

The Editors' WebWatch

The Editors' WebWatch is intended to be a membership-driven resource of web sites for editors and writers in the sciences.

TheFreeDictionary.com

www.thefreedictionary.com

This is an amazing collection of dictionaries and other various sources of information. The front page has links to dictionaries (English, medical, legal, financial, and computer), a thesaurus, acronyms, an encyclopedia, a literature reference library and a search engine — pretty much everything you would ever need. However, before we all rush to recycle every reference book in our bookcases let's take a closer look. Supported as it is by advertising (it is a mixture of commercial and for-free products and resources) I suppose it may have some biases. As the copyright page says, "we are striving to make TheFreeDictionary.com the best dictionary resource on the World Wide Web. We use multiple sources of data in our work and a large part of this information is checked and edited by our staff [so what about the rest? —Ed.]. The site contains copyrighted material, trademarks, and other proprietary information." OK, so a good source of sources (as one might say), but hold onto those tomes for now.

Reference tools

www.refdesk.com

Linked to TheFreeDictionary.com is Refdesk, an overwhelming volume of information collected together on one very crowded page. All the answers to everything? Maybe.

HealthSquare

www.healthsquare.com

Ever come home from the pharmacy and wondered what you've really been prescribed? Now you can find out from HealthSquare.com, which will give you concise no-nonsense information on your prescription drugs. HealthSquare is written especially for the lay person and gives information on 1000 prescription drug products, including indications, dosage, warnings and possible interactions. Just about every health issue affecting an "average" family is covered here, and even though the site is American it lists the generic names of most of the things I checked out, so should be useful for anyone anywhere. Sources used include PDR[®] *Family guide to prescription drugs*, PDR[®] *Encyclopedia*

of medical care, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

File Transfer Protocol

"Is FTP secure?" was a recent question on Tourbus (**www.tourbus.com**). And to put it simply the answer is "No", which may come as a surprise to some of us who transfer files between clients, freelancers and typesetters with not a thought about who might be looking over our shoulders. Not that it probably matters for most of the files that we transfer, which are transferred "in the clear" (without encryption), until you realize that your user ID and password are also sent unencrypted to the remote server when you log in. So there is a chance that someone could intercept your login details when you transfer files over the public internet. The answer, then, is to switch to Secure FTP. Check out your FTP software to see if it supports the SCP or SFTP protocol (look in the help or options screen to find out), which will encrypt your login and file data before you transmit them. The bad news is that you may have to pay for this feature; but take a look at the following options: WinSCP, an open source secure FTP client for Windows; or, for Mac users, Fugu or Rbrowser. Another option is PSFTP, a secure FTP program that operates from a command line instead of a graphical interface and is compatible with Windows and Linux.

For this article and many other equally informative ones go to **www.askbobrankin.com**.

Making Windows run faster

www.askbobrankin.com/make_windows_xp_run_faster.html

Again from Bob Rankin of Tourbus, step-by-step instructions on how to make Windows XP run faster. Worth reading if you suspect that your PC is full of "Cyber Sludge".

Museum of Online Museums (MoOM)

www.coudal.com/moom.php

This is one of the most amazing sites I've come across. A big thanks to the person who sent me this link. In its entirety, it could easily be called the museum of everything. There are

links from hundreds of archives to online collections and exhibits covering myriad interests and obsessions. The MoOM is organized into three sections: the Museum Campus contains links to brick-and-mortar museums; the Permanent Collection is mainly involved with design and advertising; and Galleries, Exhibition, and Shows is an "eclectic and ever-changing list of interesting links to collections and galleries, most of them hosted on personal web pages. In other words, it's where all the good stuff is." When you have finished looking at the Van Gogh and Gauguin take a look at the Grocery List Collection, or the Gallery of East German Paper Bags: the possibilities for diverting yourself from any productive work are absolutely endless!

