**Intellectual property**
Global intellectual property (IP) filings for patents, trademarks, and designs reached new highs in 2021 (the latest data available) despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Patent offices received 3.4 million patent applications in 2021, up 3.6 percent from the previous year with offices in Asia receiving 67.6 percent of all applications worldwide. Local patenting activity declined in 2021 in the US (-1.2 percent), Japan (-1.7 percent), and Germany (-3.9 percent).


**Extreme numbers**
Prolific generation of data has driven the need for new prefix names for large number magnitudes. “By the 2030s, the world will generate around a yottabyte of data per year—that’s 10²⁴ bytes, or the amount that would fit on DVDs stacked all the way to Mars. Four new prefixes [were added] to the International System of Units (SI). The prefixes ronna and quetta represent 10⁷⁷ and 10³⁰, and ronto and quecto signify 10⁻²⁷ and 10⁻³⁰. Earth’s mass is on the order of a ronnagram, and an electron’s mass is about one rontogram.”


**New public domain works**
Works copyrighted in 1927 have now entered the public domain. Books, periodicals, and movies from that year are now available to copy, share, translate, and adapt. This includes the film *Metropolis* by Fritz Lang, the books *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather and *Mosquitoes* by William Faulkner, and thousands of issues of periodicals from 1927. Many of these are available freely on the Internet Archive.


**News deserts**
“The United States continues to lose newspapers at a rate of two per week, further dividing the nation into wealthier, faster growing communities with access to local news, and struggling areas without. A fifth of the country’s...”

Gary Pattillo is reference librarian at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, e-mail: pattillo@email.unc.edu
population—70 million people—now live in an area with no local news organizations, or one at risk, with only one local news outlet and very limited access to critical news and information. Since 2005, the country has lost more than one-fourth of its newspapers and is on track to lose a third by 2025.”


Master’s Degree in AI

“The University of Texas at Austin … (is) starting a large-scale, low cost online Master of Science degree program in artificial intelligence. Amid a boom in new tools like ChatGPT, the Austin campus plans to train thousands of students in sought-after skills in artificial intelligence starting in the spring of 2024.” The approximately $10,000 tuition is intended to make AI education more affordable compared to, for example, Johns Hopkins University, which offers an online master’s degree in AI for more than $45,000.