



N E W S

::: AUGUST 2001 :::

31 aug 01

Since when does the public library have a dress code? [This](#) is discrimination. **JB**

If folks can't get to the library, take the library to [Kroger](#). **JB**

A better, faster, unified language: [Curl](#). **JB**

[A Women's Guide on How to Pee Standing Up](#). **JB**

[SLASH](#), Stoked Librarians Are Surfing Hawaii. [[Library Stuff](#)] **JB**

30 aug 01

[Michael Dertouzos](#), respected visionary and inspiration to many, passed away on 27th August. He was director of the MIT Laboratory for Computer Science since 1974 and instrumental in shaping the WWW of today. It's odd, at times, to live in a time of techno-legends and founding fathers. [[Digital Web](#)] **JB**

Kirk Douglas on the Public Library:

"My mother and father were illiterate immigrants from Russia. When I was a child, they were constantly amazed that I could go to a building and take a book on any subject. They couldn't believe this access to knowledge we have here in America. They couldn't believe that it was free."
From the U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D Librarian, #120, pg 13. **JB**

Street Librarian, Chris Dodge, gives us the latest on [Asian Presses debunking stereotypes](#) in the current Utne Reader. **JB**

If you get a chance to go to the movies this weekend, I highly recommend [Songcatcher](#). Set in 1907 in the Appalachian mountains, it's a beautiful film about capturing an expressive musical tradition via recording, transcribing, and disseminating with intent to preserve a fading, yet rich cultural heritage. Many similarities with librarianship. **JB**

[The Nature of Information](#), a poem. [[iaslash](#)] **JB**

[Babel](#): Dewey Decimal art (High Bandwidth recommended) **CB**

[Hitchhiking on the web](#): a physicist at Notre Dame has found a way to disguise mathematical problems as web transactions and get supercomputing power for free. But the legality of this behavior has been

called into question. The experiment, along with the ethical and legal questions raised by this bring to mind *The Cuckoo's Egg* by Clifford Stoll (recommended reading). **CB**

Wow... what an amazing 5 minutes of Realaudio. Where did you find that one Colleen? More on Barabási's research [here](#). **JB**

29 aug 01

Top 10 anti-capitalist books. [Thanks Sandy] **JB**

While Chicago is reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Columbus is looking for ideas, Texas might **ban** *Of Mice and Men*. Meanwhile, *Catcher in the Rye* is making an over-n-out in Brunswick, GA. **JB**

"Every few years, I reread Bradbury's book as a reminder that even in a free society, the priceless right to words on paper cannot be taken for granted." A **nice write-up** about the IFLA conference that took place recently in Boston. One surprising fact: less than 50% of the material on the Internet appears in English. **CB**

Kleenex, ketchup (or catsup), and now **Google**: product names that have entered the general vocabulary. **CB**

So if Chicago (and Seattle and Boise) can do it, **why not Columbus?** Good ideas eventually catch on. I hope it encourages more people - both children and adults - to read. **CB**

The Microsoft monopoly controversy **heads north** - Canada's Parliamentary Library gets its knuckles rapped. **CB**

Libraries not complying with federal filtering regs? What a shocker! **CB**

This guy **doesn't "get" computers** - and he makes at least one good point: "It reminded me of when my son was in elementary school. A teacher was explaining what a computer mouse was to the class, when a staffer dropped in to pick up my son. It seemed one of the fifth-grade girls had hacked into the school system and changed the passwords because she had a few extra minutes. My son had to hack in and change it back. He did, and then went back to class where they were showing everyone what a "file menu" was." **CB**

Lots of **intellectual-freedom goodness** packed into this week's Juice. The **Progressive Librarian** looks good too. **JB**

Our **links** have been updated. **JB**

Literature had its moment, according to Philip Roth, "about 100 or 150 years, where it seemed to mean something." [**Plastic**] **JB**

Body of Knowledge **JB**

28 aug 01

Librarian by day, **superhero by night**. Monika Antonelli leads a secret life. **JB**

Imagine an **entire city reading the same book**. That's what they're up to in Chicago... "Librarians are distributing thousands of discussion guides and organizing Internet chat rooms. They and their counterparts in several suburbs have also scheduled scores of formal discussion groups for early October." **JB**

L.A.C.K. (Librarians Are Corrupting Kids) blog. **JB**

Librarians Serving Genealogists [Red Rock Eaters] **JB**

"We don't need a PR firm working our image; instead we need a powerful organization working to **increase our compensation**." **JB**

