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Message from the Chair

Jean Crampon

(Remember: Part I is Division Business and Part II is personal)

Part I

Annual Conference is coming! SLA is 100!

This is the last message for *Biofeedback* before the conference, so I encourage you to get your schedule planned. If you can't make it, and I know everyone cannot, watch for the articles in *Biofeedback* after the conference for conference reports. If you are coming, please know there are a few sessions you just shouldn't miss. For a full list of DBIO programs see in this issue the Conference Preview or http://units.sla.org/division/dbio/events/conf_current/dbio_program.html. This includes our vendor luncheon, contributed papers, posters and panels, sessions by our Medical Section and the Natural History Caucus, as well as sessions co-sponsored by DBIO with other divisions. I especially invite you this year to the DBIO 100 Journal Awards session, which also includes our Business Meeting. This should be a sell-out event, so order your ticket now. The Business part will be short so we can focus and honor the 100 Journals of the Century. Go to our Web site <http://units.sla.org/division/dbio/> to see the list of 100, but come to the session to see the top winners. Thanks to DBIO Director Tony Stankus, the panels who came up with the journals to vote on, and to everyone who voted. I'm certainly looking forward to the full results. In addition, DBIO has two tours on the Thursday at the end of the conference, June 18. The National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health Library tour takes a full day and the tour of the National Academy of Sciences takes a half day. Although this is listed on the Conference site, we are not registering through the SLA tour company. Contact Tom Harrod (tharrod@umd.edu) or Layla Heimlich (layla.heimlich@medstar).

Continued on page two

net) to register for the tour of your choice. Don't forget to attend the SLA Keynote Address by Colin Powell and the major SLA Panel moderated by Judy Woodruff of PBS. For more information about the Panel, see the description on the SLA site at <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2009/Conference/keynotes/index.cfm#panel>.

As of this writing, I'm still looking for volunteers for committees, so please don't be shy. I've gotten some new volunteers, but we, as a Division, can use more. In addition to the positions listed last issue, we need a new MLA Liaison. A Liaison is a link between DBIO and another organization to let DBIO know what's going on elsewhere and to recruit members from the other organization to join SLA and DBIO. When I talk with library and information school students I always recommend they join both a large organization, such as SLA, for the broad scope and a smaller subject or functional organization to get more into the nitty gritty. It's always worked for me! Look at the list of Current Officers and Committees on the DBIO site to see what's available.

Please take a look at the Strategic Plan http://units.sla.org/division/dbio/inside/governance/strategic_plan.html. I know that sometimes these documents are very dry, but the Strategic Planning Committee did a terrific job to give us specific activities that need your involvement. Find one area that interests you in the Plan and let me know how you think it can work. No one person can do it all, so please pick the one you think you can really do. Send a message to me or share with the discussion list to encourage others to participate.

Note above how many times I referred to the DBIO Web site. Bookmark it so you can easily get to our important information.

I only ask one more thing, whether you are attending the conference or not, please let me know your concerns, complaints, and compliments for the Division. This is not *my* Division; it is *ours*. Thank you in advance for your input.

Part II: What do you read?

My mother tells of having to go to the public library and sign permission slips for me to check out books from the Adult section. When she was asked why, she told the people in the branch that I had read everything that was of interest to me in the Children's section and she wanted to encourage me to keep reading. I don't remember doing that specifically, but it's apocryphal by now in the family, and it could be true. I do remember reading everything I could get my hands on. I don't do that so much anymore. Could it be I had more time when I was a child? Could it be there are just too many things to choose from now?

What do you like to read? Could you share your suggestions of "good" books or favorite authors? I spent two summers after I was an adult reading classic literature that "everyone" should read. Some of it I enjoyed; some of it I slogged through, but they included such items as *Madame Bovary*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Man with the Iron Mask*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *The Christmas Carol* and *Crime and Punishment*. There was also my genre literature period when I decided I needed to read authors because there were so many references to them in more modern works. This included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler and Josephine Tey for mysteries and John Wyndham, Alfred Bester, Philip K. Dick, Frederick Pohl, Joe Haldeman, Andre Norton, Jules Verne, Clarke, Bradbury and Heinlein for science fiction. I even tried some classic horror. It's not an area I normally read, but how could I skip Lovecraft or even DuMaurier? I have friends on campus who insist that there should be an Olympic event just for me: read-walking. That means reading a book while walking across campus. What would be your personal Olympic event?

