



Newsline

WINTER 2007

ALS Library Services Pty Ltd 1300 136 490 www.alslib.com.au

Dewey vs the Folks 020.285/4678

How do you stack your books?
By the tried and true Dewey categories?
Or are there viable alternatives?

Gilbert Library (US) has generated quite a storm of controversy over its decision to shelve its entire stock in browsing collections rather than by Dewey.

Reminiscent of the Palmerston Library's 'Living Rooms', it has sparked a good deal of online debate with opinions ranging from 'get with the times, Dewey is outdated' to 'don't you dare touch my precious Dewey'. Not everyone approves, of course, but according one of the librarians who helped set it up, it's working for their community. *(See links to the discussions.)

Danbury Library in Connecticut has pioneered an alternative approach to melding traditional library categorisation with modern, Web 2.0 techniques. Instead of completely changing the way their shelving (and consequently their catalogue) works, they have been the first to incorporate LibraryThing tag clouds into their existing LMS. What's a tag cloud? See the box to the right for a brief explanation. [...continued overleaf]

Sixty librarians, suppliers and staff celebrate the opening of ALS' new facility and raise money for cancer research. [See page 3]



Tag Clouds

Messy, impossible to read lists of unrelated words! That's how 'Tag Clouds' look to the uninitiated. But in the Web 2.0 world, they are a powerful way of communicating the way in which an item has been categorised by the users of a community.

Known as a type of 'folksonomy' (as opposed to taxonomy – see Newsline Autumn 2007) a tag cloud is simply a weighted list of categories that have been applied to a particular item. The bigger the type, the more times that tag has been applied to that item.

Here is the tag cloud for the book Freakonomics on LibraryThing:

abortion **business** crime cultural studies
culture current affairs current events
economics economy finance library
philosophy politics popular science psychology
science social science society **sociology**
statistics

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THE BLOOKERS

ALS Newsline has previously reported on the rise of vanity publishing. Building on this is a new trend for books to be published based on a weblog [blog]. Most famous of these is *Belle de Jour* (now published by Phoenix Press in a six-figure deal) taken from the anonymous weblog of a London prostitute.



The Booker awards (now in its second year) celebrate this phenomenon. It is run by vanity press Lulu.com who have released a shortlist of what they assess as the best blog books taken from 110 nominated titles. The prize money is US\$10,000.

The Doorbells of Florence is one of the more intriguing titles on the list. What started as testing out a new camera on holiday, turned into a complete book project on interesting doorbells of Florence! – the author has even sold a few in hard copy.

It seems we have come full circle back to the days of serialisation of novels. The difference now, is that almost anyone can do it!

...Dewey vs the Folks, from page 1

When users at Danbury City Library view records on the library catalogue, as well as the standard Dewey number and subject headings, they also see a list of prioritised 'tags' that have been applied to their books by LibraryThing users. It's giving patrons a series of alternative classifications, that may be just as relevant as the official ones.

It's not just classifications that Danbury library users can see more of. There are also recommendations, ...Amazon style ('You may also like to read this'), with results deliberately limited to only titles held by the library.

The brilliance of the LibraryThing service is that it requires no back-end changes to the LMS, but is simply an additional URL field added to the catalogue record. Any new tags or change in tag priority added to that book by LibraryThing users across the world are automatically updated anytime that record is viewed on the library catalogue.

There is more than one way to approach organisation and categorisation of library stock! Would going all out and abandoning Dewey be an option that would work for your situation? Certainly, adding extra tags and book suggestions, can make the most of your existing catalogue with a good deal of extra value for all your users.

*Links:

<http://lisnews.org/article.pl?sid=07/06/13/0149229>

www.azcentral.com/phorum/read.php?1000,838635,page=1

www.librarything.com/forlibraries
<http://cat.danburylibrary.org/>

SIMON SAYS



Will the world every be the same again? It's nearly time for the very last Harry Potter... but wait... there's more!

