



N E W S

::: JANUARY 2002 :::

**31 jan 02**

The [definitive Sanford Berman website](#), courtesy of [Library Juice](#). **RS**

The [panty thief](#) used stolen credit cards to download kiddie porn at our library. Creep. Concern arises over the easy public access that almost "invites" perverts to tool around sick sites. **JB**

What's this? It's the [Angry Librarian](#). **JB**

Does a commitment to no filters lead to a [hostile work environment](#) or should librarians continue to [irrevocably stand as a symbol to free speech](#) and constitutional rights? Sometimes, this line is hard to draw. **JB**

What's a [good pick-up line for librarians](#)? Well, the one that got my attention (although it wasn't intended as a pick-up, but would work nonetheless) was *I've always thought hackers and librarians were cut from the same cloth*. **JB**

Spend your summer at Yale as an [Manuscripts & Archives Intern](#). **JB**

[A Is for Anarchy](#): Welcome to free school. **JB**

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**30 jan 02**

[Washington State Library is fighting for its existence](#). If shut down, Washington will lose a unique repository serving historians, public officials, genealogists, and others. Further, WA would be the only state without a state library. [Thanks, Katy Lenn] **JB**

[Congressional web sites receive poor marks](#) - wonder how library web sites would fare if treated to a similar [study](#). **CB**

Current [News Library Job Openings & Internships](#), including positions at FOX (for "political junkies"), ABC, and Turner. **JB**

[LookUp Directory](#): demographic data by ZIP, phone number, area code; verify U.S. addresses; look up a street name and get a list of all the cities with a street by that name; get information on nonprofit organizations; and more. [thanks Craig] **CB**

Nice to see a story about [school librarians](#) every once in a while, especially one that talks about the teaching part of the job. **CB**

The **State of the Union**:

- Number of words: 3,870
  - Number of paragraphs: 66
  - Paragraphs not making allusions to 9/11 or subsequent events: 12
  - Times the words "terror" or "terrorist" are used: 34
  - Times the word "war" is used: 12
  - Times the word "evil" is used: 5
  - Times the word "God" is used: 2
  - Times education is mentioned: 1
  - Times health care is mentioned: 1
  - Paragraphs free from post-9/11 rhetoric: 0 **CB**
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**29 jan 02**

Half-librarian, half-astronaut, [Libronaut is the indie-rock librarian support group](#). Long live Libronaut! **JB**

Libraries and presses at Big Ten universities plan to publish [hundreds of scholarly books in electronic form](#). "The hope is that university presses in the consortium might one day offer all of their books in electronic form in a version that could be linked to a joint online library catalog that the group already operates." **JB**

On a more personal note, [my father](#) died Saturday before last. If anything, he taught me to celebrate life and live each day to the fullest. What an inspiration. **JB**

Find out more about the Justice Department's plans to relax restrictions on domestic surveillance and send a free FAX to Attorney General John Ashcroft letting him know what you think [here](#) (courtesy of the ACLU). **RS**

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**27 jan 02**

The [Friends of Cuban Libraries](#), "an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting intellectual freedom in Cuba, regardless of whatever government may be in office," are now online. **RS**

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**25 jan 02**

Controversy arises over the **disposition of Guiliani's papers** - the former NYC Mayor will have his own library, but archivists and historians (and even other former mayors) don't like it one bit. **CB**

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**24 jan 02**

**Handheld Librarian**: brand new 'blog - contributors wanted. **CB**

**Book vending machines in library coffee shops?** **CB**

So little time, so many books: **reading mortality** confronted. [**Arts & Letters**] **CB**

The **Alternative Press Collection** at the Minneapolis Community & Technical College now has a **searchable database** for their 'zine collection. **CB**

**ALA Award winners** **CB**

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**23 jan 02**

**More browser wars** between the big guys - if they put as much energy and money into their browsers as they do into fighting over who's got market share, we'd all be much better off. **CB**

New **e-publishing venture** aims to put hundreds of scholarly books online. **CB**

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**22 jan 02**

**What good is information architecture anyway?** **CB**

OED is **hunting down the history of science fiction words**. [**'brary blog**] **CB**

A **new breed of libraries?** Cafes and comfy furniture may bring students in, but it's the quality and organization of information to be found in academic libraries and through their web sites, as well as the experts who work in the library, that keep students coming back. **CB**

Does **Google hold the key** to the Internet kingdom? Its search algorithm, resistance to paid placements, and recent acquisition of the Usenet archives are pushing it ever closer to the top spot. **CB**

