

SPARC NOTES

by Alison Buckholtz, SPARC Communications Manager

Mark Your Calendar

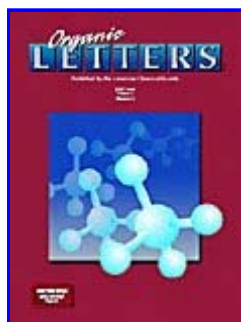
SPARC's first membership meeting, "Opportunities for Scholarly Communications: Crafting New Models," will take place on October 14 and 15, 1999 in Washington, D.C. (immediately following ARL's Membership Meeting). It will be a hands-on event focused on brainstorming and problem solving. Details will be available soon.

Scientific Communities Initiative

SPARC has announced the availability of grants to stimulate and accelerate creation of new university-based "scientific information communities" addressing users in key segments of science, technology, or medicine (what has been called the discipline-based server model). Full information and application materials will be available on the SPARC web page <http://www.arl.org/sparc/>.

Free Access to *PhysChemComm*

The Royal Society of Chemistry announced it will offer free access in 1999 to its new SPARC Alternative journal, *PhysChemComm*, for any full price subscriber to its flagship journal, *Chemical Communications* (*ChemComm*). If your library is eligible, log in your IP address on the RSC website <http://www.rsc.org/is/journals/current/ipreg.htm>.



Organic Letters Launches

Organic Letters, a SPARC Alternative journal from the American Chemical Society, launches in July 1999. The journal's web edition will be free for the first three months, and the print edition will be free for individual subscribers for the first six months. For more information, see <http://www.pubs.acs.org/journals/orlef7/index.html>.

Praise!

A recent letter from Michael Rosenzweig, founder of SPARC partner *Evolutionary Ecology Research* (*EER*), reports: "Without a doubt, *Evolutionary Ecology Research* would have failed without the help of SPARC.... [L]arge research libraries being the necessarily slow moving organizations that they are, I still believe that the subscriptions we have gotten so far are merely the beginning. Subscriptions are still coming in. It is far too early to assess the totals." Keep those orders coming. More information is on the Web <http://www.evolutionary-ecology.com/>.

SPARC & Health Sciences

SPARC gained support in the health sciences community with the announcement that the Medical

Library Association (MLA) and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) have become SPARC affiliates. Budgets of health science libraries have been hit particularly hard by escalating scientific journal prices. According to EBSCO figures, the average price for an *Index Medicus* title jumped more than 50 percent between 1994 and 1998.

International Support Growing

The University of Manchester's John Rylands University Library (UK) has become SPARC's first non-North American member. It is the third largest academic library in Britain, formed in 1972 by the merger of Manchester University Library and the internationally renowned John Rylands Library.

SPARC already has affiliations with several library organizations beyond North America: the Conference of Directors of Research Libraries (Denmark), the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL), and the Standing Conference of National & University Libraries (SCONUL, UK and Ireland).

Overall SPARC membership now stands at over 160 members and seven affiliate organizations. Welcome to the following new SPARC members: Boston College (founding member), University of Missouri-Kansas City (supporting member), Northeastern University, and South Dakota State University.

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