

# bio•feedback ←

## BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 3

Summer 1986

Boston Wrap-up.....	2-4
BSD People News.....	7
Contributors.....	12
Highlights From The Division Cabinet- Joint Cabinet Meeting.....	4
Message From The Chair.....	11
Message From The Editor.....	12
Message From The Past Chair.....	5
New Officers.....	1-2
Spotlight On.....	9-10
Winning Student Essay.....	6-7

### NEW OFFICERS

Chair: Beth M. Paskoff  
157-7 Herlong Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
904/576-0742

Chair-elect: David A. Self  
University of Illinois  
Veterinary Medicine Library  
Urbana, Illinois 61801  
217/333-2193

Director: Eleanor A. MacLean  
McGill University  
Blacker Wood Library  
3459 McTavish Street  
Montreal, PQ Canada H3A 1Y1

Secretary-Treasurer: Cami L. Loucks  
Trinity Lutheran Hospital  
Medical Library  
31st and Wyandotte  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108  
816/753-0122

Bulletin Editor: Jacque-Lynne Schulman  
5964 Ranleigh Manor Drive  
McLean, Virginia 22101  
703/527-2627

Membership Committee Chair:  
Rita Fisher  
Owen Science and Engineering Library  
Washington State University  
Pullman, Washington 99164-3200  
509/335-2671

Nominating Committee Chair:  
Jean E. Crampon  
Southern Illinois University  
School of Medicine Library  
801 North Rutledge  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Public Relations/Career Guidance Chair:  
Steven Carter-Lovejoy  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Medical College of Virginia Library  
Box 582 MCV Station  
Richmond, Virginia 23225  
804/786-0823

Professional Development/Programs Chair  
Marlene Bobka  
DIOGENES  
12315 Wilkins Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20852  
301/881-2100

Publications Committee Chair  
Elizabeth Davis  
University of Illinois  
Biology Library  
407 South Goodwin  
Urbana, Illinois 61801  
217/333-3654

Local Arrangements Committee Chair  
Barbara Montanary  
University of California-Riverside  
Biology-Agriculture Library  
Riverside, California 92521  
714/787 3238

## BOSTON WRAP-UP

SLA records show that 97 of the Biological Sciences Division (BSD) members registered for the annual meeting in Boston in June. That leaves over 600 of you who couldn't make it, so I've listed below some of the highlights of the Division sponsored events.

Our first event was an open house in the Division Suite on Sunday afternoon and it was a great opportunity for those of us attending the meeting to greet old friends and to make new ones. The Division also sponsored open houses on Monday through Wednesday evenings and I am happy to say that all were well attended.

On Monday afternoon we sponsored a panel session titled "Socioeconomic Trends and the Provision of Information." Michael Annison, President of the Westrend Group in Denver, was the keynote speaker. The focus of his presentation was that this is an extraordinary time of change in this country. Debates in the fields of biology, physics, economics, religion, and politics all reflect increasing turmoil in our society. It is thus also an extraordinary time of opportunity in which we can restructure our institutions and build new sets of systems to accomplish what we want to do.

He discussed 7 major trends and their effects: (1) From an industrial society to an information society - In 1950, 65% of the workers in this country were employed in the industrial sector; that figure is now 30%. Today two-thirds of us are information workers. (2) From forced technology to high tech/high touch - There appears to be a continuing attempt to maintain a balance between technological development and human/personal relationships, i.e., we accept high technology when it allows human response. The home computer market is a good example of this. (3) From a national economy to a world economy - What happens in other countries has a very direct impact on what happens here because of an intricate web of economic

interrelationships. Information is now instantaneously shared around the world and all economies act and react on a continuing basis to developments as they occur. (4) From centralization to decentralization - While the major social, economic, and political forces of the period from 1900 through 1960 supported the centralization of power, authority, and responsibility within both our private and public sector organizations, now society is creating decentralized alternatives to almost every centralized form of organization. Problem-solving, particularly in the fields of energy, health, and education, is becoming increasingly localized. (5) From hierarchies to networking - It is clear that many of today's problems, including a sagging economy, political unrest, and a host of seemingly intractable social problems, are not solvable in a society using traditional hierarchical, top-down power structures. Networks exist to foster self-help, to exchange information, to change society, to improve productivity and work life, and to share resources. They are structured to transmit information in a way that is faster and more effective than any previously used process. (6) From either/or to multiple options - We are expressing our individuality and pluralistic nature to a greater degree than ever before. From the fashion place to the work place, we are presented with an unprecedented range of options. (7) From "business as usual" to accountability - Long-established patterns of management are being replaced by those that seek and reward entrepreneurial efforts and corporate hierarchies now accommodate a horizontal organization of many small, innovative groups.