Send a message to respond to either Part I or Part II to crampon@usc.edu.

Conference Program Preview

Nancy Dickenson, 2009 Conference Program Committee Chair

DBIO is sponsoring a wide range of programming at the SLA centennial conference in Washington, D.C., June 14-17, 2009. Continuing education courses, special interest programs and tours will be offered. Of special note: the first ever DBIO 100 Journals Awards on Tuesday, June 15, will recognize the top 100 biomedical journals selected by our members. See the complete list of programs below, choose the programs you don't want to miss, and join us in Washington, D.C.

Thursday tours to the National Library of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, Keck Center and Marian Koshland Science Museum do not require a ticket from SLA, so reserve a spot by contacting Layla Heimlich directly. Her email is layla.heimlich@medstar.net.

Saturday, June 13

Molecular Structures: Retrieval and Visualization

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Room 400, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street N.W.

Ticketed Event #230

Price: US\$ 199 member/US\$ 299 non-member

The characterization of molecular structures provides insights into basic biology, drug development, health and disease. This course will introduce databases (such as NCBI's Molecular Modeling Database) and viewing tools (specifically Cn3D) used to store, image and manipulate three-dimensional molecular structures. **NOTE:** Library is located five blocks south of the convention center.

Moderated by: Thomas Harrod, University of Maryland

Speaking: Jennifer Lyon, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Bioinformatics Track: Genomes and Structures

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Room 400, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street N.W.

Ticketed Event #235

Price: US\$ 299 member / US\$ 399 non-member

This option allows attendees to take both the "Molecular Structures: Retrieval and Visualization" and the "Genomes and Genomic Resources" courses for the price of one full-day course as opposed to paying for two half-day courses. Please bring money for lunch. **NOTE:** Library is located five blocks south of the convention center

Moderated by: Thomas Harrod, University of Maryland

Speaking: Jennifer Lyon, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Measuring Your Impact: Using Evaluation for Library Advocacy

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Room 400, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street N.W.

Ticketed Event #290

Price: US\$ 299 member/US\$ 399 non-member

Learn to be an advocate for your library. Lectures and group exercises will move participants through the steps of an evaluation process and teach librarians to be able to show the value of their library's services. Please bring

money to purchase lunch. NOTE: The library is located five blocks south of the convention center.

Moderated by: Thomas Harrod, University of Maryland
Speaking: Karen Vargas, National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Genomes and Genomic Resources

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Room 400, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street N.W.

Ticketed Event #310

Price: US\$ 199 member / US\$ 299 non-member/US\$ 199 student member

One of the greatest achievements of modern science is the solving of the human genome sequence. This course will introduce the online resources for accessing, searching, viewing and manipulating the human genome. Multiple types of genome mapping will be introduced as well as a variety of genome-related tools for exploring sequence annotation (biological feature) data. **NOTE:** The library is located five blocks south of the convention center.

Moderated by: Thomas Harrod, University of Maryland
Speaking: Jennifer Lyon, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Sunday, June 14

Biomedical and Life Sciences Division Vendor Networking Lunch

12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.

Convention Center Room 145A

Enjoy lunch while hearing from and talking with representatives from four innovative companies selected for their cutting edge products in the biomedical and life sciences: BIOBASE, Doody's Review Service, Morgan & Claypool and Oxford University Press.

Moderated by: Nalini Mahajan, Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital

Monday, June 15

Biomedical and Life Sciences Division Contributed Papers Breakfast

7:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Convention Center Room 154A

Enjoy a free breakfast while listening to colleagues' presentations. Topics will include a research discovery database implementation in two university libraries, e-books in the sciences, and librarian-faculty biology curriculum integration.