24 aug 01

Try before you buy - or, rather, borrow. Online book club whets readers' appetites for reading with 5-minute email snippets of books delivered 5 days a week. **CB**

Interesting **create-your-own-internship** opportunity at the San Francisco Airport Museums and Aviation Library. **CB**

The New York Public Library has acquired the **literary and personal archives of Jack Kerouac**. Among the diaries, letters, stories, notebooks, and manuscripts is a "labyrinthine fantasy baseball game Kerouac created as a kid growing up in Lowell, Mass., and referred to in his private papers and the novel "Dr. Sax." The archives will be made available to scholars in the next few years. **CB**

Selling the British Library - seems even the most hallowed institutions are no longer immune from "**shillings-for-shelves naming opportunity**" fundraising schemes. **CB**

23 aug 01

Didn't think they could make **web accessibility guidelines interesting or fun**, didja? [thanks Ryan] **CB**

Signs you live in 2001. [Red Rock Eaters] **JB**

This sucks big turkey eggs. **JB**

The Library of Congress will still avail its extraordinary rare set of Stradivarius instruments to musicians, but the **Juilliard residency program** that worked to popularized chamber music has ended. **JB**

It's great that the folks in Big Hollow **recognize the need for a librarian**. Too bad they expect to fill the position with a paltry \$24,000 a year! **JB**

I've never felt the need to apologize for my Elvis Costello rims (fem-version) or for running into walls 'cause I got a book under my nose. Just my personal opinion, but ALA's lame attempt to [adjust our image](#) is all kinds of stupid. [[LISNews](#)] **JB**

Jays... am I the last to find out that Google has a new \$3 [Q&A service](#)? Wha?! Folks are [talking](#) about it too. [[library geek](#)] **JB**

Those catrepreneurs over at Santa Cruz Public have assembled a first rate [ready-ref database](#). How much does a gallon of gasoline weigh? You can find it here my friend. **JB**

Some pretty [impressive internships](#) for pre-library students and those already enrolled in a program. [thanks, Kelsey-san] **JB**

22 aug 01

[Portable, searchable, and easy on the back](#). Perhaps Microsoft and Adobe e-textbooks have found a receptive market with those who grew up reading off of LCD monitors. [[LISNews](#)] **JB**

[Cal State](#), the library that keeps on giving. **JB**

[How Radiohead Took America by Stealth](#): "disintermediation" through direct digital communication. Long live the Internet. **JB**

The Internet has fueled an [explosion in genealogical research](#), and in turn, connected these people to the physical records, many of them located in libraries. **JB**

21 aug 01

The Princeton College Rankings are out, and 65,000 students rank, among other things, the [best](#) and [worst](#) college libraries. I'm not generally a fan of rankings, but this one is interesting because it's what students say. **CB**

[TopWriteCorner](#), promoting web literature. [[Zeldman](#)] **JB**

Oprah advises "[Make a big deal about getting a library card!](#)" on her [book club for kids](#) tips page. [[Library Stuff](#)] **JB**

[Diversity in our collections](#) that reflects the spectrum of beliefs and lifestyles embedded in our communities is a beautiful thing. [[NewPages](#)] **JB**

Tip: Never go camping for three days without a [Thermarest](#). **JB**

[Velma](#) **rocks**! She always has. [[librarian.net](#)] **JB**

The [job of a lifetime](#) - "Over four decades as an itinerant archivist with a passion for preservation, a Mormon convert to Buddhism named E. Gene Smith has amassed a rare collection of the endangered Tibetan Buddhist canon: some original writings of Buddha, early commentaries by Indian Buddhists, and the writings of Tibetan Buddhist sages over the last 12 centuries." And he wants to put it all on the Internet. **CB**

[Testing the limits of academic freedom](#) - what's in your library to support these courses? **CB**

Is [teaching a computer to use common sense](#) any more difficult than teaching a human being? One scientist has been working at it for 17 years. [[ALDaily](#)] **CB**

Information wants to be free? The Internet can't be tamed? [Debunking the myths](#) of an uncontrollable network? **CB**

A nice encyclopedia of [IT terms](#) - with links to more articles on the topics covered. [['brary blog](#)] **CB**

[International Directory of E-mail Addresses of Publishers](#) - I know a patron on a short deadline who could've used this one. **CB**

[Netspeed 2001](#) - "A conference for librarians, technical staff and trustees to explore new technologies in a highly connected world." Featuring keynoters Stephen Abram, who once gave me a tour of his library domain, Ulla de Stricker, with whom I once had the honor of teaching a workshop about the Internet for librarians, Daniel Chudnov, the open-source guy, and Clifford Lynch, who needs no introduction. Wish I could go. **CB**

