

Contents

Message from the Chair	1
Election Results	3
From the Medical Section	4
MLA Liaison Report	5
IAMSLIC Liaison Report	6
Product Review	9
Book Review	10
Call for Awards Nominations	12
Call for Papers	13
Member News and Publications	15

Message from the Chair

Jean Crampon

It seems strange to be writing this as my final message. As I start this, it is still only September, so I have three more months left of my term and more that needs to be done. Contrary to popular opinion, there is more to being Chair than running business meetings, representing the Division to the Association at the Division and Joint Councils, and the Annual Conference. Those are important, but there are a number of behind-the-scenes needs, too. For now, there are some obvious topics I need to deal with, so I will start with the same words I had in my first message: Thank you!

I extend thanks to the following people or groups and ask what I can do to support you:

- The Executive Board—all of you have been responsive, supportive, and terrific to work with, and this is a public way to thank you for that. Let me know of any concerns that we still need to deal with in 2009 or that continue into 2010.
- The Advisory Board—this is an amazing group of individuals who provide a wide variety of services to the Division in planning, organizing, communicating and sharing about their activities so that we all benefit. Please let our incoming Chair, Diane Schmidt, know if you need more help next year or, for those rotating off, what new area would you like to try? What worked and what didn't work for your committee this year? *Remember you need to send me your Annual Reports by the end of November*, so I can get the DBIO Annual Report in on time.
- Members of committees for being willing to help staff your committee, which helps the Division accomplish its goals. I only got to meet a small fraction of you, but I appreciate the support you give your committee chairs to get the jobs done. Anyone who responded to my calls for service or advice, whether that was sending me a message commenting on something I did or said, asking a question, following up on a question I asked them, or who stepped up and said "yes" when I asked for help.

- Previous officers of DBIO for answering my questions, letting me learn from their experience, encouraging me, and telling me that I really **can** do this.
- Members of DBIO for allowing me to serve as Division Chair. It is truly an honor to work with and for you all.

I'm not finished with this job yet and, of course, I continue on the Executive Board for another year as Past Chair, but while I am still Chair I have a request to make of you all. Next year is our 75th Anniversary, and there is a very vibrant group of people working to make the year and our celebratory event memorable. No one person is responsible for this, so please look at the Web site and realize that this is a group effort; however, part of that effort is *YOU, every single one of you*, and all the members before you. One thing that the Executive and Advisory Board discussed in June was a way to celebrate all year long, so here is an assignment:

Take any day in the year (your birthday, a holiday, the anniversary of the start of your favorite job, whatever) and see if you can find something that happened on that day 75 years ago. That means you are looking at 1935. These don't have to be big things, such as the invention of x, but those are fine, too. It would be best if there is a life science or biomedical link, but I know how hard they are to find. I've already done some work on this. A couple of other people have also submitted some special events to me, so I have a start, but we need more to share all year. We would like to have a special highlight on the DBIO Web site each week that says something like, "75 years ago [whatever] happened." What is significant to you that might have happened in 1935? Was your favorite science writer born then? Was there something new started at your organization in that year? Since we are spread out all over the world, you might try to find something more local, such as a nature preserve opened in your area in 1935. That would be significant, but I might not hear about it in southern California. Think about it and try to come up with at least two items and send them to me as soon as you can. I'll sort them out and provide them for the webmaster so she has things to post in that section. Some weeks might have more, but we need to have something for every week all year. This is a gargantuan task for just a few people. That is why I am asking for your help. If I get duplicates, that's fine, and don't send me information about the Nobel Prizes. We already have those! I look forward to a flood of items.

In SLA news, please look at the SLA site and read about the Alignment Project. This has been a multiple year project of the Association on our behalf. One of the outcomes is a recommendation to change our name. We will be asked to vote on this later this year. It is an electronic vote so everyone gets a chance to vote, rather than a vote at the conference.