Moderated by: Tara Cataldo, University of Florida
Sponsored by: Portland Press

Open Access Mandates: From the Front Lines

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Convention Center Room 142

National and institutional open access mandates will be discussed. Get the inside scoop and hear success stories and lessons learned from key players in this critical development of scholarly communication.

Moderated by: Jonathan Nabe, Southern Illinois University
Speaking: Amy Brand, Harvard University ; Neil Thakur, National Institutes of Health

Translational Medicine Meets the Semantic Web/Medical Section Annual Meeting

1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Convention Center Room 142

As the pace of biomedical research increases, so do the information needs of healthcare providers and scientists. This talk will explore the development of Translational Medicine, knowledge exchange between bench and bedside; and the Semantic Web, a “meaning-based” approach to World Wide Web technology that allows better access to pertinent information across biomedical domains. Current and emerging issues and the role of information specialists will be discussed. A brief Medical Section business meeting will precede the talk.

Moderated by: Gillian Kumagai, Stanford Health Library
Speaking: Olivier Bodenreider, Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, National Library of Medicine

Science-Technology and Biomedical Divisions Academic Roundtable

3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Location: Convention Center Room 140B

“Future Shock II: libraries for next generation science and scientists” is the theme for this roundtable discussion. Moderated by: William Anger, The Miriam Hospital, Lifespan Libraries

Natural History Caucus Business Meeting

5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Renaissance Washington Hotel, Meeting Room 2
Dinner will follow for those who wish to attend.
Moderated by: Dean Walton, University of Oregon

Tuesday, June 16

Promising Plants: Ethnobotany and the Global Quest for Health and Nutrition

9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Convention Center Room 153

Two distinguished professors will describe current research in ethnobotany, the use of plants for medicine and food, in cultures around the globe.

Moderated by: Dean Walton, University of Oregon
Speaking: John Arnason, University of Ottawa and Carl Johannessen, University of Oregon
Natural History Caucus program; co-sponsor Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Division
Sponsored by: ProQuest

DBIO 100 Journal Awards/DBIO Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Convention Center Room 154
Ticketed Event #775
Price: US \$16

One hundred years of excellence in biomedical journals will be celebrated with the first-ever DBIO 100 Journal Awards. The Top Ten journals, selected in a division-wide survey, will be honored, along with a special award for the Journal of the Century. The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division business meeting will follow and lunch will be served.

Moderated by: Jean Crampon, University of Southern California
Sponsored by: Allen Press; Elsevier; Mary Ann Liebert; Nature Publishing Group; National Academies Press; Wiley

Preparedness for Info Pros: Lessons Learned from Recent Disasters

3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Convention Center Room 141

Join your colleagues from the Emergency Preparedness and Response Advisory Council to learn about ways in which you can become better prepared in case a natural or man-made disaster strikes your library.

Moderated by: Lisl Zach, Drexel University
Panelist(s): Doris Helfer, California State University, Northridge
Alfred Lemmon, Williams Research Center, The Historic New Orleans Collection
Co-presented by Solo Librarians Division and DBIO

Science of Imagination

3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Convention Center Room 144A

Can biochemistry and neuroscience really tell us what makes imagination happen? What other scientific disciplines are involved? What are the intangibles? This is another in the Sci-Tech series, "Science of ..."

Speaking: M. Layne Kalbfleisch, George Mason University
Co-presented by the Science Technology Division and DBIO
Sponsored by: Annual Reviews

All Sciences Poster Session and Reception

5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Renaissance Washington Hotel, Grand Ballroom Central
Moderated by: Donna Cromer, University of New Mexico
Presented by: Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division; Biomedical and Life Sciences Division; Chemistry Division; Engineering Division; Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Division; Science-Technology Division
Sponsored by: Nature Publishing Group; Cold Spring Harbor Press

Wednesday, June 16

From Information to Legislation: *Silent Spring* and Its Impact on Anti-pollution Law and Policy

8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Convention Center Room 144A

U.S. environmental laws in the 1970s were largely influenced by the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. This program will look at the impact of Carson's writings on environmental regulation, the status of the POP treaty, and the moderated use of DDT to combat malaria.

