

→ **Fast Facts**



Data deluge

Some journals may someday be composed primarily of raw data. This is one possible conclusion drawn from a Microsoft Research report entitled "Towards 2020 Science." The reports states that, because of the scale of scientific data, "we believe that attempts to solve the issues of scientific data management by building large, centralized, archival repositories are both dangerous and unworkable." Instead, a more distributed model of archiving raw data may emerge.

Scott Carlson, "Lost in a Sea of Science Data," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 23, 2006, Volume 52, Issue 42, Page A35, chronicle.com/free/v52/i42/42a03501.htm. July 1, 2006



International conference on the book

The Fourth International Conference on the Book will take place October 20–22, 2006, at Emerson College in Boston. "The conference will address a range of critically important themes relating to the book—including the past, present and future of publishing, libraries, literacy and learning in the information society. Main speakers will include leading thinkers and innovators in the areas of publishing, editing, librarianship, printing, authorship and information technologies, as well as numerous presentations by researchers and practitioners. Publishers, librarians, academics, teachers, authors and associated professionals are all welcome to attend."

The Fourth International Conference on the Book, www.Book-Conference.com. May 28, 2006



Pick an atom, any atom

With an estimated 10^{80} atoms in the universe, you can guess a randomly picked atom using only 266 properly chosen yes/no questions. Information theorist Claude Shannon's equation states that a question with N possible outcomes can be answered with $\log N$ bits of information. $\log 10^{80}$ is about 266.

Charles Seife, *Decoding the Universe: How the new science of information is explaining everything in the cosmos, from our brains to black holes* (Viking, 2006), pp. 65-66.



Amazon.com library processing

Amazon.com announced it has launched Library Processing, enabling its library customers to receive Machine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) records and essential preparation services for books and other media. When library customers order products from Amazon.com, they will have the option of including spine labels, barcodes, and Mylar jacketing as part of their order. Each library will be able to manage its processing profile online. Amazon.com estimates it usually takes about three days longer to receive items when Library Processing is applied to orders.

"Introducing Library Processing," www.amazon.com/libraries. July 31, 2006

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