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# Biofeedback

Biological Sciences Division  
Special Libraries Association

Volume 21, Number 4  
Spring 1996  
ISSN 1060-2488

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## Chair's Report

*Lucy M. Rowland*

Boston in June! What you will see when you arrive is the result of nearly two years of efforts on the part of many individuals. I have discovered on this journey through time that the Biological Sciences Division is especially endowed with hardworking volunteers who are highly dedicated to the task at hand. There are many other Divisions, some much larger than ours, that in spite of having a huge pool of potential volunteers, find it difficult to recruit members to run for office or hold committee posts. We have not seen that in our Division at all.

Dedicated volunteers like Larry Kelland and the Fund Development Committee raised a record \$6250 this year from vendors and sponsors. You will see a listing of those sponsors elsewhere in this issue. Please remember to thank them if you are attending the conference, as they ensure the success of our conference meetings. Barry Brown's Nominations & Elections Committee sought out excellent candidates for the Board. Hardworking, dedicated Anna McGowan, Pat Murphy, Geeth Rao, Larry Wright, and Liese Tajiri have made programming and the very successful Contributed Papers Program long term projects. David Duggar and the Membership Committee worked in a proactive manner to monitor our membership statistics and made suggestions for recruitment and retention. The committee with the help of Nancy Bryant and Sue Kaczor coordinated the petition to request establishment of a Medical Section within the Division. Adam Schiff, Larry Kelland, and John Tebo provided us with timely information through production and dissemination of *Biofeedback*. Lois Sill, Virginia Lingle, and Elisabeth Davis of the Public Relations/Career Guidance Committee took on the Herculean task of investigating the needs of student members and how public relations for the Division could be improved. Susan Curtis kept the Division updated via *Biofeedback* about the antics in Washington that we can only marvel about. Barbara Schader's new Awards Committee worked hard to assure that this venture would be a success in its first year. Dottie Riemenschneider began the onerous task of re-establishing the

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Division's archives with the help of University of Michigan students. Our thanks to all committee members and liaisons for efforts expended: Jo Anne Boorkman, Julia Perez, Marianne Doherty, Janet Hughes, Stephen Macksey, and Alesia McManus.

Thanks also to the 1995-96 Executive Board--Patricia Yocum, Kay Collins, Nancy Kozlowski, and Toni Powell for all of their support and help during the high and low points in the last year.

One final note of thanks to four members whose efforts and advice made this year an especially gratifying one. These individuals gave untold hours to the Division and to me during the year and deserve to be thanked openly for their loyalty and not merely for an assigned job well done! So a very special thanks to Jo Anne Boorkman, Renee Bush, Larry Wright, and Patricia Yocum. The Division and I are both richer for knowing and working with these dedicated members and friends.

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### Biofeedback

Biological Sciences Division  
Special Libraries Association

Vol. 21, No. 4

Spring 1996

*Biofeedback* (ISSN 1060-2488) is published quarterly by the Biological Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association, 1700 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-2508. Special Libraries Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributors to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Special Libraries Association. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by Special Libraries Association.

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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## SLA and the Health Sciences: A Reprise

Patricia Yocum

For more than a year Biological Sciences Division members have heard about efforts to establish a separate SLA division dealing with the medical or health sciences. This summary of developments is offered to aid understanding of the situation.

The Biological Sciences Division Executive Board observed efforts to establish a new SLA division as they were first put forth publicly in the second half of 1994 on the listserv of the Medical Library Association, a sister organization of ours. It is important to note the call to organize the new division was not issued by MLA but rather by an individual member who also joined SLA in 1994. After considering the notion the BSD Board concluded that a separate health sciences division would not be in BSD's interests or that of SLA.

BSD was founded 66 years ago by a group of medical librarians. Their successors, many of whom also belong to MLA, have played key roles in our division and presently constitute 45% of our members. At annual conferences BSD always offers programs in the health sciences. In the Division our overall goal has been to offer health science librarians a unique perspective of the life sciences and, as appropriate, of related areas through cooperative activities with other SLA divisions. BSD does not see itself as a competitor to MLA and believes that SLA should not either. Nor is it wise for the Association, even if de facto, to foster competition among its members for programming or vendor support. Organizing sessions at annual conference is demanding work, made more so by rising costs. Increasingly our division, like others, looks to vendors for financial help. BSD members who have raised money for such activities can attest to how difficult this work is. Vendor resources are limited and competition for them is keen.

At Winter Meeting 1995 the BSD Board alerted the SLA Board of Directors in writing of its concerns. No action was requested inasmuch as no proposal to establish a new division had yet been submitted. The prospect of a petition, though, prompted BSD officers to look closely at the SLA procedure for forming new divisions. Our study was disquieting, particularly when we learned that a number of people signing petitions for a Medical/Health Sciences Division had no intention of joining one if it were created. This seemed to be a significant divergence from organizational intentions as presented in SLA Bylaws and *Division Guidelines*.

Thus, in June 1995 the BSD Board requested the SLA Board to consider five changes to Association Bylaws: 1) increase the number of signatures required on a petition from 100 to 1% of the membership; 2) require payment of the first year's dues when signing a petition; 3) make explicit SLA Board options for dealing with a petition; 4) afford the SLA Board a new option of referring a petition--once--back to Division Cabinet for reconsideration; and 5) define "provisional" status to cover the first three years of a division's existence. Because bylaws changes cannot be made retroactive we did not expect those we requested to affect the status of any existing petition. Rather, our aim was to improve the process in the future. The SLA Board accepted our request for consideration and referred it to the Association Bylaws Committee which is now examining it.

In late Summer 1995, it appears, petitions to form a Medical/Health Sciences Division were submitted to SLA. The BSD Board learned of this action in November via the *Specialist* and the D.C. Chapter newsletter and reiterated its request for copies of the pertinent documents. Our examination revealed that the petition, as supplied by SLA Headquarters, is actually a composite of 27 petitions circulated among SLA chapters and contains, as confirmed by Headquarters, 185 valid signatures of the 199 submitted. The text on each petition for a "Medical/Health Sciences Division" is identical and for the most part follows the "accepted format" for creating new divisions as given in SLA *Division Guidelines* (Section VII, B, 2). There is, however, a major departure from this format. Specifically, none of the petitions carries a scope note. That is, none states what the purpose

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of the new division would be and what signatories, as well as the rest of SLA, are asked to support. Instead, the scope note appears only on an undated, unsigned cover sheet for the packet where the proposed division's name is given as "Health Sciences Division."

