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Beyond the Chemistry Web

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Beyond the Chemistry Web

Bob Buchanan, Chemistry Librarian, Auburn University



Published three times per week **xkcd** is a “webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language.” Topics vary, but the most common are mathematics, programming, computer science, and romance (usually of a geeky sort). You probably have seen one Randall Munroe’s stick figure cartoons before – they are that popular. Warning: Some content is best suited for adults. <http://xkcd.com>

Ask a Manager is a refreshing, no-nonsense blog about managing, hiring and firing. If you want to better understand your boss, or be a better boss yourself, then take a look. The blog is keyword searchable and organized into sensible categories. Most of the content is responses to reader questions but there are also links to brief articles in the Money section of *U.S. News & World Report* (which are also written by Ask a Manager author Alison Green). <http://www.askamanager.org/>

The **Scholarly Kitchen** is an active, multi-author blog on scholarly publishing and communication. Sponsored by the Society for Scholarly Publishing, this blog reports and analyzes research in scholarly publishing. Recent blog entries include “Open Access Embargoes – How Long Is Long Enough?,” “Is PubMed Central Complementing or Competing with Journal Publishers?,” “Publishers! What are they good for?,” and “The open access price wars have begun”. <http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/>

Confessions of a Science Librarian by John Dupuis, head of the Science & Engineering Library at York University, is an active blog that should be of interest to science librarians, especially those in academia. Of special note is Around the Web which is a collection of roughly fifteen links compiled every couple of days on a wide range of topics of interest to science librarians. There are also original blog entries, including Friday Fun with its offbeat topics such as six superheroes who got their powers from being lousy scientists. <http://scienceblogs.com/confessions/>

Part of what makes **ChemBark** different from other blogs about chemistry and chemical research is that it is written by a student in the mainstream of academia. Paul Bracher started this blog in 2005 while earning a Ph.D. with George Whitesides (Harvard) and continued it as a post doc with Harry Gray (Cal Tech). ChemBank has received praise from *Chemical & Engineering News*, *Nature*, and *Nature Chemistry*. Recent entries have discussed the ACS journal cancellation at SUNY-Potsdam, the horrific fatal t-butyl lithium fire at UCLA, teaching evaluations, and questions to ask ACS President-elect candidates. <http://blog.chembark.com/>

In **Expanding Sci-tech librarianship beyond the core duties**, Bill Jacobs and the Sci-Tech Public Relations committee have put together a list of non-standard or unusual duties of science librarians along with a rationale for their value and why a science librarian is the right person for the job. <http://scitech.sla.org/beyond-the-core-duties/>

Down for everyone? lets you know if a site is currently down or if the problem is with your local network. <http://www.downforeveryone.com/>

The Physics of Spilled Coffee won the 2012 IgNobel prize for Fluid Dynamics. Not surprisingly, the physics of walking with a cup of coffee is more complicated than one might expect (bottom line: don’t overfill and avoid acceleration). <http://scim.ag/spilledcoffee> ❖