



## RESEARCH NOTES

August/September 2011

### Research Information Support Centre: RISC

*(Unless otherwise noted, material here has been sourced from own initiative or freely available online news and alerting services. Credit will be given where applicable.)*

### GENERAL



<http://www.authormapper.com/>

This is a rather interesting application: **AuthorMapper** has been developed by Springer, the giant German publishing concern. Freely available online, this resource enables searching journal articles and book chapters in the science, technology and medical fields, with results in full text and with the authors of the 100 latest documents identified by country on a displayed world map.

Each identified source then displays the origin (university, institution etc) and the number of articles/chapters. So it's rather like searching Springer (using the Library database list) with added (visual) applications. I would recommend trying this out.



<http://opencontent.uct.ac.za/>

The Centre for Educational Technology (CET) at UCT has produced **UCT OpenAccess**, where open learning and teaching content from the university can be accessed. The publication of open resources is encouraged by this initiative, although it is stressed that use of UCT OpenContent does NOT mean that UCT qualifications are provided or that full course content is made available. Nevertheless, a lot of material has been placed online.

It's a fascinating and useful resource.



<http://www.webfoundation.org/projects/the-web-index/>

The World Wide Web Foundation (yes, there is such a thing) has announced a new project, called **The World Wide Web Index**.

In their own words: *"The Web Index will be the world's first multi-dimensional measure of the Web and its impact on people and nations. It will cover a large number of developed and developing countries, incorporating indicators that will assess the political, economic and social impact of the Web, as well as indicators of Web connectivity infrastructure."*

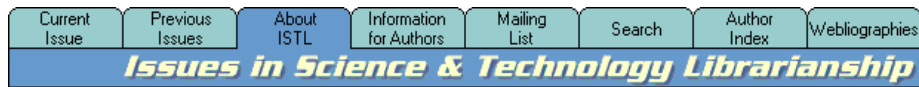


Helping you to find,  
access, and reuse data

DataCite

<http://datacite.org/repolist>

**DataCite** is a list of specialist repositories holding research data. Produced by DataCite as the managing agent, it is collaboration between the German National Library for Science and Technology, the British Library, BioMedCentral and the Digital Curation Centre. DataCite does not endorse the quality or suitability of the resources listed, but a glance seems to show that these are credible international institutions. A copy of the list can be downloaded from Google Docs.



<http://www.istl.org/11-summer/refereed2.html>

The latest issue of *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship* carries an article titled **Reference Management Software: a Comparative Analysis of Four Products**. Comparing CiteULike, RefWorks, Mendeley, and Zotero, this very useful document outlines and evaluates these four reference tools. Some of our academics and students already use Mendeley, while the Library has acquired Refworks, accessible from the Library website, for our users.

# DocuTicker

<http://www.docuticker.com/>

**DocuTicker**, part of the FreePint family of resources, provides searchable access to a range of “grey” documents from state agencies, NGO’s, think tanks, research centres and other institutions. While much of the informational material is freely available, some extended reports must be paid for.



<http://www.harzing.com/pop.htm>

**Publish or perish** is software that retrieves and analyzes academic citations. “Publish or perish” can be used by academics to present their research impact. This product was developed by Anne-Wil Harzing who is Professor in International Management and Associate Dean of Research at the University of Melbourne, Australia.



<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/coffee/qsf/coffee.html>

**The Trojan Room coffee machine** pre-dates the World Wide Web by some years and originated in the Computer Science department at Cambridge University during 1991. The system was used to enable IT researchers to monitor the availability of coffee while working long hours in their laboratories. The system was later placed on the Internet and so achieved fame as the most watched coffee pot in the world.



<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0099133311000693>

Chatter on Twitter (and subsequent traffic on blogs) alerted me to the article **The Crisis in Research Librarianship** (*The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, Volume 37, Issue 4, July 2011, Pages 289-290)

The author is Rick Anderson (Associate Director for Scholarly Resources & Collections, Marriott Library, at the University of Utah). He is therefore qualified to comment on this issue. The article includes some hard-headed, controversial, but thought-provoking insights, and he posits some compelling arguments supporting the perception that the academic research library may be in terminal decline, but that it may be possible to arrest this decline. The point is perhaps not so much that there are strong

arguments and counter arguments around this topic, but the fact that the issue is being debated at all. You'll have to read the article and decide for yourself.



VDM publishing house ltd.

