



▼ ADVISOR INTRODUCTIONS

From Your Managing Editor

Seventh Annual Readers' Choice Awards

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For the seventh year, *The Charleston Advisor* is sponsoring a series of annual awards for the best and worst electronic services and databases of interest to libraries. The awards are not necessarily limited to products covered by *TCA*, but *TCA* reviews (if available) were consulted in the final consideration. Awards are given in ten standard categories; special one-time awards are periodically given and labeled as a "special award." Members of the editorial board made the selections in a September 2007 conference call.

Best New Product

Teen Health and Wellness—A terrific product from Rosen Publishing that meets an important need of a critical group <<http://www.teenhealthandwellness.com>>.

Best New End-User Product

Zotero—A great open source piece of bibliographic software to assist students and researchers in collecting, managing, and citing sources. It is especially oriented to working in the digital world <<http://www.zotero.org>>.

Most Improved Product

Thomson Gale PowerSearch and Gale Virtual Reference Library—A greatly improved search interface that supports multidatabase searching, tabs for easy limiting, many customization options at the institutional level, and repackaged subcollections.

Best Interface

Oxford Scholarship Online—Searching is easy, intuitive, and loaded with special features. Both beginning and advanced searchers will find the interface powerful but easy to use <<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com>>.

Best Content

Google Book Search—This project has seen unprecedented expansion as Google has added a great number of new libraries including many outside of the United States. "By the pound," this is one of the most ambitious digitization projects ever done <<http://books.google.com>>.

Best Pricing

Nytimes.com—The free Web version of the *New York Times* and its backfile represents one of the best opportunities on the Web. The addition of video, podcasts, and other features shows how newspapers can transform themselves <<http://nytimes.com>>.

Best Contract Options

Synthesis Digital Library of Engineering and Computer Science—These collections are licensed on a one-time purchase basis offering both perpetual access and no ongoing fees. It doesn't get much better than that <<http://www.morganandclaypool.com>>.

Best Customer Support

Overdrive—Digital media downloading services and wonderful customer support. The company really listens to the customer, anticipates

customer needs, and pays serious attention to customer input <<http://www.overdrive.com>>.

Best Efforts

Scitopia—It's great to see many major scientific societies work together to create a federated vertical search gateway <<http://www.scitopia.org>>.

Readwhatyouwant.com—Using technology to help those with reading disabilities get books in their format of choice is an outstanding use of technology. This site is a must for libraries <<http://www.readwhatyouwant.com>>.

Just Keeps Getting Better Award (Special Award)

LibraryThing—A fabulous tool for librarians and researchers; it just keeps getting better and better. It allows you to catalog your own books, offers a readers advisory service, a social space for books, and other cool stuff <<http://www.librarything.com>>.

Watch for This (Special Award)

Newser.com—For an innovative new technique of packaging the news in a very visual way. Wouldn't this look good on a big screen? It is currently in beta release <<http://newser.com>>.

Vaporware Award

Horizon and Voyager—SIRSI has left a lot of libraries unhappy with the announcement that the widely used Horizon ILS is coming to its end of life. When the Francisco Partners (owners of Ex Libris) purchased the Voyager system, it quickly became clear that Voyager was not at the top of the food chain in that acquisition. Both of these major ILS solutions can see future vaporization.

Lemon Award

PRISM (The Partnership for Research Integrity in Science and Medicine)—The Association of American Publishers (AAP) has announced a partnership to oppose efforts to put publicly funded research in the public domain. They oppose "the risks of proposed government interference with the scholarly communication process." These publishers should not bite the hand that feeds them <<http://www.prismcoalition.org>>.

About Face Award

This is a new standing award category that will point out retrograde motion in the publisher/vendor community. Some of the worst offenders this year include:

American Association for the Advancement of Science—For their recent decision to stop depositing Science in JSTOR.

Taylor and Francis—For their removal of content from Ebrary. ■