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Open Access Perspective Part I

Pioneer OA Journals: The Arc of Enthusiasm, Five Years Later

They weren't generally called Open Access journals in 1995: If that term existed before 2001 or 2002, it certainly wasn't the standard name for free online scholarship. But there *were* examples of free online scholarship, some dating back to 1987. In the May 2001 *Cites & Insights*, I explored the question: "Do free scholarly electronic journals last?"

The title of that essay, GETTING PAST THE ARC OF ENTHUSIASM, revealed one finding I had suspected going in: It was not unusual for one of these pioneering efforts to start out with a bang, fueled by the enthusiasm of its founders, and fade away in an "arc of enthusiasm," with articles and the journal itself disappearing after a few years.

In the course of the 2001 essay, I casually asserted a definition that's been cited elsewhere: If a journal lasts at least six years, it can be considered a "lasting" title even if it later goes out of business. More than half of the open access journals founded in 1995 or before that were refereed and "visible" (see below) were still publishing six years later; that's a good record. I thought it would be interesting to see how they're doing after five more years. Thus, this update.

Background

The original article is still available (citesandinsights.info/civli5.pdf). These extracts describe how I arrived at the original findings.

ARL's *Directory of Electronic Journals, Newsletters and Academic Discussion Lists* for 1995 includes 104 items that appear to be free refereed scholarly electronic journals.

Those journals still publishing in 2000, a minimum of six years, can be considered lasting titles. Some electronic scholarly journals started years before..

While 1995 may seem like ancient times for the Web, Mosaic (the first widely-available browser) was well established by then. Most academic libraries had Internet access, many used various forms of electronic communication, and more than a few were building Web sites.

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Fifty-seven of the 104 journals in the 1995 *ARL Directory* had Web or Gopher addresses (URLs). Seventeen of those addresses still worked in early 2001. Finding the others proved fascinating and frustrating. After working with a variety of tools, I found Eureka and Google most useful.

The RLG Union Catalog via Eureka provides a good first cut answer as to whether a journal has been *noticed* by academic libraries or the Library of Congress. For nineteen titles, not a single record could be found, a bad sign for academic significance. For most of the others, I could click on a cataloged Web address to locate the journal itself—and most of those addresses worked. Where Eureka failed (through lack of records, lack of URLs, or dead URLs), Google usually succeeded—not always in finding the journal itself, but finding evidence that the journal *did* exist at one time.

Early free electronic journals have done better than might have been expected. Eighteen were misdescribed or have changed direction. Ten are missing in action—or have nothing but e-mail addresses, which makes them invisible to the larger scholarly community. Five are so confusing that their status is unclear. Twenty seen to have fallen prey to the arc of enthusiasm: after a few good years, the journals have died or become comatose. Two journals ceased for reasons other than declining interest.

Twenty-one journals still publish a small but steady flow of manuscripts. Twenty-eight journals still publish substantial numbers of refereed articles.

Of 86 titles that were available as free refereed scholarly journals in 1995, 49 (57%) still publish six years later. Given the difficulties of coordinating refereed journals and the problems inherent in “free,” that’s a remarkable record.

Reviewing this material, I find that three of the 86 titles actually began publishing in 1996 or later. Those three have been eliminated.

Checking the Survivors

This time around, I wasn’t working from a published list, which means I didn’t have the original URLs. Instead I used three freely available tools, in this order:

- The *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ), probably today’s primary access point for tightly-defined OA journals (scholarly, refereed papers, free to download and copy).
- Worldcat.org for journals not present in DOAJ, using a phrase search for the journal title, checking URLs in the Details view or on library catalog pages.
- Google, again using a phrase search, for cases where no Worldcat.org links yielded live results. (There were no cases where Worldcat.org didn’t yield a result of some sort.)

I skipped 18 “misdescribed” publications because they were either not journals, not scholarly, or were priced (not free online) in 2001. I also skipped two journals known to have ceased for reasons other than the arc of enthusiasm (one because the publisher, DEC, was purchased by Compaq, the other because the online version didn’t work out).

I checked ten journals flagged as “Mysteries” in 2001 because “I was unable to find any working Web presence for them as e-journals in early 2000 or early 2001.” All ten are still mysteries. I could not locate archival issues in nine cases. In the tenth case (*SPEED*) there appeared to be four issues all prior to 1997—but attempting to reach them froze my PC, so I’m not willing to assert that they’re actually there

I no longer believe the distinction between “small successes” and “strong survivors”—based on an arbitrary cutoff of 10 or more refereed papers per year—makes sense. In some narrow fields, half a dozen good papers each year represent a significant contribution.

This year’s discussion looks at long-term availability for dead and live journals and breaks them into five groups:

- **Special Cases**, journals that don’t currently qualify as open access.

- **Oddities**, cases where I wasn’t sure what to make of the situation. Originally five journals. Two of the five have become visible and moved to the Arc of Enthusiasm, leaving three oddities.
- **Arc of Enthusiasm**, cases where I was able to find the publication in 2000, 2001, or 2006, but where the publication lasted less than six years. Some journals originally in this category have restarted and are now in Surviving Pioneers; others lasted six years or more, a respectable life for a journal, and are now in Ceased Pioneers. Unfortunately, several of the fourteen journals now in this category don’t have visible archives (or at least I couldn’t find back issues).
- **Ceased Pioneers**, eleven open access journals that lasted at least six years but have no recent content.
- **Surviving Pioneers**, journals that began no later than 1995 and have content as recently as 2004, with articles freely accessible. This combines the former “small successes” and “strong survivors” categories. I’m sad to say that eight of the 51 journals originally in these categories or that moved into these categories disappeared before 2004—and three more noted immediately below (“special cases”) no longer qualify as open access (and in two cases may have been misdescribed originally). That’s about a 25% failure rate—not ideal, but not terrible. 40 of the original 86—46%—have survived as OA journals for at least a decade.

Journals within each category are listed alphabetically with notes on publication patterns (usually providing number of issues and number of apparently formal articles each year). I also note which of the three web sources first provided useful access: DOAJ if not stated, WorldCat, or Google. (I have no doubt that WorldCat would have provided access in all DOAJ cases and that Google would provide access in nearly all cases.)

Publication patterns beginning in 1993 appear as *year: issues/articles* or, for journals that don’t have issues, *year: articles*. For 2006, partial results as of the first week of September appear [in brackets]. “Many” appears when there are dozens of articles or article-equivalents in a year and the articles aren’t numbered. A “+” after the number of article-equivalents indicates

that the journal includes significant amounts of other material such as book reviews. Some of these journals began earlier than 1993.

When a live archive is available, I note “Full archive back to” and the earliest date apparently available (in **bold** if earlier than 1993). In most but not all cases (not annotated), early articles have been reformatted in HTML—but there are some ejournals where fairly recent issues are still ASCII-only (and at least one where the archive is a Gopher site).

Special Cases

Classics Ireland. WorldCat. 1994: 10; 1995: 11; 1996: 13; 1997: 8+; 1998: 6+; 1999: 7+; 2000: 6+. 2001: 9+. 2002: 5+. Journal apparently continues, but in priced print form only. Full archive back to 1994.

Electronic Journal of Communication. WorldCat. 1993: 3/23; 1994: 2/21; 1995: 3/24; 1996: 4/18+; 1997: 4/16; 1998: 3/18+; 1999: 2/25+; 2000: 2/17; 2001: 3/21; 2002: 2/14; 2003: 2/13; 2004: 3/19; 2005: 1/6. While archival issues are available back to 1990, the articles *are not freely available*. Thus, this is not (now) an OA journal.

Government Information in Canada. WorldCat. 1994: 2/13; 1995: 4/15; 1996: 4/15+; 1997: 3/12; 1998: 2/2; 1999: 4/5; 2000: 2/2. Ceased 2000. No open access archive available: Not OA.

Oddities

Grist On-line. WorldCat. “Network Journal of Language Arts.” Pattern: 1993: 3 issues; 1994: 2 issues; 1995: 2 issues; 1996: 1 issue. Ceased July 30, 2002—but I was unable to reach any content later than 1996. Listed as an “oddity” because it apparently existed in some non-journal form between 1997 and 2002—but I find no trace of that existence. Full archive for the eight issues from 1993 through 1996.

InterJournal. DOAJ. Pattern: in early 2000, 225 accepted items on Web site, dates on individual articles. In early 2001: 620 manuscripts, of which 328 are supposed to be final. Divided into three parts: CX: Complex systems (318), PX: Polymer and Complex Fluids (20), BG: Genetics (2). Status in 2006: While the site is live, it mostly hangs. Other than a note about “server migration” in 2005, the status of this publication is vague. Unable to verify existence of archive in 2006.

RhetNet. WorldCat. Tiny amount of odd material on Web site; appears to be wholly inactive since mid-1997. As of 2006, the archives only partly work.

The Arc of Enthusiasm

Some of these journals may have started *before* 1993, the point at which I started checking issue and article

patterns. Some of these could come back to life, to be sure—but most seem to follow a pattern that becomes familiar. “Ceased” indicates that the journal explicitly ceased publication as opposed to fading away.

Asia-Pacific Exchange (Electronic) Journal [APEX-J]. WorldCat. 1994: 2/4; 1995: 2/5; 1996: 1/1. No visible archive.

Dogwood Blossoms. Google. 1993: 5/12; 1994: 4/30; 1995: 2/10. Full archive back to 1993 (with glitches).

EJournal. WorldCat. 1993: 3/3; 1994: 4/5+; 1995: 2/3; 1996: 3/1. Full archive back to 1993.

Electronic Journal of Strategic Information Systems (SIS-EJOURNAL). Unable to locate in 2006. Appears to be one each in 1994 and 1995, nothing since. No workable links; no visible archives.

Electronic Journal on Virtual Culture (originally Arachnet Electronic Journal on Virtual Culture). WorldCat. 1993: 7/14; 1994: 4/25; 1995: 3/8; 1996: 1/3. Weakly available, gopher back to 1994, more directly for 1996.

Gassho. WorldCat. 1993: 1/3; 1994: 3/10. “On hiatus” since 1998—but no visible archives.

International Journal of Continuing Education Practice. WorldCat. One issue (1994); formally ceased 1/95. Now a priced journal from MCB University Press. Single OA issue continues to be available.

Journal of Mathematical Systems, Estimation, and Control. WorldCat. 1994-96: Quarterly, >20 each year. 1997: 3/15; 1998: 2/21. Ceased 1998. Full archive back to 1994.

Organized Thoughts. WorldCat. Nine issues published between 1992 and 1994; ceased 1994. Gopher archive to 1992.

Psychiatry On-Line. WorldCat. As of 2000, there were 51 papers. As of 2006, there appear to be 100—but the papers I checked aren’t dated, so I can’t determine whether this is an ongoing operation. Full archive, but it’s not clear that these are refereed papers.

Research & Reflection: A Journal of Educational Praxis. 1995: 2/12+; 1996: 2/8+; 1997: 2/7+; 1998: 1/2; 1999: 1/1+. Unreachable in early 2001; unreachable in 2006.

Sharp Review (or Katherine Sharp Review.) WorldCat. 1995: 1/7; 1996: 2/8; 1997: 2/11; 1998: 2/9; 1999: 1/5. Ceased 1999. Full archive back to 1995.

Surfaces. 1993: 1/21+; 1994: 1/27+; 1995: 1/11+; 1996: 1/many; 1997: 1/4. WorldCat links dead; unable to locate archive.

Ulam Quarterly. WorldCat. Three volumes published 1992-1996. Live archive back to 1992, only in .ps format.

Ceased Pioneers

Some of these are more drawn-out examples of the arc of enthusiasm. Others may have ceased for any num-

ber of reasons. I consider them all qualified successes—except where archives aren't available.

Architronic: The Electronic Journal of Architecture. WorldCat. 1993: 3/17; 1994: 3/7; 1995: 3/9, 1996: 3/12; 1997: 1/4; 1998: 1/2; 1999: 1/4. Full archive back to 1993.

Complexity International. 1994: 10; 1995: 48; 1996: 34; 1997: 8; 1998: 6; 1999: 35; 2000: 8; 2001-2?: 12. Unclear status. Full archive back to 1994.

De Proverbio. 1995: 2/20+; 1996: 2/20+; 1997: 2/18; 1998: 2/18; 1999: 2/15; 2000: 2/16; 2001: 1/5. Archives not reachable, status uncertain.

Electronic Journal of Analytic Philosophy (EJAP). WorldCat. 1993: 1/5; 1994: 1/6; 1995: 1/6; 1996: 1/6; 1997: 1/7; 1998: 1/10; 2002: 1/7. Full archive back to 1993.

Essays in History. WorldCat. 1993: 6; 1994: 4; 1995: 5; 1996: 5+; 1997: 4+; 1998: 5+; 1999: 3+; 2000: 4+. Full archive back to **1990**.

Flora Online. WorldCat. 1987: 12; 1988: 8; 1989: 2; 1990: 4; 1991: 1; 1992: 2; 1993: 1. Ceased 1993. Archive available as zipped versions of diskette-based issues back to **1987**.

IOUDAIOS Review. WorldCat. 1993: 26; 1994: 25; 1995: 16; 1996: 8; 1997: 11; 1998: 2; 1999: 1. Reviews only after 1999; none posted for 2000-2001. Restarted in 2002: 2002: 8; 2003: 3. None since 2003. Full but defective archives back to 1993.

Journal of Financial and Strategic Decisions. WorldCat. 1994: 3/25; 1995: 3/24; 1996: 3/26; 1997: 3/25; 1998: 2/18; 1999: 3/21; 2000: 3/27. Ceased at end of 2000. Full archive back to 1994, although journal dates back further.

MC Journal: The Journal of Academic Media Librarianship. WorldCat. 1993: 2/7+; 1994: 2/5+; 1995: 2/3+; 1996: 2/7+; 1997: 2/3+; 1998: 1/7; 1999: 1/4+; 2000: 3/4+; 2001: 1/2+; 2002: 1/2. Ceased 2002. Full archive back to 1993.

Psycoloquy. 1993: 78; 1994: 129; 1995: 90; 1996: 73; 1997: 43; 1998: 126; 1999: 118; 2000: 129; 2001: 63; 2002: 26. Full archive back to **1991**.

Public-Access Computer Systems Review (PACS Review). WorldCat. 1993: 6/9+; 1994: 7/8+; 1995: 5/6+; 1996: 6/6+; 1997: 4/5+; 1998: 1/1+. Ceased 2001. Full archive back to **1990**.

Surviving Pioneers

Beiträge zur Algebra und Geometrie/Contributions to Algebra and Geometry. WorldCat. 1993: 2/24; 1994: 2/24; 1995: 2/27; 1996: 2/29; 1997: 2/40+; 1998: 2/49?; 1999: 2:40; 2000: 2/49; 2001: 2/47; 2002: 2/46; 2003: 2/48; 2004: 2/54; 2005: 2/42; [2006: 1/20]. Full archive back to 1993; print journal goes back three decades earlier.

Bryn Mawr Classical Review. Reviews only. 1993: unclear; 1994: 12/160; 1995: 12/238; 1996: 12/205; 1997:

12/285; 1998: 12/256; 1999: 12/280; 2000: >250; 2001: >350; 2002: >430; 2003: >430; 2004: >490; 2005: >550; [2006: >400]. Full archive back to **1990**.