What is troubling here is that SLA puts great emphasis upon scope notes. Much of SLA's structure and many of its decisions hinge on what is stated or not stated in the scope notes of divisions, chapters, and caucuses. At the Winter 1996 Division Cabinet meeting, for example, substantial discussion focused on the scope notes of existing divisions. There are sound reasons SLA specified that a scope note be included in a petition to form a new division and it seems neither prudent nor acceptable to overlook its omission ad hoc. Because the petition for a Health Sciences Division did not conform to SLA's "accepted format" the BSD Board is asking the SLA Board for a review of the petitions' validity.

Though BSD officers raised questions about the omission, the proposal for the new division was considered by Division Cabinet January 26, 1996. As Lucy Rowland reported (cf. *Biofeedback*, Winter 1996, p. 3), the Winter Meeting and the Cabinet meeting in particular were difficult. This was not only because of concerns relating to the proposed new division per se but because of questions which arose about SLA procedures and performance. It is our understanding, for example, that at an official meeting of a body guests may be given permission to speak but making or seconding a motion is not within their purview. That power is reserved to members who have been elected to the body. At the Division Cabinet meeting, however, the motion to create a Health Sciences Division was made by a guest as was the seconding motion. Because we think this was not in order, the BSD Board is asking the SLA Board for a review of the validity of the proceedings.

The Cabinet meeting was also disconcerting because of the paucity of documentation furnished to Division members, who were asked nonetheless to deliberate and vote. For example, only some division representatives had copies of the petitions and bylaws for the proposed Health Sciences Division. These were furnished, if requested, beginning in late November. Of delegates having copies it appears none had a complete set, although some came close. Further, the scope of the proposed division presented orally was substantially longer and broader than that given on the petitions' cover sheet. No copy of the enlarged statement, however, was furnished to Cabinet members. Under these conditions deliberations were arduous, complex, and confusing. It is doubtful anyone envied the job of the Cabinet Chair.

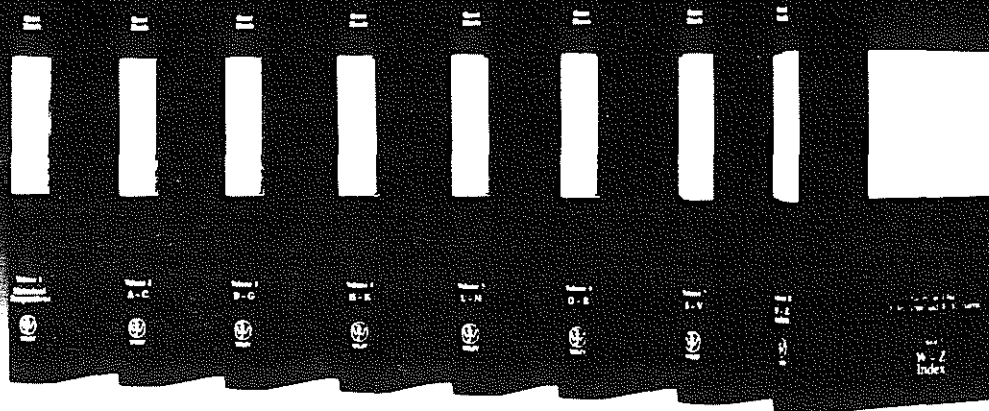
To date the distribution of agenda items in Cabinet has varied; sometimes it is provided, sometimes it is not. This contrasts with practices for the SLA Board of Directors, where Board meeting agendas are announced about a month in advance and Board members are furnished related documents automatically so they can prepare for discussion and decisions. By itself this difference in practices between Board and Cabinet might not be an issue. It becomes one because of the stance the Board takes regarding creation of new divisions. Although SLA Bylaws give solely to the Board the power to create new divisions, BSD officers were informed by several Board members and others over the last year that the Board is disinclined to counter a recommendation put forth by Cabinet. Effectively, then, the decision to create a new division is made in Cabinet. If the Cabinet decision is to be informed and sound, it is essential that all Cabinet members have appropriate documentation from which to work.

BSD was not the only division at Winter Meeting to register concerns over the proposed new division and the SLA procedures and processes for creating new divisions. Much to her credit, Barb Spiegelman, Division Cabinet Chair, recognized that these concerns must be addressed. A majority of Cabinet agreed and approved a substitute motion for a special committee to examine the concerns before a health sciences unit--whether it is a division, section, or caucus--is created. This special committee, which has now been established by the SLA Board, has been asked to furnish a preliminary report at Annual Conference in June.

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*50 Years of Discovery...*



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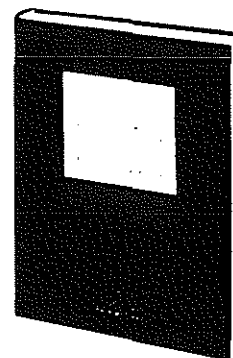
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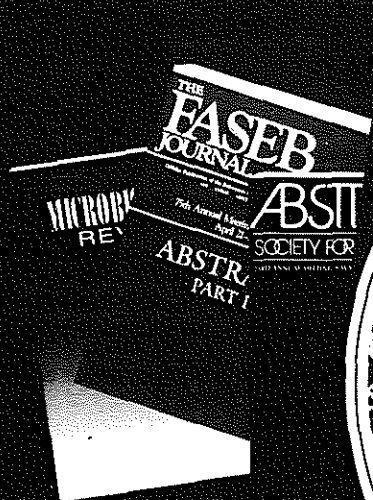
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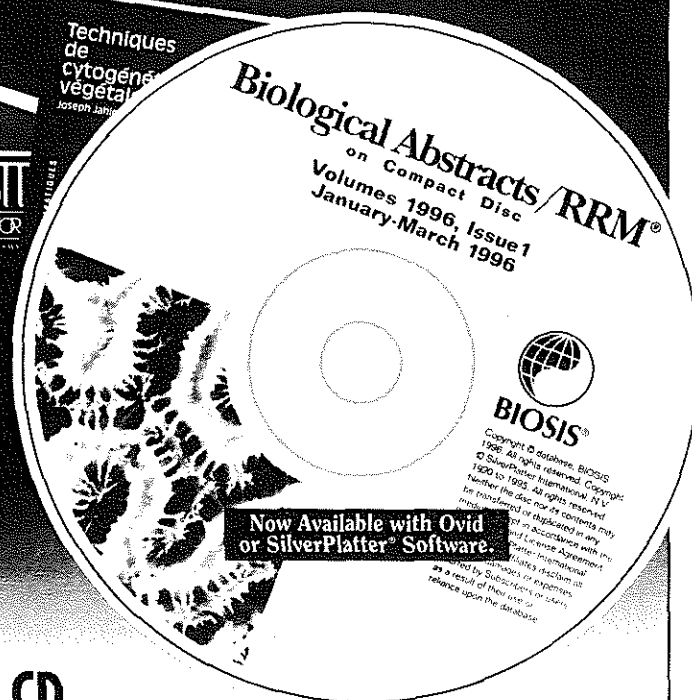
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There are two additional matters which merit note here. The first is the petition drive within BSD to establish a Medical Section within our division. With leadership provided by Nancy Bryant, petitions have been circulating since last Fall. As the petition states, "This Section would serve as a forum for those BSD members who are engaged or interested in the exchange of information in the biomedical and health sciences, and the acquisition, organization, dissemination and use of such information in all formats." Such a section would make explicit BSD's involvement with the health sciences while retaining the division's strength and welcoming newcomers interested in the area. This petition, which currently has over fifty signatures of BSD members, will go to the BSD Executive Board shortly. Because the creation of any new SLA unit is currently on "hold," further near-term action on the petition is not clear.

