



WRITERSWORLD Newsletter - Issue No. 80

Robots and computers are digitizing the World's Books, many of which will be available on the Internet

By Ned Potter 

June 11, 2006 - Deep in the basement of the Stanford University library, hidden among the volumes of Homer and Shakespeare, is Stanford's fastest reader. It is a robot, invented in Switzerland, that can scan up to 1,000 pages an hour. It turns the pages itself, and even blows air to separate them when they're stuck together. Stanford's librarian, Michael Keller, says the robot has a giant reading list. "My personal goal," he said, "is to see how much of these 8 million volumes that we have gathered here — how much of that can we make accessible and more available because they've been digitized?"

Until now, converting books into data that can be put in a computer was a very slow job — done by students or low-cost workers overseas. That limited the number of complete books available on the Internet, but it won't be limited for long. "The Internet presents us now with a way to make them more broadly available and more deeply available," Keller said. Virtual libraries are spreading across the Web. The most public is Google's book search feature, which allows people to sample books, for free, from Stanford and four other major collections. Another firm, ebrary, offers books, maps, scientific papers and even sheet music. It is a giant database subscribers pay to access. Books and other documents can be searched because a computer can recognize printed words.

"We're searching within what is plainly a digital scan of this book," said Christopher Warnock, the CEO of ebrary.com, demonstrating the search feature. "And if we search for every occurrence of 'love' within this document, we can find it much more quickly and efficiently than if we had to go through and read the entire book." Old books can be digitized and preserved with no fear that the paper will turn to dust. "I think of this project as a kind of witness protection program for the past, run by librarians," said James O'Donnell, the provost of Georgetown University. The scanning at Stanford alone will go on for years.

"It is very much a revolution," said librarian Keller, "and very much a revolution to the benefit of one and all.".....**THE END**

FREE BLACKBERRY 8700

WRITERSWORLD have combined with the Interchange Group Plc to bring you the phenomenal offer of a free Blackberry 8700 Wireless Handheld™, the most amazing electronic communication device ever invented, which makes it easy to stay connected while on the go. You get uncompromising email, browsing and voice performance in one thin, stylish, lightweight handheld with a full QWERTY keyboard. Sadly this offer can only apply to United Kingdom residents. ([Please click here to contact our chosen Blackberry retailer](#))

WORDS TO THE WISE

Whether you use **WRITERSWORLD** or any other print-on-demand company insist that when your book is published you have a direct account with the printer. This will cost you nothing and you will end up with 100% of the royalties and the ability to purchase copies of your books at cost. Yes, with **WRITERSWORLD**, you get 100% of the royalties on sales of your book! You will get exactly the same distribution rights as the print-on-demand publisher and a monthly e-mail letting you know what your sales are. With respect, do not leave your book in the hands of any print-on-demand book publisher and be dependent on the publisher to know what your sales and royalties are and allow them to profit from the sales of your book. Also insist that your book's ISBN number is issued to you and your book's imprint page reflects you as being the publisher.



SUBSCRIPTIONS & LEGAL NOTICE

Subscriptions to the **WRITERSWORLD** Newsletter are free and please distribute it freely.

WRITERSWORLD - The leading book publisher in self-publishing, print on demand books and book reprints in the United Kingdom that also issues the books ISBN number in the author's name, pays the author 100% of the royalties and supplies the author with copies of their books at print cost.

www.writersworld.co.uk

www.writersworld.co.uk
We can publish your book.