What do these trends mean to us, librarians and information specialists? We must learn to understand them and to change our traditional methods to adapt to them or else we will find our organizations and our clients deserting us for one of the newer, more enterprising and more adaptable options available to them.

Mr. Annison was followed on the panel by

Thelma Freides from SUNY College at Purchase, NY. Ms. Freides discussed the technique of cost-benefit analysis as one proven and constructive method for handling the trend facing many of us today, that of having to adapt to reduced resources. As an example, she demonstrated how this technique can be applied to an online search service.

Naomi Broering, Medical Center Librarian at Georgetown University, was the final panelist. She presented a highly successful case study of how she was able to not only meet the automation needs of her library and its medical center clientele but also to use the knowledge and skill gained to develop a product that is being marketed to other libraries throughout the country. One measure of her success is that she was recently able to finance a several hundred thousand dollar renovation to the library solely through the profits gained from automation activities.

On Tuesday morning, BSD obtained two of the speakers for the General Session, which was titled "Technological Innovations for Excellence." Harvey Price, a private consultant who was formerly Executive Director of the Industrial Biotechnology Association, presented the topic "Future Dimensions in Biotechnology." He stated that while biotechnology is actually thousands of years old, with the examples of beer production through fermentation and primitive plant and animal breeding, the "new" biotechnology is usually defined as the techniques developed in the past decade to select and manipulate genetic material at the cellular level.

Two major applications of biotechnology today are in the areas of human health care and agriculture. Examples in the former include the use of interferon to treat hairy cell leukemia, a rare type of cancer; trials of interleukin-2 to reduce solid tumors; tissue plasminogen activator for dissolving heart attack associated blood clots; development of human growth hormones; diagnostic techniques for AIDS; vaccines for hepatitis B and malaria; and

gene therapy. In agricultural science, biotechnology's applications and benefits include enhancing food supplies through increased yields; spraying fruits and vegetables with a microbe that resists frost formation; infusing a common soil bacterium with a gene to enable it to produce a toxin for insect pests; increasing milk production through use of a bovine growth hormone; producing seeds with enhanced nutritional value for cereals such as corn; and reducing the need for chemical fertilizers by transferring nitrogen fixation properties to common crops. Other mainstream applications for biotechnology include the use of microbes to degrade solid waste and the substitution of agricultural and forestry wastes for petroleum products in the manufacture of industrial chemicals.

Mr. Price also discussed some of the social issues in biotechnology, including safety, commerce and politics, and public education. While early safety concerns centered around recombinant DNA and the possibility of epidemics created by laboratory accidents, today's issues are environmentally related. Both the Administration and Congress are working on guidelines and requirements in this area. Among the questions being asked are: is present FDA, EPA, and DOA authority adequate; is there adequate research being done in risk assessment; are there adequate sanctions for failing to follow government requirements; how much "special" attention does environmental biotechnology merit?

In the commercial/political arena, the United States is currently considered the world leader in biotechnology, but Mr. Price and others feel that the lack of a clear governmental policy to facilitate the delivery of biotechnology products to the public threatens this leadership. The entrance of Japan into the biotechnology market is cited as an example. Another issue in the commercial arena revolves around possible problems created by biotechnology's successes. For example, the bovine growth hormone mentioned earlier could soon come into widespread

commercial use and result in a great increase in milk producing efficiency. However, while this is certainly advantageous from a worldwide perspective, in the U.S. the dairy industry is already so productive that outlets for the surplus milk are being sought.

Finally, Mr. Price considered the issue of public education. He feels that the American public today is dangerously scientifically illiterate, and cited a recent Northern Illinois University study in which 57% of the respondents claimed that they had little or no understanding of what DNA is. More than half of these same respondents also agreed with a statement that scientists have a power that makes them dangerous. Such ignorance and fear imperil the future of biotechnology and thus the great benefits to be derived from it, and Mr. Price urges us as information specialists to make a contribution toward public education.

Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, Director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, was the other speaker who was sponsored by BSD in Tuesday's General Session. He discussed the topic "Societal and Ethical Implications of the New Technologies." Dr. Pellegrino, who is a physician and educator as well as an ethicist, briefly reviewed some of the technological advances presented by the previous speakers and the benefits that they had brought to us. However, he warned us against what he termed "the tyranny of the specialist." Many of us tend to accept the judgment of physicians, scientists, and other specialists because of their technical expertise, but many issues that arise out of their work are in reality ethical issues and not technical ones. He cited the example of committees which have been formed in many hospitals to decide such questions as which patients should receive transplants. These committees include physicians but usually have a preponderance of laypeople. In these ethical issues, Dr. Pellegrino feels that we have just as much right to be involved in the decision making process as any specialist. He also cautioned us not to

be so overwhelmed by technological possibilities that we ignore any ethical issues involved, stating that just because something can be done does not necessarily mean that it should be done.

The Biological Sciences Division luncheon was held on Wednesday. Mr. Jon Franklin, Associate Professor in the College of Journalism at the University of Maryland and a two-time recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, was the speaker. Mr. Franklin spoke on the topic "Trends in Modern Science Journalism." Some of the trends discussed by Mr. Franklin include (1) the "novelization" of science - science fiction has always been a popular topic for novels but now science fact is also, citing Lewis Thomas' The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher and The Youngest Science: Notes of a Medicine Watcher; (2) the increasing number of magazines in the science area, such as Omni and Discover; (3) the first two trends, combined with the demise of some of the older general magazines such as Look, have resulted in many of the new writers submitting their work to the science magazines and publishers in their efforts to gain recognition, and Mr. Franklin suggested that we be on the lookout there for tomorrow's writing stars. In spite of these more positive trends, however, Mr. Franklin questioned the quality of some of the science reporting being done today, especially in the research areas, and further questioned the accuracy and background qualifications of many of the practitioners of this relatively new field of science reporter. He also stressed that the overall number of people in this country who are science literate is still relatively small and that we must all do our part to change this.

On Thursday, the last day of the meeting, BSD co-sponsored a field trip to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Our visit there included viewing a film on the work of the Institution and touring several of the libraries, the Aquarium, and the NOAA research vessel "Delaware." The largest of the libraries at Woods Hole is in the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) and it

contains one of the world's most complete collections of biological, ecological, and oceanographic literature. It currently receives over 3,000 journals and has a collection of 160,000 bound volumes, 26,000 monographs, and 250,000 reprints. The MBL Library never closes; it is open 24 hours a day, without a security system of any kind, for the convenience of the scientists.

Our trip to Woods Hole has turned out to be particularly interesting because of the recent news stories about the discoveries relating to the sunken ship the "Titanic." It was Marine Biological Laboratory scientists who made these discoveries and the film that we saw during our visit included footage on "Alvin," the deep submersible vessel that the MBL scientists used in their work.

In conclusion, it was a great meeting. If you were unable to come to Boston this year, I hope that you will be able to join us next year in Anaheim. Please feel free to contact Beth Paskoff with any suggestions for that meeting's program or any other activities.

Karen Patrias

#### **NEW COMMITTEE FORMED**

Have you found yourself in the situation where you really wanted to talk to another librarian about a work-related problem but didn't know who to call? Perhaps you're starting a new project or going into a new area and need some background information or just want to talk to someone who's been there before. The Biological Sciences Division has now formed the Consultation Committee to help out with problems ranging from management issues such as personnel to technical questions relating to automation.

Karen Patrias at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD, (301/496-6097) and Eleanor Mac Lean at Mc Gill University in Montreal, Canada, (514/392-4955) will co-chair this new committee. They will be

happy to put you in touch with someone qualified and willing to discuss ideas and solutions with you. If you have a problem/issue to discuss or would like to volunteer to be one of the Committee's experts, please do not hesitate to contact Karen or Eleanor.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DIVISION CABINET/ JOINT CABINET MEETINGS**

The Division Cabinet met on June 10. The following major issues were discussed:

1. CE Courses - The issue of Division-sponsored continuing education courses has been debated with the Association for some time. The Divisions are concerned with their right to produce courses of interest to their members and in obtaining the most profit possible from their efforts in producing them, and the Association is concerned that Division courses do not conflict or otherwise interfere with their professionally planned program of courses. Charlotte Kohrs of the Business and Finance Division had been appointed by the Division Cabinet to chair a committee to examine this issue. At this meeting, her committee made the recommendation that for a two year period beginning with the Anaheim meeting, Divisions will sponsor CE courses exclusively on Thursdays and will retain all responsibility, risks, and income associated with these courses. This recommendation was approved by the Cabinet.