Fun with words

Finally, here is a little collection of sites for when the English language as we know it is simply not enough:

www.wordsmith.org

Fun with words, especially anagrams. The Internet Anagram Server at **www.wordsmith.org/anagram** will allow you to enter up to 26 letters and will then rearrange them to form strange and unusual phrases.

www.wordplays.com/cgi-bin/scrabble.pl

http://wordzap.com

If you play Scrabble you might like a tool that will — basically — help you to cheat. And if you are bored with Scrabble, try WordZap. This little mind-bender can be played against a human or computer opponent.

www.etymologic.com

When you are through with the above and still can't sleep, try Etymologic, which claims to be the toughest word game on the web. Go on, give it a try!

Something to contribute?

Please send links for this section to Moira Vekony (DunaScriptsEdit@aol.com). News of sites in European languages other than English will be welcome, as will contributions relating to areas of science other than biology and medicine.

News Notes

PubChem gets going

PubChem, the informatics component of the Molecular Libraries project of the NIH (National Institutes of Health) Roadmap for Medical Research, aims to create a database of chemical structures and their biological activities. PubChem will house both data from the new NIH molecular libraries screening centre network and information about compounds from the scientific literature. NIH will work with private sector chemical information providers, with a primary goal of maximizing progress in science while avoiding unnecessary duplication and competition with private sector databases.

PubChem is organized as three linked databases within the information retrieval system of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI): PubChem Substance, PubChem Compound, and PubChem BioAssay; <http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/> provides access. PubChem's chemical structure records are linked to other databases that provide information on biological properties. These include links to scientific literature and NCBI's resource. Links to PubChem's bioassay database present the results of biological screening. Links to depositor web sites provide further information.

Russian science journals in English

Springer and MAIK Nauka/Interperiodica are expanding the English-language journals programme of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Starting in January 2006, 105 of the most important scientific journals will be translated into English and compiled into an independent online library within SpringerLink, under the name "Russian Library of Science". The journals include JETP (*Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Physics*) and *Physics of the Solid State*, both previously distributed by the American Institute of Physics, and *Doklady Mathematics*, previously distributed by EBSCO. (UK Serials e-news, 27 July 2005)

Search in French or Spanish

A Medline/PubMed search page using French or Spanish medical terms or phrases (with citations returned in English) is under development. It will provide suggestions for words or phrases currently in the database, improving the chances of success. The search

form and results retrieved are text-only, so it is suitable for those with low-bandwidth connections to the internet. Go to <http://askmedline.nlm.nih.gov/crosslan>, where there's also a feedback link.

More Chinese journals available

In 2006, Springer will start publishing 36 journals jointly with Science Press and Higher Education Press, two scientific publishers in China, providing access to their content worldwide in the Chinese Library of Science database on SpringerLink and doubling the number of Chinese research publications handled by Springer. Higher Education Press is the Chinese education ministry's publishing arm; it will launch 27 journals in various fields over the next two years, each titled "Frontiers of . . . in China". The series editors will select the best articles from 1700 Chinese university journals by means of a peer review process and translate them into English. The fields covered include physics, chemistry, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, mathematics, law, and philosophy. Science Press is the publisher of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Its English-language journals — including the "Chinese Science Bulletin" — contain the academy's best research findings. (UK Serials e-news, 25 July 2005)

The Lancet is up in arms

The Lancet has urged its publisher, Reed Elsevier, to sever the company's links with the arms trade. The journal was "deeply troubled" to learn about Reed's involvement in organizing arms fairs, and said its readers would find it "incomprehensible" that *The Lancet* was linked, even indirectly, to technologies such as cluster bombs, against which it had campaigned vehemently. An open letter signed by leading doctors from Europe, Asia and the USA calling on Reed Elsevier to get out of the arms trade was published along with the editorial. (www.forbes.com/home/feeds/afx/2005/09/09/afx2215101.html)

New journals for ALPSP collection

The ALPSP (Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers) Learned Journals Collection (voted "Best STM Information Product" by the International Information Industry in 2004) will increase to include 558 journals from 47 highly respected scholarly publishers in 2006. A subject-specific package on Law will join the Medicine & Life

Science, Science & Technology and Arts, Humanities & Social Science packages that are currently available. The collection enables small and medium-sized scholarly publishers, many with journals that have high ISI ratings, to sell their titles effectively to consortia and other library customers by packaging them as a single collection operating under a single umbrella license, pricing model and delivery platform. It helps to simplify the complications that publishers and customers encounter within the e-journals market. (UK Serials e-news, 27 July 2005)

