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librarians should engage the most important issues in their professional practice and it's mostly propelled by bloggers and not by reams of articles in the official scholarly journals. By my quick count, 151/187, or about 80% of the items in the bibliography are blog posts. And he makes us sound pretty good too. And I'm not just saying that because my blog appears three times in the bibliography.

For the most part, Crawford showcases the best writing and the best thinking out there among the liblogs (except for Chapter 8, mentioned above, but even that showcases some real passion too); we are committed and engaged and thinking about the issues. If you are a liblogger and your colleagues are a bit skeptical about the worth of what you are doing, show them this book. What we do, if we do it well, is worthy for our tenure files, for our professional CV's. Our work on our blogs should be counted the same as any one else's contributions in traditional media based on its intrinsic quality not its format or place of publication. Thanks to Crawford, we have an example of what we are capable of presented in a somewhat more traditional format and written by someone whose contributions to the field cannot be easily dismissed. We appreciate the support.

But enough of me. Go buy the book. One for yourself and one for your library's collection.❖

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2007 Annual Conference Session Reports

Science of Beer

Monday, June 4, 2007
Presented by: Science-Technology, Chemistry and Food, Agriculture & Nutriion Divisions
Sponsored by: ACS Publications, Annual Reviews, CAS, Elsevier, Royal Society of Chemistry
Speaker: Dr. Charles Bamforth, University of California, Davis
Moderator: James Manaasco, University of Louisville
Reported by: Michael White, Librarian for Research Services, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Many people celebrate the end of a long day at work by relaxing with a cold beer at their local pub. But for professor Charlie Bamforth, going to the pub for a pint isn't just idle recreation or an escape from work, it's serious business. Dr. Bamforth has spent more than thirty years studying the amber-colored liquid that is the world's most popular beverage. In fact, he is one of the world's leading authorities on the art and science of brewing. Approximately 100 SLA attendees were fortunate to hear Dr. Bamworth's entertaining and informative lecture on the art, science and history of beer.

Sporting glasses, a bald pate, round nose, plump cheeks and modest beer belly, Dr. Bamforth looks like the typical male beer drinker. His knowledge of beer, however, is encyclopedic. He brings to the subject the curiosity and insight of a scientist and the creativity and wit of an artist. Bamforth is the Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor of Brewing Science and Chair of the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of California, Davis, where he has worked since 1999. He started in the brewing industry in 1978 and worked for UK-based Bass Brewers and Brewing Research International, an independent research organization. His published work includes seven books and more than 100 articles. He also holds a US patent (4,880,643) on a process that improves the head on a glass of beer. He has given hundreds of presentations to groups and organizations, including the New York Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Bamforth's lecture started with a basic overview of the four ingredients of beer: water, barley, yeast and hops. Beer, in fact, is 90 percent water and was widely consumed in the days before the reliable availability of clean drinking water. (Alcohol kills pathogens.) He then reviewed the brewing process and various styles of beer ranging from lagers, ales and pilsners to porters and stouts.

The most interesting part of his lecture was the discussion of chemical compounds that impart both desirable and undesirable qualities to beer. For example, vicinal diketones such as diacetyl and pentanedione impart butterscotch and honey flavors to beer. Sulfur compounds, on the other hand, are linked to the odor of rotten eggs, overripe cabbage and skunk, giving rise to the term "skunky beer." The oils and resins found in hops, the spice of beer, impart bitterness to some styles of beer that is much favored by "hopheads" and others who enjoy ales with a kick.

On the current practice of placing a slice of lemon or lime in beer, Dr. Bamforth was adamant: "you do not put foreign bodies in beer." He

also advised all men in the audience to keep a clean-shaven face lest their beards introduce contaminants into their beer. What about the alleged negative health affects of beer and its link to obesity? "Nonsense," declared Dr. Bamforth patting his own stomach, "this is a sausage belly." Moderate (2 drinks per day) beer consumption has been proven safe and even effective at preventing some diseases such as arterial sclerosis. Dr. Bamforth also pointed out that even the pilgrims drank beer. They landed in Massachusetts, hundreds of miles from their intended destination, because their supply of beer was running low. Dr. Bamworth's most recent books include:

- Essays in Brewing Science (Springer, 2006) with Michael J. Lewis.
- Beer: health and nutrition (Blackwell, 2004)
- Beer: Tap Into the Art and Science of Brewing, 2nd ed., (Oxford, 2003)

How Hybrid Vehicles Will Move You

Monday, June 4, 2007
Presented by: Transportation, Chemistry and Engineering Divisions and Materials Research and Manufacturing Section
Sponsored by: Paterra, Inc.,Thomson Scientific, and Dialog.
Moderator: Matt Barrett,
Reported by: Betsy Aldridge, PACCAR

Attended by about 50 librarians, this session featured three panelists : Jeff Gonder representing the U.S. National Energy Research Laboratory's Advanced Vehicle Systems Group, Lee Kemp of the Denver Rapid Transit District's Hybrid Vehicle Program, and Richard Parish of WestStart.

