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Beyond the Chemistry Web

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Beyond the Chemistry Web

Bob Buchanan, Chemistry Librarian, Auburn University



In **Letters to a Young Librarian** Jessica Olin, a veteran librarian of nine years, gives advice to library school students and recent graduates. One of her goals is to address practical topics that are not taught in library school. Although aimed at students, this blog deserves a wider audience, if for no other reason than to see if it matches your perspective on the profession. Guest writers also contribute content which makes this good blog an even better one.

<http://letterstoayounglibrarian.blogspot.com/>

Hiring Librarians is a new blog that provides a forum for those who make hiring decisions in libraries to explain the reasoning behind their decisions. It covers all types of libraries and library operations with unusual frankness. Most of the blog entries are one person's responses to a set of standard questions. Other entries are the responses by blog regulars to a single question such as "Would you hire someone with an MLS for a paraprofessional position?" Take a look soon – this blog may not live long as its anonymous author is currently looking for a library position.

<http://hiringlibrarians.com/>

Google Scholar has made a few changes recently. It is much easier to limit by date (last year, two years, five years, and custom range) while still sorting results by relevancy. A new link called "recent additions" sorts items recently added in reverse chronological order. The default for "recent additions" is to search only article abstracts. This appears to give fewer results than expected – look for the "full text" tab to search everything. Neither option quite duplicates a reverse chronological sort, but Google Scholar is getting closer. The advanced search is still available but it is hidden in the triangle on the right edge of the search box. The Metrics link in the upper left lists the top journals as measured by yet another publication evaluation index – the h5-index (limited to the past 5 years). Currently, only the top 100 journals are listed which greatly lessens its potential value.

<http://scholar.google.com/>

Jeffery Beall maintains the blog **Scholarly Open Access: Critical analysis of open-access publishing**. This site also provides a list of "questionable, scholarly open-access publishers".

<http://scholarlyoa.com>

Looking for OA promotion material? William Jacobs and Chris Erdman have created a brief **OA Guide** to help faculty evaluate their publication options. The guide includes a link to a downloadable Creative Commons version for Microsoft Word.

<http://scitech.sla.org/pr-committee/oaguide/>

The **ACRL Scholarly Communication Toolkit** provides extensive educational material for librarians to "support advocacy efforts designed to transform the scholarly communication landscape." Use the tabs at the top of the page to access handouts, presentations, publications, websites, and videos on several topics: author's rights; digital repositories; journal economics; and what you can do. The materials in the toolkit can be used under a Creative Commons attribution/no-commercial-use/share-alike license.

<http://www.scholcomm.acrl.ala.org/>

Open Access Publishing Issues is an up-to-date web page created by the Department of Chemistry at University of Oxford. It is the sort of useful, lightly annotated page that used to be common in academia before branding took over. In addition to background links on open access publishing and scholarly communication issues this site includes sections on publisher initiatives and policies, chemistry open access journals, and initiatives undertaken in the UK, other countries, and internationally.

<http://www.chem.ox.ac.uk/cheminfo/openaccess.html>

The **Directory of Open Access Journals** is a good place to identify open access scientific and scholarly journals in a variety of disciplines.

<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=home&uiLanguage=en>

One-fifth of American adults have read an e-book in the past year. Who is reading e-books? What are they reading? How often do they read?

The Rise of E-Reading presents the results of polling research from the Pew Internet & American Life Project. Although the effect of e-books on libraries and the expectations they create were not examined, this 68-page report written in 2012 should interest all librarians. Some of the results may be surprising.

<http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2012/04/04/the-rise-of-e-reading/> ❖