One of the reasons [why librarians are still necessary](#). [[Library News Daily](#)] **CB**

Does the DMCA trump the First Amendment? Depends on who you ask, but a [judge's ruling a year ago](#) says "yes!" So beware - even linking to a resource that violates the [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#) may get you into legal hot water. [[Library Planet](#)] **CB**

[Wheretodoresearch.com](#) - self-explanatory. [[ResearchBuzz](#)] **CB**

Google is now indexing the web [based on how frequently it's updated](#) - what a novel concept! NBL is now indexed daily. **CB**

Yikes! I didn't realize it had been a while since I added to the news. My apologies especially to Juanita. **CB**

Not a problem, Colleen. Besides, I've been stealing your chocolate. **JB**

17 aug 01

[Support Christ and Your Local Library](#) by Matthew J. Barry

1. Library sells brick space as a fund raiser
2. Pastors encourage their congregations to spread the Good News. Go forth and proselytize!

3. Bricks are engraved with "Christ Is Risen. He Is Risen, Indeed," and "Read About Jesus." Another: "Read Your Bible; Prevent Truth Decay."
4. A concerned citizen (concerned about the separation between church and state, and somewhat offended) tries to remove the Jesus Bricks.
5. Attempts at removal prove unsuccessful so he buys and engraves a few of his own: Evolution Is A Fact. Read About It. Jehovah, Allah, Zeus, Thor & Brahma. They're All Myths. God Kills Babies. Read 1 Samuel 15:3.
6. More supporters join him: "With Soap, Baptism Is A Good Thing. Robert Ingersoll."
7. Pretty soon, there will be **more reading outside** the library than inside.

Join in the absurdity and Support the Redmond Regional Library. There's still time to **engrave your own**. [[LISNews](#), where today, you can speculate on the meaning of "losers."] **JB**

Retired librarian works to **save Chang**: "When you lose a language, it's like dropping a bomb in a museum." **JB**

Project Bedtime Story: tapes from mom reading stories from her cell. **JB**

A new **scholarship** award for American Indian/Alaskan Native library students. Deadline: April 1, 2002. **JB**

10 things you'll never hear a librarian say: an ad campaign for **Chums**. Actually, I *have* said #8 during a freshman football orientation. **JB**

Walmart is looking for skills we've got with their **Sr. Manager of Information Architecture** position. (After reading **Nickel and Dimed**, however, Walmart has become a different place to me... penury, drudgery, and managing a little "time-theft" while evincing drone-like industry are a few effects that come to mind). **JB**

16 aug 01

POPLINE offers over 280,000 bibliographic records representing published and unpublished literature in the field of population, family planning, and related health issues. It's updated twice each month and free. **JB**

Want to get started on cascading style sheets but need a little help? Check out the ultra helpful **Little Boxes** by Owen Briggs. Click on a box for swipeable layouts. I found out about this site at **WebVisions**. You can see more of **Zeldman's** css lecture **here**. **JB**

15 aug 01

This **cartoon** is just in from the Progressive Librarians Guild listserv. **JB**



One minute she's writing a haiku (see news from yesterday), and the next she's unveiling a brand-new standards compliant [web site](#). On top of that, she goes away to a [conference](#) and brings back [goodies](#) for everyone. Ms. Bell, you're my kind of girl! **JB**

Possible places for [monkey gods](#) to hang out:

1. economics class
2. flipping through the Ramayana
3. sitting on statues at the library

Hey, it could happen... **JB**

A good idea for [modern urban transport](#). **JB**

[No more pop-under ads](#) for me, thankyevermuch. [[Zeldman](#)] **JB**

If you're at all interested in online community, make sure you check out the latest edition of [Digital Web](#). Nick has rounded up some great voices: there's Daniel Cody on the [evolt.org](#) community, an interview with [Derek Powazek](#) from [{fray}](#), a [tutorial](#) from [MetaFilter](#)'s [Matt Haughey](#), and commentary from the *digitally charismatic* [Stephen Van Doren](#) entitled "[Community for Dummies](#)." **JB**

14 aug 01

Clay does love his job
Daily drives a [bookmobile](#)
School libraries gone? **CB**

[Quirky quest teams librarian with collector](#) - a new novel by Allen Kurzweil - "The Grand Complication" - features "a quirky reference librarian" who wears a notebook tethered to his waist (a "girdle-book") and works in a cage his wife designed for him. "Chances are it's the only novel you'll ever read where the narrator waxes poetic about the Dewey Decimal System." What a shame. **CB**