Speaking: Diana Post, Rachel Carson Council and Bobbi Weaver, California Western School of Law
Co-presented by: Environment and Resource Management Division and DBIO

Thursday, June 17

Tour: National Academy of Sciences, Keck Center and Marian Koshland Science Museum

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The Koshland Museum features exhibits on infectious disease, global warming, and more. Advance RSVP required. For directions and to RSVP, please contact Layla Heimlich at layla.heimlich@medstar.net.

Tour: National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health Library
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Located on the campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) right outside of Washington, D.C., the National Library of Medicine (NLM) is the largest medical library in the world. On this tour, we will visit both the NLM and NIH library and also take a general tour of the NIH campus. Advance RSVP required. For directions and to RSVP, please contact Layla Heimlich at layla.heimlich@medstar.net. Please bring \$10-15 for a Metro train ticket to the venue and for lunch.

IAMSLIC Liaison Report

Becky Lasswell Stromberg, liaison to IAMSLIC

The Cyamus annual meeting was held March 1-4, 2009 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California. Cyamus is the west coast regional group of IAMSLIC (International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers). Unfortunately I was unable to attend the meeting, but DBIO Chair Jean Crampon was there and filled me in on the wonderful programs that I missed.

Scientific programs included a report on the Pacific Ocean Initiative, a joint project by Stanford University, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), which seeks to find sustainable solutions to the problems the Pacific currently faces. For more information, see: <http://www.centerforoceansolutions.org>. A scientist from MBARI talked about their underwater cabled observatory, MARS (Monterey Accelerated Research System). See <http://www.mbari.org/mars/>.

Other program topics included collaborative collection building, copyright regulations for libraries in Germany, a ProQuest database update, climatic signals in California fisheries, and the creation of CIAD's Culiacan Library.

The conference included several field trips: a walking tour of Asilomar, visits to the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Grove office and California State University Monterey Bay, and an agricultural tour of the Salinas Valley. Notes from the meeting can be found on the Cyamus website: <http://www.iamslc.org/index.php?section=227>

Upcoming Meetings:

The 35th annual IAMSLIC Conference and 13th Biennial EURASLIC Conference will be held jointly September 27 - October 1, 2009 in Brugge and Oostende, Belgium and will be hosted by the IOC/UNESCO Project Office for IODE and the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ). The theme is "Confluence of Ideas: Evolving to Meet the Challenges of Global Change." For more information, see: <http://www.iamslc.org/index.php?section=214>

AFRIAMSLIC, the regional group in Africa, will be meeting July 20-24, 2009 in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The theme is "Collaborative Resource Management and Sharing through Aquatic and Marine Sciences Electronic Information Sources in Africa."

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Product Review

EMBASE

Elsevier

Reviewed by Bonnie Chojnacki

EMBASE is a biomedical and pharmacological bibliographic database from Elsevier providing in-depth coverage of drug therapy and research, basic biological and human research, health policy and management, biotechnology, biomedical engineering, psychiatry and mental health (including substance dependence and abuse), forensic science, alternative and complementary medicine, and legislative and regulatory compliance. Currently EMBASE contains over 12 million records from 1974 through the present. More than 600,000 records are added annually from over 5,000 biomedical journals from more than 70 countries.

Platforms that support EMBASE include DataStar, DIALOG, DIMDI, Ovid Online, and STN, all with daily updates. Weekly updates of EMBASE are available through LexisNexis. A fully networkable version is produced in cooperation with Ovid Technologies. Another platform for EMBASE is the Web-based EMBASE.com. More on the last option later in this review.

