

péter's picks & pans



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The picks include two excellent digital resources that deliver more than their URL or titles would suggest. One is the revamped LJ Digital site, offering free access to the full text of several Cahners publications that are highly relevant to readers of *ONLINE*. The other is the McGraw Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms. The pan is the Bloomsbury Center, which is rendered almost useless by its very poor software and incredibly long response time.



thepicks

LIBRARY JOURNAL DIGITAL

Reed (formerly Cahners) Business Information decided to stop using the simple but descriptive LJ Digital name and URL. If you bookmarked the former URL, it will automatically take you to a site whose URL certainly suggests that you will find reviews and news from *Library Journal (LJ)* [<http://libraryjournal.reviewsnews.com/>].

In reality you find much more. There are also feature articles, editorials, and outstanding columns, including "Online Databases" by Carol Tenopir, "Digital Libraries" by Roy Tennant, and "Web Watch," by various authors—all should

LJ Digital

McGraw Hill
Dictionary of Scientific
and Technical Terms

Bloomsbury Center

LIBRARY JOURNAL Search

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Digital Libraries

FROM THE PUBLICATION

Digital Libraries- The Importance of Being Granular -- 05/15/2002
Our libraries are increasingly dependent on metadata. Besides the obvious (our catalogs), other uses are becoming more commonplace. Virtually any content we digitize and make available to our clientele requires metadata for discovery and access. Every int. [more...](#)

Digital Libraries- Metadata As if Libraries Depended on It -- 04/15/2002
In digital library work, we often talk about metadata; what I jokingly call "cataloging by those paid better than librarians." [more...](#)

Digital Libraries- The Digital Librarian Shortage -- 02/15/2002
Recently, both First Lady Laura Bush and the Institute of Museum and Library Services pledged support for librarian recruitment in response to a shortage of library professionals. [more...](#)

Digital Libraries-Factoring in the Only Constant -- 02/15/2002
The only constant is change. This is surely no truer than in the process of creating and managing digital libraries. Until recently, though, change came rather slowly to libraries; one could even say that change (at least in the form of deterioration) [more...](#)

Digital Libraries- The Consequences of Cataloging -- 01/15/2002
As our usage statistics decline (on average), owing to the perceived promise of the Internet, we must think imaginatively. More and more, I believe that means establishing ever-wider cooperative relationships with other libraries. [more...](#)

Digital Libraries- The Convenience Catastrophe -- 12/15/2001
Anyone who has worked a reference desk has seen users pleased with a quick and mediocre answer when, with a bit more time and effort, they could get a better one. It's called "satisficing." [more...](#)

Digital Libraries- Coping with Disasters -- 11/15/2001

Excerpt from the LJ sections and the topics covered in the "Digital Libraries" column.

More gateways to other systems and more full text, better indexing, and customized packages respond to librarians' demands

TABLE 1: Firms and Their Database Services

FIRM	Firm Type	Primary Library Sales	Secondary Library Sales	FORMATS										Links to Documents	Gateway to Other Online Sources	Overall Subject Focus	Z39.50 Compatibility	Pricing			
				ASCII	Image	ASCII & Image	HTML	SGML	XML	PDF	Other	Connect Time	Concurrent User					Potential User	Flat-Fee Subscrip.		
ABC-CLIO	creator	academic	public	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	all products	all products	humanities	under consideration	no	no	no	yes		
Alexander Street Press	creator	public	n/a	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	n/a	no	humanities	no	no	no	no	yes		
CAB International	creator	academic	special	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no	some products	under consideration	sci-tech	under consideration	no	yes	yes	yes		
Chemical Abstracts	both	special	n/a	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	all products	under consideration	sci-tech	some products	yes	yes	no	yes		
CINAHL	creator	academic	special	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	no	all products	no	sci-tech	some products	yes	yes	no	yes		
CISTI	both	academic	special	no	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	no	all products	some products	sci-tech	some products	no	no	no	yes		
CRC Press	creator	academic	special	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	some products	no	sci-tech	no	no	no	no	yes		
CSA	both	special	n/a	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	some products	some products	sci-tech	all products	no	no	no	yes		
D & B	both	academic	public	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	some products	no	social sciences	under consideration	no	yes	no	yes		
Dialog	value-added	special	academic	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	some products	some products	sci-tech	under consideration	yes	yes	yes	yes		
EBSCO	both	academic	public	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	all products	all products	social sciences	most products	no	no	no	yes		
Elsevier Science	both	academic	special	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	some products	all products	sci-tech	some products	no	yes	yes	yes		

Excerpt from the table that accompanied the feature article about the Database Universe.

be on the required readings list of anyone who wants to get objective opinions about developments in on-line information retrieval systems and services by the most highly respected objective experts.

