

◆ *The New Generation of Style Manuals*

Moderator and speaker:

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Panelists:

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Editors and authors depend on style manuals for improving consistency; they also consider them vital resources on fluid topics, such as citation of electronic materials and scientific nomenclature. This well-attended session provided updates on four style manuals.

Scientific Style and Format, Seventh Edition: Peggy Robinson explained that this next generation of *Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers* has several aims: supporting a level of convergence in scientific style, simplifying formats for citations and references, streamlining style rules, and reducing keyboard work. It will focus on presentation style and format rather than glossaries and definitions. New or substantially revised chapters will cover the elements of a scientific publication, the basics of copyright, and publication policies;

taxonomy and nomenclature, chromosomes and genes, structure and function of organisms, and the earth (in the “Special Scientific Conventions” section); and citations and references (in the “Mechanics of Publishing” section). Although the print version is still in demand, interest in an online version with search capability and links to online resources is growing.

American Medical Association Manual of Style, 10th Edition: Cheryl Iverson noted that in addition to a thorough update, the 10th edition of the manual will feature much new information on electronic issues and concerns (such as citation style for online references, legal considerations in the online environment, manuscript submission and review online, and online resources) and will be prepared for both print and online publication. An accompanying workbook (also in print and online) will offer users the opportunity to test themselves, to link to sections of the manual where correct answers are, and to find “explanations” of correct answers.

The new edition, scheduled for publication in late 2004 or early 2005, will also contain new sections on nomenclature and a new chapter on indexing and searching. The sections on references, tables, and figures will become separate chapters and contain more examples.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Fifth Edition: Susan Knapp stated that the fifth edition of the manual was issued on 1 July 2001. The manual, which began in 1929 as a seven-page handout on the submission of manuscripts, has evolved to include chapters on writing and standard style. New items include an example of a cover letter, a conflict-of-interest form required for American Psychological Association

authors, and a section on copyright related to tests and measurements.

The online version (*APAStyle.org*) assists in keeping up with changes. The number of reference examples provided has expanded from 77 to 95—the number for electronic sources alone increasing from six to 25.

American Physiological Society Online Style Manual: According to Anna Trudgett, the 14 journals published by the American Physiological Society (APS) were among the first to use online submission and peer review. The new AiPS (articles in press) option allows electronic publication of unedited but peer-reviewed papers.

Unlike the other style manuals, this online manual was devised as a productivity and quality-control tool, intended for use mainly by editorial staff. No print version exists, because the content is evolving. Its organizational structure follows that of an accepted paper, and it allows search by topic and highlights recent style changes.

The online structure is cascading and “drill-down”, increasing in detail and specificity; it has the advantages of searchability, quick access to information, linking to a multitude of resources, and as-needed updating. Section 1 guides the user through all the components of a scientific paper, providing examples of APS style and format; Section 2 covers basic concepts of English grammar and scientific usage; Section 3 contains biomedical terminology and nomenclature; Section 4 links to the APS “Toolkit User’s Manual”; and Section 5 contains links useful for copyeditors. This online manual is an evolving, comprehensive compendium of information that has improved productivity and consistency of APS publications and shortened training time for copyeditors. 