia State College, editor of Library Times International, and vice-chair/chair-elect of ACRL's Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section, sharmarn@oscar.uwsc.edu*

150 million pages of newsprint dating from 1632 to the present.

Pennsylvania libraries choose Docutek

The South-Central Library Consortium of Pennsylvania (SCLCPA) has selected Docutek VRLplus as the virtual reference library solution for the 17 libraries across four counties in south-central Pennsylvania that make up the consortium. SCLCPA is made up of a mix of public, academic, K-12, and special libraries and serves a largely rural population; the addition of digital reference services extends the library to those patrons who are unable to visit a local library. Docutek VRLplus includes a

UIUC moves the Newspaper Library to remodeled location

The Newspaper Library, one of 42 departmental libraries at the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign, has moved into a newly remodeled location, offering more appealing and efficient space for patrons. The new space offers ample space for library workers and a work/supply room; large windows on its west wall and new carpeting, lighting, and shelves; custom furniture for microfilm readers; and a climate-controlled area to store the library's 110,000 reels of microfilm. The Newspaper Library is one of the largest libraries of its kind in the world, housing more than

searchable knowledge database, which is built by adding frequently asked questions on an ongoing basis, and the ability to script replies to these commonly asked questions.

@ your library toolkit will help you market your library

April marked the official launch of ACRL's Academic and Research Library Campaign, part of ALA's Campaign for America's Libraries. This marketing effort is designed to create an awareness and understanding of the value of academic and research libraries and librarians in the 21st century. The *@your library Toolkit for Academic and Research Libraries* is a resource designed to help librarians create a campaign to promote their libraries across campus and in the community. It includes messages, ideas, and strategies that can be put to use at the local level and case studies that provide real-world examples of the campaign at work. Copies of the toolkit are



available for \$7 through ACRL; visit <http://www.acrl.org/publications> to order. For complete information about the Academic and Research Library Campaign, visit <http://www.ala.org/acrl/@your library>.

Blackwell's Online Bookshop gets a makeover

Blackwell's Online Bookshop has undergone a complete interface transformation to improve the online experience for users in the academic community. Changes to the online bookstore include a more user-friendly layout, easy-to-use navigation menu items, additional content designed for the academic community, online registration for the commission-based affiliate program, and a dedicated page for library institutions. To celebrate the new site design, Blackwell's Online Bookshop is offering a 10 percent discount through June 30 on all titles plus free shipping regardless of the dollar value or quantity of the customer order. Those interested in using the online discount must enter through www.shopblackwells.com/libraries. ■

Register now for the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute August 3-8, 2003, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Academic libraries exist in a constantly changing environment with many new challenges and many available opportunities. New demands on academic libraries call for fundamental shifts in leadership know-how. In response to these challenges, ACRL is collaborating with the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education to offer its popular ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute this summer.

- **Learn among the leaders and trendsetters in academic library administration.** At the ACRL/Harvard program, you will be among your fellow leaders in academic librarianship. The institute is designed for directors of libraries and individuals in positions such as associate university librarian, assistant dean, vice president of information resources, university librarian, and college librarian. Attendance would also be useful for individuals regularly involved in decision-making that affects the entire library operation and that involves other important relationships on campus.

- **Increase your capacity to lead and manage.** Find out if your organization is well-positioned meet current and future challenges and discover if your own leadership is effective. Harvard Institutes for Higher Education faculty will give special attention to issues such as leadership, organizational strategy, transformational learning, and planning.

- **Mark your calendars now.** The 2003 ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 3-8, 2003.

Don't miss this exciting educational opportunity! Registration materials and complete details about the institute are available on the Web at <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~ppe/programs/acrl/program.html>. Registration spots will fill quickly.

Don't forget to register early to ensure you have a space in this prestigious institute. Questions about this institute can be directed to acrl@ala.org; (800) 545-2433, ext. 2523. ■

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