

**From:** unity.books <unity.books@clear.net.nz>  
**To:** Anna Rogers <a.rogers@clear.net.nz>  
**Date:** Friday, 14 July 2000 11:57  
**Subject:** e-list

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Dear Anna - got a bit carried away, hope its not too long! Words in caps in the main body of text could go to italics please.

Cheers,  
Tilly

#### FROM HOME TO HOME PAGES

No-one escapes the 'e'-word, yet I believe that e-literacy is not an **IMPERATIVE** for bricks & mortar booksellers, faced daily with real live encounters with real people & real books and doing all the 19th century things we still do (like hand scribbled p&a requests). But remember party lines, Olivetti golfballs, telegrams - all cut & paste communication, and all over and done with. As they say, the rest of the world has come a long way and the rest of the world is our customer.

The people at Unity Books (Wellington) can't imagine not having

- \* computerised inventory control
- \* networked bibliographic databases
- \* batched up electronic ordering
- \* offshore supplier's web pages providing discounts & stockholdings
- \* the general web info such as the football results, obscure NZ publications listed only at the National Library, author bio notes, bestsellers, prize winners, and trade politics
- \* and all the emails - publicist's e-newsletters, advertising designs, pics from travelling Unity old-girls, plus, of course, all those yummy special orders. All from people who could post or phone, but didn't.

However, the web page is a wee way off.

But, yes, there are downsides. They include the effort required to overcome pc irritation (although it's true that if you can run a till you can run a keyboard, these machines do go down), bi-focal obfuscation, data-rage and the stress of typos-as-dialogue. Then there's the dosh. And the web does commodify communication.

We are engaged in the perpetually conflicting prognoses for the bookseller on the street - will we **REALLY** replace ourselves with our .coms? Is e-literacy **REALLY** the be-all and end-all of bookselling? And in what shapes will we reinvent our literary watering holes?

// 14/2000

**From:** Anna Rogers <a.rogers@clear.net.nz>  
**To:** unity.books@clear.net.nz <unity.books@clear.net.nz>  
**Date:** Monday, 10 July 2000 11:30  
**Subject:** Tilly: e-literacy

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Dear Tilly,

I wonder if you could help me out again for this coming issue of Booksellers News? We're concentrating on technology and want to include a list of good reasons why people in the book trade should become e-literate. Would you have a few useful (very brief) thoughts on this that you could email me by the end of this Friday (14th)? I would be extremely grateful. (Am also asking Michael Moynahan at Random and Laura at Vic.)

Thanks so much and all good wishes,  
Anna

//13/2000