

Some Editorial Problem-Solvers

Trying to crack an acronym? Obtain a definition of a specialized term? Locate workshops for yourself or your staff? Find an image for publication? The World Wide Web contains many sites that can aid science editors with such tasks. The following appear especially helpful.

AcronymFinder

www.acronymfinder.com

Trying to figure out what an acronym or other initialism stands for can frustrate editors. For instance, what is HTS? How about HPLC? This site can tell you in seconds that HTS stands for "high-throughput screening" and HPLC stands for "high-performance liquid chromatography". However, you'll often face a list of possible definitions. The most common definitions appear first; you may need to understand the context to decide which one is appropriate. If you know an abbreviation that isn't included in the database, you can submit a definition yourself.

BioLinks

www.biolinks.com

This resource was created by scientists for scientists. That helps make it a good resource for science editors as well. The information is fresh and straight from the source. You'll find sections on scientific associations, medical databases, and online journals. There's also a calendar of scientific meetings through 2002. This site is not without laughs: There's a witty section called "scientific humor", which contains cartoons portraying scientific life in the lightest manner. My favorites include "at the meeting" and "occupational hazard (I)".

BioTech Life Science Dictionary

biotech.icmb.utexas.edu/search/dict-search.html

This illustrated dictionary contains over 8300 terms, mostly in biochemistry, biotechnology, botany, cell biology, and genetics, but also in ecology, limnology, pharmacology, toxicology, and medicine. But be careful to limit your search; the general term "cell", for example, turns up 110 matches. In case you can't find what you need here, there are links to other useful sites. For example, if you're looking for a specific plant, you can try the US Plants National Database. Or if you're looking for

a specific chemical, try the ChemFinder. Also available from this site is the Chemical Acronyms Database, where you can type in a string of letters and find out what it stands for. The Life Science Dictionary is part of a larger site, BioTech, which is an educational and research tool based at the University of Texas.

Copy Editor

www.copieditor.com

Associated with the newsletter *Copy Editor*, this site contains job postings, links to editorial resources, and more. Of particular interest may be the section describing more than 100 workshops in copyediting, including those offered by the Council of Science Editors and the American Medical Writers Association. The descriptions include URLs, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses for obtaining an application or more information.

PhysLink

www.physlink.com

For those in physics and astronomy, this site may have been sent from heaven. But others also can find useful material. For the science editor, it will probably be in the reference section, where you'll find unit conversions, periodic tables, a glossary of physical terms, and much more. You'll also find links to journals, societies, and online forums. This site includes the silly as well as the serious: There's a section that lets you send someone an Einstein greeting card complete with a quote.

Science Visuals

www.eurekaalert.org/resources/visuals.html

If you need a good visual, give this site a try. It is chock full of links to Web sites of government, academic, and other research organizations that provide scientific images. Nearly every field of science is covered, from biology to the earth sciences. Browse the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's photo gallery for images of the solar system, flight vehicles, and space equipment. Or search the Center for Scientific Computing's photo gallery for stunning computer-generated images of polymers, proteins, and nucleic acids. Of course, if you wish to use these images, be sure to ask the copyright owners for permission.