2. Outreach Committee - At the winter meeting, the Cabinet appointed a committee to develop an action plan for two related purposes: to obtain employer/organization support for member attendance at annual conferences and to further member involvement in non-conference Division activities. The Committee, chaired by Judy Genesen of the Transportation Division, presented a preliminary report and requested that their Committee be extended for another year in order to produce a more definitive final report. This recommendation was approved by the Cabinet.

3. Membership Lists - The accuracy and timeliness of membership lists provided by the Association to Divisions has been an area of concern for some time. This issue was raised again and, in recognition of the magnitude of the problem, the Division Cabinet voted to bring it before the Joint Cabinet.

4. Division Spending Ceiling - Divisions were reminded by the Association that they cannot commit any funds in excess of \$2,000 without prior approval by David Bender, the Executive Director. This is because David is the only one who can legally financially obligate the Association. David's approval may be obtained verbally.

5. Scope Notes - The Cabinet approved a motion that scope notes relating to the Divisions should be included whenever possible in Association advertising.

The Joint Cabinet Meeting was also held on June 10. The following major issues were raised:

1. SLA Film - A new videotape produced by the Association was previewed for the Cabinet members. This tape shows the work of the Association staff and is available for loan to both Chapters and Divisions.

2. Super Survey - David Bender reported on the preliminary results of the membership survey. A total of 4,479 surveys were sent out last March in order to sample the membership. In an effort to be representative, 36% of the members of each Chapter and 30% of each Division were sampled. There was a 52% response rate. A formal report will be presented in December. Meanwhile, a first look at some of the results shows:

- 55% of us are 31-45 years old
- 85% are female
- 50% pay our own dues
- 40% have been in the Association for less than 2 years
- 77% are satisfied with the name SLA
- 80% feel more should be done by SLA in the area of government relations

3. Membership Lists - The Joint Cabinet appointed a committee to look into this issue and report at the winter meeting.

4. Long Range Plan Update - These are the new priorities of the Long Range Plan: membership development, research, association organization, and government relations.

5. New Association Staff Member - Sandy Morton was introduced as the new staff member in charge of government relations.

6. LA Public Library - It was reported that 87,000 volumes in the area of science and technology alone were lost in the recent fire at the Los Angeles Public Library. Donations are badly needed to rebuild the library's collections, but SLA members are urged to contact the library first before sending any material.

Karen Patrias

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PAST CHAIR

I have really enjoyed my year as Chair of the Biological Sciences Division. It has been a great opportunity to get to know many more Division members as well as a means of learning about and participating in the work of the Association.

I would like to thank all of you who have given so generously of your time and talents to Division activities. While space does not permit me to list all of you individually, I would like to mention those who have served as officers and committee chairs:

- Sandy Wood, Beth Paskoff, and Eleanor Mac Lean, who so willingly provided advice and support
- Karen Horst Wiederaenders, who so competently kept the Division finances on track
- Jean Crampon, Jacque-Lynne Schulman, and Carolyn Takeuchi, for their fine efforts in producing Biofeedback

- Mike Kronenfeld and the Nominations Committee, for presenting us with a great slate of future officers
- Marlene Bobka and the Public Relations Committee, who not only selected the winning student essay but also prepared the foundation for Division outreach efforts
- David Self and the Membership Committee, for the effort expended in attempting to make order out of the chaos of the membership lists
- Caroline Morris, who continued to provide a good home for the Division archives

It has been a privilege to serve you and I look forward to continuing Division activities as Co-Chair of the Consultation Committee.

Karen Patrias

## WINNING STUDENT ESSAY

### Coping With The Information Explosion

The growth of scientific literature is predicted to double approximately every 15 years (Kronick 1985), and biomedical literature, alone, is increasing at an annual rate of 5% (Wolff 1986). It is the responsibility of the librarian to confront this surge in scientific literature and to direct its organization in order to actively maintain a valuable research collection.

