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Bet You Missed It-Scientific Publishing and the Department of Energy

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Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

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Bye-Bye To Page Flipping & Other Serendipity by **Bruce Strauch** (the Citadel)

With the third edition of the **Oxford English Dictionary** coming out a mere decade from now, the prospect of its 40 volumes has OU Press contemplating electronic but no print. Interior decorators are furious because they can't spread those forty leather-bound books around upper-crust homes. But eco-types rejoice at sparing trees. And the blind are happy because it sometimes took all day to look up a word. **Grove's Dictionaries'** 34-volume **Encyclopedia of Life**

Sciences caused a stir when it dropped the print version in 1996. But changes are a-happening. This year at the **Association of American Publishers** annual conference, only one of 10 lectures will be about real books. "Print is slipping away from us," says **Janice Kuta**, President of **Grove's**. See—**Joshua Prager**, "The Final Word On the New OED Is a Decade Away," *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 1, 1999, p.A1.

What? No More Elvis Sightings? by **Bruce Strauch** (the Citadel)

Net income from the jointly-owned *Enquirer* and *Star* has dropped 50% over two years as T.V. and all the rest of Big Media went tabloid. Management response? Cosmetic changes in the layout and go with MORE CELEBRITY coverage. While the

Enquirer is seeking more up-market advertisers, they risk losing their readership base that enjoys the traditional bizarre stuff. See—**Matthew Rose**, "Reincarnated Supermarket Tabloid Kills Elvis!" *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 1, 1999, p.B1.

Up With Liberty, Down With The IRS by **Bruce Strauch** (the Citadel)

Editor **Emmett Tyrrell** examines Internet culture and discovers why Big Govt. is suddenly so obsessed with cracking encryption. International terrorism is a smoke screen. In truth, the IRS is in morbid dread that citizens will

take much of the economy off the books and out of the reach of the taxman. See—**R. Emmett Tyrrell**, "The Internet Turns 30," *The American Spectator*, Oct. 1999, p.14-16.

Underly Ambitious by **Pamela M. Rose** (SUNY at Buffalo)

The goal of the **Department of Energy's (DOE)** plan to create **PubSCIENCE** is Internet access to just about every scientific journal that isn't indexed in **PubMed**, the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**-based online collection. Unlike NIH's

plan for a similar repository (**E-biosci**), DOE is not asking for free access to fulltext. See—**Eliot Marshall**, "DOE Builds a Web Site for the Physical Sciences," *Science*, Aug. 6, 1999, p.811.

Up With Access, Down With Delay by **Pamela M. Rose** (SUNY at Buffalo)

Attempts to delay or overturn a controversial new law directing that "all data" funded by federal grants be subject to the **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)** have failed. The law is still scheduled to be implemented by September 30th, albeit in a modified version. Scien-



tific and university organizations criticized the move, saying that the original language would have harassed re-

searchers, violated confidentiality agreements, and hindered the conduct of science. The revised text, which addresses some of the criticisms, now defines "data" as "any raw underlying information necessary to validate [research] findings, but not information that would violate the privacy rights of research subjects or the intellectual property rights of researchers," and also restricts the law's reach to data "published in a peer-reviewed journal." See—**Jocelyn Kaiser**, "Congress Votes down Delay in Access Law," *Science*, July 23, 1999, p.511, and **Linda R. Cohen** and **Robert W. Hahn**, "A Solution to Concerns Over Public Access to Scientific Data," *Science*, Jul. 23, 1999, p.535.

Reprints not Preprints by **Pamela M. Rose** (SUNY at Buffalo)

The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** plan (originally known as **E-biomed** and now called **E-biosci**) has dropped the notion of a "preprint" server for unreviewed scientific papers in favor of a "reprint" server for access to peer-reviewed publications. **E-biosci** would serve as host to scientific groups and publishers who, after certification,

would be free to post virtually any material. The hope is that they will choose fulltext, although the timing is up to the publisher. **NIH** has also decided not to be involved in debates over who should own copyright to posted articles. See—**Eliot Marshall**, "E-biomed Morphs to E-biosci, Focus Shifts to Reviewed Papers," *Science*, Aug. 6, 1999, p. 810-11.

Shaking The Editorial Tree by **Pamela M. Rose** (SUNY at Buffalo)

Another shake-up in scientific publishing (ref. The **AMA** firing of **George Lundberg**, editor of **JAMA**) will see a change in editors at the **New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)**. A joint statement by editor **Jerome Kassirer** and **NEJM's** owner, the **Massachusetts Medical Society**, suggested mutual parting because

of "honest differences of opinion ...over administrative and publishing issues." The Society notes this is not comparable to the **AMA** firing because **Kassirer's** editorial decisions were never challenged. See—**Eliot Marshall**, "Kassirer Forced Out at New England Journal," in *Science*, Jul. 30, 1999, p. 648-9.