The second related matter concerns statements in a letter of January 9, 1996 issuing from the [Proposed] Health Sciences Division. For readers who received this letter please note that the three BSD Chairs (1994-1996) exchanged a total of three e-mail messages with the organizer of the proposed division and had no phone calls with her. Also note that BSD has not threatened to pull our division from SLA. BSD belongs to SLA. It is not a separate entity and thus cannot be removed. For all readers it is important to note that BSD is committed to pursuing its business in a rational, professional manner. Rest assured it has and will continue to conduct its affairs, whether orally or in writing, on this basis.

In summary the key developments stand as follows:

- Petitions to establish a Health Sciences Division have been presented to the SLA Division Cabinet.
- The BSD Executive Board is asking the SLA Board of Directors for reviews of the validity of the petition for the [Proposed] Health Sciences Division and the validity of the Division Cabinet proceedings which dealt with it.
- The SLA Board has established a special committee to examine concerns regarding the creation of the proposed division and other units.
- The creation of all new units -- divisions, sections, caucuses -- is on "hold" pending the report of the special committee.
- A petition to create a Medical Section within the Biological Sciences Division will be considered by BSD's Executive Board shortly.

With 15,000 members SLA is now a very large organization. It has ambitious goals, including further growth and expansion internationally. Perhaps most importantly it has the opportunity as well as the responsibility to address the myriad changes underway in the information field. Achieving these goals will require the concerted effort of all SLA members. Internal Association processes and practices which may have worked in the past may no longer be effective but may instead consume the valuable time and effort members have to contribute. Where this is so, constructive changes are warranted.

The BSD leaders who have engaged the proposal for a separate health sciences division had little notion the work would involve so many far-reaching issues. To be sure, some of these issues had surfaced earlier but in disconnected ways. That they have recently coalesced indicates they are ripe for repair. It is in everyone's interest that the work be undertaken so that SLA can move forward from a position of strength.

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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 two Division offices open this year. Candidates are sought for Division Chair-Elect (3-year term) and Director (2-year term).

Duties of these offices include:

**Chair-Elect:** Serves on the Division's Executive Board, presiding at these meetings in the absence of the Chair; Represents the Division along with the Chair at the Winter Meeting of the Association and at Cabinet meetings of the Winter Meeting and Annual Conference; attends administrative and orientation meetings for Division officers, sponsored by Division Cabinet Officers, which are held at Winter Meeting and Annual Conference; attends Conference planning sessions, held in conjunction with the Winter Meeting and Annual Conference, which are pertinent to the Conference the incumbent Chair-Elect is planning; Assists the Chair with any projects, policy planning, or other business affairs which the Chair might designate; Chairs the Fund Development Committee, coordinating all fundraising activities for the Division; and Selects and coordinates a Program Committee for the Annual Conference at which the Chair-Elect is responsible for programming. The Division may provide financial support of up to \$1,000 to defray expenses in conjunction with attendance at the SLA Winter Meeting and the Annual Conference, if the incumbent's organization is unable to underwrite 100% of the Chair-Elect's travel expenses.

**Director:** Attends the Division Executive Board meetings; Initiates and develops ideas for Division planning and activities; maintains the currency of the Division Policy and Procedures Manual; and serves as Parliamentarian at Division Business Meetings.

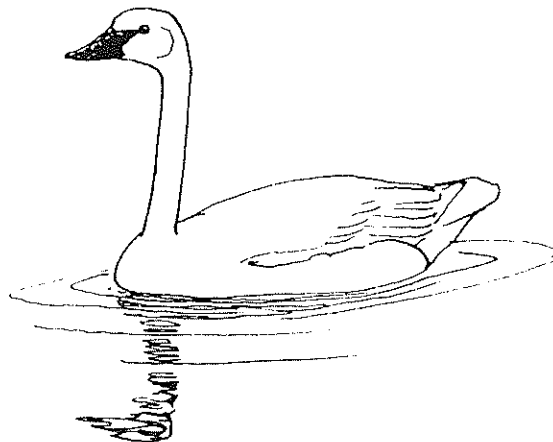
If you are interested in running or recommending someone for one of these offices, please contact any member of the committee:

Jo Anne Boorkman, 1996/97 Committee Chair (University of California, Davis) 916-752-6383  
jaboorkman@ucdavis.edu

Renee Bush (SUNY at Buffalo) 716-829-3337 rbbush@acsu.buffalo.edu

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The slate of nominees for offices will appear in the fall issue of *Biofeedback*.



