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# Biofeedback

*Biological Sciences Division  
Special Libraries Association*

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Summer 1994  
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## Chair's Report

*Patricia B. Yocum*

Summer greetings! And a warm welcome to the start of a new year of activities in the Biological Sciences Division.

As is usual for this time of year your Chair has been making appointments to Division committees and positions. BSD has a large number of these (!) and fortunately also has a great many members interested in serving. Recent calls for volunteers have had a heartening response, with over forty members stepping forward to offer their services in various capacities. Though still being formed, the list of appointments is already long and can be found elsewhere in this issue. Updates will follow when remaining appointments are finalized. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered!

Such strong show of interest in contributing to the Division speaks to widespread vitality of our membership. Volunteers came from all parts of the U.S. and some parts of Canada. They offer broad interests, rich experience and stimulating ideas. Many have served BSD earlier; some were hoping to participate for the first time. All, I suspect, see volunteering as a way to expand their horizons, try new ventures, and contribute to their profession. Like so many of their predecessors they view Division work as an opportunity to learn new things with the encouragement of their colleagues. I believe they will be amply rewarded throughout the year.

As colleagues we too will benefit from their efforts. Regardless of the talents we may have as individuals it would be impossible for each of us to move forward in every aspect of our professional lives were we to "go it alone." Rather, by joining together in association with fellow professionals we are able to pool our efforts, share our resources and magnify our impact. Facilitating this involvement is

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one of the primary strengths and continuing challenges we have in associating with each other. Noting the fine example BSD volunteers have offered, I urge each of us--officers, committee members, division members--to contribute to this effort throughout the year. We have so much to offer to each other and so much to gain!

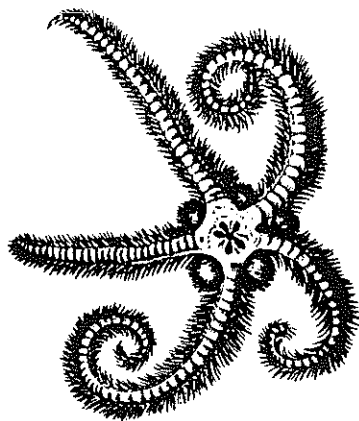
## New Listserv for BSD Members

Biological Science Division members now have a means of discussing issues of interest in a more timely and interactive way. BSDNET-L is a new listserv sponsored by the Biological Sciences Division and open only to members of the Division. The purpose of this list is to provide 24-hour/day connectivity to the 700+ Division members located across the USA, Canada and other countries; to provide a means for transmitting information of practical value in a timely fashion; to develop a referral network for difficult-to-meet information needs; to strengthen the bonds of community for mutual benefit; and to provide a forum for discussing issues and matters of importance.

To join BSDNET-L, send e-mail to [listserv@listserv.ncsu.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.ncsu.edu) with the following message:

SUBSCRIBE BSDNET-L *firstname lastname*

Questions about BSDNET-L can be sent to the list owner, Liese Tajiri: [liese\\_tajiri@ncsu.edu](mailto:liese_tajiri@ncsu.edu).



## Student Conference Award

Congratulations once again to Catherine Hanson-Tracy, winner of the 1994 Biological Sciences Division Essay Competition. Catherine, an SLIS student at UCLA, was awarded a \$1,000 stipend to cover the cost of attending the recent SLA Annual Conference in Atlanta. The Career Development/Public Relations Committee is pleased to publish Catherine's winning essay in this issue of *Biofeedback* (see page 7). The committee would also like to thank each of the other entrants: Cynthia J. Edson, Simmons College, Mary E. Saniga, Catholic University of America, and Michael L. Scott, University of Missouri--Columbia.

The committee is excited to announce a change in focus for next year's contest. For the 1995 award, students will be asked to submit a summary of a research project, rather than the standard essay submitted in previous years. We feel this new approach will encourage students to see the opportunities for continued research in their professional careers as bioscience librarians. We also hope to see an increase in the number of students entering the competition. Look for details in an upcoming issue of *Biofeedback*!

### Biofeedback

Biological Sciences Division  
Special Libraries Association

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The newsletter is published four times a year: February, May, August, and November. Deadline for submitting materials is the first of the month prior to publication.