There are book reviews, soon to be searchable, and practically all the other useful sections of *Library Journal*. Missing, however, is the section about CD-ROM reviews. The site is not restricted to *LJ*: You will find very good coverage of *School Library Journal (SLJ)*, *Publishers Weekly*, *netConnect*, the supplement to *LJ* and *SLJ*, and *Criticas*, the English-language review journal of Spanish language books. Considering that *LJ* alone is published 20 times a year, this is a rich resource, and it will become richer as the archive is set to add retrospective coverage back to 1997.

The site is browsable with an exemplary search component. Finding the relevant columns using the search strategy (tenopir or tennant) and virtual and reference was a cinch. There are printer-friendly versions for the articles, which is laudable.

There are also essential illustrations such as the utterly informative and comprehensive table from the Database Universe feature article published in the May 15, 2002, issue—that had not yet been received by our library when I read it online.

This immensely rich site of the widely read journals of our profession sets an impressive example that serves the practicing librarian very well. To access some of the features, you need to register. Hopefully soon, registered users will have access to a searchable database of more than 200,000 reviews of books, educational videos, audio books, databases, and Web sites going back to 1985.



**McGraw-Hill
 Dictionary of Scientific
 and Technical Terms**

I liked at first sight the digital version of the venerable *McGraw-Hill Diction-*

ary of Scientific and Technical Terms [www.acessscience.com?Dictionary/]. I was particularly impressed when it showed not only the definitions from the dictionary, but also a good dozen entries from the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia, and the title of three news items from *Science News* (although the text is available only for subscribers). Interest piqued, I went hunting for an alternative source. With no effort I found all of them in a minute on the free Web, and really enjoyed reading them.

But I liked this digital dictionary even more because it came out at the best time, just when the Academic Press Dictionary of Science and Technology was downgraded (soon after its acquisition by Elsevier) from a searchable database to a database browsable only by the main entry terms. The AP dictionary is now fully unavailable, leaving the playing field to McGraw Hill. I was not really surprised, as repeated e-mails to the Webmaster at AP about the fate of the dictionary went unanswered. Later phone calls to an acquaintance at AP

Click on the category link to restrict the search to this specific key

- [Dictionary](#) [Encyclopedia](#) [Research](#) [Biography](#) [In the News](#)
[Term](#) [Article](#) [Update](#) [Archive](#)

In the News

- A new way to stick it to flies** (available to subscribers only)
Related Topic: [Physics](#) (available to subscribers only)
Score: 0.58
- Mice can thank a hormone for the memories** (available to subscribers only)
Related Topic: [Biological & Biomedical Science](#) (available to subscribers only)
Score: 0.58
- Roach gals get less choosy as time goes by** (available to subscribers only)
Related Topic: [Biological & Biomedical Science](#) [Environmental Science](#) (available to subscribers only)
Score: 0.58

Interesting bonus entries from Science News to complement the terms from the dictionary.

yielded no information either, suggesting the possible demise of the free digital version of the AP dictionary.

The McGraw-Hill dictionary is browsable, and spending a few minutes scanning the entries will show you that it's not just science and technology: Medicine and psychology are also thoroughly covered. I found 656 terms that had a definition for their psychological meanings.

I did not know there were so many phobias, let alone specific names given to certain types of fear, such as acerbophobia (also known as acerophobia), the abnormal fear of sour taste sensation, agyriophobia (abnormal fear of crossing streets), or amyphobia, the abnormal fear of being scratched or clawed. I stopped at lysophobia (which is defined as fear of hydrophobia as well as fear of in-

Your search found **136** entries:
Note: using AND, OR, and NOT will help.

Key to Search Results

Use this key to identify the category of documents in your search result list

Click on the category link to restrict the search to this specific key

- [Dictionary](#) [Encyclopedia](#) [Research](#) [Biography](#) [In the News](#)
[Term](#) [Article](#) [Update](#) [Archive](#)

View in order of relevance | [View by category](#)

- catagelophobia** [PSYCHOLOGY] An abnormal fear of ridicule.
{ |kɑd·ə|jɛl·ə|fə·bē·ə }
Score: 0.58
- cheimaphobia** [PSYCHOLOGY] An abnormal fear of cold.
{ |ki·mə|fə·bē·ə }
Score: 0.58
- cherophobia** [PSYCHOLOGY] An abnormal fear of happiness.
{ |kɛr·ə|fə·bē·ə }
Score: 0.58
- chionophobia** [PSYCHOLOGY] An abnormal fear of snow.
{ |ki·ən·ə|fə·bē·ə }

Definitions for many social science terms are also available in the Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms.

sanity or fear of being afraid), before I became scriptophobic.