Charlesworth Award winners

The ALPSP/Charlesworth award for learned journals this year went to the *European Respiratory Journal*. Its redesign demonstrates a really good balance between design and content, the judges said. And the award for publishing innovation went to Nature Publishing Group's *Connotea* — which began as an experiment with the emerging technology of social bookmarking but quickly became a new information and reference management service for scientists. [Social bookmarking is defined by wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>) as "An online service genre that allows users to save and categorize a personal collection of bookmarks. Distinct in that others may see the bookmarks that have been saved by others and add them to their own collection, as well as subscribe to the lists of others."]

IEEE claim top journals in field

For the third year running, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers has published 18 of the top 20 journals in the field of electrical and electronics engineering, according to the recently published 2004 ISI *Journal Citation Reports*. (UK Serials e-news, 12 August 2005)

Second survey of African medical journals

In 2002 the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases conducted a survey of African medical journal editors which led to the setting up of the Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME) (www.who.int/tdr/publications/publications/fame_entebbe.htm). Now it is joining forces with the Medical Research Council of South Africa to carry out a second survey, aiming to consolidate the information and contacts about African journals, and to review the progress that has

been achieved and the particular challenges their editors still face. Contact Edith Certain (certaine@who.int) for more information, or to participate.

Sage signs agreements

Sage Publications has signed an agreement with the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) to provide free access to more than 300 Sage journals to research institutions in 66 of the world's less developed countries, either free of charge or for greatly subsidized rates. (www.openrfi.com/UKSG/si_pd.cfm?AC=4644&Pid=10&Zid=2070&issueno=101)

Sage has also signed an agreement with Koninklijke Bibliotheek (the National Library of the Netherlands), to create a permanent archive of Sage e-journals, ensuring that the content will always be accessible. (UK Serials e-news, 29 July 2005)

NIH eases ethics rules

Since August, NIH ethics rules allow most NIH scientists and employees to own stock in biotech and drug companies, and to participate in activities with non-profit professional and scientific organizations — but they are banned from outside consulting with pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device companies. NIH received some 1300 comments on the “sweeping” ethics reforms introduced in February. Larger issues still remain for NIH scientists, among them unnecessary restrictions on travel and increasingly burdensome paperwork required to approve outside activities; most importantly, salaries for junior-level scientists need to be increased. (www.the-scientist.com/news/20050826/01)

Due diligence to detect plagiarism

CopyGuard, launched recently by LexisNexis US as LexisNexis® CopyGuard solution, helps to detect plagiarism and copyright infringement and protect intellectual property. It enables users to verify content originality quickly and easily, searching about 6.1 billion documents within minutes. Once a document is submitted to the service, CopyGuard uses pattern-matching technology to identify suspect passages. It then produces a customized originality report that provides underlined excerpts of any relevant text matches and a “similarity index” which provides the exact percentage of text originating from elsewhere. (www.lexisnexis.com/copyguard/)

Where are the papers coming from?

Citation data from more than 8700 journals archived in the Thomson Scientific's National Science Indicators database show that in the past two decades the world output of scientific papers from the USA has decreased steadily, and the collective shares from countries in the European Union and the Asia Pacific region have increased. The EU has almost 5% more than the US share, and the Asia Pacific region is up by about 12%. If current trends continue, the Asia Pacific region will probably outstrip the USA by 2011 — especially in agricultural sciences, chemistry, engineering, materials science, and physics. (www.sciencewatch.com/july-aug2005/sw_july-aug2005_page1.htm)

Putting developing countries journals online

Bioline International (www.bioline.org.br) will be adding 10 bioscience and health journals published in developing countries, thanks to a grant from the Open Society Institute's Open Access Project. For many of the 40 peer-reviewed journals collaborating with BI, document downloads have increased by tenfold, and several report that the number of international authors submitting manuscripts to their journals has been steadily increasing. BI asks journal publishers interested in providing open access to their publications to contact them.

