

2004 Annual Meeting to Highlight Access to Scientific Content

Christine A Arturo
Chair, Program Committee

Joy Moore
Vice-Chair, Program Committee

If you were anywhere near the Hilton Pittsburgh on 4-6 May of last year, you probably noted that the emerging hot topic in scientific publishing is access to content. Many of the sessions at the CSE 2003 annual meeting, regardless of the titles on the program, were peppered with lively discussions about how information should and could be made available to readers.

Since then, dozens of articles on “the access issue” have been published in top scientific journals and leading newspapers. Large research-funding organizations in different countries have committed to supporting the free dissemination of articles. According to the Directory of Open Access Journals Web site (www.doaj.org), 560 open-access journals exist, and recent additions to that list include the high-profile journal *PLoS Biology*. From laboratories to the boardrooms of major publishing houses, the industry is abuzz with debate and speculation about the movement to make content free.

Given the magnitude of the potential industry shift and the rapidity of developments, what’s an editor to do? Easy—come to the CSE 2004 annual meeting, 14-18 May at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. The theme is access to scientific content, and the sessions on the program are designed to inform, explore new concepts, and get right down to the nitty-gritty. We will hear from a broad array of experts about the economic issues, both in terms of individual journal models and



TOURISM VANCOUVER/AL HARVEY

Grouse Mountain Winter Evening

the potential overall effects on the many players in the publishing market. But it is not just about dollars and cents—different access models raise interesting issues with regard to rights and permissions, archiving, and the emergence of new kinds of electronic resources. The sessions will examine the theme from a variety of angles.

If you’re reading this and thinking, “That’s all very interesting, but I just want to learn how to do my job better”, never fear. You can rely on CSE as always to be your best source of information for dealing with all the issues that scientific editors encounter day to day. The Program Committee has put together sessions to offer practical insight on topics ranging from ethics to editing tools, for journals large and small, industry and academic. Sunday, 16 May, will open with a keynote address by Shirley M Malcom, head of the Directorate for Education and Human Resources Programs of the American Association for the Advancement of

Science and 2003 recipient of the Public Welfare Medal of the National Academy of Sciences for her work in education reform and access to scientific and technical education, careers, and literacy.

All this and a fantastic location to boot. Iain Taylor, our local arrangements chair, has put together some optional activities for experiencing Vancouver and its surroundings. In May, Vancouver should be awash in rhododendrons accenting the dramatic beauty of the area. In addition to neighborhood shopping and restaurant venues, cultural opportunities abound at the University of British Columbia’s Anthropology Museum and Botanical Gardens. Further trekking can take you north to Whistler Mountain or west to Vancouver Island for whale-watching.

Watch for additional information on the CSE Web site (www.CouncilScienceEditors.org). Mark your calendars and tell your colleagues. We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver.