

Year-End Treats, Thoughts, and Thanks

As 2006 approaches its close, my attention turns to year-end treats for our readers, possible future directions, and thanks to those who have contributed to and supported *Science Editor* during the year.

The current issue contains what I hope are a number of treats. In keeping with requests to publish more research, the issue includes a report on a study of journal-article titles. It also includes a lively account of the recent European Association of Science Editors conference. Among other highlights are a Word Hawk column on differences between British and American English, our second Peer-Renewed poetry column, and a batch of reports from the 2006 CSE annual meeting.

Treats in store for early 2007 include the remaining reports from the annual meeting, an essay by an avid young editor, guidance for working with

English-language authors who are nonnative speakers of English, and a profile of the editor who chooses and writes about the cover art for *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*. Also in the works are pieces related to the 50th anniversary of the Council.

With much fine material competing for our pages, I have been considering the best use of our space. Recently I wondered whether *Science Editor* should continue publishing an annual index in its November-December issue or have only an online index, as many periodicals do. (An openly accessible 10-year index to *Science Editor* and its forerunner appears at www.CouncilScienceEditors.org/publications/cbeviews.cfm.)

I canvassed some of those associated with *Science Editor* about whether to retain the printed index. Responses were

mixed. Some respondents favored having an online index only. Some said that if the index appears only online, readers without Internet access should be able to request a printout. Some argued for retaining the printed index, citing its convenience for some purposes and its value as a record. One respondent suggested publishing an announcement that the index is available online and noting at the front of each issue the existence of the online index—good ideas whether or not the index is exclusively online. Responses also alerted me to new ideas that journals are exploring regarding their indexes.



Barbara Gastel

After weighing the responses, I have decided to continue, for 2006, printing as well as posting the index—although doing so necessitates saving for later some of the other treats I have in hand. Whether to print the index in 2007 remains uncertain. I would welcome word from readers in this regard (as well as regarding other content). Please contact me by e-mail at b-gastel@tamu.edu, by telephone at (979) 845-6887, or by mail at the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, Texas A&M University, 4458 TAMU, College Station TX 77843-4458.

I thank all who have contributed to *Science Editor*, directly or indirectly, in 2006. May the year end very well for all our readers.

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