Director's Matters

By H. Frederick Dylla, Executive Director & CEO

Please read my paper

There is no shortage of reading material in the research community. Scholars are now publishing nearly two million journal articles a year in over 28,000 different scholarly journals in the English language.\(^1\) This is the result of a well-established trend. The number of journal titles has grown roughly 3% a year since the first scholarly journals appeared over three and a half centuries ago. In 1665, The British Royal Society began to publish *Philosophical Transactions*, the same year that the Académie Royale commenced publication of *Journal des sçavans*. As pointed out in analysis by Michael Mabe,\(^2\) this growth in journals simply scales with the number of researchers. There is no way for an individual to deal with the volume of content, even a subset restricted to a field of the literature that matches the researcher’s interest.\(^3\) Regardless, access to the scholarly literature has become a high-profile issue in the community. Because much of the literature is supported by subscription access, the more acute problem is discovery of the most important articles — and its associated data — by the inquisitive researcher. How can one identify the absolute essential research articles pertinent to any particular research endeavor?

To solve this problem, we will not rely on an army of research assistants, because even the low-cost, extended workday of graduate students can’t make a dent in this problem. Clearly, the dominant reader of the future will be a machine rather than a person. Adapting the scholarly literature to be efficiently and accurately machine-readable and developing machine-reading tools with user-friendly interfaces are frontier development projects in the publishing and information technology communities. This enterprise has a catchy name — text and data mining, or TDM for short — and there is considerable discussion of its prospects and potential benefits in the publishing community and among its customers and policy makers.

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\(^1\) Ware, Mark and Mabe, Michael. *The STM report: An overview of scientific and scholarly journal publishing*, 2012.

COMPETEing yet again

The America COMPETES Act, a bill enacted in 2007 and reauthorized in 2010, is again up for reauthorization. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, interested in working with the science policy community, released a draft version of the bill and requested feedback from scientific societies, universities, and corporations. AIP convened with AAPT, AAS, APS, and OSA to discuss the implications this legislation would have on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. These societies have formed the Physical Sciences Education Policy Coalition, a group aimed at advocating for physics education within the broad STEM landscape and helping to shape legislation on Capitol Hill, including the COMPETES Act. STEM teacher training and professional development are among many issues of interest to the coalition.

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PBS LearningMedia begins to showcase Inside Science videos

PBS LearningMedia is a nationwide PBS website that offers free online resources for its currently 1.4 million registered users, including teachers and students. Recently, PBS LearningMedia contacted Inside Science, AIP’s editorially independent science news program for the general public. They asked if they could be added to the PBS LearningMedia site. Inside Science has provided an initial batch of Inside Science TV videos for the site, which teachers may use in their classrooms.

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Coming Up

September 28-October 3

- AIP ICTP Industrial Physics Forum (Sao Paulo, Brazil)

September 30

- AIP Executive Committee meeting (College Park)

October 1

- Career Network webinar: “Network Yourself to a Great Career!”

October 2
- ACP Blood Drive
  October 5-9
  - SOR 86th Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)

October 6
- “Anticipating Nobel” Development event (Bethesda, MD)

October 6-8
- Nobel Prize announcements for Physiology or Medicine (10/6), Physics (10/7), and Chemistry (10/8)

October 7
- Staff training: Email in the workplace (College Park)

October 8
- Birthday socials (Melville and College Park)

October 8-12
- Frankfurt Book Fair (Frankfurt, Germany)

October 14
- Staff training: Proofreading skills and strategies (College Park)
- ACP Art Reception (College Park)

October 15
- ACP Flu Shot Clinic

October 16
- AIP Annual Milestone Presentations

October 19-20
- AIP Publishing 2014 Journal Editors’ Fall Conference (Melville)

October 19-23
- OSA 98th Annual Meeting and Exhibition (FiO) (Tucson, AZ)