

# Biofeedback



Special Libraries Association  
Biomedical and Life Sciences Division

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### President's Message



Neyda Gilman

Hello All,

I believe this will be my last *BioFeedback* President's Message and I will keep it short.

I would like to start it off by congratulating Lori Bronars on receiving this year's President's Recognition Award, bestowed by myself on behalf of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Community. Congratulations Lori! We are lucky to have you as part of our Community.

Next, I once again invite others to volunteer for various Community positions. If you are interested in getting involved, or have questions about the positions available, let me know! You can help with the program planning for next year, the membership committee, communications, the awards committee, medical section chair, director, etc.

This year has been an interesting one to say the least and I have been grateful to have this great group of people to communicate with. Thank you to all of you!

*Biofeedback*



## Member News

Roxanne Bogucka, Associate Editor

From Neyda Gilman, our President:

Jen Embree (another SLA Bio member) led the Binghamton University Libraries in creating an Anti-Racism Research & Resource Guide which has sections on the environment and healthcare which may be of interest to the BIO group: <https://libraryguides.binghamton.edu/antiracism>

Book review of: *The Horse A Natural History* by Debbie Busby and Catrin Rutland (Princeton University Press, 2019)

Reviewer: Lori Bronars

Debbie Busby is a behaviorist and international speaker and writer. She holds a BSc in Psychology and an MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare from Newcastle University (UK). She consults internationally on behavior disorders in horses and has also co-authored *Equine Behaviour in Mind: Applying Behavioural Science to the Way We Keep, Work and Care for Horses* (5M Publishing, 2018).

Catrin Rutland serves as Associate Professor of Anatomy and Developmental Genetics at The University of Nottingham (UK). She earned a PhD in Medicine from The University of Nottingham in 2004 and holds teaching qualifications. Her research is focused on the heart and blood vessels of various species including horses. She writes for magazines, newspapers, and has written book chapters in addition to scholarly publishing.

The authors have given readers a treasure to absorb, from the evolution of the horse of 55 million years ago to anatomy, physiology, behavior, and breeds of modern horses. They tell us that experts debate the start of domestication of the horse, with some believing it occurred when the horse served as a food source to early nomads 6,000 years ago and others defining it as the time when the horse was first ridden and used as a pack animal. We learn there is archeological evidence that the Botai people were riding horses to hunt wild horses of Kazakhstan 3500-3000 BCE (Before the Common Era).

The development of tack (saddles and bridles) is presented as well as sections of chapters on riding horses, the history of training, the war-horse, and the sporting horse. The book's "Directory of Horse Breeds" provides photos, maps, size, and notes for 50 modern breeds. There are more than 250 color photos ([press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691178776/the-horse](http://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691178776/the-horse)). It is available in print or as an e book. A good addition to the literature on horses.

## Feature Article: Scholarly publishing trends: preprint servers and disappearing scientific journals

By Ramune K. Kubilius

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In the past half year, ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been felt not only in our personal and work lives, but also in the lives of those with whom many of us work or whose work we support: scholars, researchers, authors, and students. In April, Angela Cochran aptly entitles her article in the "Scholarly Kitchen," blog of the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP) "What will we learn About Scholarly Publishing as a Result of COVID-19?" For those who follow scholarly publishing developments (or try to), two topics seem to be receiving a lot of coverage and both have impact on the biomedical scientific community: preprint servers and disappearing scientific journals.

### PREPRINT SERVERS

Though often discussed together, as one webinar speaker rightly pointed out, one should understand the distinction between preprints and preprint servers. Preprints are a not yet peer reviewed publication format and not all are necessarily deposited in preprint servers. Often, though, both are discussed in tandem. In May, the "Scholarly Kitchen" blog of the SSP, featured an article, "[Publishers Invest in Preprints](#)" that discussed preprint communities, preprint sites, preprint services. While general articles set the stage, biomedical literature is of particular interest to many *Biofeedback* readers (and me).