Part II

Please note that I started writing this in midair on a flight from Los Angeles to Philadelphia on the first leg of a trip to Belgium to attend the Annual Conference of IAMSILIC (International Association of Aquatic and Marine Libraries and Information Centers). I'm the former DBIO liaison to IAMSILIC, but I've been a member for longer, just not as long as I've belonged to DBIO. I'm presenting a paper and hoping to do a little sightseeing in Brussels, where we arrive, and Bruges, where the conference will be held. This is my last chance to give the personal notes, although I feel as though this entire message has been more personal than the earlier ones due to all the thank yous. I'll be working on this column when I get a chance, so part will be on the ground in Belgium!

It's now October and I'm still in Belgium—back in Brussels. Bruges was a very interesting city, and I enjoyed what I saw of it, although the days were pretty well occupied with the conference. If you attend a conference beyond SLA, please consider sharing a short note with DBIO. Did you learn about some new software, a new instruction technique, an idea to improve your budget requests or how to stretch your budget? Short reports on related conferences are welcome as additions to *Biofeedback*.

What kind of writer are you? Do you like it? Hate it? Prefer to present rather than to write? What is your opinion on using slides or handouts? How do you feel about revisions? Do you have someone to help you as an editor or who can give you honest feedback? Do you often get asked to help others with their written documents? Other than email, which I think most of us do off the tops of our heads, I have to write something and let it "sit" or "mellow" and then go back to it. Sometimes I am pleased I did well and other times I cannot believe I wrote something so disorganized, inane and confusing, so I revise, mellow again, and reread. (Side note on email: sometimes, even with email, I have to save as a draft and reread if it is really important. I hate when I get responses to a message I have sent and can tell the recipient never read the entire message through so I have to ask part of my question again.)

So far as my writing goes, I've been a *Library Journal* book reviewer for years, have some articles in the professional literature and even tried to write children's stories at one point. They were rejected, but I still have them in my files. I'm working on a book now and have been working on it in my spare time when I'm not doing my regular job, volunteering for professional organizations, volunteering in my community, etc. It's the history of a former research vessel at USC and has been fascinating to research. I'll be sure to let DBIO know when it is published.

Finally, thank you all for this opportunity to serve you. Let me know what I can still do to help the Division or to answer any questions on how DBIO has helped me through the years. From the Medical Section

Election Results

John Tebo, Nominations and Elections Committee Chair

The Nominations and Elections Committee is pleased to announce the results of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division 2009 election.

Chair-Elect-Nancy Dickenson

Nancy Dickenson is currently senior librarian at the Stanford University Hospital Health Library in Palo Alto, CA. An SLA member for seven years, she is active in DBIO. For the most recent Washington, D.C. conference, she served as the division's program planning chair. She has been Medical Section chair, as well. Active in other professional organizations, including MLA and the Northern California and Nevada Medical Libraries Group, she was recently appointed to a statewide committee overseeing the development of a consumer health toolkit for public libraries, an LSTA funded project of the California State Library, in conjunction with the California Healthcare Foundation and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Pacific Southwest Region. Nancy holds an MLIS from San Jose State University. Before becoming a librarian, Nancy had a twenty year career in marketing and public relations, primarily in the medical and technology industries.

Secretary-Tony Stankus (two year term)

Tony Stankus is currently the Life Sciences Librarian & Science Coordinator (with the rank of full Professor) at the University of Arkansas. He was the Science Librarian at Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA from 1974-2007, and concurrently the Adjunct Professor for the Survey of Special Libraries course at the URI Graduate School of Library & Information Studies from 1982-2007. The author of 10 books, and over 160 papers, largely on biomedical librarianship, he has also served the Division as DBIO blogmaster since 2007 (22,000 hits by September, 2009), and as Director (2008-2009). He was the Project Leader for the DBIO 100 Poll and the Centennial Business Luncheon last June in Washington, DC. He was named a Fellow of the SLA this year.