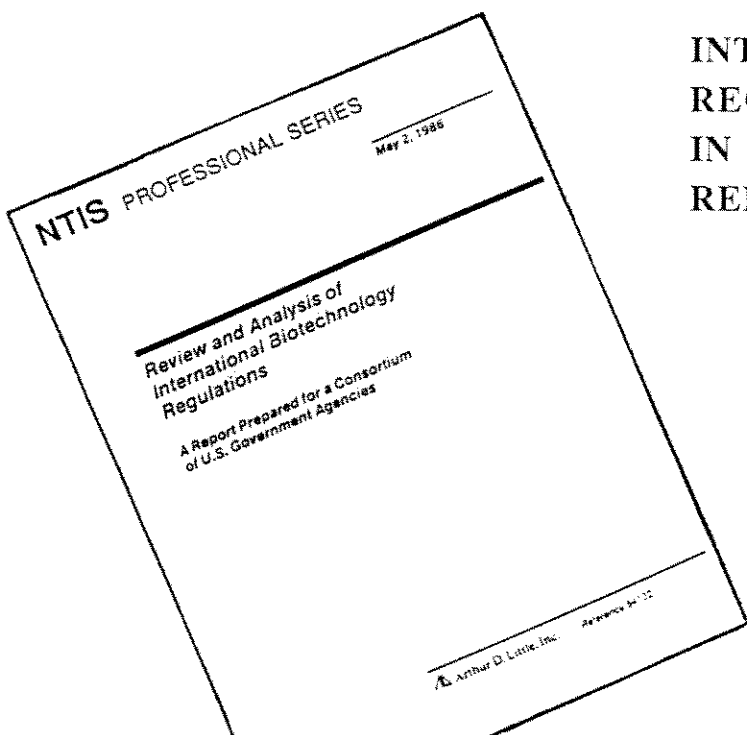
The technological advances of the 80's are greatly affecting the ability of libraries to provide information sources. One role of the librarian in the coming years is that of a "quality filter": the responsibility to maintain the collection, to add new, appropriate materials, and to weed materials that are no longer useful

## INTERNATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATIONS ARE STUDIED IN-DEPTH IN COMPREHENSIVE ARTHUR D. LITTLE REPORT

Now available from NTIS

It includes:

- o A review of publications and documents describing biotechnology regulations in JAPAN, WEST GERMANY, FRANCE, and the EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
- o Personal interviews with forty (40) highly qualified representatives of government and industry in the subject countries
- o Pre- and post-marketing requirements covering Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Experiments, Pharmaceuticals, Agrichemicals, Food and Feed Additives, Plant Pathogens, Future Developments, Environment, Patents, Plant Variety Protection, and Worker Health and Safety



To order REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATIONS, PB86-223567/ABJ, call or send your payment to the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Rd, Springfield, VA. 22161, (703) 487-4650. Pre-publication price is \$75\*. After October 15, 1986, the price will be \$100\*.

\* Plus \$3 handling charge

(Wolff 1986). It is important for the librarian to confer with library clientele, from botanists to zoologists, to determine what items to select and which to discard.

Another component of the information explosion is the limitation of funds and space to build comprehensive collections. A logical solution to these limitations is resource sharing. For example, inter-library loan provides information to the patron that the library does not own or is unable to obtain locally. Also, by taking advantage of new technologies for information transfer, patrons have access to a vast multitude of information, much more than an individual library could afford to collect. To relieve space constraints, discarded materials can be donated to collections that are just starting out and require assistance (e.g. libraries in developing countries). In addition, some institutions (e.g. zoos) that often cannot allocate sufficient funds to build their collections or even have a professional on staff, would welcome donations.

The use of all of these collection and space saving techniques must be applied to consummate knowledge and skill by a responsible librarian. Successful information retrieval in the 80's will depend on the librarian's manipulation of quality control, cooperation and resource sharing.

Kronick, DA 1985. The Literature of the Life Sciences: Reading, Writing, Research. ISI Press, Philadelphia, 219 p.

Wolff, A 1986. A cold eye on mediocrity: filtering out the best of the biomedical literature. RF Illustrated, March:9-11.

