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January 2012

## From the Editor

Susan Fingerman

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### Recommended Citation

Fingerman, Susan (2012) "From the Editor," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 62: Iss. 1, Article 2.  
Available at: <https://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol62/iss1/2>

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## From the Editor

## Susan Fingerman



2008 is getting off to a rocky start as far as the economy and world scene is concerned. However, judging from the dynamic Leadership Summit that I just attended in Louisville (Jan 23-25), SLA is vibrant with new ideas, new members, and new leadership. Be sure to look at the full Board listings in the back of this issue to "meet" your new leaders and recognize those who are continuing in previous or new positions.

Many of our Chairs' messages contain exciting information about the Annual Conference in June. While their information has whet my appetite, I do find it frustrating to make travel plans so early. The closest and cheapest conference hotels can fill up quickly, but the SLA official conference site has little program details until February. For more specifics take a look at the Division sites and the messages in this bulletin. By the time you receive this issue there should be a lot more on the SLA conference planner. Also see our links to the local chapter Seattle wiki and others.

Remember that there are still many opportunities for you to participate beyond simple attendance. See the Division and Section calls for papers, posters, and awards announcements. Some of the deadlines may have passed, however, many were announced in our November issue and to the email lists, so we hope that you've had a chance to apply or nominate someone. Please check with the sponsor contacts to see if there are any deadline extensions.

The Sci-Tech Division plans to start a regular Member News column, and even more particularly a member publications listing. Please respond to the call in this issue from Susan Shepherd.

I'm very pleased to welcome Lisa Johnston as our new Web Reviews columnist. She's off to a great start with sites on a hot topic, blogging. On the same topic, we have Assistant Editor Christina Pikas' report on a Science Bloggers conference

she attended in January.

I am also extremely pleased to welcome our new advertisers, Smithers Rapra and SciTech Publishing. Many thanks also to our returning supporters: American Chemical Society, Chemical Abstracts (STN), Global Language Translations and Consulting, IET, Nature Publishing Group, Paterra, Powells Technical Books, and We Buy Books.

### Industry Thoughts

Journal impact factors have far-reaching effects not only on our academic colleagues but on the reputations of commercial organizations as well. The latest explosion of journal citation-related postings, studies and ravings indicates to me that this metric may be on the way out. Or, perhaps Eugene Garfield's initial innovation and caveats regarding that innovation will hold sway. Either way, I believe it's a healthy discussion.

Another "hot" topic in the citation arena relating to all disciplines, is the author disambiguation problem. Researchers have been grappling for decades to discover "who really is who," and it's getting even more intense with the increasing numbers of Asian authors entering the databases. It's gratifying to see giants like Elsevier and Thomson and innovative publishers like APS working to solve the problem, perhaps once and for all. The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) is also working on this problem related to the accurate identification of institutions. I know we certainly have some problems here being identified correctly as the Johns Hopkins University APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY. Including some self-identification inconsistencies. This is one reason why I believe that the problem may often begin at the source. I'd love to hear from you about this issue.❖

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We want to be sure all our readers have the opportunity to voice their opinion. If you cannot receive online information, please contact Susan Fingerman at 443-778-4301 to receive a print version of the survey. Please take the very few minutes to complete and return the survey. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Fingerman. Thank you.