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http://www.freepint.com/issues/260804.htm

Fully Formatted Acrobat Version http://www.freepint.com/issues/260804.pdf

About FreePint

FreePint is an online network of information searchers. Members receive this free newsletter twice a month: it is packed with tips on finding quality and reliable business information on the Internet.

Joining is free at http://www.freepint.com/ and provides access to a substantial archive of articles, reviews, jobs & events, with answers to research questions and networking at the FreePint Bar.

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Editorial

"Never make the mistake of thinking you have nothing to share with your peers; we can all benefit from one another's ideas, research and experiences". So says Rachel Singer Gordon in today's article on writing for the information profession. With less formal publications like e-zines, professional communities, online networks and blogs flourishing online, arguably there has never been an easier time to bite the



bullet and start writing. Readers of your work obviously benefit, but how do authors benefit? If you consider both writing for journals and speaking at professional conferences, then you have very little to lose and much to gain.

From experience, speaking at conferences can increase personal motivation and boost your career with the realisation that others outside your immediate network really do want to hear about your experiences. Conference organisers love to receive topical proposals from practitioners, rather than sales pitches from vendors, because delegates are interested in colleagues who have "been there", "fought the battles" and "found the solutions". The reasons why people don't come forward are that they may not feel confident enough as a speaker; or they may not want to commit the time for what is often little or no financial reward. My advice is to start small. First, you will be surprised at just how arresting simple enthusiasm and practical expertise can be to a small room of jaded delegates. Feedback received by FreePint from last year's Online show, held in London http://www.online-information.co.uk, showed that the sessions valued most by many delegates were often the free exhibition floor educational sessions, just as much as the formal keynote speakers at the accompanying conference.

In terms of boosting a flagging career, your boss may not always appreciate your extra writing or speaking activities. Some see it as "giving away company ideas", and, naturally, you must clear any competitive information carefully in advance. But bosses very often start to sit up and take more notice of you once you start to become known as an expert in your field, making valuable contacts. And if they don't? Then it may just be time to make the most of those new contacts and move on. But what about the lack of financial incentive? Ask any freelance information consultant and they will confirm that if you write for professional literature or speak at relevant conferences, pay may be poor or non-existent to start out, but if you carry on, what you gain in exposure and potential marketing of your business expertise pays off financially in the long

Our other article today is a topical one on the Olympics by Jonathan Crowhurst. Although, sadly, our great British hope for Marathon Gold, Paula Radcliffe, uncharacteristically dropped out 6km from the end of the race, Team GB hasn't done too badly. If the sources listed by Jonathan aren't enough for you, then you may like to know that our partner site ResourceShelf, from Gary Price, has put up a Fast Fact list of Olympic resources deep mined from official sites http://digbig.com/4bpgw>.

Don't forget, if you want to write for FreePint you can contact me directly with your idea for an article.

Annabel Colley Editor
FreePint <annabel.colley@freepint.com>

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The FreePint Jobs Update is being circulated widely every two weeks. This free newsletter now has 2,000 direct subscribers and is posted at the Bar and in the Bar Digest (circulation 12,000).

To see the Jobs Update No.79 and read the new 'Jobs Advice' section, visit http://www.freepint.com/go/b29701. To subscribe, modify your account at http://web.freepint.com.

Here are some of the latest featured jobs:

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http://www.freepint.com/go/j3442
This will suit an information/library professional with extensive knowledge of business information sources.
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http://www.freepint.com/go/j3443 Exciting client-side research and analysis role. Recruiter: UK parcels division of La Poste

Project Manager

http://www.freepint.com/go/j3454 6mnths project to audit current info & library service, analyse gap to national standards & make recommendations in healthcare sector. Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment

Senior Researcher (Telecoms &/or Pharma)

http://www.freepint.com/go/j3466> Senior role for top Information Specialist with Pharmaceutical and/or Telecoms expertise to work in Central London. Recruiter: Glen Recruitment

Senior Knowledge and Information Officer

http://www.freepint.com/go/j3471
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ISBN 1-904769-06-3

This report will help novice and experienced enewsletter publishers alike streamline their processes while making their publications more targeted and effective.

http://www.freepint.com/shop/report/>

VIP No.9 Out Now

The August 2004 edition of VIP takes an in-depth look at two new Web products from D&B.

