

PROFESSIONAL READING: NEW TECHNOLOGIES

by Barbara Frame, Knox College.

Two years ago I had barely heard of the Internet. Now I have daily access to it through my desk computer. Which makes me wonder: what's just around the corner that we don't know about yet? Even if we can't provide ourselves with the latest of everything that comes up, we do need to understand new developments and at least keep up with the vocabulary. Here's a list to help you keep up to date.

ARNS, Hans. "Theological periodicals: could the end be in sight?" *ANZTLA Newsletter* 22 (May 1994): 24-30.

Suggestions for quality control and indexing on an electronic database.

BAILEY, Charles W. "Network-based electronic serials". *Information Technology and Libraries* 11 (1992): 29-35.

Focus on serials already existing on networks such as the Internet. Concern about lack of institutional recognition of and support for electronic publishing. Issues about scholarly acceptance of such publishing, and the difficulty of indexing.

CHANGES in Scholarly Communication Patterns: Australia and the Electronic Library / edited by John Mulvaney and Colin Steele. Canberra: Highland Press, 1993.

Perhaps the most interesting article is 'Issues for the humanities, by Di Yerbury, who points out that 'Whilst selected parts of knowledge are now being scanned electronically or keyed in by cheap labour in developing countries, it remains only a fraction of the accumulated knowledge available in print'.

CUMMINGS, Anthony M. et al. *University Libraries and Scholarly Communication: a Study Prepared for the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation*. Published by the Association of Research Libraries for the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 1992.

The new technology is seen as providing liberation from the need to develop large, site-specific, independent collections. The 'just in case' and 'just in time' models are examined, and the 'virtual library' explained. The pros and cons of electronic access vs. print, and ownership vs. access, are examined. Comprehensive, and a good introduction to the subject.

ELLIOTT, Vic. "Acquisition and access in academic libraries: the case for access, today." *New Zealand Libraries* 47 (1994): 200-3.

New Zealand focus, but of wider interest also. Because so many journal articles are now available online, libraries can concentrate more on developing their monograph collections. Possibility of a diminishing role for cooperative collection development in a user-pays, competitive environment.

EVERETT, David. "Full-text online databases and document delivery in an academic library: too little, too late?" *Online* 17 (March 1993): 22-25.

Survey results show that 'full-text periodicals from the social sciences and humanities are virtually nonexistent online'. Gives a good description of the Uncover service.

FISHER, William. "Access or acquisition: the impact and implications of electronic publishing." *Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory* 16 (1992): 155-60.

Looks at copyright and privacy issues.

GORMAN, Michael. "The treason of the learned: the real agenda of those who would destroy libraries and books". *Library Journal* 15 Feb. 1994: 130-1.

A polemic aimed at 'technovandals' who, through a combination of parsimony and wilful ignorance, would replace the existing scholarly record with 'a howling wilderness of unstructured, unrelated gobbets of "information" and random images'. Brief, but essential reading for anyone who finds him or herself thinking that new technology can provide all the answers.

LYNCH, C.A. "The transformation of scholarly communication and the role of the library in the age of networked information". *Serials Librarian* 23 (1993): 520.

Distinguishes between modernisation ('traditional publishing done electronically') and transformation (offering possibilities of manipulation of raw data through network-based multimedia systems). Points out that over-dependence on new technology could lead to neglect of libraries' traditional role of preserving the scholarly record.

METZ, Paul & Gherman, Paul M. "Serials pricing and the role of the electronic journal". *College & Research Libraries* 52 (1991): 315-27.

The authors note that 'serials prices escalate with logarithmic speed', and they consider this escalation a serious threat to the established system of scholarly communication. They conclude that electronic journals may be able to overcome this problem if they are properly developed.

RACINE, Drew. "Access to full-text journal articles: some practical considerations". *Library Administration and Management* 6 (1991): 100-4.

Interesting discussion of cost implications: points out that for economic reasons business, engineering, law, and medical journals are most likely to be available online.

SMITH, Eldred. *The Librarian, The Scholar, and the Future of the Research Library.* (Contributions in librarianship and information science; no.66.) New York: Greenwood Press, 1990.

Identifies some difficulties inherent in electronic and other alternative publishing: they include lack of peer-review authentication and problems with identifying, locating, and indexing. New technology can, however, help libraries to provide 'convenient and reliable access to the complete, fully controlled world of scholarship'.

STOLLER, Michael E. "Electronic journals in the humanities: a survey and critique". *Library Trends* 40 (1992): 647-66.

Describes some actual journals (none of them theological) and the difficulties of citing electronic journals.

SWEETLAND, James H. "Humanists, libraries, electronic publishing, and the future". *Library Trends* 40 (1992): 780-803.

