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## Message from the Chair

**Chris Hooper-Lane**

I am Chris Hooper-Lane, University of Wisconsin (Ebling Library) Clinical Informationist, and the new Chair of DBIO for 2012. And quite a year 2012 may turn out to be: the Chinese Year of the Dragon, the London Olympics, an SLA Annual Conference in July, and, oh yeah, the end of the world according to the Mayan/Mesoamerican calendar. Before talk of the future (however brief), I would like to thank the 2011 team of DBIO volunteers for carrying the DBIO torch and moving it forward. In particular, a special nod goes to Nancy Dickenson who served as Chair of DBIO over an economically tumultuous 2011 for SLA. Under Nancy's leadership, DBIO's torch not only kept moving ahead, but, I believe, it now burns brighter. Our unit should also be very appreciative of the work of several other hard working volunteers including Howard (great conference!) and our homepage team, Monica and Claudia.

On to the future ... We have a wonderful and committed team in place to lead DBIO in 2012. Howard Fuller will be my co-pilot (Chair-Elect); Jonathan Nabe is putting the finishing touches on the DBIO annual conference program; Rebecca Kuglitsch has agreed to chair the 2013 San Diego Programming Committee; Nalini Mahajan has shed her longtime role as leader of the Vendor Relations Committee to take over as DBIO Secretary; Janet Cooper Weiss will step in and take the reins as Chair of the Vendor Relations Committee; Amy Donahue will lead the Medical Section; and Dorothy Barr will take over as the Natural History Caucus Chair.

There is much we all hope to accomplish in 2012. Some of the issues I am particularly interested in addressing include:

- Getting some traction with the DBIO leadership wiki
- Retaining our wonderful web presence, while conforming to SLA's new web requirements
- Making agendas, minutes, and current governing docs available on our website
- Continuing to offer CE opportunities throughout the year

*Continued on page 2*

In order to get anything accomplished we depend on the involvement of our diverse membership. I invite you to consider joining us in a volunteer role. Certainly your participation will be valuable to our division, but it may also benefit you by offering a fun, non-threatening environment to develop leadership skills, contribute to our profession, build your career and network with colleagues.

Many committees need new members. Some of the committees with available openings include Fund Development, Vendor Relations, Career Guidance, Contributed Posters, and Public Relations. If you are interested in any of these or have any ideas, suggestions, or comments about DBIO, please send me an email: [chooper@library.wisc.edu](mailto:chooper@library.wisc.edu).

It is going to take 8,000 torchbearers to carry the London 2012 Olympic torch across the United Kingdom; we don't need quite that many to carry the DBIO torch, but, believe me, every contribution big and small moves us forward.

## Chicago Conference Preview

### Jonathan Nabe, Chicago Program Committee Chair

**T**he DBIO sessions for the SLA Annual Conference in Chicago are ready to go. Our sessions will present practical, real-world guidance on emerging issues in science librarianship, and attendees will go home with concrete ideas on how to get involved in these fundamental services.

Great thanks to everyone who has helped in the process, and a reminder to all that the conference is in *July* this year!

#### **Vendor Relations Lunch** (Sunday, July 15, 12:00-1:30 p.m.)

Participants: Elsevier - SCIVERSE, ACS - Biomedical journals, JoVE - Journal of Visualized Experiments, and OCLC - New ILS software - Worldshare

**National Science Foundation Data Management Plans** (Monday, July 16, 10:00 -11:30 a.m.) Learn about the NSF requirement for data management plans to accompany all grant proposals and how libraries are supporting researchers in their efforts to comply. Co-sponsored by Academic and Chemistry Divisions.

#### **Knowledge Management across the Health Care Spectrum** (Tuesday, July 17, 10:00-11:30 a.m.).

The 2012 DBIO Medical Section program will take a look at the KM world within the health care spectrum. During the panel discussion we'll take a look at what knowledge management means within this field, learn how one medical librarian is playing a role in knowledge management at her organization, and learn how we can advocate for ourselves to take on knowledge management responsibilities. There will be plenty of time for audience questions and discussion. And, although this panel will be focused on the medical realm, anyone interested in learning more about KM and hearing real world ideas for getting involved with this new role is welcome to attend!