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Submit your top five favourite Web sites.
See the guidelines at http://www.freepint.com/author.htm>.

My Favourite Tipples by Patrice Curtis

- http://www.wordtracker.com/ The marquee at the top of this site provides the current top 100 search terms on the Internet.
- http://buzz.yahoo.com/ Yahoo! Buzz Index Weekly. A list of what's hot on Yahoo!
- http://50.lycos.com/> The daily top 50 search terms on the Lycos network.
- http://www.google.com/press/zeitgeist.html
 Cross-check Yahoo!'s and Lycos' daily tracking of current search queries with Google's weekly tracking of hot word searches.
- * <http://www.alexa.com/site/ds/top_500> Check out the hottest websites, including the top 100 global sites.

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Events

United Kingdom:

- Digital Resources for the Humanities 2004 5th -8th September
 http://www.freepint.com/go/e346>
- Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 7th September
- http://www.freepint.com/go/e353>
- ECDL 2004 European Conference on Digital Libraries, 12th - 17th September http://www.freepint.com/go/e307
- Gartner IT Security Summit 2004, 20th 21st September http://www.freepint.com/go/e268>
- Taking the e out of e-learning 21st September http://www.freepint.com/go/e342

Canada:

 e-Institutions WorldExpo, 8th - 9th September http://www.freepint.com/go/e291

Australia

 neXt 2005: ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference 6th - 9th September http://www.freepint.com/go/e345

Netherlands

 Email Management: Reclaiming Email as an Effective Communication Channel, 27th - 28th September http://www.freepint.com/go/e328

This is just a selection from the 24 listings in FreePint Events. For your free listing, complete the form at http://www.freepint.com/events>.

Penny <penny@freepint.com>

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Everyone knows how much more bearable an inconvenient situation is when you're kept informed of what's actually happening. A core competency of information people is that they know the true importance and value of being correctly and fully informed.

Back when I graduated in Information Science from Aberystwyth University, there was no easy way to chat to students on similar courses, or learn from those actually working in the real information world to which I was headed. That's all completely changed now, and it regularly brings a smile to my face to see such candid comment and experience-sharing at the FreePint Bar and Student Bar.

Oh how I wish I'd had access to threads like "Becoming a Librarian ... where do I start?" http://www.freepint.com/go/b29530 or the recent frustrations of a recruiter trying to fill an information vacancy http://www.freepint.com/go/b29709. People who are considering joining the world of information work (either as a career move or through study) should be doing so with their eyes fully opened to the sheer range of opportunities and variety that exists therein.

This is true right up the information food chain. Those with budgets for buying information products and services now have direct access to their contemporaries in other organisations. For instance, can you share your thoughts (even anonymously) about Esmerk's reports and EIQUEST service? http://www.freepint.com/go/b29721. Are you using Hemscott Guru and does their account management live up to the promises of their sales people? http://www.freepint.com/go/b29654.

VIP http://www.VivaVIP.com/ takes an in-depth look at products like these, and this month's edition reviews D&B's 'Global Reference Solution' and 'MarketDirect'. VIP also provides anecdotal advice, in the 'Guest Comment' column, and this month's is from OneSource and is about compliance http://www.freepint.com/go/b29792.

Moving to discussion of free sources at the Bar, and Google tops the bill of course. Is it threatening the jobs of librarians, asks the current Information Professional of the Year?

http://www.freepint.com/go/b29728>. Does anyone know of an RSS feed for the Google Answers page? http://www.freepint.com/go/b29757>. Why don't all the temporary files disappear from Internet Explorer when you delete them?

http://www.freepint.com/go/b29741 Or does a domain name containing relevant keywords help with search engine ranking?

http://www.freepint.com/go/b29687>.