Editor's Note: The judges for this year's BSD Student Essay Contest were Beth Paskoff, Helen Hohman, and Anne Turhollow. Our thanks to them and congratulations to Kathryn R. Gubista, the winner. She is a graduate student at the University of Illinois working towards the Master of Library Science degree. She also holds a BS and MS (Biology).

### BSD People News

WILLIAM AZEVEDO is Medical Librarian at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Tucson, Arizona.

ALICE BODTKE-ROBERTS is the co-author of an article entitled "Ashurbanipal's Enduring Archetype: Thoughts on the Library's Role in the Future" in *College and Research Libraries* 1986 47(2):121-126.

SUSAN FEINGLOS is the author of *MEDLINE: A Basic Guide To Searching*. Chicago, Medical Library Association, 1985.

RUTH E. FENSKE was appointed to the faculty of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois.

ELAINE GRAHAM wrote a book review of *Local Area Networks and Libraries*. The Los Angeles Chapter of ASIS Proceedings. Edited by Wendy Culotta, Zorana Ercegovac, and Dana Roth. in *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 1986 74(2): 173-174.

ALETHA KOWITZ is the compiler of *Dentistry Journals and Serials: An Analytical Guide*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985.

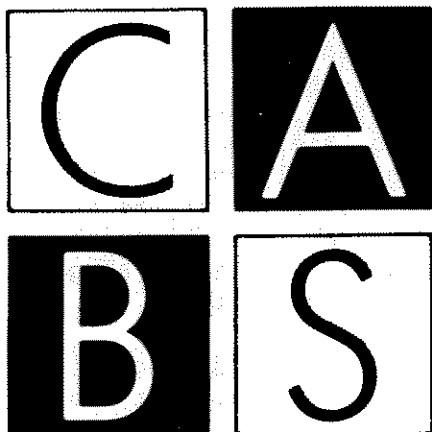
DORIAN MARTYN is now Technical Services Librarian at the Upjohn Company Corporate Technical Library, Michigan.

PATRICIA PINKOWSKI was appointed Staff Specialist, Hospital Literature Service, AHA Resource Center, American Hospital Association.

JACQUE-LYNNE SCHULMAN has been elected President of the 1000 member District of Columbia Library Association. DCLA is the Washington, DC Chapter of the American Library Association.







## CURRENT AWARENESS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Chief Editor: H SMITH, *University of Leicester, UK*,  
Associate Editor: P CAMPBELL, *Courtauld Institute, UK*,

A D SMITH, *University of Oxford, UK*,  
G McPHERSON, *Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, UK*,  
A D SMITH, *Courtauld Institute, UK*,  
P LONG, *University of Leicester, UK*, J SAMPSON, *University of Leicester, UK*,  
T DAY, *Nottingham, UK*, A SWANN, *University of Leicester, UK* and  
P JARVIS, *University of Edinburgh, UK*  
Editorial Office: *CABS Office, 132 New Walk, Leicester, LE1 7QQ, UK*

*Current Awareness in Biological Sciences* is a new information service designed to keep biologists fully informed and up-to-date with the ever-increasing literature on the subject. *CABS* provides subject-classified listings of titles allowing research scientists, managers and teachers to select those of greatest interest to them and to obtain the full text as necessary. Full bibliographic citations are provided and reprints of any article cited in this journal can be ordered through our document delivery service. Interdisciplinary areas are covered by extensive cross-referencing, each title appearing in every subject area to which it is relevant.

The clear and concise format simplifies the task of literature searching: *Current Awareness in Biological Sciences* contains no cumbersome abstracts, keeping subscription costs down and minimizing the delay in alerting biologists to the literature they need.

### Subscription Information

Published monthly (Volume - 1986)  
Annual subscription (1986) **US\$1865.00**  
Two-year rate (1986/87) **US\$3543.50**  
This combined subscription to all 11 editions represents a saving of **US\$1485.00**

The following editions from the *Current Awareness in Biological Sciences (CABS)* database are published monthly and are available separately on annual subscription as follows:

* CURRENT ADVANCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY	US\$295.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN CELL & DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY	US\$295.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES	US\$345.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN ENDOCRINOLOGY	US\$215.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN GENETICS & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	US\$295.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN IMMUNOLOGY	US\$295.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN MICROBIOLOGY	US\$295.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN NEUROSCIENCE	US\$295.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY	US\$375.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN PHYSIOLOGY	US\$295.00
* CURRENT ADVANCES IN PLANT SCIENCE	US\$350.00

*Current Awareness in Biological Sciences* is also available on-line through Pergamon InfoLine, 12 Vandy Street, London EC2A 2DE or Pergamon InfoLine Inc., 1340 Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101, USA.