Canadian Journal of Educational Administration and Policy. 1995: 4; 1996: 5; 1997: 2; 1998: 0; 1999: 2; 2000: 4; 2001: 2; 2002: 4; 2003: 11; 2004: 8; 2005: 12; [2006: 7]. Full archive back to 1995.

Crossroads: The International ACM Student Magazine. WorldCat. 1994: 2/9+; 1995: 4/17+; 1996: 4/20+; 1997: 4/20+; 1998: 4/18+; 1999: 4/24+; 2000: 4/24+; 2001: 5/19+; 2002: 5/16+; 2003: 4/23+; 2004: 4/18+; 2005: 4/20+; [2006: 2/12+] Full archive back to 1994.

CTHEORY / Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory. (Renamed *Theory, technology, and culture*, later renamed *CTHEORY*) WorldCat. 1993: 11+; 1994: 17+; 1995: 26+; 1996: 18+; 1997: 31+; 1998: 30+; 1999: 21+. 2000: 14; 2001: 11; 2002: 14; 2003: 18; 2004: 9; 2005: 18. Full archive back to 1993.

Didaskalia: Ancient Theater Today. 1994: 5/20+; 1995: 3/14+; 1996: 3/12+; 1997: 1/6+. Restarted in 2001, includes video clips. v.4:2 (ends 2001): 3+. v.5 (2001/02): 9+. v. 6 (2004/05): 16+. Full archive back to 1994.

E Law: Murdoch Electronic Journal of Law. 1993: 1/1+; 1994: 3/6+; 1995: 3/10+; 1996: 4/18+; 1997: 4/4+; 1998: 4/5+; 1999: 4/9+; 2000: 3/8+; 2001: 4/11+; 2002: 4/26+; 2003: 4/20+; 2004: 4/24+; 2005: 2/11+. Full archive back to 1993.

Early Modern Literary Studies. 1995: 3/10+; 1996: 3/11+; 1997: 3/3+; 1998: 3/25+; 1999: 3/15+; 2000: 3/15+; 2001: 3/19+; 2002: 3/15+; 2003: 3/18+; 2004: 3/18+; 2005: 3/14+; [2006: 10+]. Full archive back to 1995.

Education Policy Analysis Archives. 1993: 15; 1994: 14; 1995: 20; 1996: 20+; 1997: 22+; 1998: 21+; 1999: 32; 2000: 53; 2001: 51; 2002: 50; 2003: 51; 2004: 73; 2005: 51; [2006: 21]. Full archive back to 1993.

Electronic Antiquity: Communicating the Classics. 1993: 6/23+; 1994: 6/10+; 1995: 4/10+; 1996: 2/3+; 1997: 3/8+; 1998: 2/5+; 1999: 2/5+; 2000: 2+; 2001: 2+; 2003: 1+; 2004: 0+; 2005: 1+; [2006: 1+]. Includes multimedia. Full archive back to 1993.

Electronic Green Journal. 1994: 2/9+; 1995: 2/8+; 1996: 2/5+; 1997: 1/3+; 1998: 2/17+; 1999: 1/4+; 2000: 2/18+; 2001: 2/10+; 2002: 2/9+; 2003: 2/11+; 2004: 1/3+; 2005: 2/10+; [2006: 1/3+]. Full archive back to 1994.

Electronic Journal of Combinatorics. 1994: 1/13; 1995: 1/25; 1996: 2/61; 1997: 2/53; 1998: 1/47; 1999: 1/44+; 2000: 60+; 2001: 60+; 2002: 2/65+; 2003: 1/47+; 2004: 2/123+; 2005: 1/70+; [2006: 1/79+]. Full archive back to 1994.

Electronic Journal of Differential Equations (EJDE). 1993: 8; 1994: 9; 1995: 17; 1996: 11; 1997: 25; 1998: 36; 1999:

- 50; 2000: 70; 2001: 78; 2002: 103; 2003: 125; 2004: 147; 2005: 148; [2006: 102]. Full archive back to 1993.
- Electronic Journal of Sociology*. 1994: 1/2; 1995: 2/4; 1996: 2/5; 1997: 3/9; 1998: 2/9; 1999: 3/11; 2000: 2/6; 2001: 2/5; 2002: 4/12; 2003: 4/10; 2004: 4; 2005: 17+; [2006: 4+] Full archive back to 1995.
- Electronic Transactions on Numerical Analysis*. 1993:7; 1994: 13; 1995: 10; 1996: 11; 1997: 27; 1998: 13; 1999: 20+; 2000: 15; 2001: 10; 2002: 2/21; 2003: 2/25; 2004: 2/26; 2005: 3/35; [2006: 4/43]. Full archive back to 1993.
- Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID)*. More than 100 articles per year. 1995-1998: four issues per year; 1999-2001: six issues per year; 2002-2006: 12 issues per year. Full archive back to 1995.
- EOL Journal* (was *EF/hm: EthnoFORUM/hypermedia*). WorldCat. 1995: 2+; 1996: 4+; 1997: 5+; 1998: 1+; 1999: 1+; 2000-2001: CD reviews only; 2002: 1+. Restarted 2005: CD reviews and interviews. Full archive back to 1995.
- Federal Communications Law Journal*. WorldCat. 1993: 1/5+; 1994: 4/30+; 1995: 2/4+; 1996: 3/10+; 1997: 3/11+; 1998: 3/10+; 1999: 3/16+; 2000. 01/02: 3/20+; 02/03: 3/43+; 03/04: 3/16+; 04/05: 3/23+; 05/06: 3/32+. Full archive back to 1993 (but print journal goes back several decades).
- Information Technology and Disabilities*. 1994: 4/23+; 1995: 4/17+; 1996: 3/11+; 1997: 3/14+; 1998: 2/15+; 1999: 2/9+; 2000: 1/8+; 2001: 1/3; 2002: 2/8+; 2003: 2/15+; 2004: 2/17; 2005: 1/8. Full archive back to 1994.
- Interpersonal Computing and Technology: An Electronic Journal for the 21st Century (IPCT, IPCTJ)*. WorldCat. 1993: 3/15; 1994: 4/18+; 1995: 4/16+; 1996: 3/10+; 1997: 2/8+; 1998: 2/4+; 1999: 1/3. Restarted 2002: 2002:3; 2004: 2+. Full archive back to 1993, split between two web-sites (linked from newer to older).
- Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*. 1993: 4/14+; 1994: 4/10+; 1995: 1/3+; 1996: 1/5+; 1997: 3/11+; 1998: 4/20+; 1999: 4/16+; 2000: 4/19+; 2001: 4/20; 2002: 4/18; 2003: 2/15; 2004: 3/11; 2005: 3/17; [2006: 3/19]. Full archive back to **1991**.
- Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (JAIR)*. 1993: 6; 1994: 14; 1995: 26; 1996: 27; 1997: 19; 1998: 20; 1999: 28; 2000: 20; 2001: 2/25; 2002: 2/27; 2003: 3/44; 2004: 3/34; 2005: 4/72; [2006: 2/27]. Full archive back to 1993.
- Journal of Buddhist Ethics*. 1994: 3+; 1995: 11+; 1995: 9+; 1997: 6+; 1998: 12+; 1999: 9+; 2000: 7+; 2001: 2+; 2002: 3+; 2003: 4+; 2004: 7+; 2005: 5+; [2006: 4+]. Full archive back to 1994.
- Journal of Computer-Mediated Communications (JCMC)*. 1995: 3/16; 1996: 4/29; 1997: 4/25; 1998: 3/17; 1999: 4/25+; 2000: 4/21+; 2001: 4/19; 2002: 4/27; 2003: 4/29; 2004: 4/31; 2005: 4/72; [2006: 1/12]. Full archive back to 1995.
- Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture*. 1993: 5/0+; 1994: 6/4+; 1995: 6/5+; 1996: 3/2+; 1997: 1/1+; 1998: none; 1999: 3/5+; 2000: 3/9+; 2001-2002: 3/8+; 2003-2004: 2/10+; 2005: 3/8+; [2006: 1/2+]. Full archive back to 1993.
- Journal of Extension*. 1993: 4/29++; 1994: 4/27++; 1995: 6/91+; 1996: 6/71+; 1997: 6/64+; 1998: 6/74+; 1999: 6/80+; 2000: 6/22+. 2001 and beyond: 6 issues and more than 100 papers per year. Full archive to **1963**, online since **1984 or later**.
- Journal of Industrial Teacher Education*. 1994: 1/4+; 1995: 4/16+; 1996: 4/19+; 1997: 4/17+; 1998: 4/16+; 1999: 4/15+; 2000: 4/20+; 2001: 4/24+; 2002: 4/20+; 2003: 3/14+; 2004: 4/18+; 2005: 3/14+. Full archive to 1994.
- Journal of Political Ecology*. 1994: 4+; 1995: 3+; 1996: 4+; 1997: 3+; 1998: 3+; 1999: 4+; 2000: 3+; 2001: 3+; 2002: 3+; 2003: 7+; 2004: 3+; 2005: 1+. Full archive back to 1994.
- Journal of Statistics Education*. 1993: 1/5+; 1994: 2/10+; 1995: 3/12+; 1996: 3/10+; 1997: 3/13+; 1998: 3/14+; 1999: 3/12+; 2000: 3/16+; 2001: 3/16+; 2002: 3/19+; 2003: 2/12+; 2004: 3/17+; 2005: 3/17+; [2006: 2/10+]. Full archive back to 1993.
- Journal of Technology Education*. 1993: 5/9+; 1994: 2/10+; 1995: 2/10+; 1996: 2/8+; 1997: 2/8+; 1998: 2/9+; 1999: 2/9+; 2000: 2/9+; 2001: 2/8+; 2002: 2/9+; 2003: 2/9+; 2004: 2/8+; 2005: 2/9+. Full archive back to **1989**: One of the earliest ejournals.
- Journal of World-Systems Research*. 1995: 20+; 1996: 30+; 1997: 3/12+; 1998: 2/9+; 1999: 3/21+; 2000: 3/41+; 2001: 2/10+; 2002: 3/15+; 2003: 2/12+; 2004: 3/24+; 2005: 2/14+; [2006: 1/6+]. Full archive back to 1995.
- LIBRES*. 1995: 3/4+; 1996: 2/5+; 1997: 2/3+; 1998: 2/1+; 1999: 2/3+, 2000: 2/3+; 2001: 2/4+; 2002: 2/4+; 2003: 2/4+; 2004: 2/5+; 2005: 2/5+; [2006: 1/4]. While the journal dates back to 1991, the web archive goes to 1996. I was unable to use the earlier FTP archive.
- Medieval Review* (formerly *Bryn Mawr Medieval Review*). Reviews only. 1993: 5/33; 1994: 12/85; 1995: 12/82; 1996: 12/84; 1997: 12/97; 1998:12/136; 1999: 11/161; 2000: 155; 2001: 166; 2002: 194; 2003: 243; 2004: 244; 2005: 202; [2006: 145]. Full archive back to 1993.
- Music Theory Online (MTO)*. Google (DOAJ link requires permission.) 1993: 6/6+; 1994: 5/10+; 1995: 6/10+; 1996: 7/11+; 1997: 5/12+; 1998: 6/15+; 1999: 4/4+; 2000: 5/15+; 2001: 6/7+; 2002: 4/8+; 2003: 4/13+; 2004: 4/16+; 2005: 4/15+; [2006: 2/7+]. Full archive back to 1993.
- New Horizons in Adult Education*. 1993: 1/4; 1994: 2/4+; 1995: 1/1+; 1996: 1/1+; 1997: 1/2+; 1998: 2/?; 1999: 1/1+; 2000: 3/7; 2001: 2/4; 2002: 3/6+; 2003: 3/7+;

2004: 4/10+; 2005: 4/12+; [2006: 1/4+]. Full archive back to 1987; possibly the oldest surviving OA journal.

New York Journal of Mathematics. 1994-95: 13; 1996: 7; 1997: 16; 1998: 17; 1999: 13; 2000: 16; 2001: 18; 2002: 17; 2003: 19; 2004: 19; 2005: 31; [2006: 16]. Full archive back to 1994.

PSYCHE; an Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Consciousness. 1993: 3+; 1994: 4+; 1995: 2+; 1996: 4+; 1997: 1+; new signs of life: 1998/99: 13?; 2000: 4; 2001: 0+; 2002: 5; 2003: 3+; 2004: 1+; 2005: 9+; [2006: 9+]. Full archive back to 1993.

Solstice: An Electronic Journal of Geography and Mathematics. 1993: 2/5+; 1994: 2/6+; 1995: 2/3+; 1996: 2/5; 1997: 2/5+; 1998: 2/5+; 1999: 2/4+; 2000: 2/7+; 2001: 2/6+; 2002: 2/9+; 2003: 2/9+; 2004: 2/12+; 2005: 2/6+; [2006: 1/3+] Full archive back to 1990.

TESL-EJ: Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language: An Electronic Journal. 1994: 2/7+; 1995: 2/6+; 1996: 2/4+; 1997: 3/7+; 1998: 2/5+; 1999: 3/6+; 2000: 2/4+; 2001: 3/6+; 2002: 4/8+; 2003: 4/12+; 2004: 4/9+; 2005: 4/20+; [2006: 2/5+]. Full archive back to 1994.

Web Journal of Current Legal Issues. 1995: 5/44+; 1996: 5/39+; 1997: 5/33+; 1998: 5/29+; 1999: 5/20+; 2000: 5/13+; 2001: 5/13+; 2002: 5/10; 2003: 5/12; 2004: 5/14; 2005: 5/11; [2006: 3/21+]. Full archive to 1995.

Is This the Universe?

Probably not. See Part II of this PERSPECTIVE.

Old Media/New Media

Books, Bookstores and Ebooks

Print books are doomed. Print books will live forever. Independent bookstores, and all physical bookstores, are doomed, and that's inherently bad for readers. Ebooks barely register as a rounding error, at \$12 million worldwide in 2005 out of \$80 billion or more in book revenue—less than one-fiftieth of one percent. Ebooks are a small but worthwhile market at \$179 million U.S. in 2004—one-half of one percent of the \$34 billion U.S. book market.

The first statement is obvious nonsense, even though you still read it from sloppy thinkers and overenthusiastic futurists. The second statement is too absolute even for my print-loving taste: Forever is a very long time. (My lifetime? Unquestionably, barring global disaster. Your lifetime? Probably. Forever? Nah...) The third statement is almost certainly false but involves a complex situation. Then there are the

last two statements—both of which may be true, even though they appear contradictory. (The two statements appeared in different form in the May 2006 *Cites & Insights*; since then, I've found reasonable explanations for the contradiction.)

EBOOKS AND ETEXT dwindled away over the past couple of years. I now believe it makes sense to look at ebooks in the broader context of book-length text publishing and access, which fits under the new OLD MEDIA/NEW MEDIA heading. What follows is a discussion of recent items I found interesting, loosely divided into the three categories in the title.

Books including Publish on Demand

Begin with Stacy Perman's May 2, 2006 *BusinessWeek Online* piece, "Small publishers book big rewards." It tells an impressive story—but one that's a little tricky. The impressive part is at the start of the tease; the tricky part follows. Impressive: "Nonmainstream presses generated \$14 billion in 2005." Tricky: "more than half of all book sales."