A special feature of EMBASE is the EMTREE thesaurus indexing. This feature was originally developed through a process of culling, refining, and updating the Master List of Medical Terms (MALIMET). Currently EMTREE includes 55,000 preferred terms checked against biomedical literature and prioritized according to importance and frequency of use. Throughout each year new terms and drugs evaluated by Elsevier editorial staff are included in the database. Annually terms are reviewed and revised. Anyone who needs to identify terminology changes will be pleased to know that Elsevier maintains dated lists of changes to classification and terms as a permanent record for review and comparison. More than 225,000 synonyms are also included within EMTREE, thus, keywords on broad concepts are generally sufficient to retrieve relevant information. Drug and chemical information in EMTREE will display as an exploded list of chemicals and drugs, history of the term in EMTREE, synonyms, CAS registry number, and more. The bottom line is that EMTREE's carefully evaluated, updated, and current indexing easily retrieves significant relevant results as a result of EMTREE's combined indexing using both scientific and natural language.

Approximately 3,000 records in EMBASE overlap with MEDLINE, however, nearly 2,000 distinct titles cover international literature and EMBASE's strengths in in-depth drug research, basic biological and human research, health policy, biotechnology, and biomedical engineering. Together EMBASE and MEDLINE are available on the Web-based platform, EMBASE.com. The database combination first launched in 2000. EMBASE.com additionally supports optional backfiles called EMBASE Classic, covering years 1947-1973. Thus EMBASE.com with backfiles offers coverage from 1947 through the most up-to-date literature. This reviewer finds EMBASE exceptional in content, features and versatility. EMBASE.com takes features to a higher level in options and content.

Book Reviews

Food Fray: Inside the Controversy over Genetically Modified Food

By Lisa H. Weasel

AMACOM, New York, 2009

Reviewed by Rebecca Pappert

Lisa Weasel's, *Food Fray: Inside the Controversy over Genetically Modified Food*, paints a negative, and often dire, picture of the history behind the genetically modified (GM) food debate. The book discusses innovations from the 1970s to the 2000s (e.g. beginnings of genetic engineering, Roundup Ready crops, Flavr Savr tomatoes, recombinant bovine growth hormone [rBGH], to name a few), and how each of these contribute to the overall GM controversy. Individuals in clear opposition of GM technology are highlighted throughout, while supporters are discredited or not represented. One of the most interesting, readable sections discusses the international issues and opposition from the European Union, Zambia, India and Thailand. Politics, trade, food aid and significant impacts on rural farmers are just a few of the issues discussed in the international conversation. Throughout this historical recount, the author repeatedly links evidence of failures and scandal to the Bush Administration, and agricultural biotechnology industry giants like Monsanto.

Food Fray brings up many interesting issues; however, it is somewhat difficult to get past the biased tone of the text. While the history of GM technology has been contentious, a balanced perspective may have provided a more scholarly, credible story. In addition, because of the author's credentials, a more thorough explanation behind the biology of GM technologies would have been appropriate for the general reader. Lastly, the book introduces interesting twists and turns that the reader may want to explore further. A list of suggested reading would have been helpful, and provided the support needed to understand and evaluate the issues presented.

Food Fray: Inside the controversy over Genetically Modified Food is best suited for a general, non-scholarly audience.

What I Require From Life: Writings on Science and Life From J.B.S. Haldane

Edited by Krisha Dronamraju

New York: Oxford University Press, 2009

Reviewed by Diane Hummel

J.B.S. Haldane, often referred to as the 20th century's populist scientist, was defined by his facile mind. *What I require from life* is a collection of his erudite, scientific essays that meanders through his scientific endeavors and opinions in mathematics, chemistry, genetics, astronomy, physiology, genetics, psychology, statistics, biochemistry, geology, meteorology, paleontology, and physics. An avowed Marxist, Haldane also discourses on politics, theology and philosophy.

Irascible and mischievous, Haldane wrote for popular magazines such as *Saturday Evening Post*, *Atlantic Monthly* and *The Nation* as well as academic journals.

