

Industry News

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Germany sets up electronic archive

In response to complaints from researchers about the cost of scientific journals, Germany's largest network of laboratories plans to build a standardized desktop information system for all its scientists. The Max Planck Society (MPS) has created a Centre for Information Management in Garching, near Munich. Its role will be to enable scientists at its 78 laboratories to publish their work in open-access electronic repositories.

When the centre opens next month, its managers will decide whether the MPS should operate its own server, or get involved in similar initiatives elsewhere. These include E-BioSci, a publication server for the life sciences managed by the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, and PubMed Central, a similar project run by the US National Institutes of Health. But the Centre's main partner will initially be the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the United States, whose e-print archives are the primary means of electronic communication in areas such as high-energy physics, maths and computer science. Richard Luce, head of Los Alamos' 'Library Without Walls' project - which provides digital library resources - is advising the new centre.

Quirin Schiermeier

Sage Publications launch free online sample copy service

Sage Publications has launched an online sample copy service for all visitors to their website: www.sagepub.co.uk. Free electronic sample

issues of journals currently published from Sage Publications' London office are now available as PDF files on their website. A further 16 new journals being published in 2001 will be put on the website once their first issue is published.

To view the electronic samples, visitors should go to Sage Publications' website and follow the online sample copies link. This will direct them to all journal samples currently available online.

This new online service increases the range of free electronic services Sage Publications now provides on its website. Sage Contents Alerting Service, launched in January 2000, provides free email table of contents to those who register for the service. The service has been a great success and currently has over 10,000 subscriptions.

Stephen Barr, Managing Director of Sage Publications in London said: "We are extremely pleased to be launching our new online sample copy service which will give anyone who is interested the chance to evaluate our journals from the convenience of their desktop before contributing or subscribing."

For further information contact: Jane Makoff, Head of Journals Marketing, Sage Publications, 6 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PU, UK. Tel: +020 7374 0645; Fax: +020 7374 8741; Email: jane.makoff@sagepub.co.uk; Web site: www.sagepub.co.uk

EJI - a registry of electronic journals and journal services

EJI [<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~CYBER-STACKS/EJI.htm>] is "a registry electronic journals or journal services that offer or provide

innovative or novel access, organization, or navigation features and functionalities.”

Among the ‘extras’ I seek to identify in e-journals or e-journal services are access to relevant:

- reference resources (e.g., dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories, manuals, etc.)
- dissertations, either abstracts and/or full-text, or links to such services such as Dissertation Abstracts International (DAI) or relevant dissertations in the Contentville service [<http://www.contentville.com/content/dissertations.asp>]
- E-Books
- Patents
- Discussion Forums/Electronic Discussion Lists (e-lists)
- Polls and Surveys
- Reader participation
- Database Access (e.g. PubMed (Medline))
- Article /Document Ordering
- Any other type of ‘extra’ service not typical of the typical e-journal

Access to such services may be offered free-of-charge, by subscription, or on a pay-per-view basis.

[NOTE: I have identified *some* types of ‘extra’ services and have included these in a MUCH expanded EJI. If you have not yet visited EJI, it is well worth the visit this holiday season [:-)]

Further information: Gerry McKiernan, Extra Librarian, Iowa State University, Ames IA 50011.

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The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz

xrefer.com, the web’s reference engine, today made the renowned New Grove Dictionary of Jazz available online for the first time. The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz further strengthens xrefer.com’s music related content and joins the Grove Concise Dictionary of Music, The Oxford Dictionary of Music and the Penguin Dictionary of Music. All are freely available through the xrefer.com destination site at <http://www.xrefer.com>. The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz is the largest, most comprehensive and most accurate reference work on jazz ever published. With more than 4,500

articles by leading authorities, it covers the area in every aspect; from jazz groups, composers and arrangers, to instruments, terms, and styles, to record labels, institutions, and specialist areas such as clubs, festivals and the recording of jazz. The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz also includes biographies of all the leading jazz performers, 1800 selective discographies and many entries also include detailed reading lists. Adam Hodgkin, managing director, xrefer.com, said of the new addition: “The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz is the leading title in its field. It will not only add in-depth content to the xrefer.com destination site, but will also greatly complement our business to business content offerings. “About xrefer.com (<http://www.xrefer.com>) xrefer.com is the web’s reference engine. By aggregating and integrating a wide range of reference sources from some of the world’s best known publishers, xrefer.com provides the most comprehensive and authoritative factual information resource on the web. Reference resources include encyclopedia, dictionaries, thesauri, quotations and a range of in-depth subject specific titles. The xrefer.com search facility allows users to find information in seconds, while the unique web of cross-referenced links provides some of the richest content on the web. xrefer.com is also a leading provider of bespoke reference content solutions. Current clients include ntl, On Digital and handbag.com.