Impressive: a three-year-old nonprofit publisher, Archipelago Books, puts out an English translation of Elias Khoury's novel *Gate of the Sun* to considerable commercial and critical success. The number of small publishers keeps increasing. The Book Industry Study Group estimates some 63,000 "small presses" in 2005, generating \$14.2 billion in sales. The article notes the extent to which these small presses (most of which don't own a press, and thousands of which probably don't produce books until they're ordered) appeal to niche interests. The economic issues are different. It's possible to succeed with books that sell only a few hundred copies. Archipelago publishes 8 to 10 titles a year; clearly, most of those 63,000 publishers operate on a *much* smaller scale, with most probably publishing less than one book per year.

Tricky: The article says "the book world continues to struggle, focusing mainly on bestsellers to remain profitable," but that's an odd definition of "the book world," given 172,000 new editions in 2005, of which no more than a few hundred could be bestsellers. Also tricky: The stated overall book sales estimate for 2005 (from AAP) is \$23.7 billion. That one's very tricky: AAP's website shows just over \$25 billion—and the Book Industry Study Group's own report shows \$34.6 billion for 2005 U.S. book sales, of which just over \$11 billion came from "smaller" publishers (those with less than \$50 million sales). The \$23.7 billion and \$34.6 billion numbers are reconcil-

able by assuming that AAP includes only big publishers: Add \$11 billion to the first number and you get the second number.

That raises a couple of issues: \$11 billion isn't \$14 billion—and it's slightly less than a third of overall book sales, not "more than half." But it's still a lot of books by any measure. BISG estimates that 3.1 billion *books* were sold in 2005 in the U.S., or a little over ten per capita—a startling number given claims that nobody reads books anymore. (That \$34.6 billion figure is a substantial increase over 2004's \$28.6 billion, possibly partially accounted for by better reporting—but in any case it's also *lots* more than sound recording revenue and more than direct motion picture revenue.)

Death of the book

Doom-and-gloomers are always with us. *The Financial Express* picked up this May story from the *New York Times*. A Random House executive is worried "there may be a tar pit in publishing for the likes of me." Morgan Entrekin, 51-year-old founder of Grove/Atlantic, figures the publishing industry will see him into retirement, but he's not sure he'd encourage his infant son to enter the business.

Will books as we know them survive for the youngest Entrekin? Will reading serious books go the way of, say, opera—a cultural endeavour to be marginalised by *Desperate Housewives*, iPods, instant messaging, cellphones and *American Idol*? Recent research is not promising.

What research? That dreary old 2004 NEH report, *Reading at Risk*, with its narrow definition of literature and wildly exaggerated conclusion that "literary reading as a leisure activity will virtually disappear in a half century." I commented on that report, the questionable definitions involved, and the way the *Chronicle of Higher Education* manipulated statistics to make it sound even worse in *Cites & Insights* 4:10 (August 2004). As it happens, 2003 was a year in which reported book sales *did* fall slightly (about one percent)—but there were still 2.22 billion books sold. If you're keeping track, people have abandoned book reading to such an extent that 2005 book sales are a mere 3.1 billion books: 40% higher. I believe the 2.22 billion figure is suspect, likely based on AAP-style large publisher reporting; it seems highly improbable that book sales have increased 40% in two years!

Some publishers note that sales continue to rise "slightly" (in the reporter's words—the U.S. auto industry would *love* such "slight" increases as 4.4% cumulative annual growth in a mature industry). But

good old Dana Gioia of the NEA won't give up on the message: It's just price increases, not the number of books actually sold. Gioia says "The report says a lot of things in an irrefutable, statistical way," a combination of words that's *always* suspect when related to survey instruments—but Gioia simply ignores statistics showing that actual book sales, whether counted by number of books or revenue, have increased in the years since the NEA report was issued.

The rest of the story notes that ebooks don't seem to be "the answer," whereas online booksellers provide access to niche markets for niche books in a way traditional publishers and bookstores find difficult to do. Note again that NEA disregards reading unless it's *literature* as defined by NEA. The article cites multi-million-sales books that clearly qualify as literature.

I can pretty well guarantee that, when Entrekin's son reaches adulthood, "books as we know them" will be more significant than *Desperate Housewives* and *American Idol*. Have iPods marginalized books? Only if you're determined to believe they have.

Publishers released fewer books in 2005

This one's from the AP wire, dated May 9, 2006, and it's another odd one: "Faced with years of slow, and even declining sales, the publishing industry has finally responded in kind." Fewer "new books" were published in 2005 than in 2004—that is, "new books" as defined by Bowker. Gary Aiello of Bowker said publishers "were more cautious and disciplined."

How "disciplined"? 172,000 new books—that is, new ISBNs. That's almost 10% fewer than the roughly 190,000 new ISBNs assigned in 2004. A Bowker consultant suggests that publishers are concluding "the market cannot handle 200,000 books each year."

Sales aren't declining. If there were actually 172,000 new *titles* published in 2005, it would be remarkable—but there weren't. There were 172,000 ISBNs assigned. Assuming every ISBN was attached to something that actually reached the shelf (or the digital equivalent, since ebooks also get separate ISBNs), that's 172,000 *editions*—a new book issued in hardback, trade paper, mass market paper, and ebook form will count as four editions. I cited Bob Nardini's comment about the differences between ISBNs and actual titles in *Cites & Insights* 6:11, September 2006. If his correction for scholarly imprints holds true across the board, it would suggest that 172,000 ISBNs equates to about 122,000 titles—still an *enormous* range of new titles.

National Assessment of Adult Literacy

The National Center for Educational Statistics released the results of the 2003 NAAL this year. The summary and tables are available on the NAAL website. NAAL defines literacy a touch more broadly than NEA, and this broad survey (almost 20,000 adults) has been repeated over time.

The short version? Average quantitative literacy increased slightly between 1992 and 2003; average prose and document literacy was basically unchanged.

For the long version, go to the study itself. I interpret the summary as showing that nearly 60% of adults can understand all but the most elaborate English-language prose. There may not be lots of improvement (except in basic numeracy), but the handbasket's not quite headed to Hades just yet.

Ads in textbooks?

An outfit called Freeload Press wants to reduce student cost for textbooks to \$0—by putting ads in the books. Randall Stross doesn't think it will work (in a *New York Times* article) because the textbook is part of the classroom. *The itinerant librarian* (in a September 1, 2006 post) isn't so sure: Angel doesn't see a bright line between corporate-endowed chairs and loading textbooks with ads.

It's an interesting discussion. I don't have a conclusion. To the extent that Freeload is looking to do *e-textbooks*, another problem arises: "people just want to read a book rather than sit at a computer screen."

Two on PoD

Peter Wayner contributed "Technology rewrites the book" on July 20, 2006 in the *New York Times*. It's mostly a blurb for Blurb—a surprisingly expensive publish-on-demand operation—but mentions a number of related companies as well. The headline's a little silly, since PoD certainly *complements* traditional book publishing rather than "rewriting" the field. If you can predict 1,000 or more sales over the first year, it's cheaper to use traditional publishing technologies. PoD's big win is in narrow niche markets, including many "markets of one."

The story begins with Steve Mandel and his *Light in the Sky*, a book "filled with pictures he has taken of distant nebulae, star clusters and galaxies." It's a 119-page coated-paper hardcover with a dust jacket—and it costs \$37.95 a copy. Blurb provides free book templates, but charges \$30 for books of up to 40 pages and \$80 for 301-400 page books. For photography portfolios, anniversary books, and other cases where a

big handsome hardbound is needed that only a handful of people will want, that may make sense. For a text-only book, it's very much at the high end.

The article notes competitors for bound photo albums, where prices depend heavily on book size and binding (from \$4 for a 2.6x3.5" 20-page soft-bound from Apple to a \$70-and-up hardbound from Kodak). Other sources for hardbound books, especially handmade books, are also on the high end: SharedInk charges \$40 for a 20-page book.

I'm pretty sure all of the above are full-color books. Lulu, on the other hand, offers competitive pricing for more basic books. If you can put together your own PDF and don't need color, a 6x9" 150-page softcover costs \$7.53 a copy. That's a price range that makes very small run text-only books reasonable. Café Press and other PoD competitors are comparable.

The September 1 *Library Journal* has a Michael Rogers piece, "InstaBook soliciting PLs," that puts forward a very different kind of PoD with *much* lower costs—because those costs don't include online ordering, fulfillment and shipping and because the trim size is reduced a crucial half inch in each direction from the typical 6x9 trade paperback. InstaBook wants public libraries to join its "Digital libraries initiative," in association with Project Gutenberg and other public-domain sources. The idea is for the library to buy an InstaBook Maker Digital Library system—\$18,000 for libraries and nonprofit associations, about half the usual price. Then the library sets it up so patrons can download a title and print it out, costing "generally under \$1 per title."

Remember Internet Archives' asserted "\$1 book"? The Rogers story—and material on InstaBook.net—show how you get that figure. The device is seven feet long, three feet tall, 2.5 feet deep; it combines a high-speed duplexing laser printer, color printer to prepare the cover, and collating and binding functions. Text prints at 72 "book pages" per minute—that is, 18 duplexed sheets per minute. Add a minute for the cover and "17 seconds" to bind and deliver.

Here's how InstaBook estimates cost (ignoring electricity, service, and the initial cost of the unit):

- An eighth of a cent per book page for "bond paper" (assuming typical Office Depot prices of about \$25 for a 10-ream case of decent-quality acid-free paper, noting that InstaBook requires a 5.5x8.5" page, yielding four book pages per sheet of paper).

- A quarter-cent per book page for toner. That may be the most optimistic figure.
- Ten cents for the cover (mostly printing costs, and assumes 5% coverage)
- Two cents for the glue.

That adds up to \$0.75 for a 200-page book. Even if the covers are a little fancier, the average book would still cost less than \$1.

The specs exaggerate a little when they say “bond paper of the best quality”; \$2.50/ream paper is pretty much Office Depot’s cheapest, on sale. That’s still better quality than most mass-market paperbacks—as far as I know, office supply stores *only* sell reasonably bright acid-free copy paper these days. Of course, mass-market paperbacks cost a *lot* less than \$1 to produce; most of the *price* goes to intermediaries, profit, editing, distribution, author royalties, and other costs in addition to actual printing.

Assuming the cover stock stands up well and the folding-and-gluing process works well, you should wind up with a book that’s substantially better than a typical mass-market fiction paperback (typically around 4¼ x 6¾" on cheap acid-content paper), with wider margins and better paper—but not quite up to a quality trade paperback.

Does it make sense for a library to have an \$18,000 book production system? That’s an interesting question now, and may be more so in the near future. You probably won’t be able to zip out a fresh copy of this year’s best-seller—but you may be able to print up most any public domain book for a relatively small price.

Dying Booksellers?

The story itself was sad but perhaps predictable: the flagship Cody’s Books, on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, went out of business. Not Cody’s—two other stores remain, and the owner’s now been bought out by a Japanese company that believes in independent bookstores.

You’ve probably heard about it. The closure got a lot of attention, maybe even more than the (pre-vented) shutdown of Kepler’s in Menlo Park. You could point fingers at lots of villains. Or you could go way overboard, as Anneli Rufus did in an *East Bay Express* screed, “Why booksellers are going belly up,” posted at AlterNet on August 19, 2006. The story prints out at 13 pages—and “way overboard” starts with that headline, turning the closure of one bookstore into a Trend.

What killed Cody’s? Chain stores, some said. Changing times, others surmised. Cultural illiteracy. Greed. The Internet. Panhandlers. That missing parking lot. George W. Bush.

The next paragraph almost gets it right, although leaving out one major factor that no alternative paper is likely to admit: Cody’s was an unpleasant place to shop unless you were the Right Kind of Customer. Lack of parking: A problem. Chain book stores: Maybe a problem. Telegraph Avenue as an increasingly unpleasant place to shop: Definitely a problem. “Transformations in Cal’s student body...and the ebbing of radical chic.” Maybe not. Then there’s this:

Perhaps the hardest cut to endure is that books as we know them are fading, bit by bit, from ubiquity. We can no longer presume they’ll always be here. Actual books, with covers and pages and bindings and type, are increasingly artifacts, relics—old school, silverfish food, without hyperlinks. How long before that \$24.95 best-seller, bought on Amazon yesterday, is displayed in a museum alongside rotary phones, cyclamates, and bustles. That’s why the death of Cody’s hurts: For all those who used to sneak-read as children under the covers with flashlights and books, it presages our own obsolescence.

That’s nonsense—and a bit later in the article, Rufus provides data that *proves* it’s nonsense unless you’ve already chosen your message. Rufus cites retail bookstore sales figures—only about half of all book sales, but nonetheless *double* in 2005 (\$16.3 billion) what they were in 1992. Independent bookstores and small chains have an *increasing* share of the retail market. “Only 50 percent of Americans” buy at least one book a year—but that *percentage* is stable, which means the number of book buyers is increasing.

“Yet all the favorable stats in the world can’t save a sinking ship.” Some other bookstores have closed in the Bay Area as well. I love this kind of journalism: “Here are those boring numbers, but *the truth is not in them.*” Why let facts get in the way of a good story?

There’s a *lot* more in this essay, and if you read it carefully, you’ll see a key reason that Cody’s went downhill. “If Berkeley is guilty of a certain clubbishness...then Cody’s was its Kingdom Hall.” Patronize a chain store? Berkeley’s mayor says you’re “hurting this community.” Go to a mall? You’re a “faceless drone” in a “Potemkin village.” Cody’s offered “something a little deeper.” Ross went so far as to say American cities are becoming “one big Walnut Creek”—which is only a bad thing if you’re a true Berkelian.

After some legitimate history of the decline of Telegraph Avenue, Rufus gets back to the predeter-

mined Truth: “Books don’t mean what they once did.” That’s true. Books used to be relatively rare, with public library circulation and book sales both a fraction of what they are now. Andy Ross won’t blame the dangers of Telegraph: He sees a cultural shift.

Rufus decries Borders and Barnes & Noble: they “aren’t so much evil as simply aware they’re selling more than books...in effect, book-lined spas.” The last few paragraphs discuss a Walnut Creek Barnes & Noble, where a clerk “looks affronted” when told about Ross’s elitist attack on Walnut Creek. The store is popular—with lots of people *looking at books* while others use the café or relax. The store’s open until 11 p.m. The clerk says, “We get people who are absolutely obsessed with books.” People seem to like the air conditioning. How does Rufus take all this?

At first, this grates. It seems a sin after so long in Berkeley, where morality is applied to matters such as air-conditioning and what sort of coffee you serve, and where one learns to mistrust the reflex that says: *This feels good.*

“They like coming to a place,” Blumhorst [the clerk] concludes, “where they don’t have to do anything, or even look like they’re doing anything.”

Is this doomsday?

Huh? Rufus told us in the story’s title that this is doomsday—but it doesn’t ring true.

Cody’s was a Serious Bookstore for Serious Bookbuyers, and some of us found it unpleasant even back in the 1960s and 1970s. I used to *love* Telegraph back in the day, but I never much cared for Cody’s. Give me Moe’s. Give me the Northside bookstore whose name I’ve forgotten (and which is probably long gone). Give me the campus bookstore, for that matter. Cody’s? Maybe, in a pinch. If I’d heard a little more of Andy Ross’ thinking...maybe not.