Still can't find DOIs?

An article's Digital Object Identifier is its unique identifier for publication on the web. DOIs won't replace “proper” references, or at least not yet, but when year, volume and page number don't apply — such as in online first publication — the DOI is useful for identifying and searching for articles. It stays with the article forever. You can use a DOI to search on Medline by putting in the DOI with [AID] (which stands for article identifier tag) after it. Outside Medline, if you know the DOI of a paper you can insert it directly into your browser's location bar by first typing <http://dx.doi.org/> and following this with the actual DOI. Hit Return, and you'll be at the entrance page of the article. (Thanks to SfEPLine for this tip.)

Industry money skews drug overviews

It's something we've always suspected . . . and now further evidence has emerged that money from the pharmaceutical industry is

distorting the medical literature. Meta-analyses (studies that combine the results from several trials) report more favourable results if they are sponsored by industry. This effect has already been seen for clinical trials in several areas of medicine, but this new finding is even more worrying, say the authors of a study in *Nature* (2005;437:458-9), as policy-makers often give meta-analyses more weight than individual trials.

Closing the “publishing gap” between rich and poor

The health and science researchers closest to poverty and poor health in the developing world are the least likely to publish their work and ideas in the academic journals that influence policymakers. AuthorAID is a strategy to link developing-world authors whose work is promising to voluntary editor/scientist mentors anywhere in the world, on a manuscript-by-manuscript basis. The mentors would help the authors to prepare submissions that science and policy journals will accept and publish. Communication via the internet will make it possible to work internationally in a timely way. The initiative has proposed a five-year demonstration project — to achieve “proof of principle”. A task force adopted AuthorAID at the CSE meeting in Atlanta in May 2005. Once launched, the AuthorAID web site will invite enquiries from developing world authors. It will link promising writing projects with distinguished volunteer scientists and will enlist authors' editors to provide the knowledge and know-how that will assure publication. (www.scidev.net/content/opinions/eng/closing-the-publishing-gap-between-rich-and-poor.cfm)

The latest on peer review

Either suggesting or excluding reviewers can significantly increase a manuscript's chances of being accepted — but when offered the chance to suggest (or exclude) reviewers, authors aren't taking up the opportunity. Compared to reviewers suggested by editors, those suggested by authors are more likely to recommend that the manuscript be published (56% vs 50%) and less likely to recommend rejection (14% vs 24%). This is one of the research findings highlighted in *Science* (23 September, p 1974) in a report of the peer review congress in Chicago (see also p 112 and p119).

Another study presented at the meeting at the meeting in Chicago in September reinforces the above

findings: 47% of reviewers suggested by authors advocated acceptance, compared with 35% suggested by editors; 10% and 23% respectively recommended rejection. Opting to exclude reviewers may have even more dramatic effects: other research

found that the odds on being accepted doubled when authors opted to exclude reviewers. Whether this practice will introduce bias, or limit it, is up for debate. (See also the editorial in this issue, p. 112.)

Thanks to: Vicky Harley, Tina Allen, Jane Sykes, Paul Fontello, Fiona Godlee, Emma Dickinson.

Contributions to News Notes

Please send items for this section to Margaret Cooter, BMJ Editorial, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JR, UK; mcooter@bmj.com.

News from editing societies

ACES

Like some other societies, the American Copy Editors Society (ACES; www.copydesk.org) has created a prize for people making a substantial contribution to the craft of copy editing. Nominees will be evaluated for a number of qualities, including "editing, design, mentoring and training, fostering a sense of teamwork and pride among colleagues, and anything else that furthers the role of the copy editing profession". Although ACE is primarily for newspaper copy editors, EASE members might like to look at the booklet "Editing Guidelines" (click on Site Features/Editing booklet) produced by the Society to encourage the development of young editors. It is in the form of questions culled from newspaper tests and the stated expectations of those newspapers, so that potential copy editors can learn what newspapers look for in copy editors. It would be interesting to know whether UK or other national newspapers have similar tests. The Society has also produced a CD-ROM "A to Z on editing" that covers instruction on editing and writing, advice to students, discussion of journalism issues, quizzes and reference sources. The CD can be purchased for \$4 through the Society's web site.