NHS Wales chooses Ovid for clinical information

Ovid Technologies, Ltd. has been chosen by the NHS in Wales to be its principal provider of clinical information. Access will be via the HOWIS (Health of Wales Information Service) intranet service available to all NHS personnel in Wales. This includes 15 NHS Trusts, 5 Health Authorities, approximately 2000 GPs, a number of other community care professionals and NHS Directorate staff based at the National Assembly for Wales.

Since 1997, Ovid has partnered with NHS Wales to provide access to MEDLINE[®], CINAHL, Cancer Lit, Healthstar and AMED via its powerful Web-based search engine. NHS Wales has now decided to extend their collaboration with Ovid to

also include PsycINFO, EMBASE, Clinical Evidence, and Evidence-Based Medicine Reviews (EBMR). Ovid's unique, integrated approach allows clinicians to search and link between top-quality evidence-based content and bibliographic databases, as well as full text journals and books and clinical decision-support tools.

Ovid Technologies moves boldly into point-of-care and clinical education services

Ovid Technologies have announced that three new products are now available via Ovid Online. The products, MedWeaver™, produced by Unbound Medicine, Inc., Clineguide, produced by Clineanswers, Inc. and MedCases, produced by MedCases, Inc., are designed to bring the power of the web to cutting-edge decision support and educational tools.

The strategic partnerships with Unbound Medicine, Inc. and Clineanswers, Inc. brings Ovid Technologies further into the clinical environment – to the point-of-care – with products designed to provide clinicians with fast access to evidence-based clinical information that will assist in making informed decisions and result in improved patient outcomes. The partnership with MedCases, Inc. provides an innovative new web-based educational tool for medical students and residents. Each product is enhanced by rich integration with and supporting literature available through Ovid.

MedWeaver, a product of Unbound Medicine, Inc, is a unique web-based application that facilitates better decision making. MedWeaver generates a differential diagnosis from entered case findings and provides a rationale and in-depth disease information for each diagnostic possibility. Powerful assisted searches through Ovid MEDLINE further enhance the product.

Clineguide, developed by Clineanswers, Inc., is a state-of-the-art, interactive, point-of-care, decision support system that delivers drug treatment and disease management guidance into daily workflow. All disease and drug information within Clineguide is constantly reviewed to ensure that recommendations are based on the best available evidence. Clineguide may be customized to meet the specific information needs of hospitals including the incorporation of hospital formulary information.

MedCases, a product of MedCases, Inc., is a sophisticated learning system that delivers patient simulations over the internet. MedCases provides medical schools and resident programs a comprehensive database of interactive, problem-based simulated patient encounters created in collaboration with a national consortium of medical institutions.

Each of these partner products is now available through Ovid.

ingenta and CatchWord merge in £16.7m (\$25m) deal to create largest research content service

Enhanced services, increased content and complementary technical capabilities drive creation of service with over 140 publisher clients and 4,500 electronic journals.

ingenta, the global research gateway, today announced its merger with CatchWord, the e-journal online hosting and distribution service in a deal valued at £16.7 million (\$25 million). CatchWord, headquartered in Abingdon, UK, provides online conversion and hosting services to scholarly publishers.

Current customers and end users will benefit immediately from the merger, which joins two former competitors that have been at the forefront of developing new channels of information access and delivery on the Web.

CatchWord offers linking and data conversion technologies, which complement the range of online services to publishers already provided by ingenta. The combination of the services creates a single point for hosting, distribution and e-publishing delivery services to publishers of academic and professional research, who include 8 of the world's top 10 journal publishers, including the Taylor & Francis Group plc, and two of the world's top three reference publishers. The merged ingenta now handles hosting and linking to over 4,500 publications for over 140 publishers. Libraries, research organisations, individual researchers and other third party gateways will all benefit from a single source of supply and interface to an extensive interlinked collection of research and reference content.

The CatchWord staff will be absorbed into existing ingenta departments and the CatchWord management team are joining the senior management group of ingenta.

