

## Contents

<b>Chair's Message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Philadelphia Conference Preview</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Medical Section</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MLA Liaison Report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Book Reviews</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Call for Nominations</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Call for Papers</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Member News and Publications</b>	<b>12</b>

## Message from the Chair

**Diane Schmidt**

Fall is in the air here in central Illinois, and that signals the winding down of my tenure as Chair of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. It's been quite a year, especially since 2010 is our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! I have thoroughly enjoyed the honor of serving as Chair during such a historic year, even though it was also a difficult year for many of us financially.

We chairs always say that we can't run the Division alone, and that is absolutely true. The Executive and Advisory Boards have been a tremendous help to me, and a source of much wisdom and deep organizational memory. In addition, there are about 20 DBIO committees and about 75 committee members taking part in Division activities. I've talked to a number of other division and chapter chairs who have had a great deal of trouble filling far fewer committee slots, so I'm doubly thankful for the volunteer spirit of our DBIO members. My thanks to all of you, and if you haven't volunteered for a committee assignment yet let our incoming Chair, Nancy Dickinson, know of your interest. She'll be looking for help for next year.

And speaking of committees, the Division is in the process of creating an informal wiki to provide help for new committee members, and especially new committee chairs. Despite our best efforts, continuity is occasionally a problem with committees. Past committee chairs are very often helpful to incoming chairs, they aren't always available and more formal help is needed. The wiki will be publicly viewable although only chairs will be able to edit it. We hope to have the wiki populated by the end of this year so that it will be available for new chairs to use and improve upon in 2011. If you have been the chair of a DBIO committee in the past few years, please let the current chair know the kind of information you wish you had known at the beginning of your assignment—calendar of activities, relationships with other DBIO committees, and so on. The more input we have from experienced DBIO chairs, the more useful the wiki will be! We'll also be creating an FAQ to cover questions that relate to more than one committee.

*(continued next page)*

Thanks again to all the people who helped make this year a success, and keep up the good work. Have a great fall and may 2011 be kind to us all.

## Philadelphia Conference Preview

### Howard Fuller, 2011 Conference Planning Chair

The Division has been busy planning what we hope is an exciting program for both the Division and the greater SLA community for the 2011 conference in Philadelphia. We are excited to say that we've had one program selected as a Spotlight Session and one as a Need-to-Know session. Aside from the required business meetings, we will be presenting the following substantive programs (please note that we are still in the midst of the planning process so we've still many details to complete):

- Natural History Caucus business meeting and program, hosted by Dean Walton of the University of Oregon. The Natural History Caucus will be presenting a program about the Specify6 database, "So they say you have to publish?", moderated by Tony Stankus of the University of Arkansas. Tony, a veteran library leader and thinker, will host a panel presenting what you need to know about getting published, whether it be for tenure or to deepen your knowledge of the profession. Tony is currently the editor of *Science & Technology Libraries*.
- The Medical Section Program and business meeting, hosted by Lisa Chow. Lisa is currently planning to present a panel of experienced electronic resource managers to share best- and next-practices and ideas on developing and maintaining a relevant and up-to-date health portal.
- The always popular DBIO Vendor Relations Roundtable will return, hosted by Nalni Mahajan. This is consistently rated as a top program and highly valued by all SLA members
- "Design thinking: are you stuck in the evidence and don't know how to get out?" This program was selected by SLA as a "Spotlight Session" and is expected to draw some of the largest membership participation of any program during the Annual Meeting. "Design Thinking" includes techniques and tools traditionally used to enhance the look and functionality of products which are now being used in businesses, government, and the social sector to solve complex problems. "Design Thinking" relies on our ability to be intuitive, to recognize patterns, to construct ideas that have emotional meaning as well as being functional, and to express in media other than words or symbols.
- "Managing metadata: balancing the need for information and the legal risk." This program was selected as a "Need-to-Know" session and will be open to the larger Philadelphia community of information professionals. Program summary: As metadata becomes more discoverable, information professionals need to know the ramifications of metadata and its uses other than to enhance content organization and discovery. Types of metadata that can come back to hurt you (and you don't even know you're sending it) include: your name, your initials, your organization's name, the name of your computer, the name of the network server or hard disk on which you saved the document; other file properties and summary information; the names of previous document authors, track changes, document revisions, document version, template information, comments, macros, hyperlinks, routing information, non-visible portions of embedded objects; linking and embedding (OLE) objects.





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## **From the Medical Section**

**Layla Heimlich, Medical Section Chair**

**T**his is my final article, as my term as Medical Section chair is coming to a close. It has been an honor to serve the members of the Medical Section and of DBIO. I would like to reintroduce Lisa Chow, a librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library and the Medical Section's chair-elect, who will take office as chair of the Medical Section in January 2011.