Some websites for the organizations are:
http://www.nrel.gov/vehiclesandfuels/ctts.html
http://www.nrel.gov/vehiclesandfuels/researchers.html
http://www.rtd-denver.com/
http://www.rtd-denver.com/Programs/Environment/index.html
http://www.weststart.org/

The panel provided recent developments in hybrid vehicle propulsion systems for heavy and light duty vehicles (freight trains, trucks, buses, cars, and possibly maritime and aviation applications) and discussed the technology's adoption by industry and consumers, as well as the future of hybrid vehicles.

The widening gap between oil production and consumption over time on a chart presented by Jeff Gonder was staggering. New discovery is decreasing rapidly, as well. Two barrels are consumed for every one discovered (Campbell, 2005). He compared lead acid, nickel metal, lithium, plug-in, and fuel cell technologies. There's progress being made, but still a long way to go. Although hybrid electric vehicles saved 5.5 million barrels of oil in 1999, that's less than we now import in one day alone. Some of Jeff's favorites sources include: fueleconomy.gov, eia.doe.gov, howstuffworks.com.

Lee Kemp reported that in a comparison between 4 diesel and 4 hybrid vehicles in Denver, the hybrids demonstrated 15% lower maintenance costs and 30% better fuel mileage. Based on those findings, Denver Rapid Transit is planning to purchase 45 more hybrids! He indicated that it's the energy storage system that needs more research. They look at lifecycle costs. It currently costs $20,000 per bus to replace the energy storage.They're evaluating fuel cells and finding regenerative braking interesting for stop and go driving.

Richard Parrish reported that it's WestStart's goal to reduce petrol use 15% by 2020. The issues spurring change are rising fuel costs, major engine changes (2007-2010 requirements), increased electric power, and idling management. The Hybrid Truck Users Forum (HTUF) and its working groups hope to facilitate development of the market for hybrid trucks. Partnerships are going to be the key to success. A recent trial with 24 hybrid vehicles found excellent user acceptance with a 9-55% improvement in fuel economy. Hydraulic hybrid shows promise. Parrish would like to see the IRS provide incentives/tax credits. Biodiesel mixes have shown a break even point after year 9.

The program ended with a vigorous Q & A exchange.

IHS Standards Facility - Field Trip

Wednesday, June 6, 2007
Presented by: Engineering and Chemistry Divisions, Materials Research and Manufacturing Section
Sponsored by: IHS
Reported by: Betsy Aldridge, PACCAR

The bus was almost filled with about 50 participants who ventured out of downtown Denver to the IHS Standards Facilities in a

nearby suburb. It was a lovely day and felt good to get out of the city and see the area from the comfortable bus. IHS is a major supplier of engineering standards to many of our SLA member libraries.

Thomas Littman, Senior Vice President, Technical Publishing, and a member of the Engineering Management Team (see http://www.ihs.com/About-IHS/engineering-management.htm) welcomed and presented us with an overview of IHS services and the plan for the tour. He honored Sara Davis, Engineering Librarian of the Year, who had joined the tour.

I was surprised to learn that IHS started their business with vendor catalog information, then added the standards arm. They now have over 2500 employees worldwide. They do have a small library.

We were split into several groups for the tours. We saw the Network Operations Center, Production, Product Development, Training and Marketing, Customer Support, and other departments. I enjoyed meeting the Customer Service staff.

We saw their exhibit of past technologies (like the VSMF data files) and old brochures (sort of an archive).

They have flags for all the countries they serve flying proudly in the production area.

I was pleased to see banners like" We're Not Pleased Until Our Customer Is Pleased", "Excellence is our Standard" and "Committed to Quality in Every Way". It reminded me of the Japanese manufacturing Kaizen approach (continuous improvement) so prevalent in manufacturing. They do use quality circles and Six Sigma techniques.

Many thanks to IHS who was the sponsor and host for this enlightening event. And bravo to the Engineering and Chemistry Divisions (with Materials Reseach and Manufacturing Section) who planned this event. Let's do more like it in the future!❖