Keeping Current While Maintaining Sanity

Paula J. Hane
News Bureau Chief
From the Editor: Print publishing schedules don’t always accommodate the FLASH! of breaking news in the information industry and library world. So, we post weekly by-lined stories by expert industry reporters—folks like Barbara Quint, Marydee Ojido, and Rich Wiggins. We also feature a weekly digest that highlights important developments.

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Paula J. Hahn, NewsBreaks Editor
phahn@infotoday.com

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- Moreover Introduces Newsdesk 3.0 Search Portal
- Weekly News Digest, featuring:
  - Thought to Extend Google Search Capabilities
  - CRIBIS Adds U.S. Company Credit Reports
  - Vivisimo Upgrades Velocity Search Platform

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ProQuest: A Question of Financing

by PHILIP BRITT

ProQuest Co.'s financial future came into question in May as the publisher of information and education resources reached an agreement with its bank lenders and with private placement note holders in which both parties granted the company a waiver from current defaults under its credit agreements.

Despite the company's financial difficulties stemming from an accounting irregularity, at least one industry analyst and suppliers and customers have yet to see any negative results.

Addressing the Issues

In a letter to Shareholders posted on the company's Web site, company president David "Sky" Pritchard reported, "While deeply disappointed about the accounting irregularities, I was heartened to know that we discovered them ourselves and acted immediately to address the issues." He also told investors what about ProQuest "measure[s] and says the company has chosen not to respond to such articles. ProQuest did not respond to further calls to Information Today for this article.

Pritchard also reported that the company will "only announce publicly when we have facts to communicate—and then to communicate directly with our customers, partners, and employees."

According to Michael Nolt, an analyst at Bear Stearns, New York, "ProQuest's agreement with creditors requires ProQuest to pay 275 basis points higher than existing interest rates. The company reported that it would proceed with the debt restructuring." (continued on page 56)

Gameing: The Next Hot Technology for Libraries?

by DONALD T. HARRIS

Major Libraries

Gaming in Libraries? No, we're not talking about gambling. We're talking about using video game technology to produce "virtual worlds" to deliver library services. Although still in its infancy for the library world, this technology once used only for entertainment is now being adapted for a host of uses, especially social networking.

Data Security: An Ounce of Prevention

by PHILIP BRITT

Just when we thought security efforts to combat breaches were taking hold, the Business news agency reported in May that a holding had been stolen from an office on an employee's car. (Editor's Note: See Security features on page 57 for more on this story.) The company contained personal information on about 38,000 employees who were diverse from two companies that were Antioch customers, including names, addresses, and Social Security numbers. (continued on page 53)
A Failure to Communicate
Politics, Scams, and Information Flow During Hurricane Katrina

page 40
Are your digital assets protected?

Sometimes also known as "digital asset management," it is an additional layer of control and protection above and beyond the standard publish/subscribe/check-in/check-out/content function that are presently available from content management systems. DRM implies that the information in question is especially sensitive (such as internal board-of-directors communications), or susceptible to a higher level of regulatory compliance scrutiny (such as Subpoena-Oxley documentation), or at high risk of becoming part of a legal discovery motion. Other content that may be under DRM control could be revenue-generating content (in the case of an information provider) that is simply too valuable not to apply additional controls to its access and distribution.

Information Today, Inc. (ITI, inc.) has announced the launch of a new portal covering enterprise search and related technologies. The site, enterprisesearchtoday.com, is to be launched in beta version May 22, coinciding with the first day of the Enterprise Search Summit (enterprise searchsummit.com) conference. According to Dick Kaiser, VP of content for Information Today, Inc., "The problem with the technologies that surround it has emerged as a hot topic topic for IT managers, content managers, knowledge management professionals and business executives at companies across the board."

Wikis—a disruptive innovation

Innovation is ranked a top priority by global CEOs. Yet few CEOs manage innovation by linking strategy to action. Currently, most CEOs focus on sustaining innovation practices vs. disruptive practices. Disruptive innovation, framed by author Clayton Christensen, is where products or systems create new markets. Disruptive innovation patterns are difficult to see because they are complex and diffuse rapidly. One of the most promising and rapidly emerging disruptive innovations in knowledge management is the wiki. According to Wikipedia (wikipedia.org, "the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit"), a wiki is a "type of Web site that allows anyone visiting the site to add, remove or otherwise edit all content, very quickly and easily, and sometimes without the need for registration." Want Cunningham, a software architect, invented the original wiki to help people contribute into existing documents.
EDITOR'S NOTE

I've been quietly covering in the car, trying to hide my ignorance. I confess: Until Brian Smith's article on podcasts, I didn't have any idea what podcasts were. Yes, I knew they had something to do with another way to receive news and information but I didn't know the what, who's, where's, when's, etc. I finally have a basic understanding of podcasting so I don't have to hide when the subject is discussed. I am, however, the only one in my family without an iPod—or any other MP3 player—as for now I won't be able to get on the podcasting train.

In January, Pam Wagners wrote the article "Internet Sites Become Lifelines in a Disaster," which dealt with the difficulties encountered finding information in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. This month's Legal/Government Spec Scan explains where to find the final report on governmental response to Katrina. The timing is perfect, as next month's issue will contain a follow-up by Pam on Katrina and its effects on business.

Believe it or not, it's nearly hurricane season again! Let's hope it's calmer this year.

—Sheila R. Lance lance@infotoday.com

HONcode

http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/

By Suzanne Narraer

Ens or after earning my M.L.S. degree, I was reference and adult services librarian for a suburban public library outside Boston. This was pre-Internet, decades before Viagra, even years before AIDS. I soon learned that, contrary to accepted reference practices, it was not always a good idea to follow people into the stacks when they were searching a medical issue. Questioners were more private then about their personal health concerns.