"Our plan is to integrate fully the two operations," stated Simon Inger Managing Director of CatchWord. "In the interim, it is business as usual for our publisher and library customers. Our existing teams of knowledgeable staff will stay focussed on continuing to provide the innovative solutions, flexible and responsive customer service for which CatchWord is well known. I look forward to extending this further as part of a larger organisation."

Contact: Mark Rowse, CEO, ingenta. Tel: +44 (0)1865 314800; E-mail: mrowse@ingenta.com

Simon Inger, Managing Director, CatchWord Ltd. Tel: +44 (0)1235 555877; E-mail: simon.inger@catchword.com

ICCC / IFIP 5th International Conference on Electronic Publishing

ELPUB2001 – "2001 the Digital Publishing Odyssey" at University of Kent at Canterbury, UK

July 5 -7th, 2001

<http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/pm/elpub2001>

The Organising Committee for the ELPUB2001 – "2001 the Digital Publishing Odyssey" conference – are seeking exhibitors and sponsors from the relevant industries. Opportunities exist for exhibitions stands to be set up in the conference foyer and for sponsorship of events and activities within the conference. This series of conferences attracts a wide international range of attendees, with a greater representation from Eastern Europe than is normally found in international conferences.

Further details of the conference can be found at : <http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/pm/elpub2001> If you are interested in exhibiting or sponsoring at this conference, please contact Fytton Rowland, Organising Committee member with responsibility for sponsorship and the exhibition, at J.F.Rowland@lboro.ac.uk, for more information.

Pay-per-view article purchasing now available on EBSCO Online®

EBSCO Online® users can now purchase articles in online journals that are viewable on EBSCO Online, even if they do not have a subscription to the journal. The new pay-per-view feature is available both to registered users of EBSCO Online as well as to users linking from EBSCO

Online's linking partners, including proprietary and third-party databases available on EBSCO Publishing's EBSCO host® service. The pay-per-view option can be accessed from results obtained using EBSCO Online's JOURNAL Search, ARTICLE Search or browse features, or by following a direct link to an article from a linking partner's service.

Articles can be purchased from more than 1,430 e-journals represented by a variety of publishers including Kluwer and Blackwell. To purchase an article, the user clicks the "Purchase Article" button and enters credit card information and an e-mail address. EBSCO Online charges the credit card for the purchase amount in real time. The user receives a confirmation screen providing a hyperlink to the full text of the article. The user also receives an e-mail confirmation that includes the link. The article is accessible online for seven days and can be downloaded, saved to disk or printed as needed.

International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC)

The next ICOLC meeting will be held in Newport, Rhode Island, 22-24 April. Publishers who will be present for examination include Elsevier, APA and e-psyche and Oxford University Press. Discussion topics will include e-journal pricing structures, the Bath Profile and usage statistics.

Further information from f.friend@ucl.ac.uk if you are interested in attending. The next European ICOLC meeting will be held in Helsinki at the end of November 2001.

Free access to current issues of IOP journals for non-subscribers

Following an incredible response to its recent Free Access promotion, Institute of Physics Publishing has announced another new initiative – designed to benefit the international physics community further still. Until further notice, non-subscribers can enjoy free electronic access to the latest issues of 29 of our journals. As a learned society not-for-profit publisher, Institute of Physics Publishing is committed to promoting physics and to serving physicists world-wide. This latest initiative supports our prime objective

and Royal Charter to disseminate information in this field.

The Free Current Issues can be accessed via the welcome page of the IoPP Electronic Journals service. A username and password are required to gain access. Readers that do not already have a username and password for the Electronic Journals service can create them. Lost Password Assistance is also available for those that have registered their details in the past but have now forgotten their passwords.

The free issues in question ('Latest Complete Issue') are easily identifiable on the Main Menu – they are marked as 'Free'. Issues are only available to non-subscribers once they are complete. Accelerated Publication remains a benefit exclusive to subscribers.

