

SPARC Notes

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1999 SPARC Membership Meeting

SPARC's first membership meeting, held October 14–15 in Washington, D.C., attracted over 220 SPARC members, affiliates, and guests from North America, the U.K., Europe, Asia, and Australia. The meeting launched with a publisher-librarian forum that allowed attendees to discuss policy, trends, and the needs of libraries with SPARC partners. The forum led into an afternoon-long advocacy training session that demonstrated to members how to communicate SPARC's message on campus. The second day began with three concurrent panel sessions exploring scholarly communications issues and concluded with a keynote speech from Jonathan Bagger, professor of physics at Johns Hopkins University. For a complete summary of the meeting, please go to <http://www.arl.org/sparc/summary.html>.

BioOne

The BioOne website is now up and running at <http://www.BioOne.org/>. The website will be updated continually to reflect society titles to be included in the BioOne package of offerings. BioOne has been incorporated into SPARC's Scientific Communities program, which supports development of nonprofit portals that serve the needs of a scientific community by aggregating peer-reviewed research and other needed content.

New at SPARC

New Partners

SPARC has created new partnerships with its endorsement of the *New Journal of Physics* and the *Internet Journal of Chemistry*. The two journals are now part of SPARC's Leading Edge program, which supports community-based electronic ventures in science publishing. Leading Edge projects use technology and innovative business models to provide scientists with better ways to disseminate their research. (For complete information on all SPARC partner journals and your institution's purchase commitment, please go to <http://www.arl.org/sparc/commitment.html>.)

New Journal of Physics <http://www.njp.org/> is a peer-reviewed, all-electronic journal available at no charge to readers via the Internet. It publishes articles of outstanding scientific quality in all areas of physics. *New Journal of Physics* is produced by the Institute of Physics (IOP), based in London, and the Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft (DPG), or Germany Physical Society, based in Bad Honnef, Germany. Both are learned, not-for-profit societies that operate as professional organizations serving physicists. Associate members of *New Journal of Physics* include the Australian, Dutch, and Polish Physical Societies.

The *Internet Journal of Chemistry* <http://www.ijc.com/>, created by an independent group of chemists in the U.S., U.K., and Germany, uses the Internet to offer information in greater depth than paper journals and in ways that can be better understood by chemists. Authors will retain copyright to articles that appear in *Internet Journal of Chemistry*, and the journal will license limited rights to these articles.

Currently available free of charge, *Internet Journal of Chemistry* subscriptions will be offered in 2000 at \$48 for individuals, \$289 for educational and government institutions, and \$489 for corporate sites. SPARC members can order *Internet Journal of Chemistry* with funds earmarked for their SPARC Purchase Commitment. Orders may be placed with the publisher, InfoTrust Ltd. (subscribe@ijc.com) or through the library's serials vendor. Both *Internet Journal of Chemistry* and *New Journal of Physics* have made commitments to explore with libraries means for collaborative approaches to archiving their e-journals. Both journals are stored in SGML format to allow efficient refreshing of data.

2000–2002 SPARC Steering Committee

Voting for the SPARC steering committee has been completed. The 2000–2002 SPARC steering committee consists of: Karyle Butcher (Oregon State University), Ray English (Oberlin College), Ken Frazier (University of Wisconsin–Madison), Fred Heath (Texas A&M University), Sarah Michalak (University of Utah), James Neal (Johns Hopkins University), and Carla Stoffle (University of Arizona). Ernie Ingles (University of Alberta) will serve as the liaison to Canada. Ken Frazier will continue to serve as steering committee chairman.

Scientific Communities Initiative Grants

SPARC announced at the membership meeting the winners of its Scientific Communities Initiative grants, awarded to spur digital science publishing ventures based in academe. Columbia University Press's Columbia Earthscape, the California Digital Library's eScholarship, and MIT's CogNet will each receive substantial support from the Scientific Communities Initiative.

The Initiative's goal is to stimulate and accelerate the creation of new nonprofit information communities for users in key fields of science, technology, or medicine. The awardees were chosen on the basis of an independent peer review; compatibility with SPARC values; feasibility of the business model and plan; and likelihood of becoming financially self-sustaining. The three selected projects will receive a total of \$519,000 in start-up development funding. Grant awards begin immediately and are implemented over a three-year period. For further information, please see <http://www.arl.org/sparc/grants.html>.

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