Waterstones in the UK have launched an online petition to encourage JK Rowling to write more stories after HP7, and JK Rowling has offered desperate fans a glimmer of hope by uttering a non-committal 'never say never' in response.

If she does write more [and on popular vote to do so she may have to resurrect Harry from the dead] she'll join the ranks of Arthur Conan Doyle, who famously brought Sherlock Holmes back to life through popular demand.

Will you be waiting for another? I'm on the fence. I'm looking forward to HP7, but wonder whether Rowling can maintain the same quality of story with 'further adventures'. In the meantime, there is plenty of alternatives. For 'better than Harry Potter YA fantasy', try Cornelia Funke's *Inkspell* and *Inkheart* – your readers might like them too.

Sincerely,
Simon

TARGETING TEENS

Two new ventures aimed at encouraging teens to read and be involved with their library are happening in the UK. Firstly, the MLA Council has initiated an award for Public Libraries with innovative projects for teens and young adults. Secondly is Penguin Books, who have launched a new website: www.spinebreakers.co.uk that will have a teenage editorial board, and will create a community for young adults to talk about books that are relevant to them.

Espresso Books



Printed and bound while you wait. The New York Public Library has installed the first public-operated print-on-demand machine. Loaded with 200,000 open license titles, patrons can print their own books for free (yes free) within minutes. The Espresso Book Machine is available to bookstores and libraries for purchase and has the potential to make out-of-print a thing of the past. www.ondemandbooks.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

ALS Library Services has moved!



The move to splendid larger premises in Edwardstown was celebrated with a Biggest Morning Tea event on 24th May.

Sixty public librarians, publishers, suppliers and staff enjoyed tours, food and drink, as well as helping to raise money for the Cancer Council of Australia.

The move was achieved with minimal disruption to services and provides ample facilities for continued growth.

The website and 1300 136 490 phone number remain unchanged.

You can now visit us at:
12-14 Tooronga Avenue, Edwardstown,
South Australia 5039.

Facsimile is now: (08) 8276 5511.

Australia

In a move that many believe is short-sighted, the ABC has decided to close down its audio book production. The enterprise struggled to make a profit and believed interest to be declining in the marketplace.

International

13-digit ISBNs are currently calculated with a 978 prefix, that can be converted to a 10-digit ISBN. The International ISBN Agency has announced that ISBNs with a 979 prefix are likely to be issued by the second quarter of 2008. These ISBNs cannot be converted to 10 digits, which will mean that 10-digit ISBNs can no longer be used.

Cyberspace

John Wiley and Bantam Dell have become two of the first publishers to establish bookstores in the online world of Second Life. Wiley has produced *Second Life: The Official Guide* which it sells through links to online bookshops. More Second life titles are planned.

Online children's books from big publishers are becoming a reality with both Scholastic and Disney developing websites that deliver ebooks and related content to young children. Scholastic's offering, BookFlix claims to pair 'classic video storybooks from Weston Woods with related nonfiction eBooks from Scholastic' and can be found at: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/bookflixfreetrial/index.htm>

The rumour-mill is running wild over expectations that Amazon.com is planning to release an ebook reader known as the Kindle. Pictures of a prototype were released on the web earlier this year, and now some clever snoops have discovered metadata streams relating to ebooks for the Kindle format on the Amazon website. Expectations are that it will be released later this year, with a price point for ebooks of US\$9.99.

US

Author Meg Cabot, best known for *The Princess Diaries*, has teamed with publisher TokyoPop to write a graphic novel. The manga-style sequel to an earlier book *Avalon High*, will be called: *Avalon High: Coronation #1: The Merlin Prophecy*. Numbers 2 and 3 in the series will follow.

Also from TokyoPop is coming a new manga series aimed at building students' vocabularies. Based around normal, manga-style adventure stories, the graphic novels will include word definitions and a pronunciation guide.

ALS STAFF PROFILE



David Seekamp Manager – Operations & IT

David is responsible for making sure that all clients receive their books in the most efficient manner possible, and for keeping ALS on the technological cutting edge. He is a beer and wine connoisseur, enjoys keeping up with the latest open source technology and is learning Japanese.