**Contributed Papers** (Wednesday, July 18, 8:00-9:30 AM). Papers presenting original research, innovative projects or other professional activities of interest to the SLA DBIO members. Continental Breakfast. Note: Typically held on Monday morning, for 2012 this session has moved to Wednesday.

**Institutional Repositories** (Wednesday, July 18, 10:00-11:30 AM). Learn from seasoned experts how to implement and manage institutional repositories, and hear tips for making them grow. There will be three presentations, one speaker each from a large public university, a small private university, and a medical library. Co-sponsored by Academic and Chemistry Divisions.

In addition, DBIO is co-sponsoring three sessions:

**Environmental Issues in the Great Lakes.** The Great Lakes are facing a number of environmental threats including invasive species, pollution, and a growing need for drinking water. This session will feature speakers from organizations and agencies who are working on Great Lakes environmental issues. (Tuesday July 17, 2:00-3:30 PM). DERM is the lead sponsor.

**Cochrane Collaboration.** *The Lancet* says The Cochrane Collaboration “rivals the Human Genome Project in its potential implications for modern medicine.” Take a peek behind the scenes of the organization’s systematic reviews for evidence-based healthcare from an Info Pro’s perspective. (Tuesday, July 17, 4:00-5:30 p.m.). PHARM is the lead sponsor.

**All Sciences Posters and Reception.** (Tuesday, July 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.). SciTech is the lead sponsor.

The division’s all-member **business meeting** will be held Tuesday, July 17, 8:00-9:30 a.m. The meeting is open to all division members and is a ticketed plated breakfast.

## Report on Biodiversity Heritage Library Conference

**Dorothy Barr, Natural History Caucus Chair**

On November 14-15, the [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#) organized a conference titled “Life and Literature at the Field Museum in Chicago”. It represented the first ever attempt to “convene librarians, biologists, computer scientists, publishers, students, and other stakeholders to set the agenda for biodiversity literature digitizing and its networked environment for the next four to five years.” Hopefully some DBIO members were able to attend.

The purposes of the conference included the engagement of constituencies concerned with biodiversity literature; integration with biodiversity and digital library programs; furthering innovative integration of digital and biodiversity libraries; and discussion of publishing models, past, current, and future.

Below is a report adapted from a blog post by Jennifer Cohlman of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. She gives a nice summary that reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the conference. Thanks also to her colleague at the Smithsonian and DBIO member, Suzanne Pilsk, for sharing this.

### Report on the Life and Literature Conference held at the Field Museum in Chicago, November 2011

By Jen Cohlman

As an art librarian, I was expecting to feel a little like a fish out of water at the [Biodiversity Heritage Library’s](#) (BHL) [Life and Literature conference](#) held at the Field Museum in Chicago. However, the intrinsic relationship between art and science was a recurring theme explored by over 120 attendees from across the globe who gathered to focus on the future of BHL.



**Naturgeschichte in Bildern: mit erläuterndem Text. Professor Dr. Strack. Lief. 4. (Heft 33-56). Fische.**  
Düsseldorf :Arnz & Co., [1819-1826] [biodiversitylibrary.org/item/37422](https://biodiversitylibrary.org/item/37422)

Having scanned over 35 million pages (and counting) of scientific texts documenting life on earth, BHL is transforming how scientists do research. Within these millions of pages are thousands of illustrations, which served as scientific documentation before the invention of photography. Paging through these texts, I found that art and science have been inseparable from the beginning, each informing the other as they developed. We find many rare botanical and zoological texts in art libraries, collected for artists and designers who look to nature for inspiration. Now artists can look to BHL in much the same way including new digital advantages such as access to more images from anywhere at any time.

BHL is working to make these images more discoverable, especially for non-science communities. In the meantime, they have gathered thousands of illustrations at [BioDivLibrary's Photostream](#) on Flickr. Organisms can be browsed by kingdom such as birds, fish, mammals, etc.

Now art needs to join in this effort to help connect art and science in the world of digital scholarship. From an art history perspective, I have long been jealous of science's ability to develop advanced research tools using the latest technologies, from electronic journals to online databases. How can the arts create similar resources, and why do they seem to trail behind?