FREE SPECIMEN COPIES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST  
Advertising rate card available on request. Back issues and current subscriptions are also available in microform. Prices are subject to change without notice. Journal prices include postage and insurance. Sterling prices are available to UK and Eire customers on request.



## Pergamon Press

Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3 0BW, UK  
Fairview Park, Elmsford, New York 10523, USA

## SPOTLIGHT ON

### Ernest Schwarz Library of the Zoological Society of San Diego

Ptolemy I probably was responsible for creating the first zoo library. The Alexandria Museum, which he established in the third century BC, contained a zoo and also the first zoological library. North America's first zoo library was founded at the Philadelphia Zoo in 1874. Even with these somewhat auspicious beginnings, zoo libraries were a fairly well-kept secret until recently. Now they are becoming visible as a valuable new resource of specialty information.

The zoo library has evolved from a "luxury" available to the relatively few larger institutions to a growing necessity for all zoos and aquariums. With the plethora of information resource and retrieval media available and an increasing variety of information needs of today's zoological gardens, the library/information center and its services have become a vital component of the modern zoo. No longer the traditional repository of just books and publications on zoology, these libraries now include up to the minute information on laws and regulations governing the importing, exporting, and exhibition of animals. They maintain current statistics on world species populations and status. They subscribe to the Wall Street Journal. They keep the history of their respective organization and of the zoo industry in general. And they are developing the capabilities to provide customized information retrieval on virtually any subject from lead poisoning in condors to current trends in labor contract negotiations.

In turn, the zoo librarian, like other corporate librarians, has the flexibility to be a generalist in a specialized field. He or she is competent to research technical material ranging from requests for milk analysis of the pygmy hippopotamus, urinary estrogen levels in pregnant gorillas, or cryogenic storage of cycad pollen to more functional subjects such as why cats purr or how to transplant trees. The Zoo librarian also cares enough to

explain patiently how to use the library to a timid new employee whose just-discovered animal interests now compel him to venture inside a library for the very first time. And it is also part of the job to field questions such as whether rhinos really do help stamp out forest fires (no) or is anyone has ever actually yoked a yak (yes), with the all-time favorite being the length of gestation of an elephant (22 months).

Purpose: The Zoological Society of San Diego is a nonprofit corporation which manages the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Wild Animal Park. The Library/Information Services of the Society support the research, exhibition of animals and plants, specialized staff interest, and the general goals of the organization.

History: The Zoo's founders recognized the need for a library and stated in the Articles of Incorporation of 1916 their intent to provide a scientific research library. Medical books began to fill the shelves in the old hospital building upon its completion in 1927, and curators generally kept a few copies of zoology reference books in their offices. From time to time over the years, volunteer librarians catalogued these materials, yet until 1960, when a paid librarian was hired, their was no formal management of the collection.

Ernest Schwarz was a noted mammalian taxonomist. Among the animals for which he provided systematic treatments were the pygmy chimpanzee, the hartebeests, the colobus monkeys, lemurs, mangabays, and the now-extinct Bali tiger. Through his long-time association with the Zoo's general curator (now emeritus), Schwarz provided his expertise to the staff for many years. Shortly after his death in 1961, his widow donated his books and reprint collection to the Zoo. This formed the core of the budding natural history collection.

Collection: Current library facilities include the central library/information center at the Zoo, a veterinary library in the Zoo's Jennings Center for Zoological

Medicine, two horticultural libraries (one at each campus), and numerous departmental collections. Combined holdings have grown from that group of a few hundred books in 1960 to exceed 10,000 books and 5,000 bound journals, with 605 periodical titles received annually. Also included are 15,000 reprints and pamphlets on vertebrate zoology; a collection of zoo newsletters, guidebooks, and annual reports; a staff publication file; map file; microform collection; and the Society's archives. The latter include a recently established oral history program, curators' and keepers' diaries, newspaper clippings dating from the Zoo's early days in 1916, and a biography file of former and current institution officials and staff.

