Web watch

Compiled by Glenda Browne[*]

CLOUD-BASED COMPUTING AND LIBRARIANS

Doug Johnson, writing in *SCIS Connections* (http://www2.curriculum.edu.au/scis/connections/issue_81/articles/libraries_in_the_cloud.html), provides a good overview of cloud-based computing, and describes easy ways for librarians to get involved in it. He writes: "Cloud computing relies on applications and file storage that reside on a remote server, with minimal resources stored on local computers' hard drives." His suggestions are: using a netbook not a laptop; using Gmail; using bookmarking sites on the web; using Google Docs (now incorporated into Google Drive) instead of Microsoft Office; storing photos online; managing school documents online (including reporting systems); and providing access to library catalogues via a web browser.

Before taking up all these options, people need to investigate the security (http://www.networkcomputing.com/security/the-biggest-cloud-computing-security-ris/240005337), privacy (http://www.privacy.gov.au/materials/types/speeches/view/7133) and ownership (http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223479/When_your_data_s_in_the_cloud_is_it_still_your_data) aspects of these tools. In addition, not all cloud-based tools have equivalent features to offline programs. For example, a colleague and I recently used Google Drive to collaborate on a chapter we were writing, but did the major editing offline in a more standard word processing tool.

The Commonwealth Bank now offers cloud storage of documents for its customers (http://www.smartcompany.com.au/financial-services-and-insurance/049952-commonwealth-bank-takes-on-cloud-storage-with-new-digital-vault-product.html). This service can be used for all (legal) storage including contracts, product warranties and scanned copies of passports and drivers' licences. The storage capacity offered is greater than that available through services such as DropBox.

For more information, see "21 Useful Cloud Computing Resources for Librarians" by Ellyssa Kroski at http://oedb.org/blogs/ilibrarian/2011/21-useful-cloud-computing-resources-for-librarians.

ENGINEERING INFORMATION

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is "the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity" through publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities (http://www.ieee.org/about/index.html).

IEEE is divided into local and regional groups as well as societies based on areas of interest. These societies include IEEE Communications Society, IEEE Information Theory Society and IEEE Professional Communications Society. There is also a technical committee on digital libraries (https://www.ieee.org/membership-catalog/productdetail/showProductDetailPage.html?product=CMYDL710). Most of the issues of interest to this group are also relevant to librarians. They are: "searching and browsing; indexing for multimedia objects; authoring, scripting and capturing systems; resource discovery; user interface; collaborative research; information representation; intelligent agents; workflow; telecommunication and networking; interoperability; scalability; content storage and distribution; protection of intellectual property and user privacy; and accounting, billing and payment systems."

Digital subscriptions are available to individuals and organisations and include journals, conference proceedings, standards, e-books and tutorials. Product updates are available at http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/subscriptions/news/index.html. IEEE is also involved in standards development and sponsors many conferences and meetings.

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[*] All webpages cited were viewed December 2012.

PATRON-DRIVEN ACQUISITION

Patron-driven acquisition (PDA, demand-driven acquisition, user-driven acquisition, patron-initiated purchasing) is the process by which interest displayed by users in certain texts triggers their purchase. For example, in EBSCOhost Collection Manager, sets of titles are made visible to users. Purchase is triggered by events such as a library patron browsing the title for more than 10 minutes, or the patron downloading or emailing any portion of the title (http://support.epnet.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=5895).

Ebrary, a ProQuest business, also offers PDA, offering libraries a choice of purchasing titles that they may archive in perpetuity, or of using short-term loans as a standalone cost-saving service or as a first step before triggering a purchase (http://www.ebrary.com/corp/models.jsp).

The existence of digital lists and works makes this process feasible. Use of PDA makes it more likely that books that are purchased by a library will be well used. Maximum expenditure can be set, and costs are often lower than with librarian-targeted purchases.

EBL – Ebook Library Blog (http://blog.eblib.com/?tag=patron-driven-acquisition) provides case studies of PDA implementation in New Zealand, New Hampshire and the University of Texas, Austin.

Elena Maceviciute reviewed *Patron-driven Acquisitions: History and Best Practices*, edited by David A Swords (De Gruyter Saur, Berlin, 2011) (http://informationr.net/ir/reviews/revs424.html). She commented that the principles behind on-demand purchasing are not new, and that in the past it had been noted that books purchased after interlibrary loan requests were used more than other books. She also noted that the successful examples of PDA were all for ebooks in English distributed on a global scale, and also that PDA would lead to greater dependence on electronic communication systems.

Rick Anderson's blog discusses the common sense behind PDA, and also examines the problems in a Q&A format (http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2011/05/31/what-patron-driven-acquisition-pda-does-and-doesnt-mean-an-faq).