Krisha Dronamraju was Haldane's last graduate student, and he selected and edited these essays from Haldane's vast writings of a lifetime. Dronamraju was also able to persuade Sir Arthur C. Clark, who never met Haldane but corresponded with him extensively, to write the foreword to *What I require from life* before his own death.

What I require from life is a good read and only Haldane can take the reader for a good romp through 20th century science.

On the Edge: Nursing in the Age of Complexity
By Clair Lindberg, Sue Nash and Curt Lindberg
NJ: Plexus Press, 2008

Reviewed by Lori Zipperer

The notion of health care being a “complex” business means different things to different people. For some, it places the work in a distinct area of theory called “complexity science.”(1) Complexity science is one approach to understanding the challenges inherent in health care delivery today. Its lessons and context are thought to help drive the innovation needed to change the process of care to improve quality and patient safety.

Nurses play a central role in managing the effectiveness, patient-centeredness and appropriateness of medical care. *On the Edge: Nursing in the Age of Complexity* provides the first in-depth discussion of nursing through the lens of complexity science. Its authors represent the premier expertise in this arena. Their book provides readers with an effective survey of the principles central to an understanding of complexity science. The authors discuss how these elements relate to nursing practice, decision making, policy, research and management. *On the Edge* provides extensive reference lists to facilitate deeper study. The publication’s glossary provides access to the foundation of complexity theory. Overall the book seeks to generate interest in the skills need to apply complexity sensitivities at the bedside and engage healthcare leaders to drive its adoption.

For librarians in health care and other complex work situations, an understanding of how nurses work can only enhance their ability to deliver information services and build knowledge sharing partnerships. *On the Edge* will provide insights that may be applied to any library’s organizational improvement efforts. The ability for librarians to appropriately assess what may or may not make their organization a complex one should help them determine strategic tactics appropriate to their institution’s situation. The understanding of complexity gleaned from this read should help librarians gain insights on how to effectively interact with knowledge workers.

Complexity science: the challenge of complexity in health care. Plsek PE, Greenhalgh T. *BMJ*. 2001;323:625-628. Available at: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/reprint/323/7313/625>



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From the Medical Section

Gillian Kumagai, Medical Section Chair

The Annual Conference is right around the corner, and, as I add programs, events, and tours to my personal planner, I am repeatedly faced with a bold red message warning about calendar conflicts. This year's conference once again offers so many possibilities, making it difficult to decide what to attend. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to develop such an enticing program!

Among the many terrific DBIO programs is **Translational Medicine Meets the Semantic Web**. The exponential growth of information makes finding the needle in the Web haystack quite challenging. Keyword searching has served us well but its very nature imposes limits on what we access and how we do so. The Semantic Web has the potential to revolutionize the search, retrieval, and use of data.

Sidestepping the complexities of defining the Semantic Web, I draw upon the words of Berners-Lee et al: "The Semantic Web is an extension of the current Web in which information is given well-defined meaning, better enabling computers and people to work in cooperation."¹ Whereas the Web of today is about linked documents, the Web of the future is about linked data.

This evolving Web fosters an unparalleled way to exchange, merge, and reuse data, further enabling the interdisciplinary knowledge integration that is critical to translational medicine. Hear it from an expert: Dr. Olivier Bodenreider, staff scientist in the Cognitive Science Branch of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications at the U.S. National Library of Medicine, will share his knowledge about translational medicine and the Semantic Web.

Dr. Bodenreider's research interests include: terminology; knowledge representation and ontology in the biomedical domain, both from a theoretical perspective and in their application to natural language understanding; reasoning; information visualization; and interoperability. He has published numerous articles on these topics and frequently presents at national and international meetings. He will be speaking Monday, June 15 at 1:30 pm. I hope many of you will join me at this program.

If you are interested in seeing Semantic Web applications in action, check out some of these sites: [Hakia](#), [Triplit](#), [Twine](#), [UpTake](#).