Wendy at *The misadventures of SuperLibrarian* posted “There went my blood pressure” on August 17, 2006—not about Cody’s, but about another problem with some independent bookstores. The case was a small bookstore in Austin, catering to the black community and stocking “a range of fiction, history and children’s titles, but no African-American romance novels.” Why? The director: “I want the community to read, but we have to be real picky on what we as a people read.” As Wendy says, “OK, this shit just pisses me off.” She goes on to say why. “Basically you want to force-feed people not what **they** want to read, but what **you think** they should be reading.” There’s more, to be sure—and she extends this to “librarians

who feel the need to ‘educate’ or ‘better’ their communities.” Her response? “If they want to read Danielle Steel (lord help them), **it is not my job** to berate them or tell them “Oh no, you can’t read that trash—you must read Barbara Kingsolver.” It’s her job to show them the Steel—and to get some if there’s none there. It’s a good rant (labeled as such), worth reading.

It reminds me of an editorial in *Fantasy & Science Fiction* (I believe), years ago, in which the editor noted why she *didn’t* bemoan the death of some independent booksellers. These folks not only didn’t stock science fiction or fantasy, they wouldn’t special order the books; instead, they’d try to guide you to “good literature.” Which is a good way to go out of business.

Ebooks

We start with an April 24, 2006 press release from Paradise Publishers, a Canadian publishing firm that claims it will create “the world’s largest free e-book online database.” Nicolas Gremion of Paradise isn’t humble: “We want to be people’s source of information.” How realistic is he about ebooks as compared to print books?

“Whether its fiction, guides, how-to manuals, references, all categories, people are increasingly deciding not to leave their homes to access books anymore” says Mr. Gremion. He adds “e-books have become megapopular in the last few years, and as the trend in internet use continues to grow so shall our user base.” [*“its” in the original!*]

Why just last year, almost 1.7 million ebooks were sold, as compared to a measly 3.1 billion print books (and at least a couple billion library circulations): How mega-popular can you get?

The site calls itself “the Internet’s #1 Online source for free ebook downloads, ebook resources and ebook authors.” It claims an audience of “over 150,000 visitors each month!” The “top 10 free ebook downloads this month” start with *Create Multiple Streams of Online Income*, continue with *Parma Endorion: Essays on Middle-earth*, and go on to *Fail As Fast As Possible—And Other Contrarian Business Success Secrets*, touted as “90 Pages (\$47 value) FREE Download.” I remember seeing that business booklet in the top 10 in April as well. For a free ebook site, the site has a lot about *selling* your ebook—including this claim: “We’ll even make your book a #1 bestseller on **Amazon.com!**”

It’s hard to tell how many books are actually available, and I’m not willing to download a supposed

ebook with a .exe extension to find out what they look like—I can't imagine the circumstances under which free ebook downloads need to be direct executables! As for being the biggest...I may not be a great fan of Michael Hart, but Project Gutenberg claims that two million ebooks are downloaded each month, and I see no reason to doubt that claim. I'm guessing there are *a lot* more than 150,000 visitors each month.

What is a book? What is an e-book?

Chris Armstrong asks those questions in a June 12, 2006 post at *info NeoGnostic*, playing off discussions at if:book. It's a good compilation of definitions—e.g., UNESCO uses a lower page limit of 49 pages (clearly not applicable to some children's books) for a book, and one definition of ebooks includes any piece of etext that is "recognisably 'book-like'" *regardless of size*, as long as it's not a journal and as long as it's used on devices with screens. So short stories provided in etext form *are* ebooks despite being 1,000-10,000 words long: That's consonant with some sales figures I've seen. Armstrong's composite definition makes the screen the essential element, so as to rule out PoD and audiobooks. A good post, worth reading if you're confused about what's what.

Does the author always want to engage in a dialogue with readers?

That's Jeff Barry's question in a June 13, 2006 post at *Endless hybrids*. He cites interactivity as one of the claimed benefits of digital media—but, as he suggests, lots of authors finish a project then want to move on. Sure, many (Barry says "most") scholarly books are rarely read—but if that's true for print, "why would the number of readers of networked books be any higher?"—once such ebooks cease to be novelties?

If the author doesn't participate in a networked-book dialog, can it still be called a networked book? On the other hand, what about cases where authors "get so carried away with the ongoing discourse...that they never get around to completing another"?

Networked books—"living books"—are a small and peculiar subset of ebooks, although some futurists believe all books should become conversations. The presumption that all authors want to engage in such conversations is an odd one; Barry properly questions it.

Scott W. Palmer wrote "If:book, then what?" on August 15, 2006 in *Inside Higher Ed*. He discusses the "soul-deadening jargon" at the if:book site (self-reflexivity, mediated environments, etc.), notes the hot

if:book production (*GAM3R 7H30RY*) of a networked book, comments that responding to comments takes away from other scholarly pursuits—and questions whether that and other projects will really bring about a revolution in how scholars research, write and communicate. Palmer wonders about "transparency" in scholarship, noting the value of *not* releasing your ideas while they're still half-baked. He says technology enthusiasts "tend to exaggerate a technology's ultimate impact in transforming culture and society." And he notes the remarkable resilience of the print book as a delivery system. Palmer, who teaches at Western Illinois University, is publishing his own monograph as part of the History E-book Project; he's no Luddite, but he's also not buying into if:book's vision without reservations.

Ebooks struggling to find a niche

Michael Rogers reports on IDPF's May 24 meeting in a June 15, 2006 *Library Journal* story. Rogers says speakers at the forum "claim" ebooks are still struggling for a foothold—a claim that seems warranted based on all known statistics. Why? Amazon says "lack of content." Really? Certainly, the plethora of platforms doesn't help. (As for "lack of content," an August 17, 2006 *Washington Times* story says 50 to 60 percent of current best-sellers are available as ebooks, in the context of IDPF's Michael Bogaty complaining about the *other* 40 to 50 percent.)

William Endhoven of iRex, maker of one of the new ebook readers, says most people still don't read at length "on PCs" (that is, on screens). "Beyond three or four pages, people still print everything out." His solution is that ebooks must be *more* than books, providing added features. Martin Gerner of Mobipocket calls PDAs and BlackBerrys "endangered species," saying that smartphones will handle "everything" within the next five years or so. Elizabeth Mackey of ereader/motricity agrees—and throws in the KTD mantra: "If you're not on their screen, you're not in their world." Mackey says every electronic device should come with free ebooks.

No further comment.

Ebook accessibility

Simon Fodder posted a note from Annette Demers at *slaw.ca* on September 13, 2006: "An informal email survey of accessibility to ebook readers." It's not about "ebook readers" as you might think of them; it's about online ebook systems and whether they work well with accessibility software such as JAWS.

VitalSource probably workd well. NetLibrary has been successfully tested with JAWS and similar screen-reading software, and the site was designed for accessibility. Online Books Page varies widely because it points to different sources. Safari supports screen readers. ebrary, on the other hand, is not compatible with JAWS and similar software.

Interesting results from a quick email survey.

What Does It All Mean?

Print books are doing just fine, with way too many titles being released by tens of thousands of publishers—a few huge companies and loads of tiny ones. Publish-on-demand services and systems help make that feasible and could make book-on-demand public domain provision in public libraries a reasonable proposition. Still, despite growing sales, some are convinced that books are dying and people are becoming aliterate.

Ebooks continue to be a tiny part of the publishing business. That doesn't stop people from claiming that Kids These Days will read everything on the screen and that ebooks are "mega-popular." In some areas, ebooks *should* and could provide features print books can't—but the concept that "networked books" represent *the* future, or even a major future, of books seems both precious and improbable.

Interesting & Peculiar Products Perpendicular Drives

Sure it's jargon, but it's also a growing trend in hard disks that's now reaching the marketplace. Perpendicular magnetic recording (PMR), that is: A change from the longitudinal recording used until now. PMR packs more data into each square inch of hard disk surface (higher "areal density"), thus more data per disk for a given size.

Early examples include 40GB and 80GB 1.8" drives (the kind used in MP3 players) produced by Toshiba for use in its own Megabeat players. A product review in the May 2006 *PC World* introduces Seagate's 160GB Momentus 5400.3 drive, a 2.5" unit (designed for notebooks); it's the largest notebook drive available as of May. Test results were good: Considerably faster copying than the same-speed Seagate 120GB Momentus drive (with longitudinal recording) and slightly faster searching. As with most notebook drives and most-current-technology drives, these

come at a premium: About \$2 per gigabyte, absurdly cheap by historic standards but pricey for today's disks. The new drive also uses less energy and gives off less heat than the 120GB predecessor.

The first PMR disks in ready supply are particularly meaningful because they show that ever-increasing disk capacity continues as a remarkable phenomenon. These models run 133 gigabits per square inch, only a slight increase over the biggest desktop (3.5") drives (500GB drives with 125gbpsi in May)—but Seagate's not blowing smoke when they predict a fourfold increase in capacity over the next few years. That means two terabyte single-platter desktop drives, 1TB laptops, and 50GB drives in the tiniest MP3 players (using 1" drives) before too long. (Sure, you can get more capacity by using more platters, but that means greater thickness and increased complexity.)

The July 2006 *PC World* includes a full-page review of the Seagate Barracuda 7200.10 internal (desktop) drive: 750GB for \$590, with "class-leading performance." You can bet that \$590 will go down rapidly (that Seagate is available for less than \$400 in mid-September 2006).

Portable Video and Enforced Contemplation

Just about the most negative review I've seen recently in *PC Magazine* appears in the May 9, 2006 issue and targets the \$220 Iomega ScreenPlay—a little box (5.2" largest dimension) with a 60GB hard disk and a little remote control, designed to play video, photos and music on a TV: Basically, a portable media server.

It supports most MPEG flavors (but not, apparently, all); it lacks support for QuickTime, Real, and Windows Media video, as well as WMA and MP4 audio. There are no playlists; you scroll through all your stuff to find what you want.

That's not why I included it. What's great about this product, and doubtless yields the one-dot rating, is that it encourages you to slow down, relax, contemplate a little instead of rushing into your video. "It took me 14 minutes to boot up to a navigational screen on my TV, and then, once I got there, clicking on any of the icons resulted in a 5-minute—or longer—wait." You can do a lot of thinking in 19 minutes. Of course, your primary thought may be "Why did I buy this piece of junk?" but I encourage something closer to Zen.

Inexpensive Keyboards

I originally wrote “cheap keyboards” there, but “cheap” may be wrong. This is another in Jim Louderback’s expanded “real-world” roundups of bottom-priced peripherals. For most typists who don’t need something like the Microsoft Natural, a high-end ergonomic keyboard or a wireless unit, there are two obvious choices here. If you love surprises or think you pay lots extra for brand names, you’ll be disappointed: The two best keyboards both cost \$20 minus a single coin (\$19.99 and \$19.95) and come from the two biggest names in keyboards: Microsoft and Logitech. They’re both “media keyboards” with lots of special keys and they both work well. Logitech’s Media Keyboard accepts light keystrokes and offers good tactile feedback (but “it’s a tad mushy”), and the special keys don’t require a custom driver—although provided software does let you customize buttons. Microsoft’s Comfort Curve Keyboard 2000 offers some of the ergonomic qualities of the Natural (the keyboard’s curved in a broad arc, but not split); frequent typists might find it helpful. (The MS keyboard uses a USB port; the others use the PS/2 port.)

Holographic Storage

Here’s another one of those “real soon now” technologies that’s been real soon now for quite a few years. In the March 2001 *C&I* I suggested that we’ve been hearing the promise for a decade or so. According to *PC Magazine* (May 23, 2006), it’s “growing up”—just as we’ve also heard time and time again. InPhase Technologies demonstrated a holographic device storing 515 gigabits of data per square inch—which doesn’t mean as much as their planned disc capacity: 300GB “later this year” on a 12cm (CD-size) disc, with plans for 800GB to 1.6TB storage later.

2006 is claimed as a firm date: “We will ship such a holographic drive to manufacturers before the end of this year” says Liz Murphy of InPhase. End user price: Around \$15,000. “So it’s not cheap, but it’s getting there.” They call the design Tapestry.

Flashback: In June 2002, *PC Magazine* reported that InPhase Technologies was demonstrating Tapestry, with a product assured in 2004. The report said DVD was “at the end of its life” with holographic storage replacing “just about every application that uses other existing technologies” by 2012 to 2017. *PC* was impressed enough to illustrate the item with a tombstone inscribed “DVD...we hardly knew thee.”

Will holographic storage reach the consumer market? Probably, eventually, maybe. Does it doom other recording technologies? Think about “rust on a spinning platter,” that absurd old technology that’s been in commercial use for sixty years now. Talk about obsolete!

Cheap Steganography

Nine bucks—that’s pretty good. Storm Pro costs almost nothing and uses possibly the most effective method of hiding in plain sight: steganography. Go look it up (Wikipedia has a good article); briefly, it means conveying a secret message in such a way that nobody but the recipient recognizes that a message exists—which is different from cryptography.

Here’s a simple example: Take a picture in TIFF form. Set the least significant bit of the first byte so that it matches the first bit in the first byte of your message—at worst, you’ll introduce a nearly-invisible shift in color in one pixel of the image. Do the same thing with every other byte, until you’ve communicated the message. A 10,000-character message will fit in an 80KB image, and nobody will have a clue that there’s an embedded message.

Storm Pro uses more sophisticated methods (I suspect) and allows password encryption. You can hide data files in any media file format that maps out its data in its headers, including MP3s and JPEGs. In Storm Pro’s case the file gets a lot bigger (apparently).

Better Batteries?

The new “lifestyle” *PC Magazine* still does some things well—especially the “Real-World Testing” articles. This one (May 23, 2006) is on long-life batteries “tailor-made for electronics”: Duracell Ultra, Energizer e² Lithium, Panasonic Oxyride. Troy Dreier picked up regular alkaline AA cells—Duracell CopperTop, Energizer Max, RadioShack Enercell, IKEA store brand—and the new ones. The IKEAs don’t fit in the control group, as they’re store-brand cheapos (\$2.99 for 10) where the others are fairly high-end alkalines. Dreier ran three tests: powering a digital camera, running a portable TV, and running a heavy-duty flashlight.

He paid \$0.60 for two Ikea batteries, \$1.50 for two RadioShack, \$2 for two Energizer Max or Duracell CopperTop. Two Duracell Ultra or Panasonic Oxyride weren’t much higher at \$2.50—but a pair of Energizer e² Lithium cost \$5.

How did they do? In cameras, there’s no question: The lithium batteries lasted for 2,676 shots, as

compared to 989 for the Oxyride, 522 for the Ultra—and between 309 and 374 for the high-end alkalines. (The IKEAs pooped out at 209 pictures). That makes the most expensive batteries a bargain at 5.4 pictures per penny, with the Oxyride second at 4.0 “pix per penny” and, oddly, the IKEA third at 3.5 (but you’ll change batteries a lot more often, which is not environmentally sound).

Don’t use lithium batteries in a portable TV, though. Sure, they last longer (6 hours 15 minutes, compared to a low of 3:40 for the Oxyride), but that still makes them more than twice as expensive per hour as even the Duracell Ultra, and *ten times* as expensive per hour as the IKEA (which did well in this test). And don’t waste high-end batteries on a flashlight: Not only is it wasteful, but in this test they burned the bulb out (apparently they’re slightly high voltage?). So, where the IKEAs lasted 4:04 hours (\$0.15 per hour) and the CopperTops lasted 5:45 (\$0.36 per hour), the Duracell Ultras only lasted eight minutes before blowing the bulb.