"Almost 20 years' worth of newspaper history, a vital source of information for those studying history, politics, society, the media, and other subjects, is shot through with more holes than a block of Swiss cheese." The impact of the **Tasini decision** is being felt by researchers delving into the 70s, 80s and early 90s. The good news: many publishers see this as temporary, and expect that most of the purged articles will be restored once contracts with the authors are in place. **CB**

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**19 jan 02**

**Best Online Graduate Programs in Library Science. JB**

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**18 jan 02**

**Remarks for Mrs. Bush** at Topeka Public Library Gala: The speech where she announces a proposal for a \$10 million initiative to recruit and train library professionals. **JB**

**"Illinois Digital Cultural Heritage Community - Collaborative Interactions Among Libraries, Museums and Elementary Schools"** is one of a number of interesting articles in the **new issue** of *D-Lib*. **RS**

A nice piece on Annie Sprinkle and her latest, **Hardcore from the Heart**: "This book is from the neck up." **JB**

The University of Arizona library school's innovative **Knowledge River** program is open for business beginning Fall 2002. If you are of Native American or Hispanic heritage and interested in working with these communities as an information professional, you could receive full tuition and fellowship support while earning an MA in Information Resources and Library Science. Deadline for **applications** is April 15, 2002. **CB**

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**17 jan 02**

**Cuba anyone? JB**

High praise goes to the **Tattered Cover** for remaining ever vigilant towards the **right to privacy**: "In what has been described as a landmark case for the US book industry, the Tattered Cover bookshop in Denver, Colorado, has spent 18 months resisting the attempts of both police and courts to obtain the identity of a customer who purchased Uncle Fester's opus, *Advanced Techniques of Clandestine Drug Laboratories*." [ **library\_geek** ] **JB**

Another thumbs up to **Carrie Bickner** and **Jeffrey Zeldman** for their **inspiring collaboration** at NYPL. Here they talk about the project, standards, and the digital divide. Read the interview for an encouraging example of what's possible at our libraries. **JB**

I'm committed to diversifying our libraries, but not to the point of **reverse discrimination**. Unfortunately, sometimes the line between the two is hard to draw. [ **LISNews.com** ] **JB**

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**16 jan 02**

We've seen lots of traffic about the UW announcement - see [Letters](#) for one response. **CB**

ALA's New Members Round Table is offering a [Resume Review Service](#) at ALA in New Orleans. Time to dust off the ol' CV and add some of that snap, crackle, and pop. **CB**

New Jersey wants YOU! - to [become a librarian](#). **CB**

Welcome to the [Invisible Library](#) - a treasury of books that exist only in some author's imagination, along with the story of the greatest biblio-hoax ever. **CB**

Another sad muffin disguised as a [repressed librarian](#). Sheesh. **JB**

[News researchers play an important role](#) in disseminating information in times of crisis. As a subscriber to [NewsLib](#), I was hugely impressed by the way news librarians pulled together and supported one another in efforts to build informative web sites and gather statistics and other reliable information during the September 11th terrorist attacks. This article reflects those efforts. **JB**

[Winter Olympics 2002](#): Ready Reference Resources compiled by the unstoppable Gary Price. **JB**

[Wrapped Words: Handmade Books from Cuba's Ediciones Vigía](#): an exhibit from Michigan State University's [Kresge Museum](#). Thanks to Rhonda Neugebauer. **RS**

For those attending ALA, you may want to take part in the "[Assembly and Open Microphone on Low Pay in Libraries](#)," Saturday, January 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. **JB**

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**11 jan 02**

NewBreed Librarian is moving to a new home, so we'll be taking a break until we can get all the domain name transfers and other technical gobbledy-gook taken care of. Back next Wednesday (we hope!). **CB**

[But is it plagiarism?](#) Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and author Stephen Ambrose caught lifting others' words in his newest work. Turns out he's done it before. **CB**

While signing off on new University Press titles today, I came across this one from Yale, [The Corset: A Cultural History](#). Albeit a visual feast, stringing up and suffocating a woman's upper body is noxiously disturbing. From page 67: "The corset has been blamed for causing dozens of diseases, from cancer to curvature of the spine, deformities of the ribs and displacements of the internal organs, respiratory and circulatory diseases, birth defects, miscarriages, and female complaints, as well as medical traumas such as broken ribs and puncture wounds.". [Visuals](#) convey this [best](#). **JB**

A handsome collection of [old-fashioned black and white clipart](#) images, including reading, writing, and famous literary figures. Free for personal or non-commercial use with a link-back. [[Brainstorms & Raves](#)] **JB**

The University of Washington in Seattle will offer an ALA accredited online MLIS program beginning in the fall, making this the **only online library program in the Northwest**. Hopefully, the paucity of librarians due to retirement and salary issues will be staunchly by convenient distance programs such as this - this, and better pay. **[library\_geek] JB**