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## Call for Volunteers and Recommendations for Division Offices

The Nominations and Elections Committee for the Biological Sciences Division is seeking volunteers and recommendations for the Division offices open this year. We will be nominating candidates for the positions of Division Chair-Elect (3-year term) and Director (2-year term). If you are interested in running or recommending someone for one of these offices, please contact any member of the Committee:

Barry Brown (University of Montana)	406-243-6811	barry.brown@selway.umn.edu
Beth Paskoff (Louisiana State Univ.)	504-388-1480	lspask@lsuvm.bitnet
Louisa Worthington (M.I.T.)	617-253-6575	elworthi@mit.edu

The Nominations and Elections Committee has adjusted its schedule for 1994-95. The slate of nominees for offices will appear in the Fall issue of *Biofeedback*.

Louisa Worthington  
Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee, 1994-95



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## Great Lakes Regional Conference

The Biological Sciences Division is sponsoring a presentation at the Third Great Lakes Regional Conference in Chicago, March 22 through 24, 1995. *Leadership and Innovation: Information at the Forefront* is the theme of the conference, and the Division's meeting will focus on some of the non-clinical questions facing the information professional in the health care arena today. By acknowledging these issues, we hope to better prepare our members for future challenges in the healthcare information realm. Possible topics for discussion include:

- ▶ looking at the ethical, legal, and liability issues of using the Internet to distribute health information
- ▶ explaining organized medicine's informational role
- ▶ defining and preparing for the challenges of following and servicing the information needs of those involved in health care reform
- ▶ indexing and electronic access issues regarding health care information
- ▶ understanding and defining credibility issues with regard to medical information

Division members should feel free to contribute their ideas for this forum, as speakers have not yet been finalized. Contact the following members involved in planning for the meeting:

Lorri Zipperer, American Medical Association, Health Law Division, 312-464-5672  
 Anne White Michalski, American Medical Association, Online Services Section, 312-464-4842,  
 awmichalski@delphi.com

The contact person for the Great Lakes Regional Conference as a whole is Janice Keeler, Andersen Consulting, 312-507-5810.

### ♥ Heartfelt Thanks ♥

Heartfelt Thanks to Jo Anne Boorkman. . .

- . . . for planning successful and informative Division sessions in Atlanta
- . . . for attending to the myriad details such planning entails
- . . . for managing the Division's affairs with care, common sense and fiscal integrity
- . . . and for providing leadership to the Division throughout the year.

The Biological Sciences Division was truly fortunate to have Jo Anne as its Chair/Chair-elect for 1992-94. Her superb organizational skills, thoroughness and constancy proved indispensable to our progress and demonstrated once again the quality of leadership present among our members. Many heartfelt thanks to her for the work she contributed and the example she set. Congratulations for a job well done!

Thanks *also* to Joan DeFato. . .

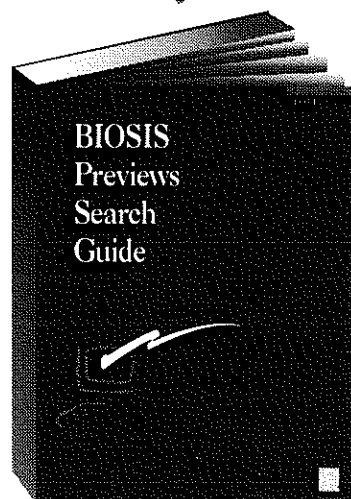
- . . . who served admirably and with seeming effortlessness as Division Secretary/Treasurer 1992-94. The value of accurate minutes and of precise management of our treasury cannot be overstated. Joan delivered both during her term much to our benefit. As a result our records are in excellent condition.

Best wishes and thanks to both of these colleagues for enriching our sector of the profession!

Patricia Yocum, BSD Chair

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*BSD Student Award Winning Essay*

## **The Journal Collection Challenge**

*Catherine Hanson-Tracy*

Science journal subscription prices have skyrocketed and continue to rise. Library budgets are shrinking, especially in publicly funded institutions. Research in the biological sciences, as in all the sciences, is heavily dependent on the information provided in journal articles. Is there any way to reconcile these three facts?

The journal collection is the principal information source in a biological sciences library, and maintaining the integrity of that collection is a high priority for the librarians. However, budget constraints sometimes force the making of difficult decisions. Ultimately, patron access to the information is the most important consideration, more important than an unbroken run of journals, however much satisfaction we get from seeing it on our shelves.

Access must include an aspect of timeliness; our patrons require some journal articles faster than others. At least three levels of timeliness can be defined, and these can then be used to assist with the decisions affecting the journal collection.