Director-Nancy Curtis (two year term)

Nancy R. Curtis, Science & Engineering Librarian at the University of Maine, has been a member of DBIO since 1989. She previously served as Treasurer of the Division, and chaired both the Membership and Awards Committees. Nancy has also served on several other Division committees, including Annual Conference Program Planning and Fund Development.

Other committee members:

David Duggar
Linda Maddux
Janet Weiss



From the Medical Section

Gillian Kumagai, Medical Section Chair

My term as Medical Section Chair is coming to a close, and I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to continuing to cross paths with you in the Medical Section and DBIO. As of January 2010, Layla Heimlich will be the new Chair. Layla can be reached at Layla.Heimlich@medstar.net

Earlier in the year I divulged my poor organization of quickly amassing bookmarks. I can claim progress, not victory, in the battle, as I continue to find myself deluged with new sites to explore, tools to try, RSS feeds to read, and information to absorb. In previous columns I have included sites that have been useful to me, and I am doing so again with hopes that they will be of interest to you as well.

New Approaches to Chronic Disease

This multimedia consumer health site offers a multidisciplinary integrative approach to managing heart disease, diabetes, and chronic pain through evidence-based information, resources, research summaries, and online exercises.

Information about each condition is presented in text, audio show, and flash animation. Online exercises are included for each of the three topics and range from cognitive behavior therapy to yoga exercises. The site, available in both English and Spanish, includes self-assessment tools, summaries of relevant research, an Internet searching tutorial, and excellent resource guides on each of the topics. The site is funded by the NIH and is operated by the Continuum Center for Health and Healing at Beth Israel Medical Center, New York.

NLM Pillbox (beta)

From time to time I am asked for resources used for pill identification. In the past I have used the [NLM DailyMed® Product Identification System](#) but in a recent search I stumbled upon [NLM Pillbox \(beta\)](#). It is still being developed, and, though not yet intended for clinical use, it's bound to be a great tool for identifying unknown solid-dosage medications.

The user inputs information about imprint, shape, color, size, and scoring. Results, updated as you provide the system with more information, include a thumbnail image of possible matches, descriptive information about each medication, and a link to the FDA Drug Label. Entries also list the ingredients and provide a link to the NLM Drug Information Portal, leading to a wealth of information ranging from consumer health and clinical trials to Medline/PubMed, TOXLINE, and more.

Ebsco's Influenza Evidence Based Information Portal

From the Web site:

“Due to Pandemic H1N1 Influenza and concerns about the 2009/2010 flu season, the EBSCO Publishing Medical and Nursing editors of DynaMed™, Nursing Reference Center™ (NRC) and Patient Education Reference Center™ (PERC) have made key influenza information from these resources freely available to healthcare providers worldwide.” The site offers information for clinicians, nurses, and patients. Patient information is available in 17 languages.

HealthMap: Outbreaks Near Me – iPhone application

[Download it here](#)

I haven't tried this free application, though I do find it intriguing. Developed by researchers at Children's Hospital in Boston and the MIT Media Lab, this application allows users to track and report infectious disease outbreaks in real time on an interactive map. Customized alerts notify you when there is an outbreak in your area. You can also visit [HealthMap](#) on the Web.


Send your ideas or feedback to me at gkumagai@stanfordmed.org

MLA Liaison Report

Darra Balance, Liaison to the Medical Library Association

The 2010 MLA Annual Conference will be held May 21-26 at the Washington Hilton in Washington DC. MLA's annual meeting is an opportunity to present and discuss papers, posters, applied research, and important issues in health sciences information management. The event gives MLA members and affiliated professionals a chance to share ideas, hear from experts, see the latest products, network, and socialize! Over 2000 library and information professionals attend the annual meeting, which is noted for valuable continuing education, networking and career development opportunities.