A couple of specific market-related queries remain unanswered. Where can you find audience data about UK technology websites?
<http://www.freepint.com/go/b2965>. Is there a Channel Islands equivalent to Hemmings' Retail Directory's 'Shopping Street Surveys' database?
<http://www.freepint.com/go/b29707>. Or do you know of research reports about the equipment renting market in the UK (SIC Code 7121)
<http://www.freepint.com/go/b29665>.

The Student Bar has been understandably quiet over the summer break, but I would encourage course leaders to highlight this resource to their students when they return. The Student Bar is a great way to tap into the experience of a large number of seasoned information professionals http://www.freepint.com/student/>.

William Hann <william.hann@freepint.com>
Managing Editor, FreePint 26th August 2004 - 4



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Tips Article

"The Olympics" By Jonathan Crowhurst

As I write, the Athens 2004 Olympic Games are well under way after a spectacular opening ceremony on Friday 13th August. The Great Britain Olympic team, whose details you can see at

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/olympics_2004 /athletics/3886539.stm> (including Steve Backley, Paula Radcliffe and Denise Lewis) are striving for a great performance and have until August 29th, when the games close, to net a respectable haul of medals. In spite of initial worries about security, construction of all the necessary facilities for hosting a world-class event and other issues that now appear to be resolved, and the Olympics are at their spiritual home in Greece. If you are planning on visiting for the remaining days of sporting events there are a number of online resources which will help get the most out of your visit and also provide background to one of the sporting events that all athletes worth their salt dream of reaching.

Official Olympic Sites

One of the first sites to visit should be that of Athens 2004, the official organisation behind the Games at http://www.athens2004.org. This site contains some very handy tips for visitors braving the 31-degree heat in August. The site also contains a hotel-booking page for central Athens, the Games schedule and ticket purchasing. Another great web site worth checking out is the International Olympic Committee's Official site at http://www.olympic.org/uk/index_uk.asp">, home of the Olympic Movement. Check this regularly for breaking news and media releases. Paralympics is also becoming a big sporting occasion for the less able bodied and is officially represented at http://www.paralympic.org/>. All these sites are well laid out with clear navigation to specific areas of the Olympic organisation. The Official web site of the British Olympic Association is at http://www.olympics.org.uk/, where all relevant information on Team GB can be found, together with lists of Official Summer and Winter Olympic sports. Readers in the US can find more information on the US Olympic team at their site http://www.usoc.org/. The Official BBC web site for the Olympics is at http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/olympics_2004 /default.stm>, with news on the individual sports, Team GB news, news of other nations taking part, and some other useful facts and figures. If the success of the Great Britain team inspires you to become more sporting then http://www.sportengland.org/ is a great source of facts, figures and resources including

Getting There

research studies on sport.

If travelling from the UK by air, check out http://www.easyjet.com">http://www.ryanair.com/>, BA http://www.britishairways.com, Lastminute http://engb.lastminute.com/, Expedia http://www.expedia.co.uk/, Travelocity http://www.travelocity.co.uk/, for ticket information, pricing and availability. I suspect

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flights are booking fast and will be like Gold Dust. Before you go check out this great website, http://www.athensguide.org/, for a wealth of information about the ancient city of Athens, Games information, travel information in Athens, tourist information and other resources, such as maps, photographs and Greek life. Another impressive looking web site is http://www.greece-athens.com/> available in multilingual format.

History

The first Modern Olympics was held in Athens in 1896. This follows from its beginnings in Ancient Greece around 776BC when four-yearly contests were held that included music and drama, as well as sports. Although requiring FREE registration in order to use all features, the Ancient Olympic Games virtual museum

http://minbar.cs.dartmouth.edu/greecom/olympics/ is well worth a visit, giving light on the historic games of Antiquity. The British Museum http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk is also running a "Greek Summer" exhibition to coincide with the Olympics, including various special events such as Gallery talks and films. Another fascinating virtual exhibition on the ancient Olympics is run by the Perseus Project, a digital library focusing on the ancient world and can be toured at

http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/>. Interestingly, this site sets the Games into context and explains some of the "Olympic Spirit" and, as today they are huge in the sporting and commercial sense, in ancient Greece the Olympics represented a major fixture in the calendars of the Greek City States of the day. A great boon with this site is the links to other relevant resources on the wider Perseus web site, should you want to know more. "Olympics Through Time" runs in a similar vein http://sunsite.informatik.rwth- aachen.de/olympics/> and there is more information here on the revival of the Olympics by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, with a decidedly Hellenistic point of view, but worthwhile visiting nonetheless.