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*Susan C. Curtis*

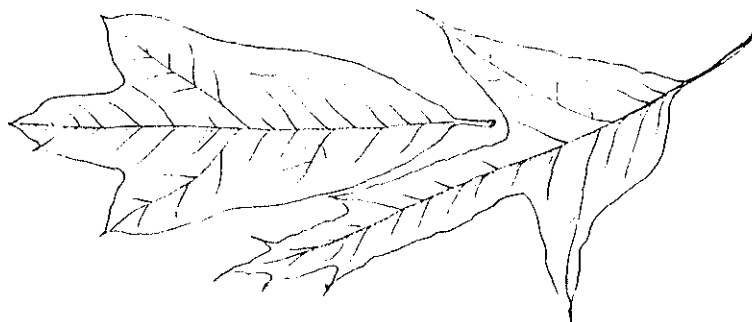
Roxanne Fulcher is SLA's new Director of Government Relations. Roxanne was a Legislative Specialist at Van Ness Feldman where she monitored and analyzed congressional and regulatory activity. Welcome Roxanne!

Judy Russell from the Government Printing Office reports that concern over GPO's loss of funding to print and distribute federal documents has led to a proposal from NTIS. The latter agency is offering to provide electronic image files of documents as they become available to NTIS. At this time the proposal only extends to scientific, technical, and related business documents. The proposal would not include NTIS CD-ROM titles or fee-based online information services available through FedWorld. A projected nine-month test of the proposal is scheduled to commence this summer with 20 depository libraries. The test libraries must agree not to release the electronic files outside the library or use them for commercial purposes. There will be, however, no restrictions placed on the use or redissemination of documents printed from these electronic files. Files may be printed locally if the library has a printer with Postscript print capability. Since downloading and printing of large postscript files requires extensive bandwidth as well as sophisticated equipment, NTIS may adopt the Adobe Acrobat format. Adobe prints on standard printers and permits users to cut and paste text. NTIS anticipates being able to absorb the storage and access costs associated with the GPO files. One of the greatest concerns regarding this proposal is that compliance with NTIS' copyright restrictions may require depository libraries to perform mediated searches of the NTIS database.

The Government Printing Office continues its efforts to downsize. Regional printing plants in Seattle, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco either have already been closed or are targeted for closing this year. GPO has reduced its workforce by 900 positions since February 1993. To compensate for the loss of plants and personnel GPO is installing new equipment. Three offset presses are now in use for the Congressional Record and the Federal Register.

A pilot program of printing on-demand has begun at GPO's main bookstore with the hope that it may be extended to other bookstores. The GPO home page continues to expand. Greater utilization and expansion of GPO Access will be imperative if the Federal Depository Library Program is to meet the transition plan mandate for conversion to a predominately electronic program by the end of FY 1998. Under this plan electronic information would be accessible at Superintendent of Documents Web sites, from other government agencies, or from institutions acting as agents for the government. GPO would continue to distribute some information as CD-ROMs or diskettes.

On February 26, 1996 the General Services Administration suspended funds for the entry of new citations into NLM's family of databases. The task of entering citations without contractor support is a priority for all available NLM staff. We hope this dilemma is resolved soon!



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## BNA Takes Us to the Top!

Annual conference attendees take note:

On Monday evening, June 10, 1996, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. will host a reception at the Top of the Hub for Biological Sciences, Chemistry, and Environment and Resource Management Division members. The location is just a short walk down the Prudential Arcade from the Hynes Convention Center, on the 50th floor of the Prudential Tower.

Come get a spectacular view of Boston, visit with Division friends, and enjoy a delicious cocktail buffet during this special hosted event.

## Our Stolen Future? Author of Controversial New Book to Speak at SLA

Controversy is swirling around the publication in March of a book entitled *Our Stolen Future: Are We Threatening our Fertility, Intelligence, and Survival? A Scientific Detective Story*, by Theo Colborn, Dianne Dumanoski, and John Peterson Myers (Dutton, ISBN 0-525-93982-2, \$24.95).

The book puts forward the hypothesis that low concentrations of chemicals now widespread in the environment can cause endocrine disruption, with unexpected effects such as reproductive problems, childhood hyperactivity, and perhaps a global decline in intelligence.

The response from the chemical industry has been critical of the science cited in the book, largely studies of animals in heavily polluted areas. But many scientists seem to agree that there is disturbing evidence that certain chemicals in our environment can mimic estrogen, the female hormone, or block androgens, male hormones.

Dr. Colborn, a scientist at the World Wildlife Fund, and Dr. Ana Soto, from the Tufts University School of Medicine, will be the speakers at a program called "Endocrine Disruptors in the Environment," on Monday morning of the SLA Annual Conference in Boston. The program is co-sponsored by the Biological Sciences Division and the Environment and Resource Management Division, with support from CRC Press, Knight-Ridder Information, and the Institute for Scientific Information.

Don't miss this opportunity to come hear and meet these two scientists, who are very involved in the research in this area. Dr. Colborn will discuss her research on neurobehavioral effects arising from environmental chemical exposures, and Dr. Soto will discuss her research on environmental chemical exposures that have reproductive effects.



## Risky Business

What is risk assessment and how is it done? Come to the two-part program on risk assessment on Wednesday afternoon of the SLA Annual Conference in Boston to gain insights into the process and its application.

Speakers from the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, Exxon Biomedical Sciences, TERA (Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment), and the California Occupational and Environmental Health Library will all be there to enlighten you. There will be a beverage break between the two parts of the program, should you be thirsty for something besides knowledge and insight!

Special thanks to Cambridge Scientific Abstracts for major support for this program.

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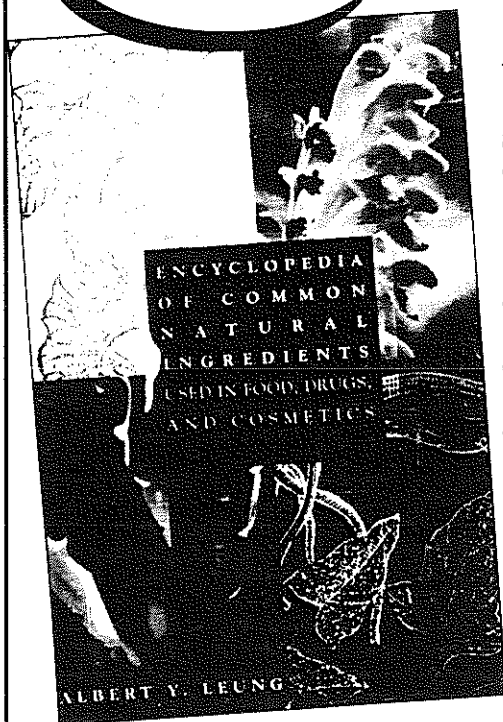
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## Annual Summary of Member Publications

*Editor's note: With this final issue of volume 21, we begin an annual summary of member publications. We are interpreting publications in a broad sense, to give you an idea of the scope and breadth of member publishing activities, including electronic publications such as World Wide Web resources. In most cases, members have submitted (sometimes incomplete) bibliographic citations, but in some cases they sent in narratives that I have used verbatim.*

**Brown, Barry N.** "General aquatic ecology." Pp. 60-66 in: *Current and Selected Bibliographies on Benthic Biology 1994*, ed. by Don Webb. Champaign, Ill.: North American Benthological Society, 1995.