Aside from fundraising abilities and the importance society places on different areas of study, I attributed much of this discrepancy to the unique nature of each discipline. The heavily visual and subjective nature of art can make it difficult to organize. Artwork cannot be cataloged based on how many legs it has or whether or not it grows hair. Art requires human interpretation, which is full of gray areas, which makes cataloging art difficult.

[Richard Pyle's](#) eye-opening talk explaining the complicated world of taxonomy in a way a non-taxonomist can understand made me realize how art and science actually share similar cataloging challenges. I had mistakenly thought that life sciences had it easier when it came to organizing information because they have this great taxonomic system introduced by Linnaeus in 1735 that continues to be used by scientists today. If only art history had such a system, maybe it too could transform research by creating a resource like BHL for art. But after learning from Pyle how difficult it is to name a fish, identifying an art movement did not seem as daunting anymore!

When naming a fish, one must consider the whole history of names that came before it. As new discoveries are made, fish get named, renamed, and renamed again by different people throughout time. Trying to keep track of all these names and their histories is an enormous challenge involving several global initiatives. Linnaean taxonomy quickly turned into a cataloging nightmare far worse than those caused by Library of Congress' subject headings.

I can no longer excuse art from the world of advanced digital scholarship because it lacks a structured taxonomy; instead, I'm feeling relieved that it does not have one!

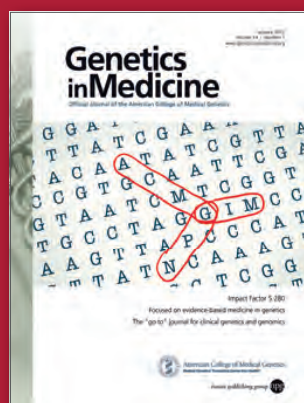
The BHL conference made it very clear that by creating stronger connections between art and science through linked data and other emerging technologies we can open new doors just as scientific illustrations paved the path for new discoveries centuries ago.

*Adapted and reprinted with permission from the author, Jen Cohlman. Her [original blog post](#) is at the Smithsonian Libraries blog.*

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# MLA Liaison Report

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

## Meetings of Interest

The [2012 Medical Library Association Annual Conference](#) will be held from May 18-23 in Seattle, WA. The conference theme is “Growing Opportunities: Changing our Game”, and program information will be posted on the website closer to the date.

CONNECTIONS: MLA Quad Chapter Meeting, a combined meeting in Baltimore, MD, of the Southern, Mid-Atlantic, Philadelphia Regional and New York—New Jersey Chapters will be held from October 13-16, 2012, in the Tremont Hotel.

Papers and posters for the [2013 MLA meeting in Boston, MA](#), will be accepted through May 1, 2012. This meeting, with the theme of “One Health: Information in an Interdependent World”, is a combined conference incorporating MLA, the International Congress on Medical Librarianship (ICML), the International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists, and the International Clinical Librarians Congress. It will be held from May 3-8, 2013. Use the [MLA online submission process](#) to submit your abstract.

Opportunities for learning and networking will abound, so make your travel plans now.

## Continuing Education

Need an easy way to earn MLA CE credit? Try the [Independent Reading Program](#). Read and analyze selected articles from the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* (or other professional journals) and receive 1 contact hour per article at \$15 per credit hour.

## From the Medical Section

**Amy Donahue, Medical Section Chair**

And so another year has gone by already. Although, to quote one of my favorite authors, “I confess I do not believe in time. I like to fold my magic carpet, after use, in such a way as to superimpose one part of the pattern upon another. Let visitors trip.” Nabokov’s *Speak, Memory* is a memoir that includes the pieces that he wants to share with you in the order he wants to share them. I am going to unabashedly steal his method to introduce myself, Amy Donahue, the 2012-2013 chair of the Medical Section. (I will do it much less artistically.)

I’m currently the solo medical librarian at the Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, Wisconsin, a brand-new community hospital just north of Milwaukee. I’ve held the position for less than a year, but, as the hospital’s first librarian, I’ve had the honor of creating it from the ground up. And “it” is not only a library, although I go by the title “librarian” and am part of the larger Aurora Libraries systemwide department (so I’m not entirely solo, which is great, as I highly recommend getting a taste of both worlds). I staff the Resource Center, am out on the floors, support administration, and work within the community trying to make sure the people who need information, whatever that information might look like, get it. In all those roles the things I’ve learned through my SLA experiences have helped me immensely. So I was very honored to be asked to take on the DBIO Medical Section Chair position right around my 5 year anniversary of joining this great organization.

With both Nabokov and James Kane ([2011 SLA Annual Conference closing keynote speaker](#)) as my inspirations, I’ll tell you a little more about myself. This is my first effort to develop a relationship with all of you so that I can do my best to serve in my role as Chair. I’m a lifetime Mets fan and a recent Packers convert, although our wedding colors would suggest a longer commitment. I had no idea that forest green and goldenrod would set me

up for constant teasing. My true love is Ultimate (Frisbee), although I'd much rather play or coach than sit and watch a game. That's fine, because you can't really catch Ultimate on TV (yet)! I've lived in eight states stretching between Washington, DC, and Seattle, but I'm originally a small town east coast girl. I'm a pescatarian because I can't give up sushi and that delicious, delicious, Pacific salmon (and I hear fish is pretty healthy). I'm a member of MLA; have BAs in Russian and mathematics; play the clarinet; adore my younger sisters; have taken the Meyers-Briggs test several times to prove that I'm a rather extroverted, but still very much introverted, person; was a National Library of Medicine Associate Fellow; honeymooned in Vancouver, BC; and haven't grown out of my childhood love of horses.

With that I'll end the stream of consciousness. I will also leave you with this: in the next issue of *Biofeedback* I'll be telling you all about the great Medical Section program coming up in July: "Knowledge Management Across the Health Care Spectrum". Until then, you can find me on Twitter (@ultimatelibrarn), [LinkedIn](#), or by e-mailing me at [amy.donahue@aurora.org](mailto:amy.donahue@aurora.org).

## Book Review

*Biographical Dictionary of American Physicians of African Ancestry, 1800-1920*

Geraldine Rhoades Beckford

Cherry Hill, NJ: Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers Inc, 2011.

ISBN: 0983115141 , pbk: 098311515X

Reviewed by Claudia Lascar

**T**he *Biographical Dictionary of American Physicians of African Ancestry, 1800-1920*, compiled by Geraldine Rhoades Beckford is an extraordinary achievement due to its scope and depth of coverage. Beckford was inspired to undertake this challenging project by researching the life and accomplishments of Dr. Matilda Evans who had not only met the medical needs of African Americans of Columbia, SC, but also made contributions in other areas.

Beckford worked for over twenty years to uncover the biographical information for over 3,000 physicians "to share with scholars, educators, genealogists, or with those simply looking for 'the doctor' in the family history." She has raised the public awareness and knowledge of the extraordinary achievements made by American physicians of African ancestry. Here are a few historical facts from the book. During the time period covered by this book, 1800-1920, the African American population had to contend with slavery, segregation, and racism. In 1847 David Jones Peck was the first African American to graduate from an American medical school, Rush Medical College, in Chicago. In 1868 Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC, was established as the first medical school in the United States to train African Americans. The first entering class numbered only eight students. After this, other medical schools for training American physicians of African ancestry were also established. Due to lack of funds, however, many lasted at most two decades, and some lasted only one year. By 1923 only two such medical schools remained: Howard, and Meharry Medical School in Nashville, established in 1876. By the early 1920s, these two graduated 80-85 percent of African American physicians in the United States.

One cannot imagine how difficult it must have been for Beckford to track down information about physicians from the defunct schools and from the pre-Civil War era. However, Beckford's training and experience as a librarian served her well for this project. She consulted historians, archivists, and other librarians, and she credited them all in the introduction. She also used archives, including the Archives and Manuscripts Collection at the National Library of Medicine. The extensive bibliography provides us with a glimpse into the ways Beckford worked.