[Can you smell it?](#) Libraries: civic institutions, thoughtful places, soulful places, and, oh yes, they appeal to the senses, too: "the notion that one could actually replace a library with search engines is, of course, foolish. There is no search engine that provides the scent and texture of a library, the array of bodies poised in the act of reading, or live assistants who can answer questions in the moment. Put plainly, search engines are databases that have no soul or sense of place. To equate them with libraries ignores the role of community." Bravo! **CB**

(Yeah, and don't forget the patchouli oil). **JB**

13 aug 01

This guy is **ticked off**... can't say I blame him. **JB**

12 aug 01

Reading with Rover: This is such, such, *such* a great idea! Sweetness. **JB**

Libraries in the Ancient World for rich historical factoids. Did you know "Aristotle possessed a famous personal library - which his heirs buried to prevent it from being seized by, appropriately enough, the real-life equivalent to Plato's philosopher kings, the Attalids, who built up the famous library at Pergamum" ? Didya?? **JB**

I can see it on the Price is Right: which costs more, a Harley Sportser or *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics in Engineering*? Be prepared to be shocked (or not) by this **let's-get-real look** at the enormous costs of scientific journals. Props to Cornell University's Engineering and Computer Science Library. **JB**

Contextual advertising: have we reached the exasperating pinnacle of annoyance yet?! **JB**

Answers Unlimited, another online reference service system with convenient hours. I wonder if these services are catching on? **JB**

Somebody oughta write an annual comparison of **reading lists** from different public libraries and then include it in one of those Places to Live guides. **JB**

I think I've seen **this guy** before! [thanks Nick] **JB**

10 aug 01

Posters of struggle [webactivism] **JB**

Just **how free is the Internet?** **JB**

HistoryWired, a **navigational nightmare** intended to promote serendipity and to "help people find what they aren't looking for." Maybe it's the librarian in me but I'll take predictability, classification, control, and easy access over clicking around for surprises anyway.



However, the initiatory event for this project is interesting and one that librarians encounter frequently. Apparently, the developer needed to create a navigation for someone who didn't know what they were looking for, or knew but lacked the descriptive words. The users were folks looking to license music by Philip Glass. **JB**

A quiet night on the reference desk last night allowed me to catch up on some collection development. In my mailbox I had found an attractive catalog for [Reaktion Books](#). Publishers really ought to give more care to first appearances because the layout and design of this particular catalog made it into my "for-further-perusal" basket instead of the recycling bin. At any rate, why do I share this with you? To impart the absolute joy of collection development.

Listen to these titles: *The Art of Suicide*, *The Tramp in America*, *Extreme Europe*, An "Archaeology of streets and faces" - and for that line alone, I purchased *Intercities. Airspaces* edged itself to the front for the most intriguing review: "...at airports, everyone is transient. Within these spaces of dim amenity, urban traffic is smoothly converted into air traffic, and the individual traveler is transformed in a 'package' - anonymous, pacified cargo to be shifted around the globe as swiftly as possible." **JB**

09 aug 01

Check out the [Red Encyclopedia](#) for info on left-wing, radical, environmentalist, socialist, communist, anarchist, and pacifist movements. Includes bios, vocabulary, cartoons, and more. **JB**

Thanks to everyone who has written in congratulating us about a NewBreed Librarian review in the current issue of [Bitch](#). It was an unexpected and much appreciated write-up! **JB**

The Museum of Modern Art is inviting applications for a [four-year project position](#) in The Museum's Archives Department. **JB**

08 aug 01

"We didn't want to put any kids in an uncomfortable situation." ?! What kind of [hammerheaded logic](#) is that? A surefire avenue to racism is to conceal it. [svn] **JB**

Minister gets caught [choking his chicken](#) in the library. **JB**

If [this](#) were true, wouldn't most students be drinking and/or dropping out? Who *doesn't* have internet access in school these days? **JB**

I'm back from a great [relay](#), and have been wholeheartedly rejuvenated from last night's [Webvisions](#). Whiskey wow wow... what an [inspiring panel](#). Each of these people were thoughtful, articulate, genuine, and hopeful. They've survived the dot.com blowout and are better for it. [Zeldman](#) was in fine form: warm, funny, and informative. What a talented speaker. And who woulda thunk that a New Yorka would be so full of hugs?! What a swell guy. Thanks to [Nick Finck](#) for all his work on this and also to Saint Luey for the very nice things he said about NewBreed Librarian. It's folks like you, Lou, who make this emprise all worthwhile.