**Brown, Barry N.** (web designer/publisher). "Bibliography of genetic variation in natural populations by Fred Allendorf." The University of Montana, Mansfield Library Web Site. Missoula, Mt.: University of Montana, 1995. URL: <http://entity.lib.umd.edu/localdbi/allendorf/allendorf.html>

**Brown, Barry N.** "Campus specimen project." The University of Montana Gopher Site. Missoula, MT: University of Montana, 1995. URL: [gopher://selway.umd.edu:70/11/UofM/specp](http://gopher://selway.umd.edu:70/11/UofM/specp)

**Brown, Barry N.** "Building global connections to specimen collections." Pp. 75-84 in: *Building Global Connections: Proceedings of the 20th Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers*, ed. by James W. Markham and Andrea L. Duda. Fort Pierce, Fla.: IAMSILIC, 1995.

**Carle, Daria O.** "A longitudinal study of associates at the National Library of Medicine, 1957-1990." *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 83(3) (July 1995): 275-279.

**Crampon, Jean E.** "Book reviews in the marine sciences." Pp. 209-217 in: *Building Global Connections: Proceedings of the 20th Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers*, ed. by James W. Markham and Andrea L. Duda. Fort Pierce, Fla.: IAMSILIC, 1995.

**Crampon, Jean E.** Review of *Ocean Planet: Writings and Images of the Sea*. *Library Journal* 120 (June 1, 1995): 152.

**Crampon, Jean E.** Review of *A Natural History of the Antarctic: Life in the Freezer*. *Library Journal* 120 (August 1995): 111.

**Crampon, Jean E.** Review of *Poles Apart: Parallel Visions of the Arctic and Antarctic*. *Library Journal* 120 (November 1, 1995): 103.

**Davis, E.B. and D. Schmidt.** "The biological literature." In: *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, Allen Kent, ed. In press.

**Davis, Elisabeth B. and Diane Schmidt.** *Guide to Information Sources in the Botanical Sciences*. 2nd ed. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1996. 275 p. ISBN 1-56308-075-3. \$49.50

**Davis, Elisabeth B. and Diane Schmidt.** *Using the Biological Literature: A Practical Guide*. 2nd ed. New York: Dekker, 1995. 421 p. ISBN 0-8247-9477-X. \$85.00

**Davis, E.B.** "An introduction to biological literature." Pp. 10-17 in: *Handbook of Biological Investigation*, 5th ed, by H.W. Ambrose and K.P. Ambrose. Winston-Salem, NC: Hunter Textbooks, 1995.

**Duggar, D.C.; Christopher, K.A.; Tucker, B.E.; Jones, D.A.; Watson, M.; Puckett, M.; Wood, B.** "Promoting an awareness of retractions: the Louisiana State University Medical Center in Shreveport Experience." *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* 14(1) (Spring 1995): 17-32.

**Wood, R.T.; Watson, M.; Jones D.A.; Duggar D.; Christopher, K.A.** "Using an Offline Hedge to restrict MEDLINE searches to local holdings." *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* 14(2) (Summer 1995): 1-12.

**Peggy Jones**, with the help of Laura Sklansky, produced the Consumer Health section of HealthWeb, a CIC health sciences library Web initiative. The URL for the Consumer Health page is: <http://www.uic.edu/~pjones/chmain.html>

**Lingle, Virginia A. and Delozier, Eric P.** *World-Wide Web and Other Internet Information Services in the Health Sciences: A Collection of Policy and Procedure Statements*. (Docket #7). Chicago: Medical Library Association, 1996. 150 p.

**Lingle, Virginia A.** "Selecting processes to benchmark: the first step in quality improvement." *Health Libraries Review (British Library Association)* 12(3) (September 1995).

**Lingle, Virginia A.** "Benchmarking in healthcare: using the Internet to identify resources." *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* 15(1) (Spring 1996).

**Barbara Pitschel** edits the newsletter of the California Native Plant Society's Yerba Buena Chapter. She also writes a regular "Bernal Hilltop Natural History" column for the San Francisco neighborhood newspaper, The New Bernal Journal.

**Ronald A. Rader**, President of Biotechnology Information Institute, developed the company's web server (URL: <http://www.bioinfo.com/biotech>), as well as the web pages for the Institute's *Antiviral Agents Bulletin* and the *Federal Bio-Technology Transfer Directory*.

**Robinson, Michael M.** Review of *Disorders of the Cervical Spine: Diagnosis and Medical Management*, 2nd ed. *Topics in Emergency Medicine* 17(2) (June 1995): 63-64.

**Robinson, Michael M.** Review of *Practical Joint Assessment: Lower Quadrant: A Sports Medicine Manual*, 2nd ed. *Topics in Emergency Medicine* 17(2) (June 1995): 64-65.

**Rowland, Lucy M.** *Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms: Planning Aspects*. (CPL Bibliography series 324). Chicago: Council of Planning Librarians, 1995. ISBN 0-86602-324-0.

**Schliff, Adam L.** "Geographic Cutter table for U.S. states & regions (in one alphabetical order)." Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Library, 1996. URL: <http://www.lib.siu.edu/swen/uscutter.htm>

## Book Reviews

**Basic DNA and RNA Protocols.** Adrian J. Harwood, ed. Humana Press, 1996. (Methods in Molecular Biology ; 58). 514 p. ISBN 0-89603-331-7 (comb). \$69.50; ISBN 0-89603-402-X (hc). \$99.50.

I have heard an older scientist complain that he had to isolate his own restriction enzymes before he could do an experiment, in fact at one time that was the experiment, and now you can purchase any needed enzyme. The same is true for protocols; you can buy a kits with all the necessary ingredients and instructions for PCR or probe labeling. But even with the availability of kits, I am constantly being asked for "recipe" books for protocols in all areas of molecular biology and genetics.

