

◆ Highlights of the 46th Annual Meeting

Interacting with the Digital Environment: Modern Scientific Publishing

Brenda Gregoline
2002-2003 Program Chair

The 46th annual meeting was attended by more than 350 people, including, to judge from the number of pink and white badges I saw at the Welcome Reception, a healthy contingent of first-time attendees and new members. That is particularly gratifying, as we all know that CSE runs on the enthusiasm of its member volunteers. I was pleased to meet the many new members and hoped that the Program Committee's hard work would result in a positive meeting experience for them.

I need not have worried—the high quality of all the presentations and the professionalism of the speakers combined to make Pittsburgh's meeting very informative and enjoyable. Stevan Harnad gave a controversial but well-argued keynote speech about self-archiving and open access. He gave us lots to think about and discuss for the rest of the meeting, and he participated in several other open sessions.

Tom Lang and Jessica Ancker gave a lively presentation about tables and graphs, with examples of common pitfalls in the graphical representation of data. This is always a popular topic owing to its relevance to our mission as communicators of science—we don't communicate with words and text alone! Similarly, Cassio Lynn, a medical illustrator with the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and Kathy Stern, graphic arts director at the *New England Journal of Medicine*, examined the role of editorial decisions in creating clear and accurate scientific images.

Another session I found enjoyable was titled "What Librarians Want and Need From Journals". Two speakers from



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Norman Grossblatt, Miriam Bloom, and Poly Potter at the welcome reception.

scientific libraries in Pittsburgh surveyed librarians' attitudes and opinions toward scholarly journals and examined their responses about access, price, archiving, aggregation, indexing, copyright, and other topics. Librarians are crucial decision-makers in scientific publishing, and the presenters showed us the interplay between creators of content and those who help make it accessible to readers and researchers.

Our two plenary speakers were Karen Schriver, who talked about how we can become experts in our fields by refining our sensitivity to language patterns, and Robert Weinberg, a leader in cancer research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who helped us understand the history and science of cloning, the differences between reproductive and therapeutic cloning, and how not only the procedures themselves but also their

possible applications have been misrepresented and distorted by the mass media. He raised a lot of interesting issues about the restrictions on federal money for stem-cell research and the implications of the performance of that research by biotechnology companies. I only wish that we had had more time for questions and discussions.

With 32 concurrent sessions, the main complaint I heard about the annual meeting was that there was "too much choice"! That is a very nice complaint to have. I hope that all meeting attendees had a chance to learn new things and meet new people.

(Editor's Note: Summaries of concurrent and other sessions appear in this and later issues of Science Editor.)