ALA

The American Library Association (ALA; www.ala.org) has given a complimentary six-month extension of membership to 850 of its members in the areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama affected by hurricane Katrina, in an effort to support libraries and their staff. The Association is also planning to carry out a national web-based salary survey. While many societies and associations are wary about taking a stance on political issues, at its recent annual meeting the ALA Council passed a resolution opposing the use by government of disinformation, media manipulation, and the destruction and excision of public information, stating as examples the

ensorship of scientific studies warning of the threat of global warming, the distortion of information to justify the invasion of Iraq, the removal of public information from US depository libraries, and increased assaults on constitutional rights under the guise of "national security". It has also passed a resolution calling on the US government to provide material assistance, via the United Nations, for the reconstruction of Iraq, including its museums, libraries, schools, and other cultural resources.

ALPSP

Like the Association of American University Presses, the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP; www.alpssp.org) has recently presented a position statement on Google Print for Libraries, in which the Association also expresses its concern about copyright issues regarding the digitization of published works. They call on Google to hold an urgent meeting with representatives of all major publishing organizations. The Association is currently holding its second survey on academic journal publishers' policies and practices in online publishing. Journal publishers are invited to participate in the questionnaire, which can be obtained from the ALPSP site. Findings will be published in February 2006.

CASE/IPE

The Council of Australian Societies of Editors (CASE) has been renamed the Institute of Professional Editors (IPE). The first major objective of the institute will be to implement an accreditation system. Members of the eight independent societies of editors in Australia have been asked for their input on a number of issues, presented in an issues paper (www.case-editors.org), so that a formal discussion of the legal status and goals of the new body can take place at the conference in Melbourne in October 2005.

ISO

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO; www.iso.org) has renewed its ISBN book identification standard. The recently published fourth edition of ISO 2108, *Information and documentation – International Standard Book Number (ISBN)*, describes a new 13-digit ISBN, to be implemented as of 1 January 2007. Although under the new ISO 2108 it will not be necessary to assign new ISBNs to products that have been published with the 10-digit ISBN, it will be necessary to convert the numbers to the 13-digit ISBN format by the implementation date. It is envisioned that while this change will primarily affect systems, it will also have an impact on editorial processes, sales and marketing, warehouse management, production, accounting and cataloguing processes. More information can be obtained from the ISO web site.

IEEE PCS

EASE readers interested in the effect of outsourcing on the nature of knowledge-based work and how it may change the nature of specific technical communication practices may be interested to learn that the IEEE Professional Communication Society (www.ieeepcs.org) is calling for papers for a special issue of the *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communications* that will focus on examining international outsourcing. The special issue will examine how international outsourcing is affecting professional and educational practices in technical communication and how international outsourcing could shape future practices in both areas.

INASP

Further to the information on African journals provided in the News Notes column in the August issue of *ESE* (2005;31(3):96), interested readers may like to read the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications *Newsletter* (www.inasp.info/newslet). This issue covers the experiences of an editor in setting up an E-journal (*African*

Journal of Biotechnology), the availability of internet access at African universities, and electronic networks in Mexico. The resources "Consensus statement on good editorial practice", "How to write a good scientific paper" and "How to publish your research work" are available from the INASP web site.

PA/EPS

On 6 September, the Publishers Association (www.publishers.org.uk) together with Electronic Publishing Services started an online debate on traditional publishing. The debate, the full title of which is "Google and the book publishers: is the age of search bringing exciting new opportunities for publishers, or is it the beginning of the end?", is planned to last for a minimum of six months and will feature specially commissioned contributions from leading figures in the international publishing and technology industries.

The debate will be moderated. If you are interested in participating, contact paul@thefridayproject.co.uk. The debate can be followed at www.googledebate.com.

SfEP

The Society for Editors and Proofreaders (www.sfep.co.uk) has appointed the consultancy firm Integra Communications to oversee its UK public relations activities. The Society feels that the current debate about modern language usage (as shown by the popularity of books such as *Eats, shoots & leaves* by Lynne Truss) and the introduction of new words and their usage highlight the contribution that professional editing and proofreading can make to the accessibility of writing.