If you want inspiration, make the rounds to meetings and get-togethers outside of librarianship. Networking and community is where it's at. **JB**

If you believe that librarianship is "nothing but a glorified clerical occupation," please don't go into librarianship and write **unabraded shite** like this. **JB**

04 aug 01

Maps lie!?!? Egads - my whole world has been turned upside down. **CB**

What's your **Internet Quotient**? **CB**

02 aug 01

ALA is seeking **recruitment stories** from libraries and librarians; they're getting lots of requests from the press, and want to know who out there has stories to share. **CB**

While Juanita's riding in a van with a bunch of crazy runners and hobnobbing with **Zeldman** (I'm so bummed I'll miss this event), I'll be in **Plattsburgh, NY** working my butt off for the library. But I'm gonna try to post a few news items every now and then, just to give myself a break. Anything to stay air-conditioned! **CB**

As the United Nations gears up for its **World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance** in Durban, South Africa later this month, I'm alarmed to hear **reports** that the work of the advance guard meeting in Geneva to develop the agenda for the conference is being derailed by individual countries' quibbling over language and potential outcomes of the conference. Shouldn't such discussions take place during the conference itself? Isn't the purpose of the conference to encourage open discussion about these issues, and to decide what suitable outcomes are? Maybe I'm too naive. I suppose I'm not too surprised to hear reports that **the U.S. might boycott the conference** if certain topics (such as reparations for slavery) appear on the agenda.

When I read **commentaries like this** I realize just how institutionalized racism is in the U.S. Growing up in Canada, I had a very different experience (although things are changing now) and never consciously thought about racism as an issue. People were just people - different religions, different skin color, different cultures - but I valued every one of them, because their differences and similarities are what makes life interesting for me. Racism is something that I will never understand. **CB**

I'm off again, but this time for less than a week. First stop: **Sawtooth Mountains** followed by a much anticipated **Portland event**. Back on Wednesday. **JB**

My favorites from the **Jargon Monitor** at the *Chronicle of Higher Ed's* site:

- **back-seat mouser** *n.* An overly helpful onlooker who constantly gives directions about where to point, click
- **bar-code hairstyle** *n.* A term used by Japanese students (who say "baakodo haasutyru") to describe male professors with thinning hair who comb what little they have left over their bald spots

- **computer butt** *n.* The unpleasant sensation that develops when one spends too much time sitting in front of a computer in an uncomfortable chair
- **meta-dater** *n.* A student, either male or female, who has attempted to court the entire available field of prospective partners
- **tick-tock tech** *n.* A derogatory term used to describe outdated and slow machines in university computing laboratories

Librarians are cited frequently in the list. **CB**

Efforts to counteract the rising cost of scientific publications, such as the **Public Library of Science** and the **Open Archives Initiative**, have led to the creation of SPARC's latest project, a handbook entitled *Declaring Independence*: "We scientists can exercise control of our journals. We can transform them from commercial commodities back to instruments of service to education and research. When we are in control, we fulfill our responsibility to ourselves, to society, to our institutions, and to our colleagues throughout the world." **CB**

And speaking of **Public Library of Science**, the boycott begins on September 1. Hang on to your bunsen burners, boys and girls! **CB**

LLRX Buzz takes a **tour of official state web sites** - in this issue: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois (they have the same state bird as North Carolina), and Indiana. Last week: **Alabama to Connecticut**; next week: all the way to Massachusetts. **CB**

An 1859 Darwin classed was **returned to its home in the Boston Public Library** 80 years after it was declared missing. **CB**

An interview with **Sherry Turkle**, whose studies of interactions between humans and computers led to her 1995 book, *Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet*. [**webactivism**] **CB**

"Form follows function' made sense when products were designed for a specific task - but not when responsive materials, that modify a product's behaviour, are available." And, "What happens when you go to look at the flowers in the garden - and the flowers look at you?" Designing systems composed of **smart matter**. **JB**

01 aug 01

Welcome to the first day of August and a new issue of NewBreed Librarian.

- **FEATURE**: Are librarians obsessed with image?
- **INTERVIEW**: Joanna Kroll, Career Services Coordinator at the U-M's School of Information
- **TECHTALK**: Why is that computer moaning?
- **PEOPLE**: A recently retired mentor shares advice gleaned from 30 years as a librarian.
- **ASK SUSU**: If I *look* my age will they hire me?

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