Subject interests include vertebrate zoology, zoogeography, animal husbandry, animal behavior, wildlife conservation and ecology, veterinary medicine, pathology, and horticulture. The Library includes a collection of animal studbooks which are used to study genetic composition within a species for collection management. The International Species Inventory System (ISIS), which systematically lists information on individual specimens exhibited at various zoos, is used to pair unmated animals for purchase, trade, or disposition of stock. A collection of zoo master plans and exhibits is used for research and exhibit planning. The special collections room contains many 19th century monographs. Many of these are illustrated with hand-colored plates by the wildlife artists who created what is often called the Golden Age of natural history books. These are used repeatedly, as they often contain the first scientific description of a species, sometimes detailing individual hunters' accounts, and frequently containing the first illustration of the animal.

Services and Networking: The Library recently joined OCLC. It also belongs to the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) Library Special Interest Group, and the Cooperative Library Agency for Systems and Services (CLASS). The Zoological Society's Libraries serve a combined employee population

of 1,200 at both institutions. Literature searches on DIALOG are available to staff, with an average of ten performed each month. Tables of contents of current journals are routinely routed to the staff as a current awareness service, and a monthly accessions list of new material is distributed. A library services brochure and a serials holding list are available. Services include reference, literature surveys, bibliography development, computer searches, information analysis, inter-library loan, and exhibit sign text editing. The Library also is the central ordering service for all books and periodical subscriptions for the entire corporation, including desk copies and departmental subscriptions. This provides a cost-effective system for the organization by focusing accountability for these items within one budget management area rather than under several departments.

Michael M. Robinson  
 Librarian  
 Zoological Society of San Diego  
 P.O. Box 551  
 San Diego, California 92112-0551  
 619/231-1515 ext. 420

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This is the first issue of BIOFEEDBACK for our new year. Elsewhere you will find a report by Past-Chair Karen Patrias, about the Boston Conference; the winning student essay; and the list of officers and committee chairs. I have been especially pleased by the enthusiastic response by our membership who want to serve on committees. Thank you all. Conference plans for the Anaheim Conference are being finalized and will be published in the next issue.

I have made some changes in my life this year. I am on educational leave from LSU, and on August 25 started classes at Florida State University as a full time doctoral student in the School of Library and Information Studies. My new address and telephone number are included on the list of officers. Please keep in touch with me about the Division and about your interests and concerns for this year.

Beth Paškoff, Chair

CONTRIBUTORS

Herewith deadlines for BIOFEEDBACK:

Winter, 1987                      January 1, 1987

Spring, 1987                      April 1, 1987

Contributions for BSD People News and  
Spotlight On should be sent to:

Carolyn Takeuchi, Assistant Editor  
Owen Science and Engineering Library  
Washington State University  
Pullman, Washington 99164-3200  
509/335-2671 or 335-8100

Other contributions should be sent to:

Jacque-Lynne Schulman  
5964 Ranleigh Manor Drive  
McLean, Virginia 22101  
703/527-2627

BIOFEEDBACK is the bulletin of the  
Biological Sciences Division of the  
Special Libraries Association. Please  
send your comments, complaints, ideas,  
suggestions, etc.. regarding BIOFEEDBACK  
to the Editor.

Biological Sciences Division  
Special Libraries Association  
%Jacque-Lynne Schulman  
5964 Ranleigh Manor Drive  
McLean, Virginia 22101

Address Correction and  
Forwarding Requested

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION assumes no  
responsibility for the statements and  
opinions advanced by the contributors to  
the Association's publications. Editorial  
views do not necessarily represent the  
official position of Special Libraries  
Association. Acceptance of an advertise-  
ment does not imply endorsement of the  
product by Special Libraries Association.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is sponsored by a generous  
donation from Pergamon Press, Inc. As many  
of you may know, PPI is a organizational  
member of SLA and provides financial  
support to many SLA activities through  
advertising and other means.

If any organization wishes to sponsor  
an issue, please let me know. We welcome  
both sponsorship of an entire issue or  
placement of paid part or full page adver-  
tising.

FIRST CLASS US POSTAGE PAID McLean, VA Permit # 560
---