STC (India)

The Indian branch of the Society for Technical Communication (www.stc-india.org) has carried out a

web-based salary survey of technical communicators working in India, investigating not only salary levels but also academic background, relevant training, years of experience, use of software programs, etc. It makes interesting reading. The survey shows that the average salary of technical communicators has increased by 22.2% compared with the average salary in 2003, and that communicators with more experience enjoyed a significantly greater increase in their salaries than communicators with entry-level skills. The salary levels of Indian technical communicators are about 15% to 38% of those of their US colleagues. At least 50% of technical communications jobs in India are created by the outsourcing trend.

Jane Sykes (j.sykes@wxs.nl) welcomes news from societies and national bodies concerned with editing, writing or publishing in the sciences.

Forthcoming meetings, courses and BELS examinations

Interdisciplinary collaboration — international communication

Mediterranean Editors' and Translators' Meeting
4–5 November 2005 Barcelona, Spain
(Contact: ME Kerans, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Health Sciences Faculty, Carrer Josep Trueta s/n, 08195 Sant Cugat del Valles (Barcelona), Spain; metameeting@telefonica.net and mekerans@csc.unica.edu; www.metmeetings.org/index.htm)

Making your content pay: tailoring your business strategies to new markets

ALPSP seminar
18 November 2005 London, UK
(Contact: Lesley Ogg, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, tel. +44 (0)1245 260 571, events@alpsp.org; www.alpsp.org/events.htm)

Preprint repositories and their impact on publishing

ALPSP/SSP joint seminar
28 November 2005 London, UK
Provisional date. (Contact: Lesley Ogg, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, tel. +44 (0)1245 260 571, events@alpsp.org; www.alpsp.org/events.htm)

The essential medical editor

SfEP professional development day
30 November 2005; London, UK
A rerun of the very popular May conference on updating medical/biological editing skills. (Contact/more details: Jane Ward,

conference@sfep.org.uk;
www.sfep.org.uk)

2006

Journal publishers' forum

ALPSP meeting
January 2006 London, UK
Date to be announced. (Contact: Lesley Ogg, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, tel. +44 (0)1245 260 571, events@alpsp.org; www.alpsp.org)

The new publishers

22nd International Learned Journals Seminar (ALPSP seminar)
31 March 2006 London, UK
(Contact: Lesley Ogg, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, tel. +44 (0)1245 260 571, events@alpsp.org; www.alpsp.org)

CSE 49th annual meeting

19–23 May 2006 New Orleans, LA
(Contact: CSE@councilscienceeditors.org or see www.CouncilScienceEditors.org)

The culture of science editing

9th EASE Conference and General Assembly
15–18 June 2006 Kraków
The first circular for this meeting in Poland was distributed to members and subscribers with the February issue of *ESE*. More details due very soon. (Contact: Georgianna Oja, ease@pp.inet.fi; www.ease.org.uk)

COURSES

ALPSP training courses, briefings and technology updates

ALPSP offers half-day and one-day courses and updates on the role of the managing editor, electronic publishing and marketing, journal marketing, production, fulfilment and finance, copyright, and related topics. (Contact: Amanda Whiting, Training Coordinator, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, tel. +44 (0)1865 247776, training@alpsp.org; www.alpsp-training.org)

Style for reports and papers in medical and life-science journals

John Kirkman Communication Consultancy courses: London, UK
One-day seminars devoted to discussion of style — tactics for producing accurate and readable texts, not structure or format. Cost: £148 + 17.5% VAT. (Contact: Gill Ward, JKCC, PO Box 106, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 2RU, UK; tel. +44 (0)1672 520429, fax +44 (0)1672 521008; kirkman.ramsbury@btinternet.com)

Publishing Training Centre at Book House

(Contact: The Publishing Training Centre at Book House, 45 East Hill, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2QZ, UK; tel. +44 (0)20 8874 2718, fax +44 (0)20-8870 8985, publishing. training@bookhouse.co.uk; www.train4publishing.co.uk)