Although I attended an MLA meeting in DC back in the '90s, and I've been to the Hilton various times for many different conferences, I'm especially excited about the 2010 Annual Conference. I will be teaching a CE course, “Evidence-based Nursing: Integrating Literature Clinical Practice and Patient Education” for 4 MLA CE contact hours. Two colleagues of mine at the Medical College of Georgia have worked with me extensively on our course content, and, while we have taught the course at smaller meetings, this will be our first chance to teach at a national conference. If you are a health sciences librarian who works with clinical nurses, or nursing faculty and students, I hope you will take a look at the conference program (when it's published) and decide to attend this course!



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IAMSLIC Liaison Report

Becky Lasswell Stromberg, Liasion to IAMSLIC

IAMSLIC held the joint 35th annual conference and 13th Biennial EURASLIC Conference in Brugge (Bruges), Belgium, from September 27 - October 1, 2009, hosted by the IOC/UNESCO Project Office for IODE and the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ). The theme was "Confluence of Ideas: Evolving to meet the challenges of global change." Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but you can catch up on the conference happenings by checking out the IAMSLIC news and events blog. Conference proceedings will eventually be available in the digital repository WHOAS.

Future Conferences

- Cyamus, the Pacific coast regional group of IAMSLIC, will hold their annual meeting March 26-30, 2010 at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia.
- SAIL, the Atlantic coast regional group of IAMSLIC, will meet April 27-30, 2010 at the University of Georgia, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Tifton Campus in Tifton, GA.
- The 36th IAMSLIC Conference will be held in Mar del Plata, Argentina in fall 2010.
- The 37th IAMSLIC Conference will be held in Zanzibar, Tanzania in fall 2011.

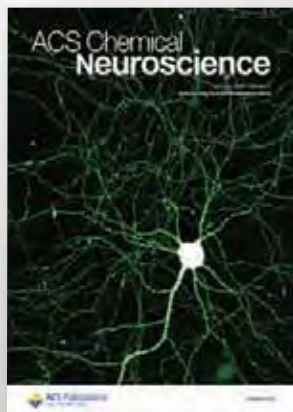


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Product Review

SciFinder (Web version)

CAS (A Division of the American Chemical Society)

Reviewed by Ann Bolek

SciFinder is the end-user version of Chemical Abstracts. It includes Medline and several chemistry-related databases found on STN, including the Registry File (chemical substance information), CASREACT (reactions), CHEMCATS (chemical catalogs/suppliers), and CHEMLIST (Regulated Chemicals Listing). It has added predicted and experimental property information for chemical substances and links to spectra from Wiley, ACD/Labs, and others. It also links to the full-text of journals and patents. It was introduced to the academic community in 1998 and to commercial users a couple of years earlier as a client-server database. In 2008, a Web version became available.

It is assumed that the reader has used the client version before and is considering use of the Web version. The client version is available for Windows and Macintosh operating systems, but has had some issues with its installation on some computers. Every year or two a new version of the software would be released, and an older version of the software would no longer be supported nor work. The Web version does not require a software installation, although a free Java plug-in is needed for structure drawing.

The Web version requires users to register with their organization's e-mail account either on-campus or off-campus connected through a proxy or Virtual Private Network. Users will receive a confirmation e-mail and must click on the link within 48 hours to confirm their registration before using the Web version the first time. I would prefer that the registration link not be behind a firewall because I do not have access to the firewall, and I have not received the cooperation from my systems folks to add this link. However, the addendum to the license agreement requires the firewall.

The academic community subscribes to a certain number of seats for SciFinder, that is, number of users who can sign on simultaneously. The site administrator decides how to allocate these seats to the Web and/or client versions. The fewer seats you have, the more difficult this decision becomes. Users who have used the client for years usually prefer the client version. I show new students the Web version to eliminate the hassles with getting the client software to work and because I was required to remove the client from the public desktop computers in my library. But if the new students were using the client at their previous institution, they may pressure me to allow them to use the client version. Chemical Abstracts does provide daily statistics on client and Web usage, and you can change this allocation at any time.

