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Beyond the Chemistry Web

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Beyond the Chemistry Web...

Bob Buchanan, Chemistry Librarian, Auburn University



Thanks to Midge Coates for suggesting websites. Feel free to send recommendations to me at buchara@auburn.edu.

At the end of each year the journal *Environmental Microbiology* selectively publishes comments from reviewers. Comments are chosen for their humor value. An example from **Referees' quotes – 2010** reads: "This paper is desperate. Please reject it completely and then block the author's email ID so they can't use the online system in the future." Access requires a subscription to *Environmental Microbiology*.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1462-2920.2010.02394.x/full>

Visual aids can be effective ice breakers in instruction sessions. Here are a few that deal with the scientific method. David Ng, who runs a science literacy lab at the University of British Columbia, offers two perspectives – **The Scientific Method with Aliens Slide** (pedagogically humorous) and **The Scientific Method Slide** which offers a profound restatement of the scientific method:

"1. See something. 2. Think of a reason why. 3. Figure out a way to check your reason. 4. And? 5. Now, everyone gets to dump on you. 6. Repeat until consensus formed."

Jorge Cham's long running (since 1997) comic strip *Piled Higher and Deeper* on graduate student life offers a traditional and a cynically humorous view of the **Scientific Method**.

<http://www.scq.ubc.ca/dnghub/?p=84>

<http://www.scq.ubc.ca/dnghub/?p=150>

<http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comid=761>

The Order of the Science Scouts of Exemplary Repute and Above Average Physique, or O.O.T.S.S.O.E.R.A.A.A.P. for short, was previously

reviewed, but so many new Science Scout badges have been added by David Ng and colleagues that it is worth another visit.

<http://www.scq.ubc.ca/sciencescouts>

Poster Presentations – Designing Effective Posters provides a summary of print and online resources on how best to present scientific and technical information in the poster format. Fred Stoss, site author and SUNY Buffalo Biology Librarian, has a long-held passion for helping students and scientists create good posters. The site quotes Mary Helen Briscoe from her book *Preparing Scientific Illustrations*: "It takes intelligence, even brilliance, to condense and focus information into a clear, simple presentation that will be read and remembered. Ignorance and arrogance are shown in a crowded, complicated, hard-to-read poster."

<http://library.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/guides/bio/posters.html>

It is hard to imagine a better blog for students and teachers of organic chemistry than **Master Organic Chemistry**. Written by "James," a Ph.D. organic chemist who is also an online tutor, this blog seeks the most effective methods for learning and teaching organic chemistry. This blog is remarkable for its willingness to take chances (e.g., using cats to illustrate stereochemistry, which is not always successful) and its honesty about learning organic chemistry (e.g., the manifesto). This active blog includes an index which makes it easy to find specific topics.

<http://masterorganicchemistry.com>

<http://masterorganicchemistry.com/2010/12/24/on-cats-part-8-moe-the-meso-cat>

<http://masterorganicchemistry.com/manifesto>