The first level consists of journals to which patrons require immediate access once the article citation is identified. This level also includes journals consulted on a daily basis. These are the journals that must be retained in the collection. The challenge is to identify which ones they are. Several methods might be employed. One is to survey the patrons directly regarding their needs, although the survey should be worded carefully lest each patron respond only to protect his or her favorite journal. (Beginning the survey with "We are trying to decide which journal subscriptions to discontinue" is probably not a good approach.)

Another method of core journal identification is to conduct a use survey on the journals themselves, keeping track of how often each is consulted. Attaching a slip of paper to each journal ("Please cross out the next number when you consult this journal") is inelegant but effective. A third method is a review of the library's mission. Perhaps the collection has become somewhat scattered over time. A review can indicate which titles do not truly support the mission. The most thorough identification process utilizes all three of these methods.

The second level of timeliness includes those journals to which access is required within one or two days. These journals do not have to be in the collection, but they must be close to it. Cooperative and reciprocal relationships with nearby academic or research libraries are the key. Such a relationship can be as simple as allowing use of the cooperating collection by researchers or library staff. Or it can be an agreement to fax copies of the needed articles with minimal or no charges; this works best when the cooperating libraries have similar needs in terms of volume so that one library does not bear a greater burden than the other. The relationship can also be as formal as an arrangement for each library to retain certain journal subscriptions.

The third level of timeliness consists of those journals that are consulted only occasionally or that contain articles which are not needed urgently. Access to these journals can be provided through more traditional (slower) ILL channels or through document delivery systems such as DOCLINE.

Once it has been determined which journals fit into each level of timeliness, the decisions on discontinuation of subscriptions become less difficult. As already stated, the journals in the first level must be retained. Those in the second level could be retained if there are sufficient funds, but those in the third level can be terminated with few, if any, pangs.

The problems continue, however, if journal funding is inadequate to support even the first level. Then the

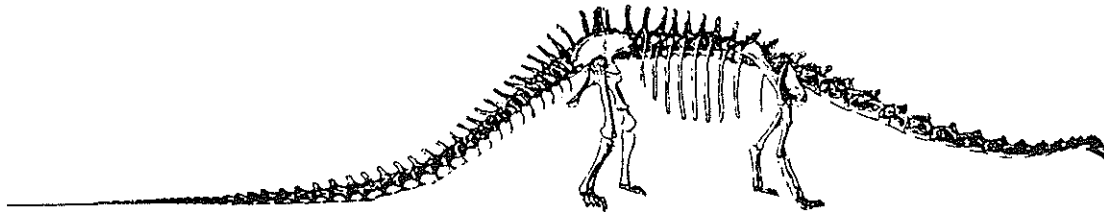
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librarian must find other sources of funding. The most feasible source is often the book budget. This is logical as well, since the information in books is frequently too old to be of real use to biological researchers. If the book budget is not sufficient, funding from other library areas might be used for journal purchases, but here again difficult decisions must be made as to which functions or services to eliminate.

Another alternative, seldom considered in these times of widespread budget cuts, is procuring *more* money for the library. This approach depends on the marketing and negotiation skills of the librarian, skills that we have not traditionally cultivated but which are becoming increasingly critical in our profession. If we can make clear the value of our services and resources to our parent organization, perhaps none of these difficult decisions will have to be made.



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Buffalo, NY 14260

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Toxicology Information and Resources

*Toxicology Information and Resources* is a new section of the journal *Toxicology* devoted to advances in the handling and management of toxicological and environmental data. Areas covered include environmental, occupational, and industrial health, human and animal toxicology, risk assessment, safety and handling of hazardous chemicals, legislative and regulatory issues, ecological concerns, pollution abatement, etc.

The unique approach of this section is to consider these related subject areas from the perspective of how the information is acquired, organized, managed, and disseminated, with an emphasis on computerized methods. Papers published in this section will consist not of abstruse research findings, but of practical and comprehensible reports on different aspects of dealing with the abundance of information in toxicology and environmental science. Contributions considering the communication of this information will also be welcome.

In addition to articles and opinion papers, the *Toxicology Information and Resources* section of *Toxicology* will eventually include concise bibliographies, new book and software reviews, listings of upcoming courses and meetings, and meeting summaries. From time to time, a particular computer file and organization will be highlighted.

