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Cites & Insights: Crawford at Large

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Walt Crawford

Bibs & Blather

First Semiannual Cites & Insights Gathering

Formal name, informal non-event. If you're at ALA Midwinter, free Monday between 4:30 and 5:45 p.m., drop by the sports bar at the Hilton. No reserved tables, no-host everything, but I plan to be there for informal conversation.

Plans for Volume 2

The first full year of *Cites & Insights* suffered from deadline creep and size creep-issues kept getting earlier and, eventually longer.

I stopped writing for a couple of weeks following the December 2001 issue, to leave time to prepare the index and because I suspected a break would do me good. Before the break, I asked my core readers-the 300-odd who subscribe to the "CICAL Alert" list-for their advice on a few aspects of *& Insights*. Here are the questions and my interpretation of the answers received.
Would you rather see more "topical clumps" of annotated citations with commentary thrown in (e.g., Ebook, Copyright, Tasini, Filtering), with a consequent delay in some citations-or would you rather see most stuff [appear in] the four catchall sections (Press Watch I & II, Trends & Quick Takes, Product Watch) with more current citations?

More than half said "more clumps," with the rest split between "both" and "more currency."
What feature or specific article have you found most useful/most enjoyable, intriguing, readable

Useful: Press Watch I & II, ebooks, intellectual property, Tasini, Trends & Quick Takes, and Review Watch. Enjoyable/readable: Trends & Quick Takes, ebooks, copyright, Tasini.
What feature or specific article do you just skip over or find

with mentions of Product Watch and Review Watch. PC Values gets the MEGO (My Eyes Glaze Over) nod from a couple of readers, with one mention for Review Watch.

Here, then, are my hopes for Volume 2-based partly on reader feedback, partly on my own preferences (which turn out to be similar):

I'm aiming for 16-page issues, but that may mean more than 12 issues.

Expect as many topical clumps as in the last half of the year, but I'll cite important articles as soon as possible.

Review Watch, Product Watch and PC Values appear less frequently, but I'll try to include at least one "PC-related" feature each issue.

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You're welcome to submit your own answers to the questions above. I do read all feedback (there's not a lot, but *much* more than I get from any other writing) and usually respond. If you don't want your comments to appear in *Cites & Insights*, make that clear in your letter. I honor such requests but otherwise assume that feedback is "letters to the editor."

Self-Promoting Library Internet Thought Leader?

Think for yourself. Make up your own mind. Surely I don't need to say that to readers of *Cites & Insights* -or, for that matter, those who read *EContent* or *American Libraries*? Two disconcerting email conversations make me wonder.

One correspondent-almost certainly not a regular reader, but alerted to a recent discussion-referred to me as someone who has "spent so much