Mmm...vanillin: Reaching graduate students through ice cream seminars

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Mmmmm…

Reaching Graduate Students through Ice Cream Seminars

March 28, 2007

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Purdue University Libraries
Today’s talk

• History
• Purpose of the seminars
• Format of seminars
• Seminar topics and content
• Marketing
• Evaluation
• Future
Chemistry Department at Purdue

- 57 Faculty
- ~43 Faculty active in research
- 309 Graduate students
- 200 Undergraduate majors
  - 30 graduates each year
Purpose of the Seminars

- Focus on new graduate students
- Awareness of Libraries and their resources
- Teach how to choose appropriate resources
- Help with Original Proposition (OP)
Format of the Seminars

• Lecture setting in seminar room
• Informal atmosphere
• No registration
• 1 hour, every other week
• Early evening
• Incentive – Ice cream!
Seminar Topics and Content

• Resource based
  – Mainly in Fall Semester
  – Focus on one or two resources per seminar

• Topic based
  – Mainly in Spring Semester
  – Focus on topic, incorporating multiple resources
Typical Fall Semester

• SciFinder Scholar
• Beilstein – Fact and Text Searching
• Beilstein – Structure and Reaction Searching
• SPRESI$^\text{web}$ and comparison
• EndNote
• + one other
Spring Semester - Topical

- Property Searching and Data Manipulation
- Patents and Intellectual Property
- Spectra
- Citation Searching and JCR
- Current Awareness Services
Spring Semester – Other Topics

• Chemistry & Biology (PubChem / Bioinformatics)
• Dissertations and Interlibrary Loan
• Chemical Industry and Business Information
• SciFinder in Industry
• How NOT to Give a Presentation
• Database updates or interface changes
Cover Sheets & Handouts

• Cover Sheet
  – Title / Contact information
  – Description
  – Expectations
  – Questions answered
  – Suggested readings and web sites

• Handouts
  – PowerPoint Slides and additional info
Keeping Up-To-Date on the Latest Research: E-mail Alerts, RSS Feeds, and Blogs

Presented by: Jeremy Garritano, Chemical Information Specialist
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Description

Keeping current seems like an uphill battle given the numerous journals and articles published every month. However, some of the pressure can be relieved by setting up current awareness services. These services can take a variety of forms—email alerts, RSS feeds, blogs, and more. For example, e-mail alerts can do the searching for you and email you any results that match your pre-selected criteria. RSS feeds will gather information from multiple web sites. This seminar will help you get started in setting up these current awareness services in a variety of formats.

Expectations

In this seminar you will be introduced to the concept of a current awareness service. Next, you will be taught how to set up current awareness services through individual journals/publishers and through database providers. This will take the form of e-mail alerts and RSS feeds.

As a result of this seminar, you will have the answers to the following questions:

1. What is a current awareness service? What are its pros and cons?
2. How can I set up an email alert for a particular journal?
3. How can I set up an email alert for a particular topic or author?
4. What is an RSS feed? How can I subscribe to one?
5. What are some major sources for RSS feeds for chemistry?

Suggested Readings and Websites

See accompanying hand-out for additional information and relevant web sites.

Recommended RSS Feeds for Science/Engineering News & Research
http://scilib.ucsd.edu/webfeeds/
Maintained by the Chemistry Librarian at University of California, San Diego, this is a well organized directory of important RSS feeds related to the sciences and engineering.

RSS Feeds at Purdue University
http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol/digit/rss.html
Binder System

- 1.5” 3-ring binder
- Clear cover has semester schedule insert
- Handouts have holes punched
- Meant to encourage repeat attendance
- Places further emphasis on content
- A growing resource kept at-hand
Marketing

• To appropriate departments
  – Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Pharmacy

• Full Schedule & Posters
  – Posted around library and other buildings

• Listservs
  – Full schedule
  – Information from cover sheet
Marketing (continued)

• Chemistry Department Calendar
  – This Week in Chemistry

• Web page

• Library Workshop Calendar

• Other opportunities
  – Orientations
  – Tours
  – Classes
Ice Cream Seminars

Fall 2006

September 18  The Scifinder You Never Knew: Tips and Tricks for Maximizing the Potential of SciFinder Scholar

October 2    Beilstein: Part 1 — Fact and Text Searching

October 16   Beilstein: Part 2 — Structure and Reaction Searching

October 30   SPRES\web: How Does It Compare to SciFinder and Beilstein?

November 13  EndNote X

November 27  Property Searching and Data Manipulation with Knovel

All Ice Cream Seminars are from 5:30pm - 6:30pm in WTHR 201

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Purdue University
Examples of Posters

Who’s Citing You?
Citation Searching in Web of Science and SciFinder Scholar

Monday, March 5th
5:30-6:30 in WTHR 201
Jeremy Garritano

Monday, January 22nd
5:30-6:30, WTHR 201
Jeremy Garritano
Chemical Information Specialist, Purdue University
Beilstein: Part 1
Fact and Text Searching

Monday, October 2nd
5:30-6:30 PM
WTHR 201

Jeremy Garritano, Chemical Information Specialist
Monday, March 19, 2007

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Room: WTHR 201

Library Seminar
“Keeping Up-To-Date on the Latest Research: E-mail Alerts, RSS Feeds, and Blogs” by Jeremy Garritano (Chemical Information Specialist, Purdue University).

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Room: WTHR 201

Inorganic Literature Seminar
"Understanding the Mechanism of Single Site Olefin Polymerization” by Nick Travia (Graduate Student, Purdue University).

3:30 pm - 5 pm
Room: WTHR 320

Analytical Literature Seminar
"Utilizing Microfluidic Devices as Logic Gates” by David S. Pinkston (Graduate Student, Purdue University).

"Analysis of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms Using a Dipstick” by Ashraf Madian (Graduate Student, Purdue University).

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Room: WTHR 104

Organic Seminar
"Synthesis of Antifreeze Glycoprotein Analogues: Synthesis, Assessment and In Vitro Interactions” by Professor Robert N. Ben (University of Ottawa).

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Room: WTHR 201

Physical Seminar
"Ionic Molecular Assemblies” by Professor Monica Olvera de la Cruz (Department of Materials Science, Northwestern University).
Evaluation

• Attendance overall
• Most/Least attended
• Evaluation form
• Results
• Other Benefits
Attendance over Two Academic Years (2004-05, 2005-06)

• Overall average of 12 attendees
• Attendance higher in Fall compared to Spring
• Fall averages 16 attendees
• Spring averages 8 attendees
Most / Least Attended

• Most attended
  – SciFinder Scholar
  – EndNote
  – Citation Searching / JCR
  – Current Awareness Services

• Least attended
  – Spectra
  – Property Searching and Data Manipulation
Evaluation Form

Four evaluative questions:

Strongly Agree, Agree, Uncertain, Disagree, Strongly Disagree -

1. I can apply info/skills learned in this seminar to my work/research
2. The format of this seminar was appropriate for the seminar purpose
3. I felt free to ask questions in the seminar

Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor -

4. Overall I would rate this seminar as…
Evaluation Form

Two open-ended questions:

1. What I liked best about the seminar was…
2. This seminar could be improved by…

Additional question:
Current research advisor?
Evaluation Results

- Overall very positive
- Want more hands-on experience
- Want practice problems/examples
- Almost exclusively from chem department
Other Benefits

• Get to know first year grad students
• Learn how they are using these resources
• Help each other troubleshoot
• Works by word-of-mouth as well
• Way into research groups
Future Plans

- Continue to offer new seminars on hot topics
- Explore use of laptops and wireless
- Creation of Cyberchemistry Center in Library