*Methods in Molecular Biology* is an excellent series published by Humana Press. Since 1990 they have published about 60 volumes of protocols, and more are coming out this year. The popularity of this series, and others like it, gives an indication of the enormous number of new techniques in molecular biology that scientists have to learn to keep up with the competition.

This particular volume of the series covers a broad range of techniques from the basic techniques of DNA and RNA isolation, digestion by enzymes, and separation by gel electrophoresis, to more advanced protocols for various types of DNA sequencing and protein synthesis. There are 58 protocols in this book, each by different experts whom the editor notes "have had considerable laboratory experience of the technique and in some cases were instrumental in the initial development." The protocols are divided into seven sections: DNA Analysis, RNA Analysis, Gene Cloning, Subcloning Methods, PCR Techniques, DNA Sequencing, and Site-Directed Mutagenesis and Protein Synthesis. Even though the title says "Basic," there are many advanced techniques included in this volume.

Each of the protocols in this book has a basic introduction, materials, methods, notes, and references. The notes section of each protocol is a unique feature that makes this a useful book for people unfamiliar with the procedures, and maybe even for more experienced scientists as well. Notes include discussions of what can go wrong, how to avoid problems, the optimum protocol, changes that

can be made, and points and hints that could help the novice. For example, Note 8 in chapter 6, "Hybridization and competition hybridization of Southern blots," states that "filters can be prehybridized overnight, but this can weaken the filter and may also result in a diminished signal." This is not the sort of hint that typically appears in the methods and materials section of a journal article. There is also cross-referencing between protocols where applicable.

Like other volumes of this series, this book is designed for use at the bench. Comb-binding is available so pages will lie flat. The protocols are outlined in short steps and grouped together in sections which makes it easy to follow the steps and determine where there are breaks in the procedure. Each chapter has references, including references for the original use of the technique, and some chapters make suggestions for further reading. The book has an index which is helpful for techniques that aren't apparent from the chapter titles. This book is indispensable for any institution with an undergraduate molecular biology or genetics program, but also for specialized libraries such as mine, where there are graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and scientists who need to keep up with the latest techniques.

Margaret Henderson  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Library

**Guide to Information Sources in the Botanical Sciences.** Elisabeth B. Davis and Diane Schmidt. 2nd ed. (Reference Sources in Science and Technology Series). Libraries Unlimited, 1996. 275 p. ISBN 1-56308-075-3. \$49.50.

As stated in the preface, the purpose of this guide is to provide a useful survey of information sources in the field of botany. The related fields of agriculture, horticulture, and gardening are not covered. Following in the same format as the first edition, it begins with a short introduction to botany and the characteristics of botanical literature. After this, eleven chapters are devoted to describing various types of resources ("Abstracts, indexes, and databases", "Current awareness sources", "Dictionaries

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and encyclopedias", etc.). The treatment is comprehensive in scope, but the emphasis is on English-language materials and materials which are still in print. As with the first edition, all of the annotated resources are recommended by the authors, and all of the 934 entries include complete bibliographical and pricing information (when available).

In general the authors have done a commendable job of updating the first edition with newer references and by including resources which were omitted originally. For instance, while the first edition omitted a number of important floras and field guides, this edition includes standard floras from all regions of the world and mentions all of the important field guide series. A conscious effort has also been made to include discussions of computer resources (online databases, CD-ROMS, online catalogs, electronic journals, and Internet resources) and to include specific examples of each.

The second edition contains an author/title/electronic resource index as well as a subject index, but the subject index is far from adequate. To find a book on a subject such as herbs, for example, one has to comb through the entire section on atlases, field guides, floras, keys, and manuals. But in spite one or two shortcomings like this, this guide will serve as an excellent starting point for those wishing to familiarize themselves with the literature of the field, and it is recommended for all botanical reference collections.

Lawrence Currie  
California Academy of Sciences Library

**Health Online: How to Find Health Information, Support Groups, and Self-Help Communities in Cyberspace.** Tom Ferguson. Addison-Wesley, 1996. 308 p. ISBN 0-201-40989-5 (pbk). \$17.00

Medical self-help guru Tom Ferguson, founder of *Medical Self-Care* magazine and always an advocate for the empowered health consumer, uses *Health Online* to introduce and educate health consumers about the revolution in self-care information and the availability of self-help resources on the Internet. Through the resources mentioned in his book, he is hoping savvy self-helpers will become savvy online self-helpers. He introduces readers to

self-help forums, support newsgroups, self-help mailing lists, and e-mail support messages.

The book is logically divided into three sections: The Basics, Commercial Computer Networks, and The Internet and Beyond. The introduction shows readers how to make effective use of the book's contents, and the glossary defines commonly used online terms for those readers who have yet to be introduced to the Internet, such as FAQ, http, netscape, world wide web, and hypertext.

Part I, The Basics, is just that: information about computers, modems, phone lines, and software, what e-mail actually is, how to read e-mail addresses, and essentially a step-by-step guide to getting started online. Unlike other Internet books that I have read, *Health Online* really does assume that the reader does not have an Internet background and begins to build one, much of it by graphic and illustrated example.

Part II describes the three major computer networks (America Online, CompuServe, and Prodigy), the self-help forums, health databases, support groups, bulletin boards, access costs, advantages and disadvantages of each, again, with illustrations.

Part III (The Internet and Beyond) details features of the World Wide Web: Internet mailing lists, Internet newsgroups, WWW home pages, and other Internet sources.

*Health Online* contains a tremendous amount of information for the beginning Internet user, and provides resources for almost every imaginable disease or disorder. I frequently checked out Web sites as they were mentioned in the book, and found them to be readable, user-friendly, and written at a health consumer's level. It is easy to see how one could become an online junkie by reading e-mail messages or support group messages, becoming hooked on this type of daily communication!

I found the index to be thorough, the reviews of the major computer networks to be critical, the illustrations to be helpful for those of us who are visually oriented, and the tone to be folksy and personal, all of which appeal to the take-charge, self-care type of patient.

My criticisms are few, and could easily be addressed

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in the second edition of this book. PaperChase is referred to as a database; rather, it is software that gives you access to the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE and other databases. At least twice in the book, the reader is referred to information brokers for additional information on medical subjects. Why not mention the professional most skilled in medical database searching: the medical librarian? Some hospital libraries and most academic medical libraries will do online searches as well or better than an information broker, and for far less than the \$295 fee mentioned in the book.