“The lesson is simple: Buy the right battery for the job.” Special long-life batteries are great for cameras but wrong for some other uses.

Worst Tech Products

In conjunction with this year’s “world class” winners, *PC World* editors chose the “25 worst tech products” since *PC World* began (24 years ago). These are all products that made it to market; as Dan Tynan’s writeup (you can find it at www.pcworld.com) notes, “most truly awful ideas never make it out of somebody’s garage.”

In first place, with that ranking emphasized by this year’s confidentiality bomb, is AOL.—for a whole range of reasons discussed in the writeup. I don’t know enough about RealNetworks’ RealPlayer to comment on its #2 rating, but Synchronys SoftRAM surely deserves its spot among the top five—a \$30 piece of software that didn’t do much of anything. Rounding out the top or bottom five: Windows ME and Sony BMG’s pseudo-CDs.

I won’t list all 25, supplemented by ten (dis)honorable mentions. Some personal favorites include PointCast. CueCat, OQO Model 1, DigiScents iSmell, and of course Circuit City’s DivX disposable DVDs. The biggies don’t escape unscathed. In addition to Windows ME, Microsoft gets nicked for Bob, IE6 and WebTV; Apple earns reverse kudos for the Pippin @World, the 1989 Macintosh “portable” (16

pounds), the Puck Mouse, and the 20th Anniversary Macintosh; and don’t forget IBM’s PCjr (“an orphan almost from the start”).”

Open Access Perspective, Part II

Pioneer OA Journals: Preliminary Additions from DOAJ

Part I of this PERSPECTIVE updates an investigation based on ARL’s 1995 directory. Did that directory cover the known universe? Certainly not—maybe not even close. I don’t know of any sure way to find all other ejournals that began before 1996 and ceased before 2006, or of any way to develop a comprehensive list of OA as of 1995—but it is possible to locate open-access scholarly journals that claim a pre-1996 start date and still publish: *DOAJ*, the *Directory of Open Access Journals*.

Checking during the first two weeks of September, I found 189 additional journals in *DOAJ* with dates of 1995 or earlier. I list those journals below—but it’s not as simple as saying “229 scholarly journals started providing open access by 1995 and are still publishing.” That would be wonderful, but I’m nearly certain it’s not true:

- Some of these journals don’t offer full OA: They retain copyright restrictions that restrict downloading and copying articles.
- Some don’t have full-text archives dating back to 1995.
- Some have full-text archives dating back to 1995 or before, but began offering online access in 1996 or later (some as recently as 2005), and say so on the website.
- Some have strong indications on the website that OA began in 1996 or later—for example, earlier articles are PDFs that are clearly scanned copies of print articles. I would guess most SCIELO journals fall into this category, since SCIELO apparently began operations in 1998.
- Quite a few are indeterminate: I couldn’t conclude whether they were actually available online in 1995.

Several of these began long before 1995 as print journals; that’s also true of a few of the journals in Part I. A print journal that started providing online free ac-

cess in 1995 is still a pioneer in OA, even if it's not technically a pioneer ejournal.

The list that follows includes all 189 journals. I provide some details, including country of publication for most journals not published in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, or Australia. At the end of each description is my bracketed conclusion or opinion as to whether or not the journal was online and OA by the end of 1995, as follows:

- [Not OA]: This journal doesn't qualify as open access even by my loose definition, or at least didn't in 1995.
- [-]: I'm reasonably certain that this journal was *not* available in full-text form online prior to 1996, either because the website says so or based on internal evidence. I could be wrong.
- [+]: I'm reasonably certain that this is a pioneer—that articles *were* available in full-text form online by the end of 1995. I usually offer more detail on publication patterns for these cases.
- [?]: Unclear based on the evidence of the website, or because I couldn't reach or navigate the website.

This is a *preliminary* list. I welcome email (waltcrawford@gmail.com) from sources who can verify that a journal did (or did not) begin full-text open access in 1995 or earlier. I'll run clarifications and corrections on *Walt at Random* and as a followup in a future issue. If there are enough clarifications, I'll redo this list.

I also checked *NewJour* archives for these titles, but only on a positive basis—if an ejournal that was questionable, not findable, or appeared to have started online life later than 1995 was cited in a *NewJour* posting from 1995 or before, I accept that citation as sufficient evidence. I have *not* used *NewJour* as negative evidence: There are several reasons why a journal with OA access in 1995 doesn't have a 1995-or-earlier *NewJour* posting to that effect.

"Claims" dates are from *DOAJ*. "Founded" dates are from website information or by subtracting years based on the first online volume number.

A-B

Abstract and Applied Analysis. Claims 1995, but actually began in 1996. [-]

Acimed. Founded 1993. Cuba. 1993-1996 and 1998-2000: 3/yr; 1997, 2001: 4/yr; 2002-2004: 6/yr; 2005: 5. Typically 2-6 articles and other features in each issue. Full archive back to 1993. [+]

Across the Disciplines. Claims 1994. Actually founded 2004 as a merger between two earlier journals, one founded 2000, one founded 1994 (see *Language and Learning Across the Disciplines*). [-]

Acta Biológica Paranaense. Brazil. Founded 1972. One issue per year, substantial number of articles. Full archives back to 1972. [?]

Acta geographica Slovenica. Slovenia. Founded 1961. 1995-2002: one issue per year, 3-5 articles (8 in 2001); 2003-2005: 2 issues/year, 8-9 articles. OA archives back to 1995. [?]

Acta Mathematica Universitatis Comenianae. Slovak Republic. Founded 1931. Two issues per year, 12-14 articles per issue in samples checked. OA archives back to 1991. [?]

Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica. China. Founded 1951. 2-4 issues per year, 1951-1976; 4 issues per year, 1976-1983; six issues per year since 1984; each issue has quite a few articles. Full archives back to 1951. [?]

Aestimum. Italy. Founded 1977. 2 issues per year. Not fully Open Access: allows online "previews" after clumsy registration, using tricky page preview applet. Charges for downloads. [Not OA]

African Population Studies. OA since 1994 (some volumes). 117 articles in 14 issues (varying frequency) between 1994 and 2005; none 1998-2001. OA archive back to 1994. [+]

Agroalimentaria (Caracas). Venezuela. Founded 1995. 22 issues since 1995, typically 6-10 articles per issue plus reviews, etc. Full archive back to 1995. [+]

Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin. Became 2x/year journal in 1994, OA since 1995. Substantial number of articles organized by topic rather than strict chronology. OA archive back to 1995. [+]

Anales de Psicología. Spain. *DOAJ* says 1990. Print journal began 1984, OA only back to 1999 (and requires registration). [-]

The Annual of Urdu Studies. Founded 1981. Site indicates that online availability began 2001. 21 volumes in 26 years (including every year since 1991) with substantial mix of articles, fiction and other features. OA archive back to 1981. [-]

Antepodium. Founded 1995. No apparent issues or chronological archive. Sixteen articles between 1995 and 2002, with nothing newer. [+]

Anthropoetics, The Journal of Generative Anthropology. Founded 1995, apparently OA from the beginning. Twice a year since spring/summer 1995; usually four articles per issue. Full archive back to 1995. [+]

Anuário do Instituto de Geociências. Brazil. Founded 1977. Annual until 2004, now two issues per year. Substantial number of articles. OA archive back to 1977. [?]

- Apeiron: studies in infinite nature*. Founded 1987. Growing but slightly erratic publication pattern 1987-2000 (two to four issues per year), quarterly since 2001. Extensive content. OA archive back to 1987. [?]
- Archivum Mathematicum*. Founded 1965? *NewJour* indicates OA as of 1995. Quarterly, many articles in each issue. Archive (in .ps format) back to 1992. [+]
- Arte, Individuo y Sociedad*. Spain. Founded 1988 in print. Annual, with quite a few articles per issue (around 120 articles to date). Archive back to 1988, some PDFs are scanned copies of print pages. [?]
- Atlantis*. Spain. Founded 1979. Twice a year, regularly; hundreds of articles and features. Full archive back to 1979. [?]
- Atmosfera*. Mexico. Founded 1988. Quarterly. Typically four articles per issue. Full archive back to 1988. [?]
- Australian Prescriber*. Founded 1975. Apparently online since 1994. Quarterly 1994-1998; six issues per year since 1999. Relatively few formal articles, many drug reviews and other features. Archive back to 1994. [+]
- Bilingual Research Journal*. Founded 1977? Internal evidence suggests online either 1992 or 1997. 1992: 2/14; 1993: 2/14; 1994: 2/13; 1995: 3/37; 1996: 3/24; 1997: 3/19; 1998: 2/16; 1999: 3/24; 2000: 3/26; 2001: 3/27; 2002: 3/35; 2003: 3/24; 2004: 3/20; 2005: 3/35; [2006: 1/11]. Archive back to 1992. [+]
- Biodiversity Science*. China. Founded 1993, apparently OA from the start. 1993: 1/18; 1994: 5/61; 1995: 5/62; 1996: 5/52; 1997: 4/57; 1998: 4/49; 1999: 4/56; 2000: 4/64; 2001: 4/72; 2002: 4/61; 2003: 6/69; 2004: 6/79; 2005: 6/66; [2006: 4/44]. Full archive back to 1993. [+]
- Bioscene*. Founded 1975. Six-month embargo before online availability. [Not OA]
- Biotechnology and Development Monitor*. Netherlands. Magazine, not journal; most articles paid contributions, not apparently refereed. Online without copyright from 1994 to 2003. Ceased, replaced by new subscription periodical with different name. [Not OA]
- C-E**
- CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*. Founded 1960? HTML access beginning 2001. Six issues per year, several refereed articles and substantial additional content per issue. Very high impact factor. OA archive back to 1990. [-]
- Cadernos de Saúde Pública*. Brazil. Founded 1985. HTML since 2001. Quarterly 1985-2000, six issues/year 2001-2005, monthly 2006. Sampled issues have 10-30 articles each, plus other material: Clearly strong and growing. Full archive back to 1990. [?]
- Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*. Founded 1984. Two issues/year; typically 20 to 36 articles per year through 2000, with as many as 52 articles per year since. Full archive back to 1984. [?]
- Canadian Journal of Surgery*. Claims 1994. Founded 1957? Online access to full text of articles did not begin until 2000; 1994-1999 archive not full text. [-]
- Cancer Control*. Founded 1994, online access beginning 1995 (free in both print and online form). Typically six issues per year, substantial number of articles in sampled issues. OA archive back to 1995. [+]
- The Cato Journal*. Founded 1981. Three issues per year, substantial number of articles per issue. Full archive back to 1981. [?]
- Cervantes*. Founded 1981. Typically two issues per year, substantial content (four to six articles, plus many reviews and theme articles). Full archive back to 1981. [?]
- Chinese Journal of Physics*. Taiwan. Founded 1963. two issues per year 1963-1975, four per year 1976-1987, variable (typically six+) since 1988. Significant number of refereed articles and other content in each issue. Full archive back to 1963. [?]
- Chronic Diseases in Canada*. Founded 1980?. Online material begins 1995. Quarterly, several articles and other material in each issue. OA archive back to 1995. [+]
- CIC Cuadernos de Información y Comunicación*. Spain. Founded 1995. Quarterly. 118 articles published to date. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Ciência Florestal*. Brazil. Founded 1991. Annual 1991-1998, 2x/year 1999-2004, quarterly 1995-present. Dozens of articles in sampled issues. Full archive back to 1991. [?]
- College Quarterly*. DOAJ says 1993, but did not shift to online publication until 1997. [-]
- Colombia Médica*. Colombia. DOAJ says 1994. Founded 1970. Back-issue access does not work (yields empty-result Google search!); impossible to verify. [?]
- Compendium. Revista de Investigación Científica*. Venezuela. 1995. Full text not available until 2000. [-]
- Computers in Higher Education Economics Review (CHEER)*. Founded 1989. Online since 1995 (some earlier articles available). 3x/year 1995-6, 2x/year 1997-2000, annual 2002, 2004, 2005. 82 papers (and other material) since 1995. OA archive back to 1995. [+]
- Condensed Matter Physics*. Ukraine. Founded 1993. 2x/year 1993-1996, quarterly since 1997; sample issues show 6-12 articles per issue in early years, 15-24 in recent years. Full archive back to 1993. [?]
- Crosstalk, the Journal of Defense Software Engineering*. Founded 1994. Monthly, with handful of articles in each issue and extensive other content. Full archive back to 1994. [+]
- Current Research in Social Psychology (CRISP)*. Founded 1995 (originally plain ASCII). One issue per article; over 140 articles to date. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Current Science*. India. Founded 1932. Does not appear to have gone online until 1999, although all back issues

- have been scanned and are available. (Monthly, with enormous content.) [-]
- D-Lib Magazine*. Founded 1995. Great stuff, but a magazine, not a journal: Solicited articles. [Not OA]
- Dermatology Online Journal*. Founded 1995. 28 issues since 1995, handful of original articles and other content in each issue. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Didáctica (Lengua y Literatura)*. Spain. Founded 1989. Annual: 17 issues and 118 articles to date. Full archive back to 1989. [?]
- Divulgaciones Matemáticas*. Founded 1993. Not fully available online until 1996. [-]
- e-Journal of Instructional Science and Technology*. Founded 1995 (without the “e-”). Published somewhat erratically, with twelve issues between 1995 and 2005, totaling 66 papers and “current practice papers.” Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Early Pregnancy: Biological and Medical*. Claims 1995, but no full text found before 2000 or after early 2003. [-]
- Ecología Austral*. Argentina. Founded 1991. 2x/year since 1991, appears to have 20-30 articles per year? Full archive back to 1991. [?]
- Edutec: Revista Electrónica de Tecnología Educativa*. Spain. Founded 1995. 20 issues containing 64 articles since 1995. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- E.I.A.L., Estudios Interdisciplinarios de America Latina y el Caribe*. Spanish (Israel?) Founded 1990. 2x/year since 1990. Varying but substantial number of articles and other content. Full archive back to 1990. [?]
- Electronic Journal of Information Technology in Construction*. Founded 1995 but published first article (of 177 to date) in 1996. [-]
- Electronic Journal of Radical Organization Theory*. Founded 1995. 13 issues with 44 papers (plus other content) between 1995 and 2005. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Electronic Journal of Vedic Studies*. Founded 1995. 35 issues and 37 papers (plus other contents) between 1995 and 2006. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Electronic Research Announcements of the American Mathematical Society*. Founded 1995. 3x/year 1995-1996, “volumes” since 1997 (articles posted as accepted). Significant quantity of articles, 10-30 in sampled volumes. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Elore*. Finland. Founded 1994. 2x/year since 1995. Clearly growing, with a few articles in each issue, more (perhaps 10+) in recent years. Full archive back to 1994. [+]
- Environmental Health Perspectives*. Founded 1993 as a monthly refereed-research publication (1972-1993 as proceedings). Several articles (and other content) per issue. Full archive back to 1972. [+]
- Erfurt Electronic Studies in English*. Germany. Founded 1995. Annual, 106 papers to date. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Especulo. Revista de Estudios Literarios*. Spain. Founded 1995. 33 issues to date, with growing number of papers (e.g., 5 in #2, 9 in #8, 23 in #11, 27 in #15, 35 in #19, 60 in #24, 78 in #29). Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- ETRI Journal*. South Korea. Founded 1978? First PDF (as opposed to scan) availability) 1994. Quarterly, typically four to ten papers per issue (and other content). OA archive back to 1993. [+]
- Eubios Journal of Asian and International Bioethics (EJAIB)*. Thailand. Founded 1990. Electronic access starting 1995. Six issues per year, substantial number of papers per issue. OA archive back to 1995. [+]
- Eurosurveillance*. Appears to be reporting rather than journal papers, at least in 1995. [-]
- Experimental Animals*. Japan. Founded 1952? Online archives begin 1995. Quarterly, typically 4 to 10 papers in each sampled issue. OA archive back to 1995. [+]