A history of women's involvement in the Olympics can be reviewed at

http://www.olympicwomen.co.uk/. The web site is for a book on the subject, but it contains some statistics on women's success in the Games and links to other useful sites including some specifically aimed at women's sports, such as the Women's Sports Foundation of Great Britain http://www.wsf.org.uk/, which aims to highlight the contribution of women to sports where they are poorly represented by the media, and improve opportunities for women to participate in sports generally. Details of Olympic



Related FreePint links:

- 'Sports and Fitness' articles in the FreePint Portal http://www.freepint.com/go/p130
- Post a message to the author, Jonathan Crowhurst, or suggest further resources at the FreePint Bar http://www.freepint.com/bar
- Read this article online, with activated hyperlinks http://www.freepint.com/issues/260804. htm#tips>
- Access the entire archive of FreePint content http://www.freepint.c om/portal/content/

sporting record breakers and other, perhaps more obscure, trivia can be found at http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/index/records.asp?id=71&pg=1.

Of course the Olympics has not been without scandals that have tainted the otherwise valiant efforts of those athletes pursuing their sporting dreams. I will always remember the 3000 metre event where Mary Decker was allegedly tripped by Zola Budd in the 1984 Olympics (Los Angeles), leading to the latter's disqualification and later reinstatement. More recently, performance-enhancing drugs have become one of the main issues, as they have in many areas of sport generally. Links to some of these stories can be found at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Games_scandals and

http://search.looksmart.com/p/browse/us1/us317902/us575637/us954049/. Details on performance enhancing drugs (what they are, how they work and so on) can be found at http://sportsmedicine.about.com/od/performanceenhancingdrugs/ and the independent body, the World Anti Doping Agency http://www.wada-ama.org/en/t1.asp. maintains a list of banned substances, whilst ensuring that sport remains drug free.

The Future

Beijing is hosting the games in 2008, while the efforts of Great Britain to host the Olympics in 2012 have been the subject of much interest in the UK media. As well as overseeing our public libraries, the DCMS are also one of the organisations involved in the attempt to win the 2012 bid. Further information can be found at the DCMS web site

http://www.london2012.org. An interesting web site

hoasts itself as being an "authoritative review of the Olympic bid business" and goes behind the endeavours of the cities trying to win the honour of hosting the Games. There is just under a year before the decision on who will host the 2012 games is made, on July 6th 2005. Hopefully, these resources will be useful as the Games progress this year, and best of luck to all the athletes taking part in what for many will be the chance of a lifetime.

What is the ResourceShelf?

http://www.resourceshelf.com

ResourceShelf is a free daily update containing news of interest to information professionals around the world.

Topics include the latest news with web search engines, research tips, new web resources, and much more.

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Sean McManus is a business and technology writer. He is the founder of media careers advice site JournalismCareers.com <http://www.journalis mcareers.com > and fun mood-surfing website Wild Mood Swings <http://www.wildmood swings.co.uk>. You can download free chapters from his books 'Small Business Websites That Work' and 'The Customer Service Pocketbook' (coauthored) at <http://www.sean.co.u k>. The website also hosts a wide range of website development resources and a selection of original Javascript games.