The following titles are included in the Free Current Issues initiative:

- Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and General
- Journal of Physics B: Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics
- Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter
- Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics
- Journal of Physics G: Nuclear and Particle Physics
- Chinese Physics
- Chinese Physics Letters
- Classical and Quantum Gravity
- Combustion Theory and Modelling
- European Journal of Physics
- High Performance Polymers
- Inverse Problems
- Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering
- Journal of Optics A: Pure and Applied Optics
- Journal of Optics B: Quantum and Semiclassical Optics
- Measurement Science and Technology
- Modeling and Simulation in Materials Science and Engineering
- Nanotechnology
- Network: Computation in Neural Systems
- Nonlinearity
- Physics Education
- Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion
- Plasma Sources Science and Technology

- Public Understanding of Science
- Reports on Progress in Physics
- Semiconductor Science and Technology
- Smart Materials and Structures
- Superconductor Science and Technology
- Waves in Random Media

The following titles are excluded:

- Journal of Radiological Protection
- Journal of Turbulence
- Physiological Measurement
- Physics in Medicine and Biology
- Quantitative Finance (to be launched later this month)

Any enquiries regarding the Free Current Issues initiative should be sent to free2001@iop.org (*Institute of Physics Publishing reserves the right to alter, vary or cancel this offer.*)

Online refereeing launched for IOP Journals

Online electronic refereeing is now available for Journal of Physics B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys. and Classical and Quantum Gravity. Reaction from both test and 'real' referees has been very positive. The elimination of postal delays promises even faster publication times for our authors.

The new system creates a referee homepage that can be bookmarked and used again once the initial registration has been completed. Articles are posted online in PDF format, or postscript if requested. From the homepage, referees can update their contact details, conduct all refereeing, request hard copy manuscripts, decline to report and request deadline extensions. Referee guidelines and free offprint vouchers are also available. This single interface makes electronic refereeing easier and more efficient than paper-based peer review.

Electronic refereeing will be rolled out to several other IOP journals over the next few weeks. Later this year, we will extend the referee homepage to include easy submission of articles and collection of proofs.

If you are interested in electronically refereeing papers for either of the two journals concerned, please contact the appropriate Publishing Administrator at cqg@iop.org or jphysb@iop.org

Union List of Art, Architecture and Design Serials

The National Art Library is has announced that the Union List of Art, Architecture and Design Serials project has been awarded a grant of £67,500 from the British Library's Co-operation and Partnership Programme and the Research Support Libraries Programme. As a result, a full-time Union List Project Officer will be appointed for two years. The first priority is to increase the range of libraries and serials included in the Union List. In addition, we intend to enhance the brief bibliographic records for those serials that are not held by the National Art Library. An online directory of libraries will also be created, providing additional information about access to the material. The information accumulated during the project will also be used in developing individual libraries' acquisitions policies and should help to ensure that rare periodicals are not inadvertently discarded. A World Wide Web interface to the Union List database is also being developed and this is due to be launched later in the year. This will mean that it will no longer be necessary to use telnet as a method of connecting to the Union List.

Esperre – online submission and peer review

January 2001: Request for online submission demo passwords increases. Authors report that online submission is easier, cheaper and less time consuming. 19 journals are now online. Journal of Cell Science and Proceedings: Biological Sciences now receive 25% of their submissions online

Many journal publishers now accept the text of authors' papers on disk but most still require the author to submit figures, tables and photographic material in the form of hard copy, this makes it impossible to submit a paper electronically. However, a major concern of authors and publishers alike is the length of time between submission of the paper and its final appearance in a printed journal (publication time).

The ESPERE project is investigating the technical and cultural issues involved in these new developments, particularly with regard to the biomedical sciences. In these disciplines (as also in others) graphics and tables are an important part of the journal article and the project is looking at portable formats and user-friendly methods of transferring files.

The project started in 1996 as part of the UK electronic Libraries Programme (eLib). The consortium partners were UK learned society publishers. In 1998 a new consortium of publishers was formed to continue the project. The University of Nottingham Electronic Publishing Research Group has provided technical expertise to the project since March 1997.

Publication time is made up of two main elements: the peer review process and the production process. Production times from acceptance of the paper can be shortened by the use of electronic methods and many publishers now use authors' files and copy-edit on screen. However, the peer review process still often involves sending bulky manuscripts all over the world even if the comments are collected by fax or email. Much time is spent photocopying manuscripts and figures, and postal bills are large for author and publisher alike. Supplying a paper electronically, as a single file, would not only speed up the process considerably but produce cost savings as well.

The advent of portable document formats such as *Adobe Acrobat* and the free dissemination of Acrobat reader make possible the electronic movement of papers in a standard format, which is easily readable, includes all figures and tables, and can be printed. Although the project will be based around the use of Acrobat, advances in software in the document-format/World Wide Web area are now proceeding very fast indeed and other suitable systems may well appear during the life of the project.

