Electronic journal management systems: Experiences from the field.
ISBN 0789025965 (pbk).
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This indexed monograph consists of twelve chapters all introduced by useful summaries and keywords. Most chapters include a bibliography. Although the authors all work in the libraries of academic institutions in the United States of America, this volume deals with solutions to a scenario common to libraries worldwide.

The fairly recent proliferation of journal titles that are available electronically has forced librarians to seek ways to facilitate access to the content for library users and, in the back office, to manage the subscriptions of electronic resources. The solutions discussed range from the in-house creation of an A to Z electronic journals list, to the sophisticated electronic resources management (ERM) systems currently under development.

Robert Alan (Pennsylvania State University) identifies that the acquisitions modules of "integrated library management systems do not support the unique complexities of electronic resource management." This view is supported by librarians from Montana State University, Susan P. Marshall and Jodee L. Kawasaki. For example, acquisitions modules cannot handle the filing of electronic resource licenses and they do not make it easy to track costs and the bundling details often associated with electronic resource subscriptions. Marshall and Kawasaki suggest that due to the extent of the constant change associated with electronic resource subscriptions, the question to ask of commercial ERM products "is not 'Can the system right out of the box track data in the way the library needs it to be tracked?', but rather 'Does the system have the flexibility built into it so that it can be adjusted to meet the tracking needs of each library?'

One of the solutions to providing access to electronic journal content for library users is through the use of a hyperlinked alphabetical list of titles. TDNet, EBSCO A to Z, SerialsSolutions and SFX are four of the commercial options available to produce this. The reasons for different libraries choosing different products are discussed over several chapters. For example, in 2001 TDNet was chosen at Boise State University as it offered the widest range of services at the time. Back then TDNet's competitor's did not offer statistical information regarding usage and were not able to easily integrate local journal holdings in a variety of formats into one comprehensive journal list. At the Pennsylvania State University of Medicine Library it was decided to use EBSCO A-to-Z to provide a list of journals. One of the reasons for choosing EBSCO was that, as the library used EBSCO to supply journal subscriptions, the knowledge of journal holdings was already available for the implementation of the A to Z service. In another chapter, Gary Ives describes the transition at Texas A & M University Libraries from using a manual SQL database for managing electronic collections, to using Serials Solutions, and then to SFX to produce the list of electronic journals.

The electronic resource management (ERM) module of Innovative Interfaces Inc (III) Millennium system is discussed in a few chapters, from development and beta testing to implementation. On the other hand, at the University of Southern California it was decided not to use a commercially available product, but to develop an in-house ERM as this allowed complete customisation of the functionality of the system to meet the Libraries' needs. As there was a Web programmer on the staff the required skills were readily available.

The final chapter, Beginning to see the light: Developing a discourse for electronic resource management, is a very stimulating paper by Jill Emery, Director of the Electronic Resources Program at the University of Houston Libraries. In it she identifies five components of the electronic resources management process: acquisition; access provision; administration; service provision; evaluation/monitoring of access. She writes that these components "all require an interweaving of three basic business processes or systems management: transactional processes, knowledge management, and decision-support processes." Although the management of electronic resources may always entail the same five basic processes, they do not always "fit together" in the same way. This has made it difficult to design ERM tools, as they need to be able to "perform transaction processing, house needed knowledge management elements, and provide room for decision support mechanisms."

The papers in this compilation form a very useful discussion around issues of electronic resource management, illustrating the complexities of the field.

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Internet and personal computing fads.
Price: US$15.95

This book has been described as "an easy-to-understand guide to the often confusing computer/Internet jargon", and that is precisely what it is! It is written in terms understandable to the layman, and it includes everyday terms used in:
- general computer use – bandwidth, cookies, CAD, HTML, spamming, Linux, geek speak, shareware, URL
- information-related aspects – cybrarian (which has an unexpected definition), search engines, information society, e-books, hyperfiction, e-zines, electronic publishing
- computer-related aspects in business – palm computers (or PDAs), new economy, internet advertising, online conferences, dot-com
- computer-related aspects in multimedia development – multimedia, online conferences
- computer-related aspects in entertainment – digital cinema, digital imaging, digital video, gaming, comic sites, media streaming, Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI)
- computer-related aspects in communication – chat rooms, email, instant messaging, blogging, emoticons, internet radio, Internet Relay Chat (IRC), multi-user domains (MUDS), MP3s, new media, skins, usenet, cybercafes
- computer-related aspects in education – distance education, Webquest
- computer-related aspects for the future – virtual reality, wireless application protocols (WAP), wireless networks

It also includes terms related to the historical development of computers – computer hardware, Luddite, Mac versus PC, punched cards.

There is an alphabetical contents page of the terms covered in the front of the book, and a more detailed index at the back. This book is useful for looking up those computer terms which one has heard or read, but is not quite sure what they mean. It would be of interest in a public and an academic library.

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Internet guide to travel health.
Price: US$14.95

This is a valuable and useful resource on a variety of health-related issues for the traveller on business or on vacation, with each entry directing the user to relevant web sites. The symbol z is used to indicate major resources with authoritative and original content, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO). This assists in saving one time in finding the required information.

There is a short introduction on the anatomy of a web address and how to evaluate web content, before moving to general travel health sites; pre-travel planning; specific issues and concerns; diseases, ailments, and ailments; interactive tools (e.g. Jet Lag Calculator); organisations (e.g. International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers); full-text publications (e.g. International Travel and Health); a glossary of terms which may be unfamiliar to the layperson (preceded by the URLs of medical dictionaries); as well as a detailed index.

This valuable resource covers where to find online information on the necessary health certificates, immunisation and vaccination requirements, and health insurance before setting out on a journey. It deals with travelling by car, train, air and sea (road safety, airline fatalities, cruise ship travel). There is information on travelling with pets, women travelling alone, seniors travelling alone or with other seniors, children travelling alone or with other children, weather (how to check for forecasts, warnings), natural disasters (for monitoring crisis situations, travelling to disaster areas), death (fatality facts), disabilities (accessible destinations for those with disabilities), and health tourism (for persons seeking surgery abroad, visiting health spas).

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