



N E W S

::: JULY 2002 :::

21 jul 02

Chat with an LC librarian: the Library of Congress has expanded its virtual reference service to include chat - patrons can now discuss their information needs with librarians in various LC reading rooms from 2-3 pm EST Monday- Friday. **RS**

The U.S. House of Representatives has **approved legislation** which will allow educational institutions to more easily transmit copyrighted materials digitally for distance education purposes. As **Free Online Scholarship Blog** editor Peter Suber points out, "The enlargement of the exception granted to non-profit educational institutions is small, but it's the first time in a long time that Congress has taken a step in the right direction on copyright issues." **RS**

20 jul 02

Alan Lomax, folk archivist, anthropologist, and musicologist extraordinaire, dies at 87. From a banner NYT obituary: "Mr. Lomax saw folk music and dance as human survival strategies that had evolved through centuries of experimentation and adaptation; each, he argued, was as irreplaceable as a biological species. *It is the voiceless people of the planet who really have in their memories the 90,000 years of human life and wisdom*, he once said. *I've devoted my entire life to an obsessive collecting together of the evidence.*" **JB**

Blacks need to use the library more. Uh, why? Don't get me wrong: I fully support reading and library useage — of course I do! I read, I hang around people who read, my life would be less-than if not for some of the **amazing books** that have truly touched me.

However, books aren't the chicken in every pot for everyone. Further, information these days is disseminated through many sources: television, friends, the Internet, and so on. It strikes me as somewhat condescending to assert an entire group of people isn't nourishing their minds because they don't have library cards. **JB**

17 jul 02

The Bush Administration aims to recruit **1 in 24 Americans as citizen spies**. Holy Smokes! Reading through this brings back an almost forgotten feeling of desperate anxiety, the same flavor of horror I experienced every summer when as a young girl, our church would run the "Left Behind" series, and I, wide-eyed and impressionable, believed in these things. As I matured and came to the conclusion that

millions of devout Christians would not vanish in the blink of an eye and I wouldn't have to go through seven years of tribulation for attending a Judas Priest concert while stoned, the dread went away. But now this... and the attendant disquiet that accompanies this possibility of personal violation will not attenuate because, given present day circumstances, it very well could happen. More insight at v-2.org.
JB

Juicy nuggets supplied by Reference Librarian Amanda Etches-Johnson at her new library log, **Bibliolatry**. **JB**

Reflective piece about [a loss in our culture record](#) over at Rogue Librarian. **JB**

16 jul 02

Industry outlook for librarians in California... "*Everybody loves the library and librarians, but we can't live on love alone.*" [[ResourceShelf](#)] **JB**

Welcome to the world of **Net thinking**, where the first — and sometimes the only — recourse to information is the Internet and research papers are begun hours before they are due making it “ungodly easy now for people who wish to be lazy.” **JB**

11 jul 02

I've had one of the best work weeks I can remember. I started it off with usability testing for the new library web site we've been working on. I could do usability testing all day. Fascinating how much we assume the user knows that they don't, and the ingenious ways they find material. Equally engaging is hammering out the usability results with a diverse committee of ten.

Other days, I taught a group of women from a summer research program in clinical psychology how to use PsycINFO. It was the sleepy time of day so we spiced up our searches (i.e. gender/ethnic differences in body aesthetic) and had fun learning. Isn't that the way it should always be? A subsequent web publishing class also went well as this self-selected group is always highly motivated to learn the material and typically laughs at my blear-witted jokes.

Thursday, I spent some time with the new University Press books. So many books, so little time! I scanned through 30 minutes worth of tables of contents and added a few books to my reading list. I also found this week's **favorite book cover**.

Highlight of today: easy. A sweet and winsome old woman advanced to the reference desk and successfully buttered me up by reading a portion of her son's letter -- her son is in Honduras and is having his mother tackle the formidable task of finding a photograph of Odysseus ship anchored at a pillar next to the feet of Hercules. The letter urged her to find a willing reference librarian to help her. She read, “There are only two kinds of saints left in the world, librarians and jazz musicians.”

I am her slave. **JB**

.org is a public trust JB

Interesting, one of the founding influences of technoculture and its attendants has moved offline and on to print. Is R.U. Sirius unplugged a forerunner of things to come such as **online burnout?** **JB**

10 jul 02

Oh, how very, very nice to go to **Ftrain** today and find a **story about librarians** written in the mesmerizing and luxuriant voice of Paul Ford. Thank you, fairy godmother. **JB**

In an act of **blatant racial profiling**, hard drives were confiscated at a campus library in Florida after three men of Middle Eastern descent were reported whispering while using the Internet. [[LISNews.com](#)] **JB**

At 37signals: What's the **one book you would recommend** above all others? **JB**

A newbreed librarian, Austin Booth, has co-written a **fascinating book** on the rapid and profound technological change on culture, and in particular, the revolutionary effect it's had on the indenties of women. The book collocates women's cyberfiction, gender, and technoculture, spanning over Booth's interests in English literature, information science, technology as it pertains to women and girls, and cyperpunk. A good read for a big fat brain. [Thanks, Andrew] **JB**

09 jul 02

Do Libraries Really Need Books? I hate to think of the library as an "on-ramp to the Internet," but it certainly seems as if there are less research assignments and term papers being assigned to encourage students to employ contextualized print sources such as books and encyclopedias. Convenience, fast-society, finite attention spans, and the unbridled rush towards technology have opened the door to pulverized information and closed it somewhat on the pursuit of knowledge. What impact will this have on our collections? **JB**

08 jul 02

Reference Librarian **Anne Pemberton** is researching **personality characteristics** of information professionals. If you're feeling generous with 30 minutes of your time, **here's the inventory.** **JB**

07 jul 02

A **hemorrhage of retirements** is bleeding us dry. [[ResourceShelf](#)] **JB**

05 jul 02

Super digital archives such as **this one** may break the current costly dissemination model and work to increase communication and innovation. **JB**

03 jul 02

A cute **library poem** by 7th grader Maggie Matthews from the website of the **Brewster Ladies Library** in Brewster, MA. I'll be checking them out when I'm on Cape Cod next month. **RS**

02 jul 02

Some innovative IT and a willingness to apply it are making Beaverton, Oregon's public library collections **accessible** to visually impaired patrons. **RS**

Photographer Dianne Asseo Griliches has devoted approximately 10 years to documenting libraries and library culture - the recent exhibit **The Drama Within** is a great introduction to her beautiful and occasionally (if you're a librarian, at least) moving work. **RS**

"Most of us ignore the occasional, but annoying tenseness, tingling and pain in our fingers, wrists, shoulders, elbows, neck or back. However, when that pain starts to interfere with non-computer related activities such as holding a toothbrush or carrying a two-year old child, we listen to our bodies." Some good advice and linkage on **repetitive stress injuries** for library professionals, from the fine folks at **Freepint**. **RS**

Big Surprise: First Lady sides with hubby in support for FBI inspections. (Scroll to bottom). **JB**

01 jul 02

It's July - Canada and the U.S. are both celebrating birthdays this month, which puts me in mind of sending birthday cards. Why not **send a library card** instead? **CB**

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