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Abstract Sheet

Electronic Publishing in Science: Report of the Expert Meeting Sponsored by UNESCO and ICSU Press, 19-23 February 1996

Yocum, Patricia B.

Abstract:

UNESCO and the ICSU Press convened a special meeting of experts at UNESCO House in Paris February 19-23, 1996 to address issues related to electronic publishing in science. Among the many topics addressed, the meeting, which involved nearly 200 participants, examined the current status of electronic publishing, the economics of scientific communication, the roles of learned societies, the need for peer review, copyright management and archiving, and operations for the future. Libraries and librarians figured prominently in the invited lectures and workshops. As a result of deliberations a set of recommendations was drafted for forwarding to the sponsoring organizations.

Exploiting Network Information Resources for Collection Development in Libraries

Chaudhry, Abdus Sattar

Abstract

The potential of networks as extensions of library collections is reviewed, focusing on the role of Internet to facilitate selection and procurement of information materials, document delivery, and access to electronic journals and specialized materials. Critical issues involved in the effective utilization of networked and networkable tools and facilities are discussed. Major issues discussed include copyright management, standardization, training and education and the ownership versus access approach of resource development. Steps taken and changes introduced in policies and procedures by leading libraries to prepare for taking maximum advantage of network information resources are also examined. Strategies are suggested for proper adjustment of library work to the new environment including restructuring of collection development functions, redesigning of processing tools, and establishing new roles and relationships for information professionals in general and collection librarians in particular. The paper also highlights problems of new information media by pointing out the downside of the Internet and other networks.

Electronic Publishing in Crystallography

McMahon, Brian

Abstract

Scientific disciplines have their own requirements for maintaining detailed structured records of their fields of inquiry. Each discipline develops its own technical terminology, experimental protocols, data storage and retrieval methods. Often these conventions are specific to a particular subdiscipline, geographical area, laboratory or individual and considerable effort is required to exchange valuable information between different groups. International Union of Crystallography, the learned society which unites all practitioners of the subject of crystallography, has devised an appropriate standard for classifying and exchanging information across the entire field. The article illustrates how the results will benefit not only scientists at the laboratory bench, but also publishers, librarians database maintainers and other providers of information to that community. It provides an overview of the specifications for the universal data exchange mechanism, the implementation of routines to facilitate data exchange, and the use of standard software packages as a medium for submission of papers electronically.

Towards Electronic Journals: the Publishers' Technical Point of View

Kluiters, Christiaan C.P.

Abstract

In this article the implementation of Elsevier Science Electronic Subscriptions at Tilburg University in the Netherlands is taken as a case reference point. The paper discusses only the most important of the many technical standards/formats involved. It does not go into the broad range of organizational and operational changes needed to build an electronic library. Starting with the delivery of 1200 printed journal titles to external production, or document

imaging processing, the system facilitates, via an internal validation procedure, production of a customized CD for, in principle, every library-customer. The paper touches briefly upon the technical disclosure and dissemination solutions as well.

Archiving Electronic Journals: The Serial Information Provider's Perspective

Luijendijk, Wim

Abstract

We are in a time when many people involved in the library community are uncertain about what their role and the role of others will be in the near and distant future. All participants in the library community today will have to be flexible and understand the true nature of their existence, or their missions. Products and services provided by all will have to change but missions will stay the same. Although traditionally handled by librarians, the archiving electronic journals could be handled by publishers, libraries, serial information vendors or even back issue dealers. Document delivery providers will be involved in the archiving of articles in anticipation of customer requests for them. Eventually, however, the party that can archive information the most effectively, efficiently and inexpensively while providing the most access will be the one to do it.

Electronic Documents and Research Libraries

Malinconico, S. Michael

Abstract

Budget increases, generally indexed to overall increases in prices, have not kept pace with the extraordinary demands placed on research libraries by their users, their collections and their suppliers. Consequently librarians and library users have turned to modern technologies for solutions to these problems. It is their hope that digital libraries will in the long term provide the convenient universal access that library users require; that it will be more practical to preserve electronic images than paper documents; and that efficiencies possible with electronic technologies will reduce the gap between the demands of a research library's mission and the capabilities of its resources. The past five years have seen enormous activity involving the development of systems to replace print information resources with electronic alternatives. This objective is being addressed on two fronts: systems to create and disseminate innovative, new electronic documents, and systems to create and distribute faithful electronic images of those materials. The author describes a number of experiments with electronic documents CORE (Chemistry Online Retrieval Experiment), TULIP (The University Library Project); and Red Sage); and experiments which will influence the design and implementation of future electronic journal projects, including document delivery services and the digital preservation of books and serials.

Electronic Journals: Delivery, Use and Access

Rowland, Fytton

Abstract

A brief history of electronic journals is given, and a number of different models for the delivery of electronic journals that are currently being debated are described. For the two most likely models - commercial parallel publication and free Internet journals - issues of library access are discussed.

Virtual Libraries in Africa: A Dream, or a Knight in Shining Armour?

Mbambo, Buhle

Abstract

Technological developments have led to significant changes in libraries in industrialized nations. The very existence of such technologies implies that any region has the potential to experience the same changes. Indeed some countries in Africa are already functioning in automated information environments similar to those prevailing in developed nations. In other instances much work remains. Because technology offers many benefits its further implementation is desirable. This extension needs to occur with respect to distinctive technical, administrative and political contexts.

Collection Management Issues for Electronic Journals

Nisonger, Thomas E.

Abstract

Throughout the history of librarianship, librarians have had to deal with new formats of material: books and periodicals in print format, the microformat, CD-ROMs, computer software, and machine-readable data files. In the mid-1990s two of the biggest challenges are the Internet and electronic journals. Although electronic journals are a relatively new format, most traditional library functions are applicable to electronic journals including selection, policy making, collection evaluation staff and user education, cataloguing, budgeting, archiving/preservation, and acquisitions. This article addresses the collection management of electronic journals by libraries, introducing the major issues. A select, unannotated bibliography of English language items dealing with electronic journals and emphasizing their management by libraries is appended.

Scholarly Communication and the Use of Networked Information Sources

Abstract

This paper examines the use of networked information sources in scholarly communication. Such use is reflected, among others, in the footnotes and bibliographies of scholarly articles published in print journals. Twenty-seven print journals representing a wide range of subjects were identified through the ISI's SCI and SSCI Journal Citation Reports. Journals that were selected were those that published the most influential papers in their respective fields during the period of 1990-1993, and thus consistently ranked at the top in terms of their impact factors. From these top journals, a total of 97 articles were selected for further review. Footnotes and bibliographies of those 97 articles were checked to determine if they contained references to networked information sources such as electronic journals and archives accessible though the network. Only two (out of 97) articles contained such references. Findings were discussed in light of other studies published in the relevant literature. Some explanations were also offered as to why references to networked information sources appear relatively infrequently in scholarly articles published in print journals.

Towards a Worldwide Library

Hatvany, Bela

Abstract

The origin of the journal is in the creation of knowledge - or consensus belief. It plays the role of taking academic conversations and discussions - via a panel of respected peer referees - to a wider domain. It is therefore a centrepiece in the knowledge creation conversation. This model will also apply to the electronic journal. Electronic journals and the profusion of other electronic media are challenging the role of the information profession in making the body of knowledge available to society in an organized manner. This will continue. The development of the electronic journal will occur at the same time as the reorganization and redefinition of the role of the information professional, the society they serve and the information industry, within which we all work. The future of our industry is the creation of a worldwide library. In this library all of the digital sources in the world will be available in a well-organized context. The worldwide library will be available to all users, independent of location or computing platform and at utility prices.

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