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- "The Extreme Searcher's Internet Handbook" ISBN 0910965684, published by CyberAge Books

FreePint Bookshelf http://www.freepint.com/bookshelf

"The Extreme Searcher's Internet Handbook" Written by Randolph Hock Reviewed by Sean McManus

Google was attacked by a variant of the MyDoom worm in late July, taking the site offline. Instinctively, I kept turning to Google for information and, during the afternoon, was repeatedly frustrated by its inability to deliver. For me, the internet was broken. It was only one website that failed, but search engines are so fundamental to how we seek information online, that we're lost without our favourite.

With this recent experience in mind, it was a good time for me to read 'The Extreme Searcher's Internet Handbook' by Randolph Hock. The book aspires to be a guide for anyone who needs to research online, from beginners to experienced searchers.

One problem with such a broad remit is that there isn't space in a single book to do it justice. It's like watching one of those 'top 50 pop videos' programmes where you're satisfied with the rundown except that they've missed out lots of the gems you know about. At times I found myself wondering how Hock had overlooked the likes of open source encyclopaedia Wikipedia http://www.wikipedia.org or Amazon's search toolbar Alexa http://www.alexa.com. And many more too - doubtless you'd spot your own omissions.

While that makes the book incomplete as a reference source, it doesn't undermine its usefulness as an introduction to searching. The book includes short reviews of a wide range of news, reference and directory websites. There is a meaty guide explaining how to use the leading search engines optimally and how they differ. The comparison of search logic here (including which

engines will recognise AND, NEAR and OR) is particularly helpful. While there's a lot of attention paid to how the search engines work, there's not as much detail on content. It would have been helpful - and interesting - to read how the indexes compare for timeliness, editorial independence and breadth.

A potential problem with books about search engines is how quickly they date. Yahoo's recent acquisition spree alone raises questions about the future of the formerly independent Alta Vista and Alltheweb search engines. Fortunately, the book has a supporting website at <http://www.extremesearcher.com>. Although it's hard to find the latest updates there, the site was extensively updated in April 2004 and appears to be regularly maintained.

The book has a US bias in the sources selected and sometimes the vocabulary used ('foreign' means non-US although this isn't defined, and the education term K-12 goes unexplained). The UK is best represented among non-US countries, with enthusiastic references to the BBC and the UK government portal among other sites. But those outside the US whose research needs are purely domestic might be disappointed with the number of useful resources recommended to them.

There are better reference resources if you're trying to track down specific information, but Hock's book is a good companion if you're ready to invest some time in sharpening your search skills. Having read this book, next time my favourite search engine dries up, I might find it easier to stay afloat.

FreePint

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Technology by Willco http://www.willco.com/



Feature Article

"Writing for the Profession" By Rachel Singer Gordon



Rachel Singer Gordon <rachel@lisjobs.com> is webmaster of the library careers site Lisjobs.com, editor of the Info Career Trends electronic newsletter, and author of Library Journal's "NextGen" and "Computer Media" columns. She has published several books for information professionals, most recently The Librarian's Guide to Writing for Publication (Scarecrow, 2004), The Accidental Systems Librarian (ITI, 2003), and The Information Professional's Guide to Career Development Online (ITI, 2002). More on Rachel and her work can be found

http://www.lisjobs.co
m/resume.htm>.

at

Many information professionals, understandably busy with both day-to-day responsibilities and keeping up with our rapidly-changing field, may feel overwhelmed by the idea of making original contributions to the profession. One of the best ways to remain current and connected, however, is by taking the time to contribute through writing for publication. Our research and writing activities also allow us to engage in the timehonored library tradition of sharing information with others -- only, in this case, with our colleagues. Writing for the library literature allows us to stretch our minds and to think about our profession and where it is headed. It allows us to contribute to our ongoing professional conversation, which in turn helps define the underpinnings of our field.

Getting Started

Our active body of professional literature can only benefit by incorporating new and varied voices. The publishing process, though, can seem unnecessarily intimidating to first-time writers. New librarian authors can confront that intimidation factor by looking at writing for publication as an opportunity to share their opinions, ideas, experiences, or successes with others. Information professionals do this all the time in less formal venues, from weblogs, to email lists, to workshops, to discussions with coworkers. Publishing your work in the literature lets you extend this conversation to a broader range of people, and to make your contribution in a more permanent way.