In *Publishing Perspectives*, Alex Mutter, reporting on a webinar by Joseph Esposito, suggests that PDA could be a win-win for libraries and publishers, while noting concerns from university presses and academic publishers about delays in purchasing of books and therefore potential cash flow issues. Esposito suggested that replacing interlibrary loans with PDA rentals would cut costs for libraries and allow publishers to earn rental fees. He also suggested that publishers can get higher margins by moving their sales from Amazon to PDA vendors. He concluded: "Publishers could make metadata creation and distribution [their] number one marketing priority" as "After all, marketing *is* metadata" (http://publishingperspectives.com/2012/09/patron-driven-acquisition-a-surprise-win-win-for-libraries-publishers).

DIGITAL CURATION RESOURCE GUIDE

Digital curation is the "selection, preservation, maintenance, collection and archiving of digital assets". "Sheer curation" is the integration of curation activities into the normal workflow, and "channelization" refers to the continuous flow of information, "turning the user experience from a lean-forward interactive medium, to a lean-back passive medium" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_curation).

Charles Bailey's *Digital Curation Resource Guide* (http://digital-scholarship.org/dcrg/dcrg.htm) provides links to resources about digital curation under the following categories:
- Academic programs;
- Discussion lists and groups;
- File formats and guidelines;
- Glossaries;
- Metadata standards and vocabularies;
- Models;
- Organizations;
- Policies;

- Research data management;
- Serials and blogs;
- Services and vendor software;
- Software and tools;
- Training.

  Bailey also maintains the Digital Scholarship website (http://digital-scholarship.org).

DIGITAL PUBLISHING AUSTRALIA

The Digital Publishing Australia website (http://digitalpublishingaustralia.org.au) provides news and case studies about digital publishing. It also links to useful websites and blogs, and suggests Twitter hashtags (http://digitalpublishingaustralia.org.au/keeping-up-to-date) as well as hosting the *Digital Publishing Guide*, which discusses digital publishing workflow, rights and contract issues, metadata, identifiers and digital rights management and many other topics (http://digitalpublishingaustralia.org.au/digital-publishing-guide).

EBOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS ON THE WEB

You will never trust an online book – or book review – again after reading Thad McIlroy's article on *21 Bacon Dessert Recipes You'll Wish You Had Tried Sooner* by Diane Dixon (http://thefutureofpublishing.com/2012/08/21-bacon-dessert-recipes-youll-wish-you-had-tried-sooner).   The book had 17 reviews, all giving it five stars. The book has now been removed from sale. The "author" was found through TinEye (see below) to be the "Portrait of a cheerful woman" on iStockphoto. McIlroy expanded on the topic of purchased reviews at http://thefutureofpublishing.com/2012/09/worse-than-paying-for-online-reviews.

PLASTIC BOOKS AND RECYCLED PAPER BOOKS

If you cannot read an ebook, you could help save the planet by reading a plastic book. These books are made from durable, waterproof and recyclable plastic resins and fillers. You can read them in the bath, and apparently they are even nice to hold (http://contemporarylit.about.com/b/2006/07/19/read-a-plastic-book-today.htm).

Or you could encourage publishers to use more recycled paper in books, following the Green Press initiative action steps for librarians (http://www.greenpressinitiative.org/action/librarians.htm).

TINEYE: REVERSE IMAGE SEARCH

TinEye (http://www.tineye.com) is a reverse image search engine – you can upload an image (or link to the URL of one) and it will search its database to see whether the image exists there. I tried with the image I use in social media and my website, but it was not found (although 2.2188 billion images were checked). I then tried a jpg format image from the web, and TinEye found 58 results (including GettyImages, from which, presumably, the others were sourced).

They say: "TinEye is the first image search engine on the web to use image identification technology rather than keywords, metadata or watermarks. It is free to use for non-commercial searching. TinEye regularly crawls the web for new images, and we also accept contributions of complete online image collections."

MEEMEEP TRANSPORT DELIVERY SERVICE

MeeMeep (https://www.meemeep.com) is a delivery service that connects transport providers with people requiring transport. The providers may be commercial organisations or simply people heading in the direction that transport is needed. Their web images even show people on bicycles making deliveries. MeeMeep is the preferred delivery partner for SimpleTrade Australia and GraysOnline.com.

BIOLITE CAMPING STOVE WITH USB PORT

The Biolite CampStove (http://www.biolitestove.com) converts the heat from wood fires into electricity, allowing you to charge electronic devices through a USB while in the bush. Sales of the CampStove provide capital for the development of the HomeStove for use in the developing world.

PLACING THE STATES OF THE US

It is too late for the last election, but here is a website (http://jimspages.com/States.htm) that lets you practice placing US States on the map – a good way to learn. Coastal States are not so difficult, but unlike Australia, the US has many States that are roughly rectangular and could fit anywhere.

ART INSTALLATIONS: BOOKS IN FEDERATION SQUARE

An interesting art installation with donated books spread out across Federation Square; these books were read or collected by booklovers at the end (http://www.luzinterruptus.com/?p=1357). I do hope it did not rain.

COMPUTER ERROR MESSAGES

These computer error messages will make you laugh or despair (http://thedailywtf.com/Articles/Luck-of-the-Draw.aspx). I liked "Failed to print document: Printing is not supported on this printer" and "You are about to be logged off. Windows will shut down in 5239333 minutes" – that would be in May 2022.