<http://accrispin.blogspot.com/2009/09/victoria-strauss-vdm-verlag-dr-mueller.html>

WARNING! If you are approached (by mail) by one of the German academic publishing concerns named in this blog, and they claim interest in publishing your thesis, please note that CPUT holds the copyright on student theses

WRITER BEWARE™ BLOGS (Victoria Strauss, posted 14 September 2009)

This is a summary of the blog text:

Regarding VDM Verlag Dr Mueller, a German academic publisher. VDM describes its business thus:

*VDM publishes academic research worldwide - at no cost to our authors. Annually, we publish more than 10,000 new titles and are thus one of the leading publishing houses of academic research. We specialize in publishing theses, dissertations, and research projects.*

VDM uses digital technology to make its books and monographs "available" (which just means they can be special-ordered) through online and physical booksellers. There's no cost to authors, who receive a "fee" plus "up to" 20 free copies of their book. There's also no editing or proofreading: what you turn in is what's printed, and the process for doing so, in which authors essentially create their own books and covers, is very similar to uploading content to a self-publishing service. Retail prices are high, even for a digitally-based publisher.

VDM, in other words, is an academic author mill.

If you receive one of VDM's emails, and you've got an old dissertation sitting around, you may think you have nothing to lose, and might even get a little exposure and a bit of money. Be warned, though: the terms of VDM's contract (which Writer Beware has seen) are not author-friendly.

The contract requires an exclusive life-of-copyright rights transfer, without

any provision for releasing those rights other than VDM failing to publish or deciding to discontinue publication. The author's only possible recourse would appear to be Article 41 of the German Copyright Act, which allows writers to revoke licenses "[i]f the holder of an exclusive exploitation right does not exercise such right or exercises it insufficiently." VDM doesn't allow the author to exercise this entitlement until five years have passed, however--and good luck proving "insufficiently."

The contract allows VDM to transfer the licenses you've granted to third parties without your permission (though if it's paid for those uses, you get 50%).

In the contract I saw (as well as in this archived VDM author information sheet from mid-2008), eBook royalties were 40%, and print royalties 12%--both paid on net revenue. This may be a relatively recent policy for the company, however. My research turned up discussion from 2007 suggesting that VDM was paying print authors just 3% of net.

Royalties are scheduled to be paid just once a year.

Or possibly never. "In order to cover the administration expense and the data management," VDM is not obliged to pay you anything if your royalties average 10 Euros or less per month. Moreover, if royalties average 50 Euros or less per month, you'll receive book vouchers instead of money.

VDM also does business as VDM Publishing House, LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, Südwestdeutsche Verlag für Hochschulschriften, Verlag Classic Edition (VCE), and Alphascript Publishing.

## APPLIED SCIENCES



National Research Council Canada    Conseil national de recherches Canada

<http://nparc.cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/npsi/ctrl?lang=en>

It's always interesting to see what resources are made available by whom, and what is not. There is, for instance, no freely available access to United Kingdom White Pages (telephone directory) as there are in South Africa and in fact most countries.

So it is good to see that the National Research Council (NRC) of Canada gives access to many of its publications via the NRC Publications Archive.

*BUSINESS*

*EDUCATION*

*ENGINEERING/ENVIRONMENTAL*



<http://isanglitrongliwanag.org/>

**A liter of light** is the product of a development foundation in the Philippines whereby cheap and practical illumination is provided to deprived areas in the urban fringe using empty plastic Coke bottles. This is applicable to many areas in our own country, and in fact South African researchers have been working on similar projects.

Have a look at this Philippines project. They are also on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook.



<http://firstmonday.org/>

First Monday is an Open Access, peer-reviewed online journal, publishing material on the Internet and related technologies.

This article is a good example of what they publish.

(<http://firstmonday.org/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3377/3046> )



<http://www.online-journals.org/index.php/i-jim>

The International Journal of Interactive Mobile Technologies is another successful Open Access journal for those interested in, well, mobile technology. Registration is needed for full access.

**Science in Africa**  
Africa's First On-Line Science Magazine

[http://scienceinafrica.co.za/2010/november/spoken\\_web.htm](http://scienceinafrica.co.za/2010/november/spoken_web.htm)

Heard about the “Spoken Web” yet? This article in Science in Africa details research (by IBM) on mobile voice technology which would allow millions of (mainly illiterate) people in developing regions to access services and information usually found on the Internet conventionally.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS



<http://www.chsrf.ca/Home.aspx>

The Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) is a nonprofit public policy research organisation established with endowed funds. The Foundation makes resources and publications freely available. This research report “Maximizing Community Health Nursing Capacity in Canada: A Research Summary for Decision Makers” can be downloaded in full:

<http://www.chsrf.ca/publicationsandresources/researchreports/ArticleView/10-02-01/7a27ac4e-b4ae-4fe7-85b4-ae6cace609e.aspx>



<http://www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Research+Resources/Cancer+Portals?intcmp=cportals-leftnav>

The “Cancer Portals” are resources in oncology presented by the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and are intended as a resource to discover the latest findings in various areas of cancer research through scientific abstracts, videos, links and other materials.



<http://informationr.net/ir/16-3/paper484.html>

This online journal has an article titled “Exploration of the needs of South African oncology nurses for current awareness services available through the Internet”, authored by two South African academics from the University of Pretoria.