

Technology

■ Biz Library for the Tech Generation

Printed materials aren't the only literary convention being transformed by the digital revolution. Academic libraries also have come a long way from dusty card catalogs and hand-written checkout cards. Many libraries today are undergoing state-of-the-art digital makeovers, taking advantage of everything from the Internet, to database technologies, to radio frequency identification (RFID), to offer campus communities quicker, more comprehensive access to information.

One \$16 million makeover was recently completed at the business library at Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts.

The newly renovated library has doubled its online resources, which include electronic access to more than 70 databases. The library improved its PC access with Internet and power ports located throughout the building. Each study carrel is also equipped with wireless access. The library features a cybercafe, art gallery, research space, offices for doctoral candidates, and individual and collaborative study rooms for students. Nineteen of the 24 study rooms include flat-panel LCD screens to facilitate group work.

The library also is equipped with an RFID library collection management system by 3M. The electronic self-checkout system uses computer RFID tags inside each book that allow library users to check out a stack of books with a single swipe across a detector.



Bentley College's new state-of-the-art business library.

The mission for the renovation was to go beyond the conventions of a traditional academic library, notes Philip Knutel, Bentley's director of academic technology, library and research services, and a principal designer for the project. "We've combined all the

resources of an academic library with the elements that make a commercial bookstore so inviting," he says.

■ Fox Helps Philly Go Wireless

The Fox School of Business at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, recently worked with that city's government to develop a plan for a citywide wireless network. The team of faculty and students who worked on the project hopes its plan will serve as a model for other cities that want to establish wireless environments.

The team from the Fox School included Munir Mandviwalla,

founding chair of the management information systems department and executive director of the Irwin L. Gross eBusiness Institute; Julie Fesenmaier, associate research director of the Cochran Research Center; Paul Weinberg, senior fel-

NEWSBYTES

■ ONLINE RESOURCES FOR THE DISABLED

Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, has expanded its career services Web site to include a new resource page and online skills-based workshop to help students with disabilities. The site includes links to information regarding employers and legal protections for the disabled, as well as an audio workshop titled "Disclosure and Accommodations," designed to help disabled job applicants approach and inform potential employers.

■ CALL FOR SAFER NANOTECH

The Nanoethics Group (www.nanoethics.org), a nonprofit based in Santa Barbara, California, is creating a 30-member advisory board made up of industry leaders and academics to examine the ethical and social impact of nanotechnology. What makes nanotechnology so appealing—its ability to produce very strong materials and high computing capacities on an atomically small scale—also presents a potential danger. Little is known about what would happen if a person were to ingest or inhale nanomaterials, or somehow absorb them through the skin, say organization representatives. Officials of the Nanoethics Group say that its goal is to anticipate and respond to any risk the technology may represent.



low of the Irwin L. Gross eBusiness Institute; Abhijit Jain, an MIS doctoral student; and Jeff Smith and Greg Meyers, alumni of the Fox school.

Work on the business plan included conducting a needs assessment and a stakeholder analysis for the city, as well as holding 13

focus groups and a town hall meeting where citizens could add their voices to the project. Plans for the citywide wireless network were presented to the city in February. On Febru-

DATABIT

Outsourcing to India is having expected effects, including an increase in job creation in that country, especially in the tech sector. For example, according to *Computerworld*, Bangalore-based Infosys Technologies Limited reported adding 14,200 employees last year, an increase of 40 percent. Hyderabad-based Satyam Computer Services Ltd. added 1,977 employees in the quarter ending last September, an increase of 23 percent.

ary 29, Philadelphia's mayor, John Street, announced that the city-sponsored nonprofit group Wireless Philadelphia had partnered with Earthlink to create the network.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

IT Groups Give Higher Education 'Open Source' Software Options

In response to the rising cost of maintaining software licenses for higher education, organizations dedicated to the release of "open source" software designed specifically for colleges and universities are gathering momentum. Open source software makes its source code available to the public, so that a community of users can adapt, improve, and advance the software faster than traditional software development. That model, say open source advocates, can help colleges and universities take charge of their own software needs.

Since its launch in January 2004, the Sakai Foundation, formerly the Sakai Project, has worked to develop and distribute an open-source collaboration and learning software program designed for higher education. The foundation involves more than 80 educational partners and 12 commercial affiliates. In July, the Sakai Foundation released the latest version of its software, Sakai 2.2.0, which includes assignment and scheduling, teaching, portfolio publishing, messaging, discussion, and Web editing tools.

The Kualu Foundation, another open source partnership, was launched

in August 2004 as the Kualu Project. It pooled institutional investments from Indiana University, the University of Hawaii, the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), and open source software company r-smart group. Their goal was to develop a financial information system for colleges and uni-



versities using the open source model. In March 2005, the project received a \$2.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

In April, the Kualu Foundation released the "test drive" of its Kualu Financial Systems (KFS) software, which is specifically designed for college and university fiscal enterprise management. It is based on the financial system design used for more than a decade at Indiana University. The

initial version of KFS includes base modules that track accounts, general ledger functions, transactions, reporting, and workflow. Additional modules will involve accounts receivable, budgeting, capital assets management, endowment and other functions.

Brad Wheeler is the board chairman of the Kualu Project and a board member of the Sakai Foundation. He also serves as the chief information officer at Indiana University and as an associate professor of information systems at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business in Bloomington. Wheeler notes that the advantage of the open source model is that it allows those who work in higher education to design software specifically suited to their needs, while also maintaining control over its code, its development—and its cost. "Like the Sakai Project, Kualu is aggregating institutional resources to develop and sustain open source software together as we all strive to do more with less," Wheeler says.

For more information on the open source efforts of the Sakai Foundation, visit www.sakaiproject.org. For more information on the Kualu Project, visit www.kualu.org. 