I look forward to seeing you all again in person and online, particularly at the annual conference in Philadelphia, where Lisa and the DBIO programming committee already have some fascinating programs planned. Online, the DBIO webmasters continue to develop an amazing Web site for the Division, and I encourage you all to visit the Medical Section pages. They have links to useful education resources from tutorials on health care statistics to references for drug development, for users needing everything from complex medical research to general information about our nation's health care.

Local chapters, too, have been busy, and the Medical Section was pleased to be represented at The Red Light Tour of the New Orleans Conference, the DC Chapter's informal recap of the 2010 Annual Conference. Members shared what they had learned at various sessions and were particularly interested in some of the agile librarians' responses to disasters described by Michelynn McKnight in the Medical Section's session, such as the traveling library in a trailer run by LSU library school students and partly sponsored by a local casino. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve the Section, and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in the coming years.

## **MLA Liaison Report**

**Darra Ballance, Liaison to the Medical Library Association**

**T**he 2011 MLA Annual Conference will be held in fabulous Minneapolis Minnesota. So "fabulous" is not the first word that comes into your mind when describing this city? If not, one visit will change your mind. Minneapolis really is a wonderful city, full of wonderful green spaces, great shopping (it's the home of Target and Aveda), swank hotels, fun ethnic neighborhoods and much more. I would recommend packing your best walking shoes because this city is made for walking—green spaces and parks are around every corner, covered elevated walkways run all through downtown. It's made to explore! Spring will be in full swing there in May. I urge you to put this meeting on your calendar.

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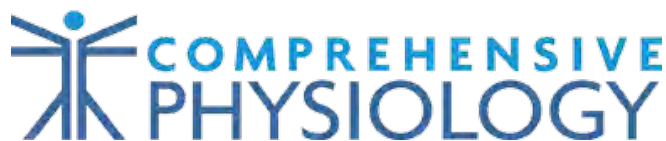


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## Book Reviews

### *Ecological and Environmental Physiology of Birds*

(*Ecological and Environmental Physiology Series*, Vol. 2)

J. Eduardo P. W. Bicudo, William A. Buttemer, Mark A. Chappell, James T. Pearson, and Claus Bech.

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010

ISBN: 0199228450; ISBN-13: 978-0199228454

Reviewed by Dorothy Barr

This very comprehensive book covers all aspects of bird physiology in relation to the environment. The Introduction is titled “Blueprint of a Bird (Bauplan/Body Plan)” and is an overview of avian physiology. The succeeding chapters go into more detail, covering such topics as “Physiological Bases of Fecundity/Longevity Tradeoffs” and various adaptations in relation to food, specific environments and more. “Approaches and Techniques” covers various methods of measuring expenditures and requirements, as well as genomic and molecular techniques. It concludes with a look at future directions for research. It is heavily annotated and the bibliography is almost fifty pages.

Although not for lay readers, *Ecological and Environmental Physiology of Birds* will be an excellent addition to academic libraries.

### *Big Questions in Ecology and Evolution*

Thomas Sherratt and David Wilkinson

Oxford University Press, 2009

ISBN: 0199548617; ISBN-13: 9780199548613

Reviewed by Claudia Lascar

The motivation for writing this book came from the authors’ admiration of Paul Colinvaux’s 1978 book, . This book follows Colinvaux only in spirit, not in subject, since it addresses questions that have taxed evolutionary biologists and ecologists for decades, such as: Why do we age?; Why is the world green?; How will the biosphere end? According to its authors “this book is intended as an introduction to several key ideas in ecology and evolution.” This book represents a novel approach in education by introducing students to science via broad fundamental questions. The authors hope that their pedagogical approach will compel students to pursue the subject matter with great interest and curiosity. At the same time, the authors understand the limitations of their work (the book is only 336 pages) and explain that “this book is not intended as a formal textbook, but something designed for background reading, perhaps to support tutorials...”

Some of the phenomena discussed are, on first reflection, simply puzzling to understand from an evolutionary perspective, whilst others have direct implications for the future of the planet. All of the questions posed have at least a partial solution, all have seen exciting breakthroughs in recent years, yet many of the explanations continue to be hotly debated. The authors offer several appendices: a species list, a glossary, a geological time scale, and an excellent bibliography.

I recommend this book become part of a general science collection, although undergraduate biology students will benefit the most from reading it.