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**10 jan 02**

This looks promising: Laura Bush has announced a proposed **\$10 million initiative to recruit a new generation of librarians**. **JB**

**Digital Third Worlds & Barriers to Internet Access:** *The aims of [this] issue of **Cybersociology Magazine** are to identify the barriers to Internet access and to determine how they can be overcome by communities and groups who have the will, infrastructure, and political freedom to go online but who lack the technology and skills to do so.* Thanks to the **Hypermedia Research Center**. **RS**

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**09 jan 02**

**On the evening desk shift...**

Caller: I don't know if you can help me, but, I am looking for a book... maybe it's by Edgar Allan Poe? It's about a vain young man who trades his soul to remain forever young. ??

Librarian: Is there an aging portrait involved; one that retains his years?

C: Yes, yes, that's the one!

L: Ah... [smiling] *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Oscar Wilde is a favorite of mine!

Rousing discussion ensues about how one would have found this on the Internet, and eventually about bored-n-clueless employees at a local chain.

C: ...and I thought, where are the young minds that aren't dulled by television, anesthetized by corporate indifference, those who really care about thoughts and ideas, learning and literature? And I thought: The Library!

Librarians replaced by Google, Amazon, and Borders? Not anytime soon. Interesting, though, that she envisages librarians with a *young mind*. **JB**

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**08 jan 02**

For those loquacious, late evening philosophizing sessions around the table with speculating friends, **Who Wrote the Bible?** **JB**

In other news, Oxford University Press gets ready to launch a massive reference site: “This will make it **the biggest general knowledge source on the web**, almost three times vaster than the 44m word Encyclopaedia Britannica and more than twice as big as the internet's biggest existing reference site, which until now was the OUP's own 60m word text of the full Oxford English Dictionary.” The Downside? Attenuation of its popular free reference site: “half of its titles are OUP books whose licences will not be renewed once Oxford Reference Online starts.” Bummer. [Red Rock Eaters] **JB**

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**07 jan 02**

The University of Southern MS is offering an **Australia/New Zealand Expedition** 2002 from May 11-June 1. You can earn three graduate semester hours in Library Science (ALA accredited). “Through tours and visits to academic, government, and public libraries, LIS students will have the opportunity to get a firsthand view of various library systems.” [thanks, Tracy] **JB**

“Librarians see themselves as the guardians of the First Amendment,” says Moore. “You got **a thousand Mother Joneses at the barricades!** I love the librarians, and I am grateful for them!”

Libraries reflect considerable amount of cash to publishers; and when HarperCollins refused to publish “Stupid White Men,” librarians were in the opportune position to do something about it. [Red Rock Eaters] **JB**

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**05 jan 02**

An **Ode To Librarians Everywhere**. Next time somebody asks me why I'm a librarian, I'm going to point them to this piece of radiance. [[librarian.net](http://librarian.net)] **JB**

**Libraries for Incarcerated Youth**: some basic advice on introducing and improving service to imprisoned kids, along with a list of resources. **RS**

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**04 jan 02**

Unless librarians make the effort to add value and easy access to our print collections, **digital convenience** places them in perilous non-use status. To me, this article - a must read - points out the obvious. Yet, besides amazon.com, who facilitates ease for the user with rich records and intuitive searching? Not libraries. [[Juice](#)] **JB**

Over at A List Apart, **What the Hell is XML?** Two words: Content management. And another two: excellent article! **JB**

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**03 jan 02**

Sick and tired of spam? Try the [Anti-Spam Email Encoder](#). The Encoder converts your address into a string of codes which will register as nonsense to spam-bots but display legibly to browsers. [[Zeldman](#)] **JB**

**Fact Party:** A library wandering game where players use the library to discover and share interesting facts. The game grew out of Listening Parties where music-geek friends took turns dj-ing eclectic songs for each other. I love this kind of stuff. [[librarian.net](#)] **JB**

The [NewPages Zine Rack](#): rich alternatives to mainstream news and literature magazines. **JB**

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**02 jan 02**

12/29 entry: Yes, there should be an [ex-cool-indie-rocker librarian support group](#). Absolutely. We could discuss arrangement... for instance, "Shelve Billy Bragg and Wilco in the Bs or down with the other Wilcos? [Prefuse 73](#) in the Ps or under Scott **Herren** with his other projects?" ?? **JB**

“That's why I think good librarians have the right approach: They don't spoon-feed you answers, [they tell you where and how](#) to look it up.” Yup... unless, of course, the person is *incapable* — and then you just give them the fish. **JB**

[Multi-processing print media](#) and more, much more. An intriguing conversation with Mark Danielewski, author of [House of Leaves](#). **JB**

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