

Cites & Insights

Crawford at Large
Libraries • Policy • Technology • Media

Special Issue: Hiatus

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Walt Crawford

Not With a Bang...

This is not the November/December 2011 *Cites & Insights*. There is not and will not be a November/December 2011 *Cites & Insights*.

This is also not *Cites & Insights* 11:11. There is not and will not be a *Cites & Insights* 11:11.

Volume 11 is complete (except for the index, which will only be available as part of the annual volume, when and if that becomes available).

What this is, is an announcement.

Cites & Insights is On Hiatus

That's the announcement, and if you choose to stop here, that's OK.

If you read *Walt at Random*, you probably have an inkling that this was coming. I won't repeat here what I've said there.

For Now...

My current focus is on two books, both published by first-rate small publishers in the library field: *The Librarian's Guide to Micropublishing: Helping Patrons and Communities Use Free and Low-Cost Publishing Tools to Tell Their Stories*, which should be out from Information Today, Inc. in January 2012, and what's currently being called *Successful Social Networking: How Public Libraries Connect*, which should be out from ALA Editions some time in 2012.

The first book, which I truly believe can benefit the patrons of every public library in the U.S. (and any other country served by Lulu), as well as many academic libraries considering open access publishing, is done. It's on the way to the printers. (A hardbound edition will actually be available through Lulu, and the book itself was done entirely using the tools and techniques described in the book, except for the title page and two ad pages in the back of the book.) The paperback's ISBN is 978-1-57387-430-4; the hardbound is 978-1-57387-451-9.

The second is the target of almost all my energy from now through some time in March 2012. I'm wrapping up a survey of the websites and Facebook or Twitter pages for public libraries in 13 states (I'm on the last of the 13, Texas)—and simultaneously doing a four-months-later re-survey of the public libraries in 25 states. Those two projects will yield the data for the final three chapters in the book and probably a whole lot of rewriting in the rest of the manuscript. Since the book won't be particularly data-heavy (it's mostly *about* library use of Twitter and Facebook and what seems to succeed), there will be a lot of data that might be worth discussing elsewhere—or not.

...And Later

“On hiatus” means there's an indefinite break—one that could be permanent.

Once these projects are complete, I'll look at readership and apparent influence. I'll also look at where my energy can be more productively spent—e.g., on other book proposals, or some other kind of writing, or more local library projects, or...

C&I might return as a series of special editions. (I still have more than 1,600 items tagged in Diigo for discussion in *C&I*; I still have a couple dozen unreviewed CD-ROMs; I still have more than 300 old movies to watch; I still have opinions.)

It might return as a less-regular publication with the same mixed issues as you've seen so far.

It could return as a fairly regular periodical.

It might just go away.

The October 2011 issue was an odd milestone: Issue 144, a gross of issues (a dozen dozen), the same number of issues as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* had episodes.

That's one reason I'm not giving this announcement an issue number. A better one: This is in no way a plausible issue of *Cites & Insights*. It's just an announcement.

About the Heading Typeface

I thought a special heading typeface to illustrate the solemnity, importance and finality of this announcement was appropriate. And what more appropriate typeface could there be? What, you'd prefer *Bsackadder JTC?* Or *maybe* Chiller, that outstanding recent typeface for truly serious documents?

Until next time, if there is a next time...

Masthead

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