Many of the searches are entered differently on the Web version than they were on the client, and many users may not wish to make the effort to learn how to do that same search on the Web. I had designed assignments for the client version and spent a considerable amount of time revising these assignments for the Web. After you sign onto the client, you are given three choices: Explore, Locate or Browse. At some point you should investigate all three to see what types of searches you can do. With the Web version the default is searching by research topic, but you can see elsewhere on the page what the other choices are for searching. After you do a search on the client, you need to be curious enough (or trained) to click on the microscope icon for more detail or the text icon to connect to the full-text. Having these links explained in words (rather than being merely icons) is a definite advantage of the Web, as well as having the room to display the words. Client users need to click on the microscope to see the language of the document, whereas the language appears in the default display for Web users, a welcome feature.

Commercial users had the "Keep Me Posted" feature, a current awareness alert, on the client version for quite some time. Academic users are able to use this feature for the first time in the Web version. As far as I can tell, the only difference between the academic version and the commercial version of SciFinder Web is the number of answers (results) that you can download at one time. Commercial users can download up to 500 answers, whereas academic users are limited to 100.

As more features are added to the Web version, users may finally be convinced to migrate. Several enhancements were added to the Web version in November 2008, including the ability to remove duplicate references between Chemical Abstracts and Medline. In September 2009, several more features were added to the Web version. Users could control the display of their answers (with or without abstracts) and could control the number of answers that display per page. There was no consensus about this, so it is welcome that users can decide for themselves. More printing and exporting options have been added as well. Users may add tags and/or comments to their references and share these references easily with others in their organization.

A few schools have migrated to all Web seats already, in order to keep their turnaways at an acceptable level, to eliminate the software issues with the client, and/or to have better control over who is using their subscription. We don't know how much longer the client version will be offered, but the client version has not been enhanced since 2007, whereas the Web version has had at least two major enhancements since 2008. It is just a matter of time before all of us migrate completely, even if we wait until we are forced. The Web version is improving all the time and, ideally, you will want to have access to both versions while your seats are split, in order to increase your chances of being able to sign on. After trying to support the client version for ten years, I welcomed the Web version with open arms. But it has been a struggle to convince my long-time users of that. Eventually, at least some of them may get frustrated at how difficult it is to get on the client version during the daytime, Monday through Friday, and try the Web version. Some have tried it and just prefer the client. Others will migrate only when they have no choice.

Book Review

Dog Behavior, Evolution, and Cognition

By Adam Miklosi

Oxford University Press. Oxford. 2007

Reviewed by Diane Hummel

Miklosi's *Dog Behavior, Evolution, and Cognition* is the first published research to synthesize 20th century primary canine research and construct a solid foundation for future field and laboratory research studies to expand the contemporary understanding of canine behavior. Miklosi's book is a gift for serious researchers and astute students of canines, as well as the general population of dog lovers seeking to better understand the canine companions with whom they share their homes and lives. Miklosi is not absorbed in a particular training regimen to shape the behavior of family pets, nor does he regale the reader with soulful or comedic stories of the achievements and escapades of individual dogs. The text reviews not only the traditional role of dogs in human society, but the scientific literature about canines (dogs and wolves) with footnotes, and discusses scientific methodologies as applied to research and study of the dog. Miklosi concludes with an overview of innovative approaches to canine behavior development and genetics.

Dog Behavior, Evolution, and Cognition is a comprehensive review of the extant research literature on canines that reveals the fallacies of the methodologies of prior canine research and points forward to areas for additional research into behavioral development.

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DBIO Awards Call for Nominations

The DBIO Awards Committee is seeking nominations for two awards to be presented at the DBIO Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, LA, June 2010.

Distinguished Member Award—This award recognizes one outstanding member each year for his/her service and dedication to DBIO and accomplishments in the profession. See [award criteria and nomination information](#) .

