



Newsletter

eIFL Newsletter -NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004

Free Trials for Oxford University Press Journals

We are pleased to announce free trials for Oxford University Press journals for the remainder of 2004. It includes the 170 internationally acclaimed journals in the areas of Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, Economics, Business and Finance, Biological Sciences, Medicine and Health Sciences, Public Health and Epidemiology, Mathematics, Statistics, Computing and Physics. Please communicate to KARDAN, Kamran (kamran.kardan@oup.com) your IP ranges within each country and the contact details of your administrator. On request, he will send some electronic promotional material.

Analysis of EBSCO statistics for a period of two and a half years

Ausra Vaskeviciene from the Lithuanian Library Consortium has written an article and has done an interesting analysis of EBSCO usage statistics for the whole year of 2002-2003 and 2004 (January-June). We can see incredible progress for each country. Usage reports can be found in the members only section under Statistics at: http://www.eifl.net/members/members_stats.html

University of Namibia launches institutional repository

As a result of our Open Access Workshop in Pretoria in July, the University of Namibia (UNAM) has developed their own repository using DSpace. The deputy librarian from Namibia, Sally Harper, attended the workshop and decided that she wanted to launch a repository at UNAM. She met with Hussein Suleman, an expert on institutional repositories and one of the speakers. Hussein Suleman was invited to Windhoek and helped the university launch their repository.

This can be viewed at: <https://dspace.unam.na:8443/dspace>. This is a secured site (SSL) - you will get through if you give it some retries. If it asks you about Security Certificates just say OK several times.

Azerbaijan and Georgia visiting Lithuanian Research Libraries Consortium

On 5-12 November, a group of librarians from Azerbaijan and Georgia are visiting Lithuanian Research Libraries Consortium. Their goal is to find out how electronic information is subscribed, created and used by Lithuanian libraries. The visit is funded by the East-East programme of the Open Society Institute in collaboration with the Open Society Fund-Lithuania. Programme can be found at: <http://www.lmba.lt/reng/angl/eindex.htm>

Update on Russian content

eIFL will be signing an agreement this week with Integrum-Tehno representing 22 databases. These databases contain massmedia, reference books, social science journals and others. Licences will be available in eIFL Members Only section of the website. Please be aware that countries which will sign up until the end of 2004 will receive a discount of 10% of subscription costs. Information on Integrum available at: <http://www.integrum.ru/>

Thomson Releases New Study on Open Access Journals

Thomson just released another press release which shows that the number of Open Access journals listed in the ISI continues to increase. Approximately 20% of OA journals are now included in the Web of Science. Of the 8,700 selected journals currently covered in Web of Science (R), 239 are Open Access journals. The full press release is available at <http://www.isinet.com/forms/whitepapers>

All of OCLC's WorldCat Heading Toward the Open Web

On 27 October 2003, OCLC announced to its library members that it will begin testing the opening of WorldCat records to Google access. Because of the 'resounding success' of the Open WorldCat pilot program, almost one year later, the management of OCLC, the world's largest library vendor, has decided to open the entire collection of 53.3 million items connected to 928.6 million library holdings for 'harvesting' by Google and Yahoo! Search as early as late November 2004.

More information at: <http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/nb041011-2.shtml>

WIPO Development Agenda

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), one of sixteen specialised agencies of the United Nations, is the main international organisation responsible for developing and administering international copyright and related Treaties.

WIPO has been strongly criticised by civil society organisations for caring more about the interests of rightholders than users. Many feel that WIPO is dominated by industrialised countries and multinational companies with a vested interest in strengthening the existing property rights system to the detriment of poorer nations and that WIPO has forgotten its original UN mandate.

The Geneva Declaration on the Future of WIPO (September 2004) supported by hundreds of scientists, academics and NGOs called on WIPO to focus more on the needs of developing countries, and to view intellectual property as one of many tools for development and not as an end in itself.

In October 2004, the WIPO General Assembly adopted a proposal by Argentina and Brazil that the organisation should establish a "development agenda". This potentially ground-breaking proposal argues that levels of copyright protection should be commensurate with a country's level of development and that the present one-size-fits-all approach is detrimental to many poorer countries. This is a first welcome step and whether it succeeds depends largely on the support it receives over the coming years from developing and developed countries alike.

Please read the Proposal by Argentina/Brazil for a Development Agenda at WIPO (pdf) and Geneva Declaration on the Future of WIPO respectively at:

http://www.wipo.int/documents/en/document/govbody/wo_gb_ga/pdf/wo_ga_31_11.pdf and
<http://www.cptech.org/ip/wipo/futureofwipo.html>

eIFL.net endorsed Geneva Declaration on the Future of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). To find the text of the Declaration and background documents with an email to sign up, please go to:
<http://www.cptech.org/ip/wipo/genevadeclaration.html>

European Commission consultation on European copyright framework

DG Internal Market of the European Commission is responsible for the EU legal framework for copyright and related rights. The purpose of the consultation was to review the legislation over the last ten years in the light of technical and legal developments and to ensure that it remains coherent. The EU position is important; although individual EU Member States attend WIPO meetings, they are usually represented by the European Commission.

In their response to the consultation, European Digital Rights, representing seventeen privacy and civil rights organisations from eleven countries, sets out the serious deficiencies in the current European legal framework which render the scope of the consultation process far too narrow. "It is an exercise in hedge-trimming, when what Europe needs is a change to the landscape."

EDRi details the problems as copyright law comes increasingly into conflict with consumer and user rights and calls for some radical solutions to prevent abuse by monopoly rightholders.