Reading preferences:

Science fiction, thrillers, medieval history

Stephen King, Esq.

The latest Stephen King story is not a full-length novel, but is a 21,000 word novella published entirely in the July issue of *Esquire* magazine.

The Gingerbread Girl takes up 23 pages of the magazine and tells the story of Emily, who makes the mistake of looking into the driveway of a man named Pickering. The girls who enter Pickering's house do not usually leave.

LocLib 2007

ALS was a proud sponsor of a public library conference which sparkled! Not a dull or predictable moment in a splendid and visionary address by Alastair Bryant (Director General of WA's Department of Culture and the Arts), Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian), Rebecca Moore (Manager Library & Heritage Services, City of Joondalup), John Stanley (John Stanley & Associates), Jessamyn West (USA) and Chris Szekeley (Manager of Manakau Libraries, NZ) and many others contributing.



Harry Potter News

This wouldn't be a Winter 2007 edition without some mention of Harry Potter!

Here are some of the most interesting items that have cropped up over the past weeks.



- J.K. Rowling will be holding a 'moonlight signing' of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows on publication day. Lucky winners from around the world will be attending with 500 extra lucky people getting to hear a reading by the author.
- Harry Potter will be immortalised in stamps to be issued in the UK by the Royal Mail. They will feature the covers of each of the books.
- Amazon.com has received over 1,000,000 orders for the new Harry Potter, but has revealed that due to deep discounting and free shipping offers, its profit on those orders will be zero!
- The publisher who discovered the Harry Potter series has said that he has found the next big thing in children's literature. The book is called Tunnels, and is about a lost world underneath London.

For more in news, gossip and all things Harry Potter, we recommend the following websites:

<http://www.jkrowling.com> [Official site]
<http://www.the-leaky-cauldron.org/>
<http://en.potterish.com/>
<http://www.hpana.com/> [Harry Potter automatic news aggregator]
<http://www.mugglenet.com/index.php>
<http://www.hp-lexicon.org/>
<http://www.immeritus.org/index.php>



Specialists in Public Library Supply

Every month, ALS' new titles team compiles 4000 Public Library specific records of new books and AV material. This means you can find all that you need with very little selection time per month. Because we specialise in supplying Public Libraries, you'll find all our services are designed to meet your needs.

www.alslib.com.au

Public Libraries Australia Conference 2007

In March, it was LocLib in Perth and the Unconference in Melbourne. This August, it's the second PLA conference, Building Balance, to be held in Adelaide on 5-7 August. Keynote speaker is Library Journal's Librarian of the Year 2006, Rivkah Sass from Omaha Public Library, US.

ALS is supporting – you can find us on Stand 30 in the trade fair.

All in a days work

The annual Diagram Prize for the Oddest Title of the Year (from the UK Bookseller) has been announced. The winner is *The Stray Shopping Carts of Eastern North America: A Guide to Field Identification* by Julian Montague. That was followed fairly closely by *Tattooed Mountain Women and Spoon Boxes of Daghestan* by Robert Chenciner. Other favourite titles include:

- Proceedings of the Eighteenth International Seaweed Symposium
- Traffic and Congestion in the Roman Empire

- How green were the Nazis?
- Better never to have been: the harm of coming into existence



Ever wondered what to do with those old sets of encyclopaedias? Visit instructables.com to learn how to make a neat set of bookshelves out of them!
<http://tinyurl.com/32s62y>

Almost every self-respecting public library now has a coffee shop connected to it, but not many have a donut outlet! Operated under franchise by Dunkin' Donuts at the Ocean County Library in the US, the shop provides library patrons with a full range of donuts, sandwiches and pizza!

Beating all the really bad guys is the newest comic superhero: Super Librarian. Created by the New Jersey Libraries in conjunction with Diamond Comic Distributors, the comic is available to download at: www.njlibraries.org.

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