Society for Editors and Proofreaders workshops

SfEP runs one-day workshops in London and occasionally elsewhere in the UK on copy-editing, proofreading, grammar and much else. (Training enquiries: tel. +44 (0)20 7736 0901, trainingenquiries@sfeep.org.uk. For other enquiries see www.sfeep.org.uk, or contact SfEP, Riverbank House, 1 Putney Bridge Approach, London SW6 3JD, UK; tel. +44 (0)20 7736 3278; administration@sfeep.org.uk)

Society of Indexers workshops

The Society of Indexers runs workshops for beginners and more experienced indexers in various cities in the UK. (Details and downloadable booking forms can be found at www.indexers.org.uk; admin@indexers.org.uk)

Tim Albert Training

Courses on writing, science writing and setting up publications (for dates

etc. see www.timalbert.co.uk/courses.htm). (Contact Tim Albert Training, 5 Cobham Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 9AU, UK; tel. +44 (0)1372 377848, tim@timalbert.co.uk)

University of Chicago

Medical writing and editing certificate programmes are among the many courses available at the: Graham School of General Studies (5835 S. Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637-1608, USA; fax +1 773 702 6814, http://grahamschool.uchicago.edu)

University of Oxford, Dept for Continuing Education

Courses on effective writing for biomedical professionals and on presenting in biomedicine, science and technology. (Contact: Gaye Walker, CPD Centre, Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford, Suite 5, Littlegate House, 16/17 St Ebbes Street, Oxford OX1 1PT, UK; tel. +44 (0)1865-286953, fax

+44 (0)1865 286934, gaye.walker@continuing-education.ox.ac.uk, www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cpd/personaldev)

Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) examination schedule

18 March 2006, Princeton, NJ
20 May 2006, New Orleans, LA (CSE meeting)
17 June 2006, Kraków, Poland (EASE meeting)
25 October 2006, Albuquerque, NM (AMWA meeting)
19 May 2007, Atlanta, GA (CSE)
10 October 2007, Austin, TX (AMWA)
See www.bels.org, or contact Leslie Neistadt (Hughston Sports Medicine Foundation, Inc, 6262 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31909, USA; neistadt@hughston.com, fax: +1 706 576 3348).

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Science Editors' Handbook

The *Science Editors' Handbook* resembles its predecessor, the *Editerra Editors' Handbook*, in being issued in short chapters that were previously distributed to members only. In 2003, in addition to the 14 chapters already sent out (edited by PH Enckell), 33 new chapters were added and the set, edited by H Maisonneuve, PH Enckell, A Polderman, R Thapa and M Vekony, was given in a looseleaf binder to everyone who attended the EASE conference in Bath in June 2003. Another chapter was added in February 2005. With the current issue of *ESE*, members should receive three new chapters and more will be sent out with the next issue in February 2006.

The *Handbook* is now on sale to non-members. The price for all chapters and the binder is £30.00 for addresses within Europe, £33.50 outside Europe. The binder alone costs £7.50, or £11.00 outside Europe. Send orders to the Secretary, Georgianna Oja, Nyyrikintie 14 A 1, FI-33540 Tampere, Finland; ease@pp.inet.fi or secretary@ease.org.uk.

See www.ease.org.uk for the list of contents.

The culture of science editing

9th EASE Conference and General Assembly, Kraków, Poland

15–18 June 2006



Town Hall Tower

The conference will include plenary sessions, submitted papers and a full social programme. There will be eight sessions for submitted papers (abstracts are welcome). Workshops will be run in parallel with the conference and registration for these will be an optional extra. The plenary sessions will be on the cultural effect of impact factors, the cultural consequences of electronic publishing, cultural differences in text editing, and targeting the audience.

Kraków is a magical city on the banks of the Wisla River. It has one of the best-preserved medieval city centres in Europe, with dozens of churches covering almost every architectural period and surrounded by monasteries and abbeys. It is served by most major European airlines and some of the low-budget ones, including easyJet which flies to Kraków from Berlin (Schönefeld), Dortmund and Luton (UK).

