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Chemistry Division Membership Column

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Chemistry Division Membership Column

Submitted by Dana L. Roth, Chemistry Division Membership Committee,
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Meghan Lafferty is this year's winner of the BEST PUBLICATION AWARD from ASEE's Engineering Library Division. Her paper, "A Framework for Evaluating Science and Technology Electronic Reference Books: A Comparison of Five Platforms in Chemistry," was published in *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship* (Fall 2009, no. 59) [<http://www.istl.org/09-fall/refereed1.html>].

From Meghan's abstract: "This article examines what is desirable in online reference books in science and technology and outlines a framework for evaluating their interfaces. The framework considers factors unique to these subject areas like chemical structures and numerical data. Criteria in three categories, navigability, searchability, and results, were applied to five key chemistry e-resources [CHEMLIBnetBASE, CHEMnetBASE, Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia, Knovel & Merck Index]. Some e-book publishers are taking e-books farther and changing expectations for the rest. The framework offers

a guide for holding publishers accountable for developing e-reference books that meet users' needs."

From the award announcement: it is an "excellent review with great process, timely and useful for developers and librarians." Hearty congratulations to Meghan!

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL) is a treasure trove of information related to chemistry.

Other recent articles include:

"Open Access Citation Advantage: An Annotated Bibliography" by A. Ben Wagner, University at Buffalo (*ISTL* Winter 2010, no. 60) [<http://www.istl.org/10-winter/article2.html>].

If you would like to be included in the next DCHE Membership Column, please email Dana Roth (dzrlib@library.caltech.edu). ❖