*Health Online* contains a wealth of information and resources for the self-care consumer, and at the affordable price of \$17, is an excellent addition for consumer health collections in public libraries, hospital/patient libraries, or academic health sciences libraries.

Kirsten Shelstad  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
Library

*Using the Biological Literature: A Practical Guide.* Elisabeth B. Davis and Diane Schmidt. 2nd ed. Dekker, 1995. 421 p. ISBN 0-8247-9477-X. \$85.00

Davis and Schmidt begin this book with a brief history of biological literature, followed by a discussion of subject access to biological information. There are eleven general subject areas: general sources; abstracts and indexes; biochemistry and biophysics; molecular and cellular biology; genetics; microbiology and immunology; ecology, evolution, and animal behavior; plant biology; anatomy and physiology; entomology; and zoology. Each chapter contains sections on abstracts and indexes; dictionaries and encyclopedias; databases; directories; guides to Internet resources; handbooks; histories; methods and techniques; periodicals; reviews of the literature; societies; textbooks and treatises; and bibliographies. Each entry is annotated or has a cross-reference to the annotated entry.

I found most of my favorite sources in this book, so I was pleased by its comprehensiveness. I really liked the inclusion of Internet resources. The authors were very conservative in this inclusion and in giving instructions for accessing this information, which is only natural considering the ephemeral nature of the

Internet. Many of the annotations are very good, but I found them to be a bit uneven. Some are very skimpy and omit important features that differentiate one work from another. One drawback that was immediately obvious is lack of any index. On a purely technical note, the copy editing was not extensive enough, as there are several errors.

Overall, I would say that this is a useful book, but it could have been a great book with a little more effort.

Martha Yates  
Monsanto

## Books Received

*Back in Keith County.* John Janovy, Jr. University of Nebraska Press, 1984 (1996 pbk. printing). 179 p. ISBN 0-8032-7560-9 (pbk.). \$9.00

*Balancing the Scales: Guidelines for Increasing Biodiversity's Chances Through Bioregional Management.* Kenton R. Miller. World Resources Institute, 1996. 73 p. ISBN 0-915825-85-6 (pbk.). \$14.95

*Bone Marrow Transplantation: Foundations for the 21st Century.* Robert Sackstein, William E. Janssen, and Gerald J. Elfenbein, eds. New York Academy of Sciences, 1995. 394 p. ISBN 0-89766-994-0 (pbk.).

*Cancer Prevention: From the Laboratory to the Clinic: Implications of Genetic, Molecular, and Preventive Research.* H. Leon Bradlow, Michael P. Osborne, and Umberto Veronesi, eds. New York Academy of Sciences, 1995. 342 p. ISBN 0-89766-947-9. \$95.00

*Caught in the Net: The Conflict Between Shrimpers and Conservationists.* Anthony V. Margavio and Craig J. Forsyth. Texas A&M University Press, 1996. 156 p. ISBN 0-89096-669-9. \$32.50

*Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Hormonal Carcinogenesis: Environmental Influences.* Wiley-Liss, 1996. 479 p. ISBN 0-471-02202-0. \$139.00

*The Cellular Basis of Central Nervous System HIV-1 Infection and the AIDS Dementia Complex.* Richard W. Price and John J. Sidtis, eds. Haworth Medical Press, 1996. 200 p. ISBN 1-56024-774-6. \$39.95

*Cellular Biophysics.* Thomas Fischer Weiss. MIT Press, 1996. 2 vols. ISBN 0-262-23183-2 (v. 1) and 0-262-23184-0 (v. 2). \$85.00

*Choices in Healing: Integrating the Best of Conventional and Complementary Approaches to Cancer.* Michael Lerner. MIT Press, 1994 (1996 pbk. printing). 667 p. ISBN 0-262-62104-5 (pbk.). \$17.50

*Comparative Vertebrate Neuroanatomy: Evolution and Adaptation.* Ann B. Butler and William Hodos. Wiley-Liss, 1996. 514 p. ISBN 0-471-88889-3. \$74.95

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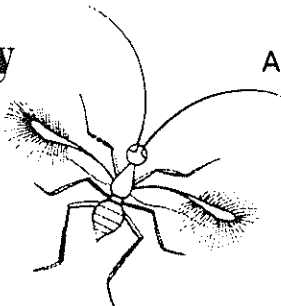
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- Culture of Immortalized Cells.* R. Ian Freshney and Mary G. Freshney, eds. Wiley-Liss, 1996. 389 p. ISBN 0-471-12134-7 (pbk.). \$52.95
- Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) and Aging.* Francis L. Bellino *et al.*, eds. New York Academy of Sciences, 1995. 350 p. ISBN 1-57331-005-0 (pbk.).
- DNA Vaccines: A New Era in Vaccinology.* Margaret A. Liu, Maurice R. Hilleman, and Reinhard Kurth. New York Academy of Sciences, 1995. 294 p. ISBN 0-89766-997-5. \$95.00
- Double-Edged Sword: The Promises and Risks of the Genetic Revolution.* Karl A. Drlica. Addison-Wesley, 1994 (1996 pbk. printing). 242 p. ISBN 0-201-40982-8 (pbk.). \$13.00
- From Individual Behaviour to Population Ecology.* William J. Sutherland. Oxford University Press, 1996. 213 p. ISBN 0-19854910-5 (pbk.). \$29.95
- Global Accord: Environmental Challenges and International Responses.* Nazli Choucri, ed. MIT Press, 1995. 562 p. ISBN 0-262-53134-8 (pbk.). \$25.00
- The Green Fuse: An Ecological Odyssey.* John Harte. University of California Press, 1993 (1996 pbk. printing). 156 p. ISBN 0-520-20551-0 (pbk.).
- Immunology: Understanding the Immune System.* Klaus D. Elgert. Wiley-Liss, 1996. 468 p. ISBN 0-471-11680-7. \$48.95
- Infrared Spectroscopy of Biomolecules.* Henry H. Mantsch and Dennis Chapman, eds. Wiley-Liss, 1996. 359 p. ISBN 0-471-02184-9. \$89.95
- Keith County Journal.* John Janovy, Jr. University of Nebraska Press, 1996. 210 p. ISBN 0-8032-7588-9 (pbk.). \$10.00
- Landscape Approaches in Mammalian Ecology and Conservation.* William Z. Lidicker, Jr., ed. University of Minnesota Press, 1995. 215 p. ISBN 0-8166-2587-5. \$35.95
- Larvae of the North American Caddisfly Genera (Trichoptera).* Glenn B. Wiggins. 2nd ed. University of Toronto Press, 1996. 457 p. ISBN 0-8020-2723-7. \$110.00
- The Literature of Forestry and Agroforestry.* Peter McDonald and James Lassoie, eds. Cornell University Press, 1996. 445 p. ISBN 0-8014-3181-6. \$79.85
- The Neurobiology of Alzheimer's Disease.* Richard J. Wurtman *et al.*, eds. New York Academy of Sciences, 1996. 439 p. ISBN 0-89766-974-6 (pbk.).
- Non-Reproductive Actions of Sex Steroids.* Gregory R. Bock and Jamie A. Goode, eds. Wiley, 1995. 307 p. ISBN 0-471-95513-2. \$79.95
- On Becoming a Biologist.* John Janovy, Jr. University of Nebraska Press, 1996. 160 p. ISBN 0-8032-7586-2 (pbk.). \$9.00
- Oral Tolerance: Mechanisms and Applications.* Howard L. Weiner and Lloyd F. Mayer, eds. New York Academy of Sciences, 1996. 453 p. ISBN 0-89766-996-7 (pbk.).