Unlike the rest of Poland, Kraków sustained little physical damage during the Second World War. Its magnificent old quarter is listed in UNESCO's register of world cultural and heritage sites. Its historical district — the medieval city established in 1257 — boasts numerous world-class monuments, charming vistas, a delightful atmosphere, and great restaurants.

“Must-see” landmarks in Kraków include the Grand Square, hub of the medieval city; the Basilica of the Virgin Mary, with its sculptural treasures; the Town Hall Tower, from which the trumpet signal known to every Pole is sounded; the Wawel Hill, with its castle and cathedral, a microcosm of Polish history and culture; and scenic Kanonicza Street, which has mostly preserved its exquisite Renaissance air and shape and is among Europe's finest streets.

Leonardo da Vinci's *Lady with an Ermine* is held in the Czartoryskich Museum, and the Basilica of the Virgin Mary contains the largest Gothic sculpture in the world, consisting of 200 fine limewood sculptures treated with colour and gold leaf. The gold-plated dome of the Sigismund Chapel crowns arguably the best example of Renaissance art and architecture outside Italy. The Wawel cathedral contains one of the world's largest bells and in the crypt are the royal tombs. Another treasure is a 23,000-year-old hairy rhino that may well be the envy of every museum of natural history in the world; it can be found in the Muzeum Przyrodnicze.

Kraków is a good base for excursions to nearby sites, including the salt mines at Wieliczka and Zakopane, the biggest mountain resort north of the Alps. Ojcow National Park, one of the most attractive recreational areas in Europe, is just a 15-minute drive northwest of Kraków. Large woodlands, the 27,000-acre Puszcza Niepolomicka, stretch some 25 km east from the city centre and contain forest bison (zubr) reintroduced to the area in 1936, while stray deer — and foxes — can be seen anywhere on the outskirts of Kraków.

More information available soon. Or register interest now via www.ease.org.uk

Membership of EASE

EASE, the European Association of Science Editors, is open to editors of publications in the sciences, to others with responsibility for editing or managing such publications, or working in any branch of scientific communication, and to individuals representing scientific publications or publishing bodies. EASE is European-based but members from any country are welcome.

Publications

Members receive the journal *European Science Editing* without charge (four issues/year). The subscription for non-members is GBP54, including postage.

The *Science Editors' Handbook* is given to members when they join and new chapters are sent out when ready. Non-members may buy copies too (GBP30/GBP33.50 Europe/elsewhere).

Subscription rates (2006)

Membership is for a calendar year. For those joining late in the year membership may start from the following January (please indicate your choice on the form).

The cost for individual members in 2006 will be GBP66. Organizations paying subscriptions for three or more named members are accepted as corporate members: each person has full membership privileges but copies of the journal etc. are sent to one member for distribution within the corporate group. Rates (GBP): £192 for three people, £251 for four people, £304 for five people, £363 for six people, £416 for seven people and £59 each for eight or more members.

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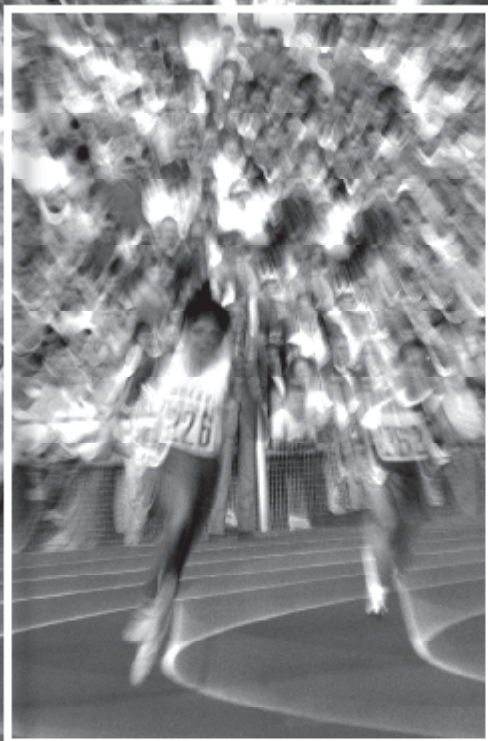
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