Winifred Sewell Prize—This award is given to a DBIO member who has shown leadership and innovation in the development and/or use of advanced technologies in the organization or dissemination of biomedical and life sciences information. See [award criteria and nomination information](#) .

March 26, 2010 is the deadline for nominations. The Division is fortunate to have as members so many dedicated and distinguished professionals, so please consider nominating a DBIO colleague for one of these awards.

Thanks, and looking forward to seeing those nominations pouring in!

Michele R. Tennant, Chair, DBIO Awards Committee

Nominate a DBIO Member for an Association-Level Award!

Nominations for SLA association-level awards open on November 1 and run through January 15; however, this year the **deadline** for Fellow nominations is earlier—November 1. Please consider nominating one of your DBIO colleagues. You may nominate individuals two ways:

1. Individually nominate a colleague via the [SLA Web site](#)

AND/OR

2. Send all relevant information to Michele Tennant (tennantm@ufl.edu), Chair of the DBIO Awards Committee (including the nominee's CV if possible). Deadlines to get your information to Michele are October 15 for Fellow nominations and December 5 for other association-level awards.

Note that a nomination that comes through the division usually carries more weight than one that comes from an individual.

See a [list of awards and criteria](#).

Thanks, and let's honor our deserving DBIO members!

Michele R. Tennant, Chair, DBIO Awards Committee



Call for Papers

**Biomedical and Life Sciences Division
Special Libraries Association Conference
June 13-16, 2010 • New Orleans, LA**



Theme: The Contributed Papers Committee invites proposals for papers presenting original research, innovative projects or other professional activities of interest to the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of SLA.

Abstract: A **200-500 word abstract** should accurately convey the subject of the paper, its scope, conclusions, and relevance to the program theme. Attention will be paid to evidence of scholarship and methodology.

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: December 1, 2009

Papers: If chosen, acceptance of your paper reflects a commitment on your part to:

- 1) Submit the complete text of your paper to the program convener by April 14, 2010.
- 2) Give a presentation of your paper for no longer than 20 minutes at the SLA annual conference, June 13-16, 2010 in New Orleans, LA
- 3) Where appropriate and feasible, offer a brief demonstration or representation of your project during your presentation.

Submit Abstracts to:

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Member News and Publications

Kudos

Alanna Campbell, DBIO Member

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2009 achievements of our member, Patricia H. Dawson. Patricia H. Dawson has been promoted from Assistant Professor I-Librarian to Assistant Professor II-Librarian at Rider University. She is the Science Instruction and Reference Librarian with liaison responsibilities to the Biology, Behavioral Neuroscience, Geological, Environmental and Marine Sciences, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and Psychology Departments. We extend our sincere congratulations to Patricia.

Membership Report

Dorothy Barr, Membership Chair

Welcome to these new DBIO members:

Robert Engeszer, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis MO
Alain Ikeda, Tucson, AZ
Melody Ramsey, Wheeling WV
Claire Sharifi, Alameda CA
Jennifer Wilms, University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH

I would also like to welcome Donna Kafel to the Membership Committee. We would both be happy to hear from any of you, and if you have any ideas about recruiting new members and retaining old ones please share them! Suggestions about how we can better serve you are also always welcome.

We are pleased to report that DBIO membership now stands at 680, which is up slightly from the last report.

Member Publications


Compiled by Alanna Campbell, DBIO Member

Clark, C. (August 2009). "NIH Library Services: Popular Bioinformatics Trainer Joins NIH Library Staff." *The NIH Catalyst*, 17(4): 10.

Dawson, P.H. 2009. "A Professional Faculty Development Project for Integrating Bioinformatics into Science, Technology, and Math Courses at a Community College." Presented at Best Practices Day, Biotechnology Institute Atlanta, GA, May 17.

Dawson, P.H. 2009. "Have Laptop Will Travel: Experiences of a Field Librarian". Presented at Annual SLA Conference, Washington, D.C., June 16, 2009.

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