Under My Thumb
by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

Designed to protect India from outside threats, a 3-decades-old rule restricting access to geographical data (and other outdated restrictions on health and environmental data) has come under fire as scientists struggle to follow-up on discoveries. At least 15 bureaucratic procedures are now required to gain access to high-resolution maps, steps that no longer make

sense in an era of remote sensing and global positioning systems. Scientists at the **Indian Academy of Sciences** are preparing a document recommending that access be eased, but whether it will be considered is uncertain. See—**Pallava Bagla**, "Indian Scientists Question Government Grip on Data," *Science*, Jul. 30, 1999, p.659.

From the Computer into the Red Tape
by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The stress that faculty feel from having to keep up with information technology is directly related to their age, up to 65 anyway. So say the results of a survey conducted by the **Higher Education Research Institute** at the **U. of California, Los Angeles**. The study concludes that the stress is a reflection of the time faculty invest, noting that disciplines already using the computer

more heavily show less stress. Two-thirds of respondents report information technology stress outranks research and publishing demands, teaching load, and promotion. Only time pressures, household demands, and institutional red tape were more stressful. See—"High-Tech Anxiety," in *NetWatch* section edited by **Jocelyn Kaiser**, *Science*, Sep. 10, 1999, p. 1635.

Webworthy
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the regular contributors and consultants are available on the site. An excellent lay-oriented Web tool to answer numerous consumer health questions! <http://www.drkoop.com/hcr/drugstore/interactions/>

Energy — Learning about energy was never this much fun! Check out **Percy's Puzzles** or ask **Dr. Questor** at **EnergyQuest**, a wonderful educational site from the **California Energy Commission**. Click on "Oops!" to find you can get a prize if you find a mistake on their site; read "Devoured by the Dark," an online mystery which begins with the line: "It slithered slowly across the cornfields, sucking up everything in its path[!]" Learn about fossil fuels, energy safety, and nuclear energy. Try the science projects, or enter the Art Contest. Extremely useful for K-12 classes. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/education/>

Genetics — The hook is the free access until January 31, 2000, but this electronic journal on genes and function called **Physiological Genomics** debuted by the **American Physiological Society** will undoubtedly generate lots of interest. The site features large data sets and dynamic formats not possible in print, although a paper version will be used for archiving purposes. The site links to the most recent papers, is searchable by authors and keywords, and offers electronic submission of manuscripts. <http://physiolgenomics.physiology.org/>

Medicine — **Current Medline Scanner** is a free service maintained on the bioinformatics computer at **The Weizmann Institute** in Israel. Users can register and enter up to 20 specific search queries which will be run automatically and results e-mailed each week. Once logged in, the system displays a personalized page with forms to enter search terms, and the option to save it for regular notification of new articles. The searches are run through **PubMed**, which provides the **Medline** citation and abstract, with options to order the article through **Loansome Doc** (a

fee-based document delivery service). <http://bioinformatics.weizmann.ac.il/cms>

Microscopy — Did you know that silicon chip designers leave "doodles" on the microscopic products? Now you can view a gallery of such images at the **Molecular Expressions Photo Gallery**. An impressive array of full color photomicrographs arranged in a huge Gallery under categories like Pesticides, Vitamins, Amino Acids, and Birthstones. Some of the images are breathtaking! Careful though ... the site is copyrighted, and use of any of the "art" requires permission! <http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/micro/gallery.html>

Mummies — Unwrapping a mummy isn't what it used to be, but now anyone can do it! **The Virtual Mummy: Unwrapping a Mummy by Mouse Click** site offers amateur Egyptologists and archaeologists the ability to see what's under those mysterious wrappings through the same technology that constructed the **Visible Human**—imaging of a body slice by slice and reconstructing the whole through computer modeling. Here users can view Quicktime movies (some required Quicktime VR, but the link for downloading is offered here) of the mummies head "unwrapping", and read the description of the virtual creation process. <http://www.uke.uni-hamburg.de/institute/imdm/idv/forschung/mumie/index.en.html>

Reptiles — Old-fashioned taxonomy is a much-neglected study, according to **Peter Uetz**, who has mounted an impressive array of over 1,000 photos with complete taxonomic information including synonyms and distribution of nearly all of the 7,900 living species in the Reptilia class. The system doesn't appear to retrieve information using common names of species unless that word is part of one of its synonyms. Once you find the taxonomy of a particular species, clicking the "link" box will give you a choice of a dozen or so other databanks to link to and retrieve more specific information. The main page also includes links to species statistics, bibliographic references, a bookstore of herpetological titles in coop-

eration with **Amazon.com**, related pages, and a page advising that reptiles are NOT advisable as pets. **Kudos!** <http://www.embl-heidelberg.de/~utz/LivingReptiles.html>

Weather — The **National Hurricane Center Tropical Prediction Center** would be your first stop if you lived in Charleston, SC last week! The site offers the latest forecasts, historical predictions and actual strikes in the U.S., satellite imagery and basic information about hurricanes and cyclones. It even gives information on the naming system. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Women — Women are, and always have been, scientists. Now you can read about over 125 women who lived prior to 1900 and were brilliant researchers in their own right. The site offers links to the thousands of women who have contributed (and are still contributing) in the 20th century, as well as a "did you know" section (did you know that the automatic dishwasher was invented by **Josephine Garis Cochrane?**). There's also a neat interactive quiz and a crossword puzzle. <http://www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS/4000WS.html>

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