The McGraw-Hill dictionary is extremely current, as thousands of entries were added or modified since the 5th print edition, to be replaced very soon by the 6th edition. The bonus of the many additional entries from the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia and the news items would have made it my preferred choice, even if the AP dictionary was still online, although in an ideal world one wants to use both dictionaries to corroborate and complement information. Even if your library acquires the new print edition (which interestingly, costs less than the 5th), you should bookmark this site, which offers the advantage of searching the full text of dictionary, and then some.



thepan

BLOOMSBURY REFERENCE CENTRE

Bloomsbury Publishing plc received the British Publisher of the Year Award in 1999 and 2000. Although it is probably best known for its *Harry Potter* series, Bloomsbury is also the publisher of other best-sellers, such as *The English Patient* and *The Piano*, and its awards are certainly well deserved. When it comes to ready-reference publications, it is unlikely to rival Penguin, Oxford University Press, or Cambridge University Press, although its Encarta World English Dictionary and Encarta Quotations Dictionary (distributed by Microsoft in digital format) are very good.

So how could this publisher land in the "Pans" section of this column? Through its deeply disappointing Bloomsbury Research Center Web service [www.bloomsbury.com]. The eight titles that make up this free digital collection are OK (though somewhat stale), no more, no less (Guide to Arts, Guide to Human Thought, Myth, Good Word Guide, Dictionary of English Literature, Biographical Quotations Dictionary and

Research centre

- Home
- Writer's area
- Bookshop
- Research centre
- Magazine

Sorry, the search for 'bagpipe' did not produce any results.

Please [click here](#) for a new search.

The software does not find the definition of the word bagpipe (at left) even though the definition of bagpipe is in the Guide to Art collection (below).

Thematic Quotations Dictionary, and Thesaurus), but there is not much need for them. Better subject guides and dictionaries from competitors have been available free of charge for quite some time. The last three titles mentioned above are available, also for free, through Xrefer (along with nearly 50 other ready-reference titles and a far better software).

Bloomsbury's clunky software is incredibly sloooooow. Maybe the server is overloaded with mail from *Harry Potter* fans, but searching Bloomsbury is like watching paint dry. It does not help that the software is also brain damaged and can't find terms that are defined in the collection—one example is bagpipe—and dozens of others in my test words.

Maybe it is compensation that when the software does find the definition of the term you are looking for, it displays it twice. This duplication happened in all my test searches, assuming the software did not come up empty-handed. It is obviously a software failure as both entries have the same ID number. When you are searching for a term that yields many results—try Botticelli—the duplicates are even stranger, as they are far apart from each other, indicating deficiencies in either the relevance ranking or sorting capabilities of the software.

Using Bloomsbury Reference Centre is sheer frustration and even for the chance of finding informative articles, it is just not worth my time.

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Comments? E-mail letters to the editor to marydee@xmission.com.

Guide To Art, Shearer West, Bloomsbury, 1996

Badger Joseph (1708-1765) American

Born in Massachusetts Badger practised portrait painting there from the 1740s. As with much colonial portraiture his style is rather stiff and his figures are not wholly convincing. However...

Baertling Otto Charles (1897-1973)

He was influenced by Léger and Mondrian and developed their abstraction into a clinical metallic style based on geometric form. In 1952 he was one...

Baglione Giovanni (c. 1573-1644)

He was active chiefly in Rome and was influenced first by the late Mannerism of Arpino and then by the more modern work of

bagpipe

European musical instrument of great antiquity basically consisting of a reed pipe through which the player blows into a large wind bag made of skin. The wind bag is...

Search results

2 results were found from the search for 'peasants wedding'

To narrow down your search results, type in one or more words and click **Refine** or click **New** to begin a new search.

Refine **New**

Click the blue heading to see the full entry or [click here](#) to return to main page.

1. [peasants' wedding...](#)

Painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Although not signed or dated it is considered to be from c. 1567 and is now in the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna...

Guide To Art, Shearer West, Bloomsbury, 1996

2. [peasants' wedding...](#)

Painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Although not signed or dated it is considered to be from c. 1567 and is now in the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna...

Guide To Art, Shearer West, Bloomsbury, 1996

Identical records are displayed twice.