*Outdoors Austin: A Sierra Club Guide.* Austin Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Nancy Fuentes, ed. 3rd ed. Texas A&M University Press, 1995. 192 p. ISBN 0-89096-693-1 (pbk.). \$12.95

*Pharmacology, Biology, and Clinical Applications of Androgens: Current Status and Future Prospects: Proceedings of the Second International Androgen Workshop, Long Beach, California, February 17-20, 1995.* Shalender Bhasin *et al.*, eds. Wiley-Liss, 1996. 529 p. ISBN 0-471-13320-5. \$89.95

*Possessing Nature: Museums, Collecting, and Scientific Culture in Early Modern Italy.* Paula Findlen. University of California Press, 1994 (1996 pbk. printing). 449 p. ISBN 0-520-20508-1 (pbk.). \$

*Prisma's Abridged English-Swedish and Swedish-English Dictionary.* University of Minnesota Press, 1995. 454, 467 p. ISBN 0-8166-2734-7. \$24.95

*Readings in Animal Cognition.* Marc Bekoff and Dale Jamieson, eds. MIT Press, 1996. 379 p. ISBN 0-262-52208-X (pbk.). \$30.00

*Seeing the Crab: A Memoir of Dying.* Christina Middlebrook. BasicBooks, 1996. 212 p. ISBN 0-465-07493-6. \$22.00

*Storm Over Mono: The Mono Lake Battle and the California Water Future.* John Hart. University of California Press, 1996. 211 p. ISBN 0-520-20368-2 (pbk.). \$29.95

*Stress: Basic Mechanisms and Clinical Implications.* George P. Chrousos *et al.*, eds. New York Academy of Sciences, 1995. 755 p. ISBN 0-89766-943-6. \$165.00

*Structure and Functions of the Human Prefrontal Cortex.* Jordan Grafman, Keith J. Holyoak, and François Boller. New York Academy of Sciences, 1995. 411 p. ISBN 0-89766-992-4. \$95.00

*The White-Tailed Deer.* Ilo Hiller. 1st ed. Texas A&M University Press, 1996. 115 p. ISBN 0-89096-697-4 (pbk.). \$9.95

*The Wild Silk Moths of North America: A Natural History of the Saturniidae of the United States and Canada.* Paul M. Tuskes, James P. Tuttle, and Michael M. Collins. Comstock Publishing Associates, 1996. 250 p. ISBN 0-8014-3130-1. \$75.00

*Yeast Protocols: Methods in Cell and Molecular Biology.* Ivor H. Evans, ed. Humana Press, 1996. 433 p. ISBN 0-89603-319-8 (comb-bound). \$74.50

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**Yocum, Patricia B.** "Challenge and change: some observations of academic science librarianship." *Science and Technology Libraries* 15(2) (Fall 1995): 17-24.

**Zipperer, Lorri A.**, ed. *The Health Care Almanac: A Resource Guide to the Medical Field.* Chicago: American Medical Association, 1995. 505 p. ISBN 0-89970-748-3. \$24.95

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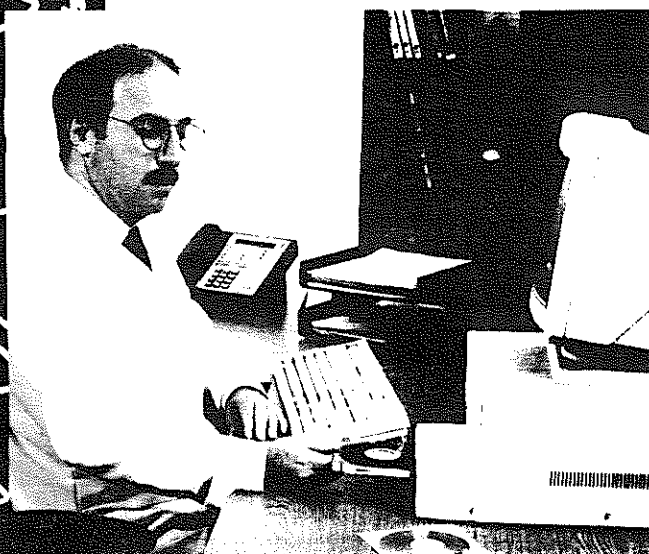
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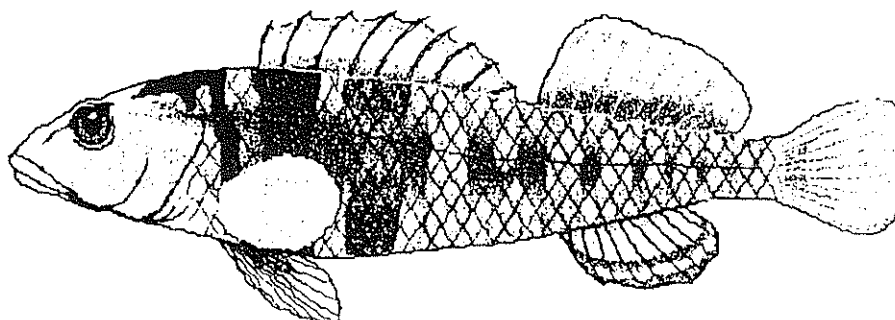
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