F-I

- Financial Counseling and Planning*. Founded 1990. Annual 1990-1996, 2x/year since. 7-12 papers per year 1990-1994, 13-18 since. Full archive back to 1990. [?]
- Fizika B*. Croatia. Full online access began in 1998. [-]
- Florida Entomologist*. Founded 1917. Online since 1994. Quarterly, appears to be >100 papers per year. OA access back to 1994. [+]
- Future of Children*. Founded 1991. 35 issues to date, substantial number of papers per issue. Solicited articles; refereed status unclear. Full archive back to 1991. [+]
- Gazeta de Antropología*. Spain. Founded 1982. Offered by year; 6-11 papers per year in 1980s (missing some years), 11-17 in 1990s, 21-40 per year in recent years. Full archive back to 1982. [?]
- General and Applied Plant Physiology*. Bulgaria. (Formerly *The Bulgarian Journal of Plant Physiology*.) Founded 1974? Online from 1995. Typically 10-20 papers per year. OA archive back to 1995. [+]
- Genes and Genetic Systems*. Japan. DOAJ says 1995, but online access began 1996 (digitized back to 1989). [-]
- Geofizika*. Croatia. DOAJ says 1989. Abstracts back to 1984; PDF for all articles 1986-7 and 1989-present. Typically 6-10 papers per year through 1992, 4-7 per year (or two-year period) since. OA archive back to 1989. [?]
- IBM Journal of Research and Development*. Founded 1957. Quarterly 1957-1964, 6x/year 1965-present, typically a dozen or more papers per issue. Full archive back to 1957. [+]

IBM Systems Journal. Founded 1962. Quarterly since 1964 (with some combined issues); sampled issues typically include 10-12 papers. Full archive back to 1962. [+]

Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology. India. Founded 1940. DOAJ indicates 1995 for online access. 6x/year, appears to have more than a hundred papers per year. OA archive back to 1990 (abstracts back to 1961). [+]

Information Bulletin on Variable Stars. Hungary. Founded 1961. Web access since 1994. One issue per paper; 1,624 papers since 1994. Full archive back to 1961 (5,724 papers in all), with OCR-based HTML for scanned papers prior to 1994. [+]

Information Research: an electronic journal. 1995. Quarterly, four to 10 or more papers per issue. Full archive back to 1995. [+]

Interciencia. Venezuela. Founded 1976? Online since 1993?. 6x/year 1993-1999, 9x/2000, monthly 2001-2006. Prolific with substantial growth; more than a dozen papers and reports in recent sampled issues. OA archive back to 1993. [+]

Interdisciplinary Information Sciences. Japan. 1995. Twice yearly (most years), est. 10-20 papers per year. Full archive back to 1995. [+]

International Family Planning Perspectives. Founded 1975. Online since 1995. Quarterly. Sampled issues have 4-6 papers per issue. OA archive back to 1995. [+]

International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food. New Zealand. 1991. 13 volumes and 83 papers (plus substantial other content) since 1991. Full archives back to 1991. [+]

International Journal of Speleology. Italy. DOAJ shows 1964, but link doesn't work. Unable to find live website via Google. [?]

Interstat. 1995. Issued whenever one or more papers are accepted in a month. Distinctly *not* "arc of enthusiasm": 11 papers 1995-6, 8 to 9 each year 1997-2000, but 20 to 26 each year 2000-2004; after a dip to 18 in 2005, 27 have been published in 2006 through August. Full archive back to 1995. [+]

Investigaciones Geográficas. Spain. Founded 1983. Online access may have begun 1995. 38 issues, typically six to ten papers (and other content) per issue. Full archive back to 1983. [+]

Iranian Polymer Journal. Iran. 1992. Classic long-term spurt-growth case: 1992: 2/14; 1993: 2/16; 1994: 2/17; 1995: 4/36; 1996: 4/34; 1997: 4/30; 1998: 4/32; 1999: 4/31; 2000: 4/31; 2001: 6/45; 2002: 6/39; 2003: 6/56; 2004: 6/57; 2005: 12/113; [2006: 6/53]. Full archives back to 1992. [+]

Irish Medical Journal. Ireland. Founded 1867 (different title). DOAJ shows 1983, but may be online since 2000

(based on site evidence). 542 papers in contemporary archive (2000-2006), scanned print back to 1980. [-]

J-L

Japanese Journal of American Studies. Japan. 1981. 17 issues in 25 years, 4-8 papers in each of first 10 issues, 6-13 in more recent issues. *Partial* archive back to 1981. [?]

Japanese Journal of Religious Studies. 1974 (with this title). 744 items (including papers but also book reviews and editorials) since 1974. Full (if difficult) archive back to 1974. [?]

Journal of Applied Mathematics and Stochastic Analysis. India. Hindawi publication, OA access much more recent than 1995. [-]

Journal of Chemical Engineering of Japan. Japan. Founded 1968. DOAJ says 1992, site suggests 1989. Six/year 1989-2000, monthly 2001-, dozen or more papers in each sampled issue. Full archive back to 1968. [+]

Journal of Chemical Sciences. India. DOAJ shows 1977, but back issues only to 2000. [-]

Journal of Culture Collections. 1995. Bulgaria. Four issues between 1995 and 2005, total of 45 papers. OA archive back to 1995. [+]

Journal of Distance Education. 1986 (came online at later date). 32 issues 1986-2004; sampled issues have 4 to 8 papers each. Full archive back to 1986. [?]

Journal of Earth System Science (formerly *Proceedings of the Indian Academy of Sciences: Earth and Planetary Sciences*). India. Founded 1934. Some internal evidence suggests OA as of 2000. Currently 6x/year, with significant number of papers in each issue (six or more in sampled issues). OA archive back to 1978. [?]

Journal of Electronic Publishing. Founded 1995. Two issues in 1995, one in 1996, two in 1997, 4 each 1998-2000, 3 in 2001, 1 in 2002. Restarted 1996: two to date. Typically 6 to 8 (or more) papers and invited articles in each issue. Archive split between two sites: 1995-2002 and 2006-. [+]

Journal of Equine Science. Japan. Founded 1989. Apparently online since 1995. Quarterly, with 2-4 papers in sampled issues. OA archive back to 1995. [+]

Journal of Korean Medical Science. Korea. Founded 1986. Currently 6x/year. Hundreds of articles. Full archive back to 1986. [?]

Journal of Nonlinear Mathematical Physics. Sweden. Founded 1994. Quarterly (plus supplements), typically 5 to 10 papers in sampled issues. Full archive back to 1994. [+]

Journal of Physical Therapy Science. Japan. Founded 1989? Apparently online since 1995. Twice a year, with eight to twelve papers in sampled issues. OA archive back to 1995. [+]

Journal of Plasma and Fusion Research. Japan. Founded 1984 (and DOAJ indicates 1984). Online access apparently did not begin until 1999. [-]

Journal of Political Ecology: Case Studies in History and Society. Founded 1994. Anywhere from 2 to 8 issues per year, with 3-4 papers per year (perhaps more in some years), plus many book reviews: Most issues consist entirely of book reviews. Full archive back to 1994. [+]

Journal of Postgraduate Medicine. India. Founded 1955? DOAJ shows 1980 (v. 26). Quarterly, with varying but substantial number of papers in each sampled issue. OA back to 1980. [?]

Journal of Reproduction and Development. Japan. Founded 1955? Online from 1995. 4x/year 1995-1998, 6x/year, 1999-, 10-12 papers per sampled issue (and other material). OA archive back to 1995. [+]

Journal of Research in Rural Education. 1982, became open access in 2004. [-]

Journal of Research of NIST. Founded 1905? Online since 1995. 6x/year, 4-10 papers in sampled issues, including conference reports. OA archive back to 1995, with growing pre-1995 archive. [+]

Journal of Seventeenth-Century Music. Founded 1995. Annual (with extra issues), 39 papers to date, plus many reviews. Full archive back to 1995. [+]

Journal of the Korean Chemical Society. Korea. Founded 1949. Irregular early years, 6x/year 1971-1992 and 1997-present, 12x/year 1993-1996; sample issues showed anywhere from 7 to 20 items (presumably papers; mostly in Korean). Full archive back to 1949. [?]

The Journal of Venomous Animals and Toxins. Brazil. 1995 (originally diskette; online in 1998.). Adding "including Tropical Diseases" to title. 2x/year, none since 2002. Typically 16-22 papers and theses per year, plus conference papers. Full archive back to 1995.[+, allowing diskette as "online"]

Korean Journal of Medical History. Korea. Founded 1992. Online appears to date from 1994. 2x/year; 7-16 papers per year. Full archives back to 1992. [+]

Korean Journal of Parasitology. Korea. Founded 1963. 2x/year 1964-1987, 4x/year since. Issues sampled show 6 to 15 papers per issue. Full archives back to 1963. [?]

Language and Learning Across the Disciplines. Founded 1994, merged to form new journal in 2004. 1994: 2/8; 1995: 1/5; 1997: 2/13; 1998: 2/13; 1999: 1/9; 2000: 4/16; 2001: 2/8; 2002: 1/8; 2003: 3/18. Full archive back to 1994. [+]

Liber Annuus. Israel. Founded 1951. Annual. Substantial number of papers per volume (dozens). OA archive back to 1991; abstracts back to 1951. [?]

Livestock Research for Rural Development. Colombia and Vietnam. Founded 1989 in diskette form. 30 papers/year in early years, growing since 1996: More than

100 papers/year in past three years. Full archives back to 1989. [+]

M-N

Mappemonde. France. Founded 1990. Became *Mapp@monde* in 2004 (separate linked site). 4x/year, typically 8 to 15 papers per issue (more in earlier years). Full archive back to 1990. [?]

Marine Ornithology. Canada. Founded 1976 as *Cormorant*. Online since 1988?. 2x/year, 10-14 papers in sampled issues. OA archive back to 1988. [+]

Marine Turtle Newsletter. Founded 1976. Online 1995?. 113 issues since 1976, small number of papers in each issue. Full archive back to 1976. [+]

Matematicki Vesnik. Serbia. DOAJ says 1993, but online files were posted beginning 1999. [-]

Mathematical Physics Electronic Journal. Spain. Founded 1995 as ejournal: emailed ASCII abstracts, then PS and/or PDF papers. 66 papers since 1995. Full archive back to 1995. [+]

Mathematical Problems in Engineering. India. 1995. Hindawi; converted to OA recently. [-]

The Mathematics Educator. 1990. (DOAJ link not operational; found via Google.) 2x/year; sample issues have 4-6 papers each. Full archive back to 1990. [?]

McGill Journal of Medicine. 1994. 2x/year, small number of papers (2-4 per issue?) plus other content. Full archive back to 1994. [?]

Mediators of Inflammation. India. 1992. Hindawi; converted to OA recently. [-]

Medical History. Founded 1957. Quarterly, typically half a dozen papers (and other content) in each sampled issue. Full archive back to 1957. [?]

Medicina Legal de Costa Rica. Costa Rica. Online since 1995? 15 issues since 1995, sampled issues have 8-15 papers each. OA archive back to 1995. [+]

Le Médiéviste et l'ordinateur. France. 1990. Clumsy menu for apparent archives from 1990 to 2003 (no recent content); online content range not clear. [?]

MedULA. Venezuela. 1992. Quarterly in 1992, either one or two actual issues each year since. Apparently very brief papers; typical annual compilations sampled are 40 to 60 pages total. Full archive back to 1992. [?]

Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review. Founded 1994. 15 issues, typically 3 to 5 papers per issue. Full archive back to 1994. [+]

Missouri Journal of Mathematical Sciences. 1988. DOAJ link fails, but *NewJour* shows very early OA. 3x/year, half a dozen papers per issue. Full archive back to 1988. [+]

MMWR (Three titles in DOAJ). Available back to 1983, but appears to be primarily reports, not papers as such.

- “Recommendations and Reports” archived back to 1990, samples show 14-16 reports per year. [-]
- Molecular Vision*. Founded 1995. 1995: 4; 1996: 11; 1997: 18; 1998: 33; 1999: 41; 2000: 37; 2001: 43; 2002: 59; 2003: 90; 2004: 122; 2005: 142; [2006: 118] Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Monthly Labor Review*. Founded 1915. Monthly, with three to six articles (and other material) in sampled issues. OA archive back to 1981. [?]
- New England Law Review*. Founded 1965. OA 1995. 4x/year, substantial number of papers in each issue. Note: Small black-on-dark-blue type for archives and other links are so hard to read and recognize as links that I initially marked this as “apparently not OA,” since on less than a big, bright LCD display, there are literally no visible links to full text. [+]
- New South Wales Public Health Bulletin*. Founded 1990. Typically six to 12 issues per year, two to four brief articles in sampled issues. OA archive back to 1990. [?]
- Nonlinear Processes in Geophysics*. Founded 1994. Two to four actual issues (four numbered issues) per year 1994/2000, with 20 to 29 papers per year; four to six actual issues per year since 2001, growing steadily from 37 papers in 2001 to 89 in 2005 (43 in first half of 2006). Full archive back to 1994. [+]
- Notices of the American Mathematical Society*. 1995. 11x/year, with two or three articles (and other content) in each issue; calls itself magazine, not journal. OA archive back to 1995. [+]
- Nucleic Acids Research*. Founded 1974. OA began no earlier than 1996 (earlier articles now available via PubMed Central). [-]
- Nueva Sociedad*. Argentina. Founded 1972. Full-text online begins with the November/December 1995 issue. 64 issues since November 1995, with substantial number of papers in each sampled issue. OA archive back to late 1995, with contents/abstracts back to 1972. [+]
- Nutrition Bytes*. Founded 1995: papers by first-year medical students at UCLA. 2x/year, 4-8 papers/issue. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- P-R**
- Papeles del Psicólogo*. Spain. Founded 1981. 95 issues since 1981, six to twelve or more papers in sampled issues. Full archive back to 1981. [?]
- Papers on Social Representations*. Austria. DOAJ says 1992 but site indicates online access began in 1999. [-]
- Park Science*. Founded 1980. Site evidence suggests online (ASCII) availability began 1991. Typically quarterly to 1996, one or two issues per year to 2004, nothing since “Winter 2004/05.” Popularized articles, varying, typically large handful in each issue. Current status unclear. Full archive back to 1980. [+]
- Polar Bioscience*. Japan. Founded (under different name) 1987. Annual (missing 1988); anywhere from ten to 30 or more papers per year. Full archive back to 1987. [?]
- Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation*. Founded 1988. Did not go online until 1999. [-]
- Pramana: Journal of Physics*. India. Founded 1973. Internal evidence suggests online availability began early 1999. Currently monthly, with quite a few articles per issue. Archive (page viewer prior to 1999) back to 1973. [-]
- Publications de l'Institut Mathématique (Beograd)*. Serbia. Founded 1963 or earlier. Web publication dates indicate online version dates from 2001. [-]
- Publications of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade. Series Mathematics*. Serbia. Founded 1956 with different title. Current English-language journal began 1990, but was not online until 2005. [-]
- The Qualitative Report*. Founded 1990, online “a couple of years later.” Erratic with a few papers each year until 2000, more regular and more papers since (137 between 2002 and 2006). Full archive back to 1990. [+]
- The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. Singapore. Founded 1928 (different title); 1988 with current title, but not online until 2005. [-]
- Research and Practice in Human Resource Management*. Founded 1993. Online since 2005. [-]
- Review of Biblical Literature*. DOAJ says 1970, but first accessible reviews date from 1998. (Only online as review database.) [-]
- Revista Argentina de Cardiología*. Argentina. Founded 1932? DOAJ says 1993, and site shows articles back to 1993, but in scanned-PDF form through 2000. Typically 6x/year, substantial number of papers in each issue. OA back to 1993. [?]
- Revista Cubana de Enfermería*. Cuba. DOAJ shows 1995. Scielo and Google links return empty pages, either initially or from overall contents list. (Note: Same conditions apply for 7 other journals with titles beginning “Revista Cubana” and DOAJ dates of 1995.) [?]
- Revista de la Educación Superior*. Mexico. Founded 1972. 138 issues to date, substantial number of papers in sampled issues. Full archive back to 1972. [?]
- Revista de Saúde Pública*. Brazil. Founded 1967. DOAJ shows 1992. Distinctly non-OA: “Any reproduction of material, even partial, is forbidden without the authorization of the Scientific editor.” [Not OA]
- Revista Electrónica de Investigación y Evaluación Educativa (RELIEVE)*. Spain. Founded 1995. Just over 100 papers to date. Full archive back to 1995. [+]
- Revista Médica del Hospital Nacional de Niños Dr. Carlos Sáenz Herrera*. Costa Rica. Founded 1966? Typically 6-12 papers in each sampled year; more in 2004; none since 2004. OA archive back to 1995. [?]

Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Geológicas. Mexico. Founded 1975 (title varies). Internal evidence suggests online since 2000 (all earlier articles appear as scanned PDFs). Two or three issues per year; each recent sampled issue has substantial number of articles. Limited OA (equivalent to Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license). Full archive back to 1975. [-]

Richmond Journal of Law and Technology. Founded 1995. Articles, comments and speeches (some issues also have transcripts): 1995: 1/5; 1996: ¼; 1997: 3/16; 1998: 3/13; 1999: 5/25; 2000: 3/19; 2001: 4/13; 2002: 3/12; 2003: 1/5; 2004: 5/32; 2005: 4/15. [Note: some issues have two years; first year used.] Full archive back to 1995, although some speeches and articles have yet to appear online. [+]

S-Y

Sankhya, the Indian Journal of Statistics. Founded 1933. DOAJ says 1993. Appears to be scanned papers (6 issues/year, varied number of papers in sample issues) 1993/2002, evidence suggests online as of 2003. 2003: 4/51+, 2004: 4/45+; 2005: 4/38+; [2006: 1/7+]. OA archive back to 1993, tables of contents back to 1933. [-]

Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems. Scandinavia (multinational). Founded 1989. Full archive back to 1989. While site seems to indicate online availability as of 2004, there's a *NewJour* notice from 1995. [+]

Séminaire Lotharingien de Combinatoire. Austria. Founded 1980 (first papers in 1981), online as of 1994. 24 issues (some not yet complete) with 197 papers between 1994 and now. OA archive back to 1994. [+]

Solaris Information Communication. France. Founded 1994. 1994: 11; 1995: 9; 1996: 4 original?; 1997: 12?; 1998: 8; 1999: 9; 2000/01: 10. Nothing since 2001; apparently ceased. Just past the arc of enthusiasm. Full archive back to 1994. [+]

Southwest Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics. Founded 1995. 1995: 1/5; 1996: 2/15. 1997-99: 2/12 each year. 2000/2003: 2/20 each year. 2004: 1/6. Nothing since July 2004. All articles are labeled "preprint." [+]

Studies in Informatics and Control. Romania. Founded 1992. Full-text online in 1996. OA archive back to 1996. [-]

Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology. Founded 1995 under different title. "Quarterly" to 1999, 3x/year 2000-. Typically half a dozen articles per issue. Full archive back to 1995. [+]

Technikfolgenabschätzung - Theorie und Praxis. Germany. Founded 1995 under different title. Two to four issues per volume, substantial number of articles per issue. Full archive back to 1994. [?]

Technology Electronic Reviews. Founded 1994 under different title. Entirely reviews, no refereed articles. Publication pattern suggests arc of enthusiasm but with ongoing

renewal attempts. Anywhere from one to 12 issues per year, typically half a dozen reviews per issue. Full archive back to 1994. [+]

Telos. Spain? DOAJ says 1992. Unable to navigate site sufficiently to locate archive or find full text for current articles. [?]

Texas Heart Institute Journal. Founded 1974, different title. DOAJ says 1982 (start of current title). First HTML full text is 2000. Quarterly, large number of articles in sampled issues. Full archive back to 1974. [?]

Theory and Applications of Categories. Founded 1995. 228 papers in 16 volumes to date, with growth in recent years. Full archive back to 1995. [+]

The Trumpeter. Founded 1983. Internal evidence suggests online since 1995 (start of individual HTML articles). Typically quarterly, with substantial number of articles per issue; diminished 1998-2001, but growing since. Full archive back to 1983, but only scanned issues prior to 1995. [+]

Turkish Journal of Mathematics. Turkey. Founded 1977? Apparently online since 1994. Three or four issues per year, 6 to 13 articles in sampled issues. OA archive back to 1994. [+]

Última Década. Chile. Founded 1993. 24 issues 1993-2006, several articles per issue. Full archive back to 1993. [?]

Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk. Russia. DOAJ says 1994. Unable to navigate site enough to test for archives and OA. [?]

The Weekly Epidemiological Record. Founded 1926. Clearly not available online until at least 1996. [-]

World Journal of Gastroenterology. China. Founded 1995. Wildly varying frequency (4 issues/year 1996/97, 6/year 1998/2002, 12 in 2003, 24 in 2004, 45 in 2005, 32 to date in 2006), substantial number of papers in each sampled issue (too many to count readily). OA access back to 1995. [+]

The World Wide Web Journal of Biology. Founded 1995. Potential multimedia content. 1995/6: 5; 1996/7: 9; 1998: 5; 1999: 7; 2000: 3; 2001: 2; 2002: 2; 2003: 8; 2004-2005: 1. Web pages appear unedited in years (one page says "the internet has 20-30 million users at present"). [+]

Yonsei Medical Journal. Korea. Founded 1960. PDFs seem to be scanned through at least 2000. Annual, with significant number of articles in sampled volumes. Full archive back to 1960. [?]

Putting It All Together

Counting up the conclusions/opinions (noting that one question mark represents three related journals, and that another represents eight Cuban journals that I couldn't reach), we find:

- Five out of 189 don't appear to be true scholarly OA—they have restrictive copyrights or they're not refereed scholarly papers (including reviews). That's not a bad rate, given how rapidly DOAJ has grown recently.
- Evidence suggests (or in some cases the site flatly states) that 37 (20%) weren't OA as early as 1995, but have since provided retrospective access to papers. It's possible that I'm wrong on some of these.
- Evidence suggests that 84 (44%) were OA as early as 1995, and in some cases a few years earlier. I could be wrong about some of these.
- For exactly one-third of the journals—63—I couldn't form a firm opinion. My guess is that most of these became available later than 1995, with retrospective availability of earlier papers, but I'm not confident of that guess.

Add it up and we see that at least 121 and possibly as many as 184 journals publishing refereed scholarly articles and reviews were available in OA form in 1995 (some years earlier) and lasted at least a decade, showing articles at least through 2004.

How many free online journals came and went between 1995 and 2004? It would be delightful to say that the mortality rate was only 13%: the 25 ceased journals in Part I and the three in Part II, out of the maximum plausible number for 1995 (66 in Part I, 147 in part II). But that benign picture is certainly far too optimistic.

The oldest surviving scholarly ejournal I'm aware of, *New Horizons in Adult Education*, began in 1987. Thus, this year marks two decades of sustaining free ejournal publishing. It would be fascinating and, I believe, worthwhile to try to track the ejournal landscape through the first of those two decades—or, more realistically, to see what emerged during the first decade (1987-1996) and what happened to those early ejournals. But that's another story.

Offtopic Perspective

SciFi Classics 50 Movie Pack, Part 2

Disc 7

Two—make that three—movies with the same director and writer; two featuring some sort of missing link. No winners, but nothing truly dreadful either.

Killers from Space, 1954, b&w, W. Lee Wilder (dir.), Peter Graves. 1:11.

Nuclear scientist flying over A-bomb test crashes—and shows up later at the base. It's pretty clear he's spying, so they inject him with a truth serum, after which he tells a story of alien abduction by a bunch of huge-eyed folks living below ground, storing up power from the weapons to mutate insects and animals into huge killer beasts. Why? So they can set them free to kill everyone on Earth—after which the billion aliens (whose sun is dying) will invade Earth, wipe out the creatures, and take over. The scientist figures out that cutting off power in the area for a few seconds will cause the underground invasion place to explode because it's storing so much energy. Not great, not terrible, mediocre print. \$0.75.

Phantom from Space, 1953, b&w, W. Lee Wilder (dir.), Ted Cooper. 1:13.

Something has landed in Santa Monica and it's causing radio interference, so the boys from the FCC set out tracking it. Turns out to be “something without a head” in something like a diver's suit—that is, an alien who's invisible in Earth conditions. It's unclear that the alien has evil intentions, but it doesn't matter much: He dies anyway. The picture's very fuzzy much of the time, which doesn't help the plot (lots of action, not much overall significance). \$0.50.

White Pongo, 1945, b&w, Sam Newfield (dir.), Richard Fraser. 1:10.

Africa: An expedition sets out to find a legendary white gorilla that may be the missing link. The guide's a bad guy; one of the guards is an undercover agent out to get him. Romance, conspiracy, deceit, humor, and of course it all works out—and they do capture the white gorilla. So-so, maybe a little worse. \$0.75.

The Snow Creature, 1954, b&w, W. Lee Wilder (dir.), Paul Langton. 1:11.

This time it's the Himalayas, where a botanist and his photographer sidekick are on an expedition to discover new plant species. Instead, when the head Sherpa hears his wife was kidnapped by a Yeti, the guide forces them to hunt the Yeti—which they find after lots of trudging around the mountains. They ship the surviving Yeti back to the U.S.A.—but Immigration isn't sure whether it's an animal or a man, and that delays things long enough for the Yeti to break out of its refrigerated cave, escape into drain tunnels, and kill a couple of people before the cops shoot him (or it?). I suppose that counts as a happy ending, but maybe not for the tall guy with the fur costume. \$0.75.

Disc 8

Two of many “sons of Hercules” flicks (at least 60-odd, between Hercules and his hundreds of sons)—both “invincible” in the Italian originals—and two with Venusians as villains out to conquer the Earth,

although in one case they've already failed. Pure B-movie goodness—but with badly damaged prints.

Son of Hercules: The Land of Darkness (“*Ercole l’invincibile*”), 1963, color, Alvaro Mancori (dir.), Dan Vadis. 1:21.

It's another Italian/French/Spanish Hercules flick, which means decent production values, lots of beefcake (but the women also wear short outfits) and a wacko plot involving Hercules or a son, at least one beautiful young woman in peril, probably evil royalty (and an evil beautiful woman), and of course Legendary Feats of Strength. This one was apparently Americanized into a two-parter, with chunks of other flicks dropped in here and there. Turns out there's even a cheesy “Sons of Hercules” theme song, used over the opening montage and titles on both of these movies. Watchable. \$0.75.

Devil of the Desert Against the Son of Hercules (“*Anthar l’invincibile*”), 1964, color, Antonio Margheriti (dir.), Kirk Morris, Michele Girardon. 1:33.

See comments above—but this time, the continuity is pretty good. Unfortunately, for much of the flick there's a white damage stripe down the center of the screen. If not for the damage, I'd give this one a higher value; the acting and plot are good as these things go. \$0.75.

First Spaceship on Venus (“*Der Schweigende Stern*”), 1960, color, Kurt Maetzig (dir.), Yoko Tani, Oldrick Lukes. 1:19

East German, chopped by 16 minutes for American release. Quite well made, with good visuals and a workable plot, blaming the Tunguska explosion on a Venusian spaceship—which turns out to be the scout for a doomed invasion of Earth. Generally good color. A few too many blips in the print for a higher rating, but still quite watchable. \$1.25.

Zontar, the Thing from Venus, 1966, color, Larry Buchanan (dir.), John Agar, Susan Bjurman. 1:20.

John Agar: What more do you need to know? The calmly mad scientist, in this case helping Zontar to snatch a new research satellite (pulled from orbit to Venus, then back to orbit, in half an hour—but Zontar somehow needs that satellite to invade?), come to Earth, shut down all fixed and mobile power sources (including hand-cranked power and car engines, but *not* including gunfire), and send out growths to take over key people and control the Earth. (Agar's fed up with being ignored, and believes the infinitely superior oversized vampire bats from Venus will bring peace on Earth, until his best friend argues him out of it.) Apparently done as a TV movie. The color's badly faded in most of the flick, frequently looking like sepia-tone. Lots of sound damage as well. Could be better, could be a whole lot worse. Agar does such a great job of playing John Agar, sci-fi-crazy! \$0.75.

Disc 9

The Astral Factor, 1976, color, John Florea (dir.), Robert Foxworth, Stefanie Powers, Sue Lyon, Elke Sommer, Leslie Parrish, Marianna Hill, Cesare Danova. 1:36.

IMDB says *The Astral Factor* was a working title, with *Invisible Strangler* the final title. In any case, it's an odd little movie with a cast better than it deserves. Foxworth is a detective; Powers is his girlfriend (there strictly as eye candy, unfortunately given that she's a decent actress). The rest of the women...well, a prisoner at a state hospital has figured out how to turn himself invisible (and kill people with his deadly stare, but that's secondary), escapes, and sets about killing the beautiful women who testified against him after he murdered his beautiful mother, with his insane conviction that all of the other women are also his mother. He also kills anybody who happens to be in his way, but does that with his magic stare (I'm guessing he has to be visible for the stare to work; the women, he strangles invisibly). The transfer-to-invisibility visual is like a low-budget version of Star Trek's transporter effect. Elke Sommer, drink always in hand, survives; the rest don't. The movie? Probably better with a couple drinks under your belt. Not the high point of anyone's career. Damaged print brings it down to \$1.

The Galaxy Invader, 1985, color, Don Dohler (dir.), Richard Ruxton and other unknowns, including several Dohlers. 1:19.