The U.S. National Library of Medicine's (NLM) announcement in [June](#) that it was beginning a yearlong PubMed Central preprint server pilot seemed very timely. Word about the forthcoming pilot was shared in 2019, before COVID-19 even became part of our landscape. In November, the Charleston Conference blog covered the 2019 conference sessions that included not only a Hyde Park [debate](#) about whether preprints improve the scholarly communication system but the NLM preprint pilot was also mentioned in the [report](#) on the keynote plenary by NLM director Patricia Flatley Brennan at the Conference. In subsequent interviews she gave various examples of NLM biomedical communication initiatives. As for the preprint pilot, since the preprint pilot was being planned for some time, one can suppose that a decision to prioritize COVID-19 research may have come about in the later days of preparing for the pilot's launch.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Charleston Conference group sponsored a webinar that featured a trio of knowledgeable speakers- Jessica Polka and Iratxe Puebla (both of ASAPbio) and Oya Rieger (of Ithaka S+R) who addressed the

topic, *"Preprints in Biomedicine are Here: Why, How, and What's Next?"* (The [recording](#) can be viewed.) Moderator Matthew Ismail announced a forthcoming OA *"Charleston Briefings"* (of which he is chief editor) that will focus on the topic of preprints (a previous title in the series focused on peer review).

It may or may not come as a big surprise that biomedical disciplines were not necessarily the first to embrace preprints or preprint servers in a landscape that now has approximately 60 preprint servers of all types ([ASAPbio hosts a directory](#) of preprint servers). Studies of biomedical preprints (and preprint servers) has grown exponentially in recent years. One of the more recent servers, [medRxiv](#), founded by two Yale University researchers, like the NLM's preprint pilot, has come to the forefront with its recent publicized [focus](#) on Covid-19 research.

#### DISAPPEARING SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

Beyond scientific publications, the NIH Archives, with its *"Behind the Mask"* initiative, was one of many archives, museums, and libraries that scrambled to create solutions for preserving and collecting Covid-19 related memories, items, and memorabilia. Research work continued in other arenas that raised the importance of preservation. Weeks before 2020 International Open Access Week approached (October 19-26), a September 8 article by *Science* news editor, Jeffrey Brainard, caused quite a stir with its headline grabbing title, *"Dozens of scientific journals have vanished from the internet, and no one preserved them."* The article reported on a preprint posted on 3 September on the arXiv server. Brainard's article began with this sentence: *"Eighty-four online-only, open-access (OA) journals in the sciences, and nearly 100 more in the social sciences and humanities, have disappeared from the internet over the past 2 decades as publishers stopped maintaining them, potentially depriving scholars of useful research findings."* Brainard highlighted reported findings such as *"About half of the journals were published by research institutions or scholarly societies; none of the societies are large players in the natural sciences. None of the now-dark journals was produced by a large commercial publisher."*

Soon after someone shared a link to Brainard's report in *Science*, individuals and organizations' representatives were quick to respond and comment. Following threads on the LibLicense list, one could see postings from Kate Wittenberg, Managing Director, Portico about the importance of prioritizing what OA content should be preserved. Bryan Newbold of the Internet Archive posted: *"How the Internet Archive is Ensuring Permanent Access to Open Access Journal Articles".* Toby Green, co-founder of Coherent Digital, wrote, *"I am working on a project to recapture lost/make safe threatened materials like this. Could you share more detail about these institutes so I can see if we can help."* A global perspective was provided by Werner Hillebrecht, Na-

mibia History - Heritage – Documentation, who wrote in part: *"The problem of disappearing online scholarly material is of course much wider than journals, but includes research reports that not always made it into journal publications. It seems especially rife with poorer countries whose institutions are dependent on fickle donor funding..."*

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In counterpoint to preservation or disappearing literature was the case in June of a *Lancet* article retraction that was reported on even by the academic and general press. *Inside Higher Ed* used the headline: *"Rush to Publish Risks Undermining COVID-19 Research"* while *The Guardian* reported, *"Lancet had one of the biggest retractions in modern history: how could this happen?"*

It can be guaranteed that scholarly communication as well as publishing will continue to evolve, and will remain on our radars. Some developments seem to have peaked or been brought forward in this Covid-19 pandemic era. Fodder for future analysis and discussion is almost certainly guaranteed...

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For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Community website at: <http://dbiosla.org/inside/officers/officers.html>.

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