Papers and other items for publication should be sent to:

Philip Wexler  
Toxicology Information Program  
National Library of Medicine  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Fax: 301-480-3537

### Internet for the Birds?

Interested in finding pictures on the Internet? AVES is an archive of bird gifs and bird-related information located on [vitruvius.cecer.army.mil](http://vitruvius.cecer.army.mil) (129.229.21.78). Vitruvius is physically located in Champaign, Illinois. AVES is accessible via anonymous FTP or through gopher, a worldwide distributed information server.

Methods of connecting to AVES:  
[ftp vitruvius.cecer.army.mil](ftp://vitruvius.cecer.army.mil) (login: anonymous)  
gopher [vitruvius.cecer.army.mil](gopher://vitruvius.cecer.army.mil) 70

Within World Wide Web the URL is:  
<gopher://vitruvius.cecer.army.mil>

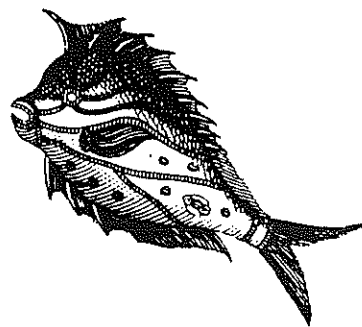
Any comments should be addressed via e-mail to:  
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[rglaeser@cecer.army.mil](mailto:rglaeser@cecer.army.mil)

### Natural History Caucus E-Discussion Group

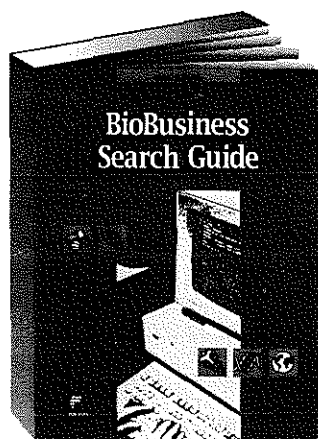
The SLA Natural History Caucus is pleased to announce the establishment of an electronic discussion list focusing on issues related to natural history librarianship and natural history libraries. The list, known as NHC-SLA, is a mail reflector based at the California Academy of Sciences. NHC-SLA is open to both Caucus members and to any other interested parties. To subscribe to NHC-SLA, please send your name and email address to Adam Schiff, Associate Librarian for Technical Services, California Academy of Sciences, at [aschiff@cas.calacademy.org](mailto:aschiff@cas.calacademy.org). Messages for dissemination to the discussion list itself should be sent to the reflector address: [NHC-SLA@cas.calacademy.org](mailto:NHC-SLA@cas.calacademy.org). As of August 1, 1994, subscribers to NHC-SLA numbered 80, and included librarians from across the U.S. and Canada, and from Australia, Brazil, Ecuador, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

### Appointments

Linda M. Azen has been appointed as an information specialist at the University of Southern California Norris Medical Library. Ms. Azen earned her M.L.S. from UCLA in June 1994. She received her B.S. in nursing from California State University, Dominguez Hills, in 1991.



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## Silver and Gold Members

This year the Biological Sciences Division celebrates 60 years of activity! It seems most appropriate to also recognize the constancy and support of those people who have been members of the Division for more than 25 years. Of particular note are the folks who celebrate 50+ years with the Division. Congratulations and thanks to all of you!

Members with 25+ years of continuous membership (1995):