Mentions 'the humanist's need for considerable amounts of older material, a need very different from most other science and social sciences disciplines'. In Religion and Philosophy 'scholars still routinely study writing thousands of years old, some of which are available only in the original or in very few copies'. Also covers research patterns, hypertext, electronic mail.

TRAUE, Jim. "Against the current". *New Zealand Libraries* 47 (1994): 181-2.
Observes the extreme profitability of electronic document delivery to the computer and telecommunications industries, notices that 'it is the ability to pay which will determine what is available in the commercial electronic data bases', and doubts that the new technology is compatible with librarians' traditional concerns of free and equitable access.

WOODWARD, Hazel. "Journal acquisition versus article acquisition", in *Collection Development: Options for Effective Management*, edited by Sheila Corral. London: Taylor Graham, 1988. 111-7.

The importance of library browsing is often underestimated, and too great reliance on electronic article transmission could disadvantage libraries through higher costs and users through loss of quick and easy access, 'and browsing, in all its many guises, could not take place'.

WOOLISCROFT, Michael. "Access and ownership: academic libraries' collecting and service responsibilities and the emerging benefits of electronic publishing and document supply". *New Zealand Libraries* 47 (1994): 170-178.

Recognises the impossibility of building self-sufficient research collections, and says that the electronic library may enhance but will never replace the traditional library. Some subjects - the sciences, health sciences, and commerce - will benefit more from the new technology than others.

SUPPLEMENT TO PROFESSIONAL READING: RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

The following resources were brought to the attention of the NSW Chapter meeting in February by Lynette Champion:

AITKEN, Michael. "Interneting - getting started" *Australian PC* March 1994 221-222.
What the Internet is and how to get into it.

AITKEN, Michael. "Terminal is good, SLIP is better" *Australian PC* Oct. 1994 223-2224.
Accessing the Net through SLIP.

STRANGELOVE, Michael. The electric mystics guide to the Internet: A complete directory of networked electronic documents, online conferences, serials, software, and archives relevant to religious studies.

Contains guides to the best use of the Internet as well as listing resources in religious studies. It is "a non-technical survey of all major documents, archives and services of relevance to Religious Studies and related fields that are available through the international, academic computer networks commonly referred to as the Net..."

Available from the CONTENTS Project archive via FTP from:
panda1.uottawa.ca (137.122.6.16) in the directory/pub/religion/ as the files called electric-mystics-guide...

GRESHAM, JOHN L. Finding God in cyberspace: a guide to religious studies resources on the Internet

Contents: Selective list of religious information sources on the Internet*; Brief introduction to electronic conferences for religious scholars; Electronic journals for religious studies.

Available from: Gopher: Clearinghouse for Subject Oriented Guides

una.hh.lib.umich.edu /humanities/religion.gresham

WWW (in hypertext)

URL: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dth3maf/gresham.html>

In print: Internet compendium. ed. Louis Rosenfeld. Argus Associates, (forthcomin 1995)

* EXTRACT FROM: Finding God in Cyberspace (Part One)

A Selective List of Religious Information Sources on the Internet:

GUIDES:

Michael Strangelove,

The Electric Mystics Guide to the Internet: A Complete Directory of Networked Electronic Documents, Online Conferences, Serials, Software, and Archives Relevant to Religious Studies (Ottawa, 1993).

Vols 1 and 3 available (Look for vol. 2 sometime in 1994).

FTP PANDA1.UOTTAWA.CA /pub/religion/electric-mystics-guide-v1.txt,

electric-mystics-guide-v3.txt

Gopher: UNA.HH.LIB.UMICH.EDU/Humanities/Religion.Strangelove

URL: <ftp://panda1.uottawa.ca/pub/religion/>

Gary Bogart & John Brubaker,

Not Just Bibles: A Guide to Christian Resources on the Internet

FTP: <iclnet93.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-resources.html>

URL: <ftp://iclnet93.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-resources.html>

Gary Bogart & John Brubaker,

A Guide to Early Church Documents

FTP: <iclnet93.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-history.html>

URL: <ftp://iclnet93.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-history.html>

Jeffrey A. Coon, "Internet Resources for Religious Studies."

College & Research Libraries News, Vol. 54 No. 11 (Dec. 1993), pp635-637.

You can't get this one on the Internet but if you don't mind getting up from your computer terminal and actually going to the library and taking a journal off the shelf, it provides a great introduction.

For Updates, read Offline --available in print in Religious Studies News and available electronically:

Gopher: <CCAT.SAS.UPENN.EDU/Electronic Pubs/Offline>

URL:<gopher://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/11/Journals%2c%20Newsletters%20and%20Publications>]