The *Biographical Dictionary* is very well organized. In addition to the alphabetical list of names, it has a geographical index and a name index. I recommend this dictionary wholeheartedly.



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# Member News and Publications

## Kudos

### Lori Bronars, DBIO member

**D**BIO members have been busy with achievements these past few months. **Davenport “Dav” Robertson** has been appointed a “Professor of the Practice” at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill School of Information & Library Science. He is collaborating on a project with professors and students involving at-risk scientific data. This is concerned with data that could become lost to posterity: non-digital formats such as paper lab journals or slides, and even digital formats from years before metadata was added. In 2010 Dav retired from the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences after 36 years of service.

**David Duggar** received a third place award in the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association’s Research Award competition for a collaboration on a contributed paper presented at a regional conference. The paper was “Accessing and Assessing the FACTTS: an EMB and Critical Appraisal Course for Medical Students”. The paper was co-authored by several librarians and other non-librarian faculty members both from Louisiana State University and other institutions.

**Renee Bush** has announced her retirement effective March 3, 2012 from the University at Buffalo after 25 years of service. Highlights from her career include service to SLA on the Student and Academic Relations Committee, and service to DBIO in many capacities, as Chair of the Division (1992-1993), Division Program Planner, Chair of Nominations and Elections, a member of the Professional Development Committee and a member of the Fund Raising Committee. Renee has also been active in the Upstate New York Chapter of SLA and DBIO’s Natural History Caucus. She’s been an invited speaker, a moderator several times, and a facilitator for ALA Annual Conference sessions over the years. In 2000 Renee received DBIO’s Distinguished Member Award, and in 2004 she received the Upstate New York Chapter’s Annual Chapter Award. She also recently published a book chapter entitled “Volunteering in Retirement” in the 2011 ALA Editions publication, *Pre- and Post-Retirement Tips for Librarians*, edited by Carol Smallwood. Congratulations to all!

## Member Publications

### Compiled by Lori Bronars

Jones, Dixie A., Esparza, Julia M., Duggar, David C. Initial Entry of Knowledge-Based Information (KBI) into the Electronic Health Record and Internal Medicine Residents’ Perceptions of KBI Resources in the Record. *Journal of Hospital Librarianship* 2011 11(4):325-337. DOI:10.1080/15323269.2011.611108

Kendall, Susan K. Advisor Reviews: Encyclopedia of Life Sciences. *The Charleston Advisor* 2012 13 (3): 19-21. DOI:10.5260/chara.13.3.19

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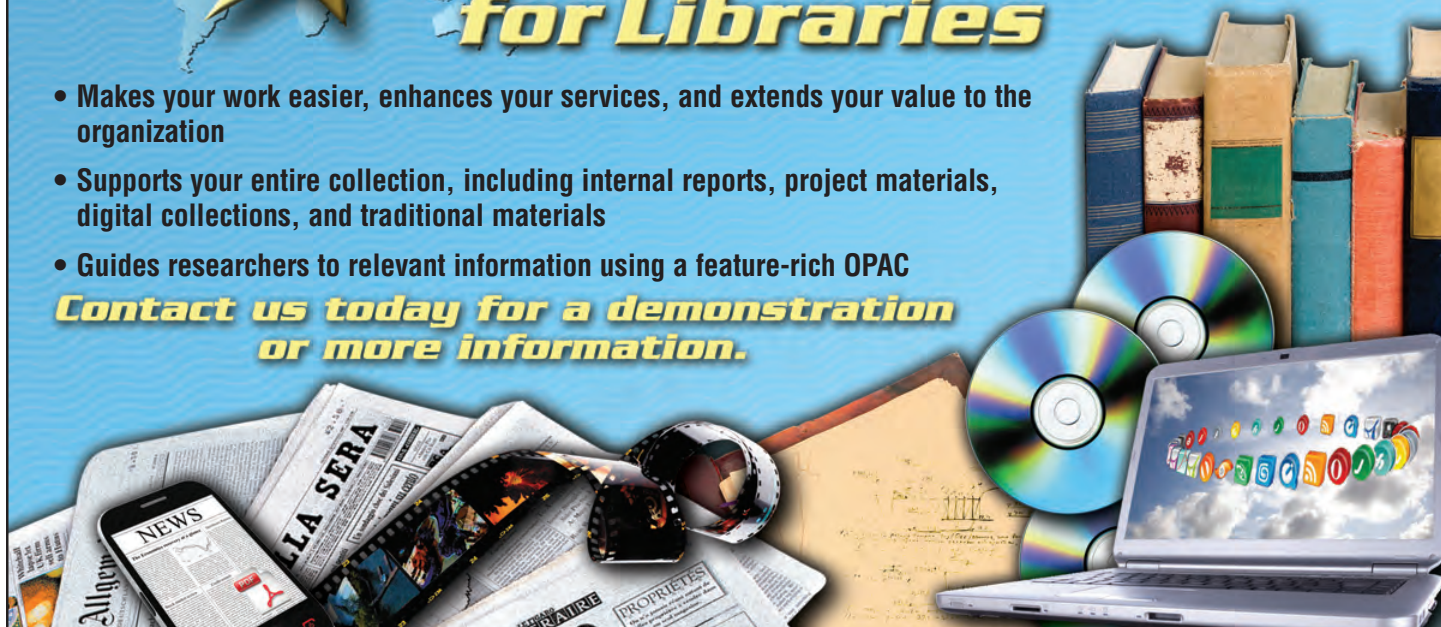
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## DBIO Membership Report, 2011