^[1] Berners-Lee, Tim; James Hendler and Ora Lassila (May 17, 2001). "The Semantic Web." *Scientific American Magazine*. <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-semantic-web>

RSS Feeds in STM Databases

Rajiv Nariani, Division Member

What do PubMed, Scopus and Web of Science have in common? Apart from the fact that they are indexing and abstracting databases and are used to find peer-reviewed research in biomedical and other fields, these databases now provide an opportunity to follow research publications from our institutions. This is possible by subscribing to RSS feeds for the results from these databases.

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a family of Web feed formats used to publish frequently updated works - such as blog entries, news headlines, audio, and video - in a standardized format. RSS feeds from different databases can be viewed on a single interface using free feed readers like Google Reader or Bloglines. One of the advantages of this technology tool is that the RSS feed of any particular database is constantly updated, and all the information for locating the latest article matching your search criteria is just a click away and does not clog up your email inbox!

All three databases offer the ability to conduct searches and refine the results based on each one's unique fields. For example, PubMed is an excellent database to track National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded projects; Web of Science is used at our institution (York University, Toronto) to learn about Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)-funded research outputs; and Scopus is good for tracking faculty publications from our institution. If we were to follow the updates from these different databases using the traditional method we would either need to conduct our searches periodically in each of the databases or explore the e-mail alerting option. With RSS feeds it is so much easier to follow new research being indexed. Faculty members do not necessarily have to perform the searches. Librarians can customize the searches as desired, and faculty members can monitor the results from one central location.

After conducting a search, the next step is to simply click on the orange RSS tab available in each of these databases. For PubMed this would entail clicking on *Send to RSS* from the drop down menu. In Web of Science one must register for a free account and, after saving the search, one is prompted to subscribe to the RSS feed. In Scopus, the RSS icon is located beside the search string.

RSS feeds from these databases can be subscribed using free feed readers including Bloglines, Google, or others. Once subscribed to the RSS feeds, users are notified of updated search results in their feed reader. When they click on the article in their feed reader, they are automatically directed to the appropriate database from which they can retrieve the full article (if their institution subscribes to the journal).

At York University Steacie Science & Engineering Library, we have successfully used the RSS power of all three STM databases to highlight faculty publications in specific areas and to identify open access publications. We have created a public blogroll using the RSS feeds generated from these databases to highlight faculty publications in specific subjects. This blogroll was much appreciated by faculty members in neuroscience at our University, and they have posted the blogroll (<http://www.bloglines.com/public/YUResearch>) on the neuroscience departmental Web site (<http://www.yorku.ca/neurosci/>).

(Rajiv Nariani is a Science Librarian, Steacie Science and Engineering Library, York University, Toronto, Ontario)

Member News and Publications

New Members

Dorothy Barr, Membership Committee Chair

The upcoming Annual Meeting in DC will be a great opportunity for us to welcome new members and first time conference attendees. Let's all reach out to these and to any other unfamiliar folks we meet at DBIO related events.

Welcome to these following new members of DBIO:

- Chenfang Yang, New Jersey
- Tamara Reed, Arizona
- Michelle Thiel, Nevada
- Amanda Hirko, North Carolina
- Geeta Patangay, California
- Layali Khazaal, Kuwait
- Kiisten Suurkask, British Columbia
- Renata Podbielski, Quebec
- Greg Loxton, New Jersey

Member Publications

Compiled by Alanna Jenkins, DBIO Member

Zipperer, L. and Sykes, J. (2009). "Engaging as Partners in Patient Safety: The Experience of Librarians." *Patient Safety and Quality Healthcare*, 6(2), p.28-30, 32-33. <http://www.psqh.com/marapr09/librarians.html>



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For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Division Website at : <http://units.sla.org/division/dbio/inside/officers/officers.html#exec>

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Editor: Susan K. Kendall, Michigan State University Libraries, 100 Library, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048; (517) 432-6123 x127; skendall@msu.edu

Associate Editor: Buzz Haughton, University of California Davis Libraries, 100 N. West Quad, Davis, CA 95616-5292; (530) 754-5705; bxhaughton@ucdavis.edu