Newer writers should also take every opportunity to connect with other librarian authors. Seek out co-authors that can help keep you on track and with whom you can exchange ideas; seek out mentors that can advise you on research directions or publication outlets and do a first reading on your work. You can begin with smaller and more-defined writing projects, such as book reviews or conference write-ups. Calls for reviewers and conference summaries are often posted in association magazines and review journals; keep an eye out for these as you do your professional reading.

Think about your larger writing projects as growing organically out of your work and the thinking you do about the profession. Your ideas can stem either from your experiences or your interests, and ideally out of a combination of both. Never make the mistake of thinking you have nothing to share with your peers; we all can benefit from one another's ideas, research, and experiences.

Where To Publish

The decision about where to publish your work depends on the type of article or monograph you wish to write. Academic research articles have an inherently different audience than informal "how we did it good" write-ups, for example.

Many academic librarians will need to publish in peer-reviewed (refereed) journals to qualify for tenure and/or promotion within their institutions. Some institutions will also place importance on the relative prestige of the publication. When beginning this process, newer writers should seek out published colleagues to read and critique their work; the importance of a supportive network should not be underestimated. Newer authors can also consider contributing their work to journals such as portal: Libraries and the Academy http://digbig.com/4bnpf, which actively mentor newer writers and help them through the peer-review process.

If you feel strongly about the issue of open access, or want to ensure a broader audience for your freely-available work, browse through the LIS section of the Directory of Open Access Journals: http://www.doaj.org/ljbs?cpid=129. (Note, however, that not all of these are refereed; check the web pages of each for details and instructions to authors.)

Information professionals outside the academic environment, and those with less pressing tenure issues, enjoy an enormous variety of publication outlets. These range from online newsletters, such as FreePint itself

http://www.freepint.com/author.htm or Info Career Trends

http://www.lisjobs.com/newsletter/theme.htm# contrib>, to topical publications like Computers in Libraries

http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/contrib.shtml, to more general or association journals like the Canadian Library Association's Feliciter http://www.cla.ca/feliciter/guidelines.htm. You can find a large list of international LIS

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- FreePint No.143 21st August 2003. "Leadership Styles and the Life-cycles of Collectives" and "Language Net - The Lasa Multikulti Website" http://www.freepint.com/issues/210803.htm
- FreePint No.119 22nd August 2002. "Joining the Dots: Developing a Resource to Support Changing Roles in Health Libraries" "UK Government Information on the Web" http://www.freepint.com/issues/220802.htm
- FreePint No.94 16th August 2001. "Further Voluntary Sector Resources" and "Photography through the Web - Part 2" http://www.freepint.com/issues/160801.htm
- FreePint No.69, 17th August 2000. "UK Tax Resources on the Web" and "Reflexology Sources on the Web" http://www.freepint.com/issues/170800.htm

In 1999 and 1998 we, sensibly, had a break at this time of year. $\,$

Penny <penny@freepint.com>



Related FreePint links:

- 'Information and Libraries' articles in the FreePint Portal http://www.freepint.com/go/p69
- Post a message to the author, Rachel Singer Gordon, or suggest further resources at the FreePint Bar <http://www.freepint .com/bar>
- Read this article online, with activated hyperlinks
 http://www.freepint .com/issues/260804. htm#feature>
- Access the entire archive of FreePint content http://www.freepint.c om/portal/content/

publications at BUBL http://bubl.ac.uk/journals/; look for author guidelines on the web pages of each.

If you wish to publish a book-length manuscript, the best place to start is, often, by examining the author guidelines of the publishing arm of your national professional association: in the U.S., ALA Editions at http://digbig.com/4bnpg; in the UK, Facet Publishing at

<http://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/writingforus.s html>. This will give you an idea of the types of proposals each solicits and the types of manuscripts they publish. If your topic seems inappropriate here, start looking at other books with a similar tone or topic to yours. See who is most likely to publish in that area, then visit those various publishers' web sites to examine their guidelines and current needs. Realize that proposal guidelines will vary by publisher, and that the proposal you create for one will need reworking in order to be appropriate for another.