An alien (with green rubbery skin, a glowing white ball, and a white ray gun invisibly powered by the ball) lands in the woods near a drunken redneck and family. College student spots the landing, gets professor involved. Various shenanigans involving the redneck's family (who hate him), his redneck buddy promising riches, the professor and student, grabbing the ball, grabbing the alien, freeing the alien, and running around in the woods. Awful acting (a cast that mostly shows up in other Dohler films, presumably all filmed with zero budgets), absurd screenplay, one decent special effect, and an ending that...well, “Independence Day” comes to mind, but probably not the one you're thinking of. (Think country music, not scifi movies). And yet...I found this inept pile of trash likeable. Damned if I know why, although there is one tiny bit of good scriptwriting: The professor (in shirtsleeves, no tie) and student go to get something to eat at the dive/roadhouse that's nearby. The waitress offers menus if they'd like them and takes drink orders. The prof asks whether he can get a vodka martini on the rocks, shaken, not stirred. Waitress: “No.” Prof: “How about a beer?” Waitress: “Sure.” That's the highlight of the film... By any rational standard, not worth a dime; I give it \$1, and can't explain why.

Battle of the Worlds (Il pianeta degli uomini spenti), 1961, color, Antonio Margheriti (dir.), Claude Rains, Bill Carter, Umberto Orsini, Maya Brent. 1:24.

One reasonably favorable review at IMDB calls this “very similar to *When Worlds Collide*.” Sure, in much the same way that hamburger is very similar to a good porterhouse: They’re both beef. *Battle of the Worlds* is a dubbed Italian flick with one name star, Claude Rains (in apparently his last movie role) as a bitter old genius scientist who can figure out everything through equations. He recognizes that a planetoid (“the unknown”) isn’t going to hit the Earth (as it first appears) but is instead going to go into a slowly declining orbit. Pretty decent special effects for the time, a truly strange interior section on the planetoid/spaceship, and a thoroughly empty ending. Not wonderful, not terrible. \$1.

Unknown World, 1951, b&w, Terry O. Morse (dir.), Bruce Kellogg, Otto Waldis, Jim Bannon, Marilyn Nash, Victor Kilian (uncredited). 1:14.

Concerned scientists are sure that humanity’s about to blow itself up and want to find an underground refuge. They develop a “Cyclotram”—a nuclear-powered vehicle with a drill in front—and, thanks to funding from a useless young rich man looking for thrills, take off to seek out refuge. They start out at Mt. Nelee, an extinct volcano in Alaska, and just keep going down, with various perils along the way. They find their refuge at an absurd depth (you didn’t know that the earth’s basically just a honeycomb of tunnels with temperature about the same all the way down to 2600 miles below the surface?), but *Something in the Air* means test rabbits breed sterile. Some of the explorers make it back to the surface, thanks to a little-known portion of the ocean that’s 2600 miles deep. Most of this movie is actors walking around in Carlsbad Caverns, sort of like *The Incredible Petrified World* on disc 1. A bit boring, preachy and dull, but not terrible. \$0.75.

Disc 10

All four in color (more or less, in one case)—with two featuring a form of prehistoric feminism. As I’m finding to be common, about half of the IMDB user comments appear to be from people who either didn’t actually watch the film or were stoned or drunk while doing so—which in some cases makes sense.

Blood Tide, 1982, color, Richard Jefferies (dir.), James Earl Jones, José Ferrer, Lila Kedrova, Mary-Louise Weller, Martin Kove, Lydia Cornell, Deborah Shelton. 1:22 [1:23]

This is an odd monster movie, if only because the monster (a vicious marine beast) appears for about four seconds total. Set on a remote Greek island (no telephones), where a young man and his new wife come by fancy yacht to seek out his sister. She’s busily uncovering older layers of a religious painting (finally uncovering the prehistoric beast). Meanwhile, you’ve got James Earl Jones as a cynical treasure hunter blowing up underground areas to find ancient coins and treasure (and maybe unleash the beast) while otherwise drinking

heavily, various girlfriends and others acting strangely, virgin pseudo-sacrifice...well, lots of good actors, good scenery, and a plot that doesn’t really go much of anywhere. Generously, \$1.25.

The Brain Machine, 1977, color, Joy N. Houck Jr. (dir.), James Best, Barbara Burgess, Gil Peterson, Gerald McRaney. 1:25 [1:21]

Strange psychological experiments—four volunteers in a sealed environment with a beautiful scientist/doctor, two scientists outside, lots of mainframe computer equipment, a hammock that can apparently not only read minds but insert visions into them (maybe)—and a second team that *really* controls the experiment on behalf of The General and The Senator, now that they’ve killed the scientist who Found Out The Truth about the experiment. The volunteers turn out to be a seedy lot, but still may not deserve their fate, either crushed by the walls of a computer-controlled chamber gone wrong or electrocuted as they try to escape. A little too realistic in the resolution: When the man supposedly in charge of *both* experiments asks his superior how he expects to cover this up, the superior shoots him. (Sorry if this spoils the movie.) Otherwise—well, “establishing shots” of a house and pool appear interminably often for no apparent reason, as does a seemingly-identical sequence with the Real Control Team. This has the feel of a 45-minute TV episode padded out to 85 minutes. Zero for the incoherent plot and *really* awful ending; \$0.75 for some interesting B-movie acting along the way. \$0.75.

The Wild Women of Wongo, 1958, color, James L. Wolcott (dir.), a cast of beautiful nobodies (only Joyce Nizzari has more than one other film credit, and her role doesn’t merit a character name). 1:11

As Mother Nature informs us in a voice-over, she and Father Time did an experiment 10,000 years ago that went wrong: They set up an island village Wongo, with beautiful women and “beastly” men—and, a few days’ walk away, another village with beautiful men (none with facial hair, all pretty boys) and not-so-beautiful women. There are also supposed apemen ready to attack everyone, but we only see two of them and they’re pretty pathetic. An alligator temple is also involved, with a mysterious revolving-stone entrance. When the son of the beautiful-men king comes to Wongo to ask the ugly men to go to the other village to fight off the apemen, the beautiful women go ape and prevent the ugly men from killing him. This leads to all sorts of hijinks, with beautiful women rounding up beautiful men, homely men finally meeting up with homely women, lots of winking in the temple of the alligator, and an apparently happy ending. There’s also a parrot who talks a *lot*, which is one of several clues that this movie was done as a lark. (All the prehistoric folk speak perfect English, but other than dress styles there are no obvious anachronisms—and we have to assume that women of 10,000 years ago were skilled in making fabric and preparing

sundresses. I didn't see any zippers, buttons, or seams; give them credit for this.) Not exactly serious anthropology, but harmless fun and fairly well filmed. Oh, and of course there's one catfight: You expected that, right? \$1.25.

Prehistoric Women, 1950, color, Gregg C. Tallas (dir.), Laurette Luez, Allan Nixon, Judy Landon, David Vaile (narrator). 1:14 [1:13]

This movie would be a lot more tolerable if "night scenes" (filmed in daytime with smoke machines running) weren't so obscured as to be nearly unwatchable. This time around (also 10,000 years, and the whole story is told as an expansion of a cave drawing), the prehistoric folks speak unknown languages (mostly just names) and a really annoying narrator tells us what's going on—including gems such as "swan diving was invented before swans" and a tendency to tell us what we just saw happen. One woman and some female children escape from a tribe where the women were *really* treated badly. The children grow up into beautiful young women in short cloth sundresses (with belts and purses of sorts, and in some cases strappy sandals, but few really egregious anachronisms), and dance themselves to exhaustion because—well, because *they need men*. So they capture some (wearing animal skins—I guess cloth is just for women) to use as husbands and slaves. The handsomest one escapes. On his way back to his tribe (in caves), he manages to discover fire. (Otherwise, it's fair to say the men are...well, they can't figure out how to pick up rocks and throw them back at the women who are slingshotting them, and they don't seem to have progressed from clubs to spears. As Harry Belafonte would say, "That's right, the women are smarter.") He comes back to rescue the others, gets captured, various subplots with a nine-foot giant and a flying chicken—sorry, dragon—are resolved, mostly with this burning stuff (did you know that striking any two rocks together repeatedly will cause fire just when you need it?)...oh, and the men turn the tables on the women. There's a catfight in this one as well. They discover cooked meat in the process, and I guess they all live happily ever after. The acting is nonexistent. Very generously, \$0.75, if only as an early D-grade color curiosity.

Disc 11

They Came From Beyond Space, 1967, color, Freddie Francis (dir.), Robert Hutton, Jennifer Jayne, Zia Moryeddin, Bernard Kay. 1:25.

I haven't read *The Gods Hate Kansas*, the novel on which this flick is based, but it probably has a more coherent plot than the movie. That's the only real problem: The plot doesn't make sense. Aliens stranded on the moon manage to crash meteorites on earth that take over people with mind control—except for one immune scientist (he has a silver plate in his head). There's a plague (actually a way to get apparently-dead workers to the moon), travel to and from the moon in under a day, lots of silli-

ness and a warm ending: All the aliens had to do was *ask* for help. Well acted, well filmed (in Britain?), decent color...but the story needs help. \$1.50

Warning From Space (Uchūjin Tokyo ni arawaru), 1956, color, Koji Shima (dir.), Keizo Kawasaki, Toyomi Karita. 1:27.

UFOs in the sky over Tokyo! Strange star-shaped aliens with a big eye in the center of the star reconnoiter. Finally, one gets transformed into a replica of a singing star, so she can warn a scientist that his new explosive formula is too powerful—and a meteor's going to collide with and destroy earth. The aliens are from "mirror Earth," the oft-used "planet exactly opposite Earth in the same orbit, so never visible," but far ahead of us in most science. The world government won't approve destroying the meteor with atomic weapons and it doesn't work anyway—but after the climate goes crazy, the aliens manage to save the day with the formula they wanted to destroy. This is in semi-color: Inside, it's nearly sepia; outside, it's generally good color. For its time, not a bad little flick. \$1.25.

The Phantom Planet, 1961, b&w, William Marshall (dir.), Dean Fredericks, Coleen Gray, Anthony Dexter, Francis X. Bushman, Dick Haynes, Richard Kiel. 1:22.

We're starting to explore space from a moon base, but a couple of ships disappear. A third exploratory vessel lands on this "planet" (a big, oddly-shaped asteroid) with little people, and the captain shrinks down to 6" as soon as he breathes the local air. Lots of stuff about special gravity control, and a civilization becoming spoiled through too much technology that's decided to go native (except when they *need* technology). And this self-controlled planet is being attacked by Solarians, doglike beings who travel in flaming spaceships that are not much larger than the aliens themselves and apparently almost entirely open. Lots'o'plot, no real sense. (Richard Kiel is a Solarian.) Not bad as a laugh. \$1.

Planet Outlaws, 1953, b&w, Harry Revier (dir.), Buster Crabbe, Constance Moore, Jackie Moran, Jack Mulhall, Anthony Warde. 1:09.

This one's truly strange. That first credit could be a ti-poff: Buck Rogers in the 25th century, in suspended animation since 1938 (a dirigible crash) and instantly able to fly the aircraft/space ships of the Hidden City, trying to escape the domination of Killer Kane, evil ruler of... well, you get the idea. What this is, apparently, is a badly-edited reduction of a Buck Rogers serial, with a tiny bit of narration at the beginning and end trying to make it Important. Transitions don't work—but boy, those sparking aircraft/spacehips sure do, apparently flying to and from Saturn in a few hours whenever convenient. There's an invisibility ray too. Incidentally, Wilma (Constance Moore) is *not* along as a Hot Girlfriend: She's clearly more capable than Buck and her outfit is pretty much the same as his. This is a mess, but a nostalgic mess. \$0.75.

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Colossus and the Amazon Queen, 1960, color, Vittorio Sala (dir.), Rod Taylor, Ed Fury, Dorian Gray, Gianna Maria Canale, Alberto Farnese, Adriana Facchetti. 1:30 [1:23].

This one's strange: Another Hercules-style cheesecake-and-beefcake spectacular (more cheesecake than beefcake, since the Amazons are all great looking warriors in typically minimal outfits)—but played for laughs, almost certainly in the original Italian as well as the dubbed version. Light jazz as background music, ridiculous plot twists, you name it. \$1.

Eegah, 1962, color, Arch Hall Sr. (dir.), Arch Hall Jr. and Sr., Marilyn Manning, Richard Kiel. 1:30.

Remember Richard Kiel? *Jaws*? *Moonraker*? Put him in animal skins, give him a club, have him living in a cave near some Southern California beach town—and you have *Eegah*, the last of an oversize race of slightly pre-human folks, good at cave drawings but not so much at language. It's all downhill from there, with a truly untalented teenager, his girlfriend, and the girlfriend's scientist dad as the main characters. The teen has a tendency to pull out an acoustic guitar, start strumming, and suddenly there's a group of background singers and instrumentalists for his lame ballads. Other than Kiel, lame is the right word across the board—but watchable in its own odd way. \$0.75

War of the Planets, 1977, color, Alfonso Brescia (dir.), John Richardson, Yanti Sommer, Katia Christine, Vasili Karis. 1:29.

The seventies? This one should come from the sixties, as only *lots* of drugs during the screenwriting, filming, and editing could explain this mess. There's a mixed-gender spaceship crew (all wearing identical skintight costumes). Whenever they get in peril and manage to escape—which happens a lot, because they seem to be incompetent—all of them jump out of their chairs and start joyously jumping around and embracing. I would try to describe the plot, but that's nearly impossible. I could suggest that the reels got scrambled during the transfer, but I suspect the movie wouldn't make sense under any circumstances. \$0.75.

Destroy All Planets, 1968, color, Noriaki Yuasa (dir.), Kojiro Hongo, Carl Craig, Toru Takatsuka. 1:30.

By all rights, the 50th and final flick on this set *should* star Gamera and one of the Sons of Hercules in a spaceship flying from a jungle full of unknown beasts to some hidden planet. As far as I know, Gamera and the Herculesians never starred in the same film, so we'll have to settle for Gamera. This time, evil conquerors out to conquer the Earth and destroy all earthlings (not the planet) figure to outsmart Gamera by snatching two mischief-prone little boys. After all, Gamera (you know—the jet-propelled turtle/flying saucer with a *really* bad breath problem) just *loves* little kids, so he'll do anything to

protect these two. Even destroy Tokyo, presumably killing a few hundred thousand kids along the way—well, hey, nobody said Gamera was good at complex reasoning. Neither, apparently, is the U.N. Security Council, which—given an ultimatum—*unanimously* votes to surrender Earth to the aliens rather than attacking the spaceship and possibly killing two kids. I couldn't make this up if I tried. This film marked a new level of cost savings for special effects in Japanese monster movies: The discursive alien computer can read Gamera's mind, and decides it's important to show what Gamera's done in the past—by showing *twenty minutes* of footage from previous Gamera movies, some of it in glorious black and white. Now that's clever filmmaking. \$1.

Worth It?

Absolutely, as a way to stay on the treadmill. If I use a cutoff of \$1 as a movie that I *might* watch on its own if I was under the weather, almost half of these qualify. I count \$22 total “estimated value” for this half of the set, with one bottoming out at \$0.50, half mediocre at \$0.75, six OK at \$1, four pretty good at \$1.25, and one good at \$1.50.

Compared to the first half, there are fewer I'd rank as good or OK—but also fewer truly rank flicks. Overall, it looks as though I might find 10 of the 50 worth rewatching (that is, \$1.25 or above), and another 19 that might be amusing to revisit. I'll stand by the \$45.50 estimated “viewing value” for this set, which was \$25 when I bought it but now goes for \$16 or \$17. Don't expect undamaged transfers. Don't expect stellar movie-making; most of these aren't even solid Bs. Still, some decent flicks and laughs.

Masthead

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