*Modelling Evolution: An Introduction to Numerical Methods*

Derek A. Roff

Oxford University Press, 2010

ISBN: 0199571147; ISBN-13: 9780199571147

Reviewed by Claudia Lascar

Derek A. Roff is a professor of biology at UC Riverside College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. His specialty is evolutionary population ecology, encompassing quantitative genetics, life-history, and the importance of trade-offs in shaping life history evolution. He has authored numerous articles, and his books include *Introduction to Computer-Intensive Methods of Data Analysis in Biology* (1992), (1997), (2002), (2006) and now his latest (2010)

Computer modeling is now an integral part of research in evolutionary biology. According to Roff, most graduate students face several problems in using computer modeling in their research: “the first is the general problem of formulating the question in a manner that is amenable to programming, and the second is its implementation using R, SPLUS, Mathematica, Maple, Mathcad and MATLAB computer languages.”

*Modelling Evolution* will help students overcome these hurdles. Following a general introduction to computer modeling, successive chapters describe “Fisherian” optimality models, invasibility analysis, genetic models, game theoretic models, and dynamic programming. Each chapter consists of an introduction, methods of analysis, several scenarios demonstrating the techniques used, and some exemplary papers. In addition, information on programming in R and MATLAB (Chapter 2 and 6 only) is provided. Appendix 1 provides a summary of R functions used in the book with the equivalent MATLAB codes when applicable. Appendix 2 provides a brief explanation of the “Fisherian” optimality analysis. An excellent bibliography accompanies this text.

I highly recommend this book for purchase by librarians serving scientists and graduate students practicing research in the fields of evolutionary biology, evolutionary ecology, behavioral evolution and computational biology.

## 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 Philadelphia, PA, June 2011.

**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 25, 2011 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 Fellows and Rising Stars are now open, with a deadline to the Association by December 15. Other association-level awards open on November 1 and are due on January 15. Please consider nominating one of your DBIO colleagues. You may nominate individuals two ways:

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

OR

2. Send all relevant information to Michele Tennant ([tennantm@ufl.edu](mailto:tennantm@ufl.edu)), Chair of the DBIO Awards Committee (include the nominee's CV and letters of support if possible). Deadlines to get your information to Michele are November 5 for Fellow/Rising Star nominations; December 10 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. A [list of awards and criteria](#) is available.

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

Michele R. Tennant  
Chair, DBIO Awards Committee

# Biomedical & Life Sciences Division

## Special Libraries Association Conference

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

**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, 2010**

**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 13, 2011.
- 2) Give a presentation of your paper for no longer than 20 minutes at the SLA annual conference, June 12-15, 2011 in Philadelphia, PA
- 3) Where appropriate and feasible, offer a brief demonstration or representation of your project during your presentation.



**Submit Abstracts to:**

Alicia Livinski, National Institutes of Health Library

Email: [livinski76@hotmail.com](mailto:livinski76@hotmail.com) | Ph: (301) 594-6423

*Please put SLA-DBIO Contributed Paper Submission in Subject line*

---

**Questions?** | Contact Alicia Livinski – [livinski76@hotmail.com](mailto:livinski76@hotmail.com)

# Member News and Publications

## Membership Report

**Dorothy Barr, Membership Committee Chair**

**D**BIO would like to welcome the following new members:

Margo Klein, West Fargo, ND  
Bob Schatz, BioMed Central, Portland, OR  
Olga Starostina, Houston, TX  
Valeri Bogucka, The University of Texas Libraries, Austin, TX  
Melissa Bulzomi, Baldwin, NY  
Dr. Lorraine (Lori) Gill-Pazaris, Concord, MA  
Kristin Hitchcock, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Rosemont, IL  
Maureen Bishop, Athens, GA  
Tricia Connell, Pittsburgh, PA  
Beth Lewis, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA  
Davida Marion, Tustin, CA  
Jane Starr, Alberta Government Library, Edmonton, AB, Canada

The DBIO membership currently stands at 566.

If you have any questions or comments about membership in the Division, please feel free to ask!

## Member Publications

**Compiled by Alanna J.J. Campbell, DBIO Member**

Gleeson Buhler, A., Ferree, N., Cataldo, T.T. & Tennant, M.R. (September, 2010). "External Reporting Lines of Academic Special Libraries: A Health Sciences Case Study." *College & Research Libraries*, 71(5): 467-494.  
Abstract available at: <http://crl.acrl.org/content/71/5/467.short>

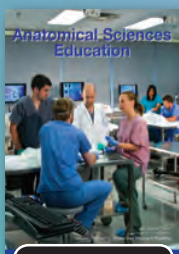


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Past Chair: Jean Crampon  
[crampon@usc.edu](mailto:crampon@usc.edu)

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>

#### Biofeedback

Special Libraries Association

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