Jump to the late 1980s, when mediated searching of commercial online databases was popular in academic and special libraries but, due to cost, still scarce in suburban libraries. No longer in a public library, I nevertheless remember reading that MEDLINE was the most frequently searched database in a suburban public library system that had deployed the new technology for its patrons. At first, this startled the business online searcher that I had become. I remembered how motivated public library users had been about medical questions, but I also remembered how cautious they had been in disclosing their research needs. I was impressed with the reference interview skills that the librarians in this survey had employed to get beyond patron privacy fears while serving as search intermediaries.

Now we have the Internet, with thousands of medical sites, direct access for all, and no need for search intermediaries when we have a personal medical question. I now have lots of medical issues to research, whether for myself or for friends and relatives. But I've done enough health and pharmaceutical industry searching in my career both for research and marketing purposes, to be extremely wary of the quality of healthcare information available on the Web. That's why, after I found what sounded like good information to explain a crisis situation recently—but from a site I did not know well—I was glad to see the HON seal at the bottom center of the page.

HON is the Health On the Net Foundation, a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization (NGO) recognized by the United Nations, that promotes and guides "the deployment of useful and reliable online medical and health information, and its appropriate and efficient use." It was founded in September 1995 in...
The Challenges

- 24-hour news cycle
- Pressure to get the scoop
- Pressures to stay connected
- Information Overload!
Paula’s 3 Ps

• Planning
• Patience
• Placement

• And, a 4th… Persistence
Paula’s Theories of Keeping Current

- Let someone else gather it
- Target top minds/sources
- Have information pushed to you
- Scan for the nuggets
- Network with others
- Cast a wide net
Paula’s Strategies

Use an RSS news reader

- http://www.bloglines.com
- http://www.pluck.com
- http://www.newsgator.com
- http://www.feeddemon.com
- http://my.yahoo.com
Keep feeds to a manageable number

• Add one, drop one rule
• Reevaluate sources and purge relentlessly
• Reduce redundant information
Great feed source – Moreover

Choose feeds
http://w.moreover.com/site/products/ind/rss_feeds.html

List of feeds
http://w.moreover.com/site/other/categories_rss.html
Free Moreover RSS News Feeds

This page contains a complete list of the free, advertising supported RSS news feeds available from Moreover Technologies. Please select a category below, or click on the link for a complete list.

Choose a feed from our prebuilt categories

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<thead>
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<th>Subcategory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top stories</td>
<td>Top stories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Create your own feed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>preview</th>
<th>get rss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Compatible RSS Readers
To optimize the delivery and display of our aggregated RSS feeds, we recommend you use an RSS reader:

- Pluck
- Newsgator
- FeedDemon
- Clovis
- Deepnet Explorer
- Optimal Access

Saved feeds
No Saved Searches
Recommended e-newsletters

- ITI’s NewsLink
  http://www.infotoday.com/newslink
- EContent Xtra
  http://www.econtentmag.com/Newsletters
- Edupage
  http://www.educause.edu/Edupage/639
- SearchDay
  http://searchenginewatch.com/searchday
- TVC Alert Research News
  http://www.virtualchase.com/tvcalert
Recommended e-newsletters

• LJXpress  
  http://www.libraryjournal.com
• Resourceshelf  
  http://www.resourceshelf.com
• Librarians’ Internet Index  
  http://lii.org/pub/htdocs/understandingrss.htm
• The Scout Report  
  http://scout.wisc.edu
• Neat New Stuff  
  http://marylaine.com/neatnew.html
Industry analysts

• Shore Communications, Inc.
  http://www.shore.com

• Outsell, Inc.
  http://www.outsellinc.com
Alerts

• RSS feed alerts for keywords
• http://www.google.com/alerts
• http://www.highbeam.com
• http://www.northernlight.com
• http://www.factiva.com
• http://www.lexisnexis.com
Library Blogs

• NewsliBlog
  http://newslib.blogspot.com

• Steven Cohen’s Library Stuff
  http://www.librarystuff.net

• Marydee Ojala’s Online Insider
  http://www.onlineinsider.net

• Infotodayblog.com
More Library Blogs

• Tame the Web: Libraries and Technology
  http://tametheweb.com

• LISNews.org
  http://lisnews.org

• Peter Scott’s Library Blog
  http://blog.xrefer.com

• Internet Public Library list
  http://www.ipl.org/div/blogs/#libraryblogs
Discussion Lists

- NewsLib
  http://parklibrary.jomc.unc.edu/newsliblyris.html

- BusLib-L
  http://listserv.boisestate.edu/archives/buslibl.html

- Liblicense-L
  http://www.library.yale.edu/~lllicense/index.shtml
Product News from Vendors

• Factiva
• CSA
• LexisNexis
• OCLC
• ProQuest
• Etc…
Web Page Watcher Tools

• WatchThatPage.com
• TrackEngine.com
• Trackle.com
• WebSite-Watcher: http://www.aignes.net
More Resources

• Webcasts
• Journals
• Conferences
• Business and tech media
• Citizen journalism
Productivity Tools

• Desktop Search
  Google, Yahoo, Copernic, X1, etc.

• Web page saving tool
  Yahoo! MyWeb

• Social bookmarking service
  http://del.icio.us or http://www.furl.net

• Desktop package
  http://www.onfolio.com
  http://www.netsnippets.com
Final word of advice

Take a Break!!