Title Improvements Needed in Zoological Record Database

Lori Bronars

DBIO members and especially Natural History Caucus members: I am writing to let you know of a problem in the Zoological Record database. If you search “title unknown” as a topic search you will find over 139,000 records. These problem records extend from earliest years of ZR (1864) up to 1973, with the bulk being in the 1800s. I hope you will agree with me that it is important to correct the 139,307 records missing titles.

I first became aware of a “title unknown” record about two years ago when I was searching on OC Marsh as an author for an exhibit on his garden here at Yale. It was frustrating and time-consuming to have to stop what I was doing to look up an individual article title. Surely some of you and patrons have encountered these records. I decided to take action when two Thomson Reuters associates visited Yale librarians about a different resource of theirs and I discovered the extent of the problem. I have been in contact with Thomson Reuters about this issue since that visit several months ago. I submitted 23 OC Marsh title unknown corrections to them; the 24th I was unable to find. It was a simple process for a librarian at an academic library to undertake.

Thomson Reuters representatives say would like to develop a method to automate the corrections; however, this project is not a priority due to costs that would be incurred to complete such a project.

Some of the corrections I submitted were not only titles but volume and issue numbers. Thomson Reuters can make volume and issue number changes right away but explain that in other cases the titles were not in the paper Zoological Record so it would be an enhancement. According to Thomson Reuters, I am the only one who has contacted them about this problem.

If this title improvement project does go forward at some point and you would be willing to work on correcting some “title unknown” records or if you are interested in the project or have
questions, please write to me at lori.bronars@yale.edu. With the advent of Thomson Reuters Web of Science databases being sold, the future of these incomplete/incorrect records remains unclear. Many thanks for your consideration and interest.

Your Job Search Just Got Easier!

Looking for a library job? The DBIO Job Offerings page lists job openings for academic librarians, medical librarians, and other positions of interest to division members.

Browse recent job posts
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Updated frequently, an average of 40 to 50 open positions are posted every single month.

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Darra Balance, MLIS, AHIP, who is Assistant Professor at the Robert B. Greenblatt MD Library at Augusta University, reports on a recent publication:


David Duggar, MLIS, who is Head, Liaison Program at the Health Science Library at Louisiana State University Health Shreveport, received Third Place in the Elizabeth K. Eaton Research Award for 2015. This was awarded by the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association and South Central Academic Medical Libraries Consortium for Research Excellence. He also participated in a panel discussion as co-facilitator at South Central Chapter–Medical Library Association Annual Meeting on October 6, 2015 in Little Rock, Arkansas. At this meeting David presented a paper he co-authored with J. Esparza, T. Gatson, D. Gangireddy, M. Hughes, and G. Kahlon: “Research Information Resources Used to Answer Clinical Questions from Morning Report Follow-up.” Also at this meeting David presented a paper with J. Esparza, “Are We Meeting the Information Needs of Internal Medicine Residents and Faculty? The Follow Up Study” and presented two Lightning Talks: with P. Craig and M. Dobbins, “Intruder Alert! Sharing Safety Resources” and with M. Dobbins and P. Craig, “When the River Rises.”


At SLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia in June 2016, the DBIO Awards Committee presented the Distinguished Member Award to Nalini Mahajan. Howard Fuller describes Nalini’s career in libraries as spanning forty years where she has generously volunteered many hours of time and energy. She is a friend, teacher and trusted colleague.

In April 2016 SLA inducted Janet Weiss into the Hall of Fame. The announcement informs us that Janet has been a member of SLA since 1976 and she is currently associate director of the scientific library at Daiichi Sankyo Pharma Development, Inc. in New Jersey. Janet has been indispensable to several SLA units including DBIO. Janet has worn many chapter hat: Treasurer, Fundraising chair, Consultation officer, Program chair, President, and Awards chair. Janet is especially known within the New Jersey and New Jersey-Greater Princeton/Trenton Chapter for her tremendous sponsorship and fundraising efforts. Her ability to secure vendors to sponsor meetings is legendary. Janet chaired DBIO in 2007 and has served as fundraising, professional development, and vendor relations Chair. In 2015 Janet served as Chair of the Pharmaceutical & Health Technology Division where she guided work on a membership survey and reworked the procedures for member and student travel awards.

Janet has mentored new members and encouraged them to become leaders within SLA.
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For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Division Website at: http://dbiosla.org/inside/officers/officers.html

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