One of the major problems is that rightholders have clear rights but unclear responsibilities and there are no useful mechanisms for users to enforce their fair-use or fair-dealing rights in the face of unlawful behaviour by rightholders. As a medium term solution, EDRi calls on the Commission to initiate a Digital Rights Directive to redress the balance so that users have clearly defined rights.

Please read the European Digital Rights response to copyright consultation and the European Commission copyright consultation respectively at:

<http://www.edri.org/campaigns/copyright> and
http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/copyright/review/review_en.htm

Useful Resources

A Guide to Effective Web Searching Using Google

Preceded by an examination of Google's extraordinary growth and popularity – and looking at issues such as its page-ranking methods and privacy concerns – the guide is designed to help the user get the most out of Google's Web searching techniques, and at the same time provides a critical evaluation of Google's many Web search features, services, and tools. The guide is liberally interspersed with examples of searches, and search strategies (examples are related to Africa or African studies topics). A pilot edition of this guide is now freely accessible at <http://www.hanszell.co.uk/google/>.

ERIC Database

The Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education, produces the world's premier database of journal and non-journal education literature. The new ERIC online system, released September 2004, provides the public with a centralized ERIC Web site for searching the ERIC bibliographic database of more than 1.1 million citations going back to 1966. Effective October 1, more than 107,000 full-text non-journal documents (issued 1993-2004), previously available through fee-based services only, will be available for free. Search ERIC database at: <http://www.eric.ed.gov>

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Publications

COL has published some new open and distance learning resources, including the first in a new series of training handbooks for open and distance learning (ODL) practitioners, that can be used for both self-study and as workshop/training programme resources.

Tutoring in open and distance learning: A handbook for tutors. Prepared by Jennifer O'Rourke

Planning and implementing open and distance learning systems: A handbook for decision makers. Prepared by Richard Freedman

Costing open and distance learning (interactive CD-ROM or web pages).

Practitioner Research and Evaluation Skills Training (PREST) series.

Schoolnet Toolki: Prepared jointly by the Asia and the Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok) and COL

Vocational education and training through open and distance learning: The fifth volume in the COL/RoutledgeFalmer Press World review of distance education and open learning series

These resources are available at: <http://www.col.org/news/connections/html/0409.htm#resources>.

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Consultant Reports on Distance Education in Sub-Saharan Africa

The newly released reports commissioned by COL include:

The role of transnational, private, and for-profit provision in meeting global demand for tertiary education: Mapping, regulation and impact

Distance education and open learning in Sub-Saharan Africa: Criteria and conditions for quality and critical success factors

Costing distance education and open learning in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Distance education and open learning in Sub-Saharan Africa – A literature survey on policy and practice

These resources are available at: www.col.org/news/connections/html/0409.htm#resources

Announcing the African Tertiary Institutions Connectivity Survey (ATICS) Website and Results

The AVU (The African Virtual University) circulated a survey of the connectivity status of African tertiary institutions supported by the World Bank. This survey was meant to cover at least one institution in every one of the 53 African States for a total of at least 100 institutions and was meant to provide a comparative snapshot of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in African Tertiary Institutions landscape. The survey has been ongoing for the last three months or so. To date, about 71 Tertiary institutions have filled in the questionnaire. The results of the connectivity survey, together with the initial analysis can be found at <http://www.atics.info/>.

All those institutions that may not know or have not participated in the survey are encouraged to visit the

website and spend a few minutes filling in the questionnaire. Registration is required for the institutions to be able to update the information in the future as it changes.

Unpacking recycling hardware for non profits

More than 600 million perfectly good computers will be discarded by companies worldwide over the next five years. There are a number of questions that immediately arise:

- What can recycled computers really do in terms of ICT access for developing countries?
- Is the price for refurbished computers, once added to technical support, still low enough to call it a cheaper solution?
- Are developing countries becoming just once again the dumping ground for the electronic garbage of "developed" nations, especially when in developed nations equipment is replaced at a frightening speed, each hardware piece older than 2 years looks 'old'?
- What is the potential of free and open source software on such machines, especially when we talk about old computers that are not able to handle new versions of proprietary software?
- What is the best model for developing local capacity to build and maintain the hardware on arrival?
- How should equipment be best shipped and assembled?
- Should the export sector be better observed with a more clearly defined legal frame?

Receiving NGOs are increasingly becoming aware of these issues and a number of key organisations have already initiated debates, papers and in some cases information campaigns. More information is available at: <http://www.tacticaltech.org/recycling> , including the website of the organisations providing recycled computers to developing countries. To order the report, please send request to: refurbs@tacticaltech.org

Coming events in November-December:

- On November 5, eIFL will hold a workshop for Laotian Library Consortium in Vientiane.
- On November 5, Bulgarian Information Consortium will be holding its fifth event called "Technology days".
- On November 5-12, the delegation of Azerbaijan and Georgian Library Consortium members will be visiting Lithuanian Research Library Consortium on a study tour. The event is supported by OSI East East programme.
- On November 8, eIFL will hold a workshop on consortium management at the International Institute of Cambodia (IIC).
- On November 17-21, the third international conference about Internet and Library- Information Resources in Science, Education, Culture and Business will be held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). Programme is available on our website at http://www.eifl.net/events/events_related.html .
- On December 2, eIFL will hold a workshop in Nigeria for NULIC (Nigerian University Libraries Consortium)
- On December 3-5, a workshop on Open Access Scholarly Communication Workshop will be held in Kyiv (Ukraine). English programme as well as the translation into Russian can be found on the website at http://www.eifl.net/events/events_related.html

Looking forward to receiving updated information about the activities and events organised in the country members of eIFL.net.

The eIFL Team