Dealing With Rejection

As with anything in life, if you put your writing out there, you face the inevitable prospect of rejection. If you let the prospect of possible rejection paralyze you, you sabotage your own success.

Maximize your odds of acceptance by following guidelines diligently and by familiarizing yourself with the tone and style of various publishing outlets. It does you no good to submit an opinion essay to the Journal of Academic Librarianship; it avails you little to propose your heavily-footnoted research article to Library Journal. If a publication follows an editorial calendar, be sure to propose an article that fits into one of its upcoming themes. If it asks for manuscripts in plain text, do not submit them in Microsoft Word. If it asks for a query, send a letter rather than a finished manuscript.

Realize also that editors may often reject a manuscript or a query for reasons unrelated to its actual quality. It may not quite fit their needs, or they may already be publishing something similar in the near future. Be ready and willing to make revisions and to resubmit to the next publisher on your list. When you do so, ensure that you have made sufficient revisions that it meets the next publisher's guidelines, as these will vary. Use your information-seeking skills to do your research before submitting your work anywhere, which will give you a leg up in the process.

Where To From Here?

The preceding suggestions apply also to those seeking to publish outside of the profession, as well as to those in related fields wishing to see their own writing in print. All of us face similar issues, and we need to identify the people and the publishers that most closely match our writing styles, goals, and interests.

Keep your eye out for opportunities that might fit your interests. Information professionals can follow professional development weblogs such as Beyond the Job

http://librarycareers.blogspot.com and A Library Writer's Blog

http://librarywriting.blogspot.com, in which each post calls for papers and information on related writing opportunities. Those outside the profession can follow relevant e-mail lists and weblogs in their respective fields, which often contain topical publishing opportunities as well. Read widely in the literature to get a feel for both trends and gaps, and always be alert to where your work might find a home.

Also, take some time to establish your connections and look at what other writers are doing. Investigate sites such as Emerald's Research Register http://digbig.com/4bnph, which allows authors to inform others about their pre-publication research. DLIST (Digital Library of Information Science and Technology) http://dlist.sir.arizona.edu and E-LIS (E-Prints in Library and Information Science) http://eprints.rclis.org both serve as openaccess archives for LIS-related documents; use them to see what others are working on, and think about depositing your own efforts.

Once you get started, you may be surprised at how easily ideas and opportunities flow. Seize the chance to get your voice heard and your work published, and join the ongoing professional conversation.

Additional Resources

Crawford, Walt. First Have Something to Say: Writing for the Library Profession. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2003.

• A brief, gung-ho guide for new librarian-writers; also includes related info on presenting.

Gordon, Rachel Singer. The Librarian's Guide to Writing for Publication. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2004.

 Expands on the material included in this article; also contains interviews with editors from various types of publications/publishers.

NMRTWriter e-mail list supporting librarian writers: http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/comm/nmrtwriter.htm

 Although sponsored by the American Library Association's New Members Round Table, the list is open to all; topics include writing advice and calls for contributors.

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Annual General Meeting and Expo

29th September 2004

City Information Group, the premier networking information Group in London, is holding it's new format AGM meeting on **29**th **September 2004**.

Starting at midday, we are offering:

☐ free seminars
lacksquare a topical debate with key industry people
☐ an exhibition with around 20 industry suppliers that are key to CiG members
☐ AGM meeting to hear about CiG's development from the CiG Committee
☐ a champagne drinks reception
☐ an AGM dinner with after-dinner speaker

An un-missable afternoon and evening of learning, exploration, networking and top tips. Take time to talk to suppliers in a relaxed atmosphere, attend practical workshops, catch up with your peers, find out how CiG is working to meet your needs and relax and dine in good company.

The venue for this event is the Chartered Accountants Hall Moorgate Place, London EC2.

To book, visit www.cityinformation.org.uk