### Dorothy Barr, Membership Chair

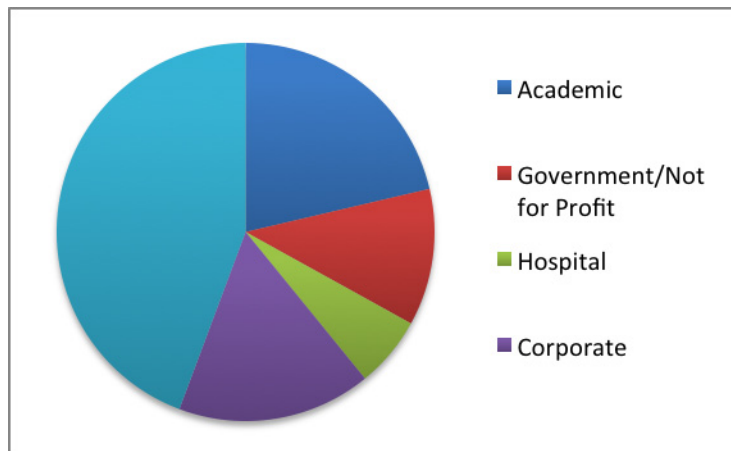
Membership in DBIO remained steady in 2011. We ended the year with 540 members (compared to 541 a year ago). In December the approximate breakdown of members by places of employment was:

Academic: 144 (26.7 %)

Corporate: 112 (20.7 %)

Government/Not for Profit: 79 (14.6 %)

Hospital: 41 (7.6 %)



299 members, or 55.4 percent, gave no affiliation, nor was one apparent from their addresses. This does not mean, however, that these members are unemployed or retired, merely that they chose to list only home information.

The above breakdown does differ slightly from last year's, when corporate and academic percentages were about the same, but 18 percent worked in government or not for profit organizations, and only 3 percent reported working in hospital settings. In 2010, 30 percent gave no affiliation, so that number has risen. One can only speculate why.

Of the total 540 members at the end of 2011, 62 or 11.5 percent are from outside the United States. Most of these (38) are from Canada. Seven are from the U.K., six are from other European countries, and five are from Australia or New Zealand. If we are to become a truly international organization, we should reach out to potential members in other parts of the world.



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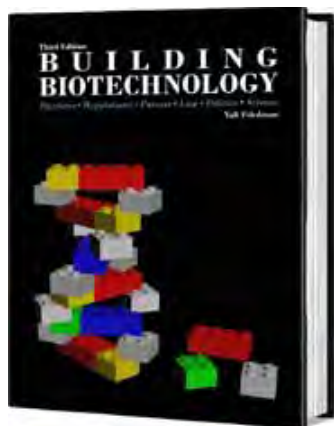
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