Electronic submission and peer review represents a profound change in working practices for both academics and journal publishers. ESPERE hopes to encourage communication between publishers and to establish appropriate standards and solutions.

Jointly Administered Knowledge Environment (jake)

jake (Jointly Administered Knowledge Environment) is a reference source which makes finding, managing, and linking online journals and journal articles easier for students, researchers, and librarians. jake does this by managing online resource metadata with a database union list, title authority control, and

linking tools, as well as making it easy to add a local holdings layer. jake is free for anyone to use, modify, copy, or redistribute under the terms of the GNU General Public License (GPL).

Currently there are 193 databases with contents included in jake.

Participation of all electronic resource providers in this project; is welcomed. The Call For Participation (<http://jake.med.yale.edu/docs/cfp.html>): an open letter to all online resource providers for information on how you can be sure every resource of interest to you (as provider or user) is included. If you are a provider, the CFP includes details on how to submit your lists to jake. Librarians who want to see a list that is not yet included, send your provider the CFP url (<http://jake.med.yale.edu/docs/about.html>), and tell them to get on board.

There is a jake FAQ. This is a Zope FAQ (look for the Knowledge Kit), which means anyone can help write the FAQ by posting new questions and answers.

An article about jake, "jake: Overview and Status Report", by Kimberly Parker, Cynthia Crooker, and Dan Chudnov (all from Yale) was published as *Serials Review* 26(4):12-17, 2000. A copy of the article (307kb pdf) has been made available by agreement with *Serials Review*.

JISC email list for digital-preservation

A new email list 'digital-preservation' has been established on jismail(successor to the UK Mailbase service).

This list will carry announcements and information on activities relevant to the preservation and management of digital materials in the UK. It will be used to disseminate information on the work of the JISC Digital Preservation Focus, the Digital Preservation Coalition and related activities.

It is intended to be of interest to archivists, curators, data creators, librarians and record managers in higher education and related sectors. Topics will include: digital archiving; management and preservation; electronic records management; emulation; migration; long-term access; research projects; national, international and institutional initiatives in relevant areas.

The archive and a joining the list web-form is available at : <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/digital-preservation.html>

National Preservation Office (NPO) preservation strategy

The NPO has published a consultation document detailing its national preservation strategy. The document '*A national preservation strategy for library and archive collections in the United Kingdom and Ireland: principles and prospects*' was launched at the British Council seminar 'Libraries , Museums and Archives' on 29 January 2001.

Further information: Vanessa Marshall, Director, National Preservation Office, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB. E-mail: npo@bl.uk

ARNO (Academic Research in the Netherlands Online) project started

Overview

The ARNO project (Academic Research in the Netherlands Online) aims to develop and implement university document servers to make available the scientific output of participating institutions. The ARNO project is funded by IWI (Innovation in Scientific Information Supply). Project participants are the University of Amsterdam, the University of Tilburg and the University of Twente.

The project continues to build on earlier IWI projects in the area of electronic publishing and on international initiatives such as "The Open Archives Initiative".

Goals

To couple the document servers to international distributed digital archives and to the Dutch national information infrastructure. The infrastructure that will be developed needs to accommodate a coupling to the production processes of scientific publishers and offer a good basis for the organisation of peer review, practised by scientists independently or outsourced to existing publishers. The scientific output from the universities needs to connect seamlessly to digital learning environments.

Project partners

The Library of the University of Amsterdam continues to build on a number of innovative projects that have been completed in the past few years through the "EDUBA programme" and the activities recently taken up by its Digital Production Centre. Among others, the Beta Preprint and Publication Server, an electronic archive that supports research and communication in the natural sciences; the Digital Student Library, a digital learning environment and the publication of electronic journals such as Contributions to Zoology.

The Library of the University of Tilburg continues to build on the DEGREE project (Dutch Electronic Grey Files on Economics), the Tilburg

Internet Law Library, which includes an republishing component; the publication of the Electronic Journal of Comparative Law ,and the DECOMATE project that offers access in an integrated way to heterogenous, distributed sources in the area of economics.

The Library of the University of Twente continues to build on the WebDOC project that offers 50% of the university's output of dissertations and the electronic material within the digital learning environment Campus+.

ARNO project site: <http://www.uba.uva.nl/en/projects/arno/>

Further information from: the ARNO project manager:
Hans Roes, University of Tilburg. E-mail:
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