Member	Member Since	Address
Elsevier Science B.V.	12/31/66*	New York, NY
Marie G. Abbruzzese ( <i>Life Member</i> )	12/31/48	San Francisco, CA
William K. Beatty	12/31/53	Chicago, IL
Frances L. Beckwith	12/31/37	Milwaukee, WI
Doris Bolef	12/31/45	Oak Park, IL
Jane Rogers Bottoms	12/31/69	Pewee Valley, KY
Alfred N. Brandon ( <i>Life Member</i> )	12/31/53	Daytona Beach, FL
Estelle Brodman	12/31/37	Hightstown, NJ
Vincent P. Caccese	12/31/64	Davis, CA
Helen W. Campbell	12/31/37	Speedway, IN
Irene Christopher	12/31/51	Boston MA
Robert F. Clarke ( <i>Life Member</i> )	12/31/61	Miami, FL
Clara Cziske	12/31/54	Southfield, MI
Joan DeFato	12/31/57	Arcadia, CA
Sandra R. Duchow	12/31/66	Montreal, PQ, Canada
Betty G. Emilio	12/31/47	Asheville, NC
Helene M. Gingras	12/31/47	Washington, DC
Helen H. Henderson	12/31/63	Webster Groves, MO
Atha Louise Henley	12/31/58	Auburn, AL
Akemi E. Inouye ( <i>Life Member</i> )	12/31/70	Washington, DC
Lavinia L. Johnson	12/31/66	Detroit, MI
Alice J. Kennedy	12/31/64	Hatboro, PA
Martha Z. Kirby	12/31/65	Philadelphia, PA
Herbert B. Landau	12/31/63	Lancaster, PA
Joyce Marson	12/31/44	Los Angeles, CA
Isabel McDonald	12/31/56	Portland, OR
Gerald E. Meyer	12/31/67	Bethesda, MD
June M. Mitchell	12/31/46	Fayetteville, NY
Lussia Neumann	12/31/66	New York, NY
Mary Elizabeth O'Brien	12/31/57	Bronx, NY
Natalie N. Owen ( <i>Life Member</i> )	12/31/69	San Antonio, TX
Cynthia H. Plockelman	12/31/69	West Palm Beach, FL
Winifred Sewell	12/31/46	Cabin John, MD
Katherine R. Smith	12/31/69	Buena Vista, VA
Doris A. Standing	12/31/64	Toronto, ON, Canada
Isabel Stauffer	12/31/47	Weston, ON, Canada
Harriet Steuernagel	12/31/45	Clayton, MO
Helen E. Tibbs	12/31/57	Wichita, KS
Virginia R. Weiser	12/31/69	Santa Rosa, CA
Marian E. Wittenberger ( <i>Life Member</i> )	12/31/61	Phoenix, AZ

\*Sustaining Member

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## New Members

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San Diego, CA 92130-2527

Vera L. Armann  
102 - 3509 Peel St.  
Montreal, PQ, Canada  
H3A 1W7

Douglas R. Atkins  
3419 Plyers Mill Rd  
Kensington Md., SC 20895  
(301) 929-8231

Alta H. Beach  
910 Cleveland Ave.  
Schenectady, NY 12306

Katherine Bertolucci  
Isis Information Services  
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Oakland, CA 94610  
(510) 268-8675  
Fax: (510) 835-0651

Rebecca L. Breyer  
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## **New Member Profiles**

### **Lynda Bond**

Lynda is Resource Centre Co-ordinator at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Ontario (ICES). ICES was established by the Ontario Ministry of Health and the Ontario Medical Association, and has a mandate to pursue a long-term agenda of research and demonstration projects by focusing on how the Ontario health care system works, its structure, processes, costs, and outcomes. Lynda administers a small core collection including such topics as epidemiology, health care services and costs, biostatistics, meta-analysis, etc. Before coming to ICES, she worked for an insurance company in the library and records management areas. She received an honours diploma in library techniques from Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology in Toronto in 1988.

### **Teresa S. Bowden**

Teresa is a student in the College of Library and Information Science of the University of South Carolina. She will obtain her master's degree this month. Teresa hopes to do reference work in a medical or science library in either a special or academic setting. She is currently a graduate assistant in the cataloging department of USC's main library, the Thomas Cooper Library. She has a B.A. in biology from Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

### **Anita B. Loscalzo**

Anita is currently the Research Librarian for the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute of the Boston University School of Medicine. The Whitaker Institute Library was just recently formed by the consolidation of individual principle investigators' journal collections (44 active titles). In the very near future, the Library will have a dedicated work station connected to the main library's CDPlus Medline and the campus network, and for internal reference management databases. Anita has been a research librarian in primarily cardiovascular medicine for the past 6 years. Among her varied career stops as a solo librarian, she has been a hospital librarian, a library consultant, and an end-user trainer. Her M.S. in Library Science is from Drexel University in 1974.

### **Tracy Morgan**

Tracy is the Library Services Coordinator for the Sheridan Park Research Centre of ICI Canada Inc. located in Mississauga, Ontario. She is also responsible for providing information services to the North American Technical Centre of Zeneca Bio Products. Tracy has been with these companies since 1987. Her research library focuses on the areas of applied and analytical chemistry, chemical engineering, pulp and paper technology, biotechnology, and environmental technology. Tracy has a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ont., and a library and information technician diploma from Sheridan College, Oakville, Ont. She currently holds executive positions with the Sheridan Park Association, Library and Information Science Committee and the Halton-Peel Region of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario (OALT/ABO).

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