Inside The Library

A newsletter of the NCI at Frederick Scientific Library
Operated by Wilson Information Services Corporation

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2 SPRING 2017

WHO’S USING THE LIBRARY?

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“If the internet was an actual place... I mean, you would never go there...”
– Dave Chappelle

I’m not a scientist. The NCI at Frederick Scientific Library is an excellent resource, staffed by genuinely helpful people, and you should use it more often than you do now. Here’s why.

You look up the phrase “what is life?” at the Scientific Library and you get the record for the classic 1944 book by physicist Erwin Schrodinger. When you Yahoo the same phrase, you get 6 billion results -- the first page of which are links to Philosophynow.com, the Khan Academy, and a YouTube video of George Harrison. That’s not bad, actually. If you scroll down the results to Google books, you’ll find a pdf scan of Schrodinger’s book for free. The reproduced text includes both internal hyperlinks to other sections of the book as well as external links to works that are mentioned by Schrodinger.

Still, when you go the Scientific Library, you find, next to Schrodinger, Ernst Mayr, Sydney Brenner and Naomi Oreskes. That’s not anything Google’s PageRank algorithm would concoct. You can check out an old-school Kindle e-book -- the kind where the screen looks like ink on a page -- which has over 140 titles loaded on it. Nearby is a “Reading Diversions” section that includes popular books by Vincent & Elizabeth DeVita and Daniel Kahneman, which I raid regularly. Adjacent to that is a shelf of audio books such as “Life at the Speed of Light” by J. Craig Venter -- an account of synthetic biology that starts out with a review of professor Schrodinger’s 1943 Trinity lecture series “What is Life?”.

I’m not a scientist, but we all are obliged to keep abreast of issues that are unhappily thorny and technical. Scientists are obliged to explain their conclusions clearly. Both things are done more thoroughly at the Scientific Library than on the internet. Besides, you probably ought to take a walk.
**Library Orientations**

Library Orientation sessions are held monthly on **Thursdays, from 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** in the Library's Technology Training Lab, Building 549. The dates of upcoming sessions are **April 13, May 11, and June 8**.

We invite all employees to attend our informative sessions to learn about the many services and resources offered by the Library. Registration is not required. If you are unable to attend a scheduled session, please [contact the Library](mailto:library@library.org) to arrange an alternate date and time to suit your schedule.

**Resource Training – Where and When You Need It**

Our Spring class schedule is available on the Library’s [Orientation and Classes website](http://library.org/orientation). We invite you to visit the list and register for any of the following upcoming classes:

- **ENDNOTE ADVANCED** – Thursday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **NAVIGATING NCBI MOLECULAR DATA** – Tuesday, April 11, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BLAST** – Tuesday, April 11, 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **ACCESSING NCBI HUMAN VARIATION & MEDICAL GENETIC RESOURCES** – Wednesday, April 12, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **EXPLORING GENE EXPRESSION INFORMATION AT NCBI** – Wednesday, April 12, 1:30 p.m. -4:00 p.m.
- **ONESEARCH** – Monday, April 24, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Remember – our librarians will work with your schedule to provide one-on-one training at your convenience, either on the NCI at Frederick campus or at the ATRF. For questions, or if you have a suggestion for a class offering, please [contact us](mailto:library@library.org). You may also call us at the Scientific Library in Building 549 at x1682, or at the ATRF Library at x4942.

**Upcoming Dates from Chase’s**

The reference book [Chase’s Calendar of Events](http://library.org/chases), available in print and online from the Library, includes the following events for April, May and June:

- **National Fun at Work Day** April 6
- **217th Anniversary of the Opening of the Library of Congress** - April 24, 1800
- **Get Caught Reading Month** - May 1-31
- **227th Anniversary of the Passage of the Copyright Law** - May 31, 1790
- **30th Annual National Cancer Survivors Day** - June 4
- **17th Anniversary of the Mapping of the Human Genome** - June 26, 2000

**Featured Website**

**Wellcome Images**

With over 100,000 images, including manuscripts, paintings, etchings, early photography and advertisements, **Wellcome Images** is one of the world’s richest and most unique collections, with themes ranging from medical and social history to contemporary healthcare and biomedical science. Drawn from the historical holdings of the renowned **Wellcome Library**, the images are made available under the [Creative Commons license](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/).

Collections include Historical, Contemporary, Biomedical, and Clinical. The Wellcome Library is part of the **Wellcome Trust**, a global charitable foundation dedicated to improving health for everyone.

**Resource of the Month**

**Scientific Style and Format Online**

This authoritative style guide for authors, editors, publishers, students, and translators in all areas of science and related fields is fully searchable and reflects today’s best practices in scientific publishing. Among other features, you will find information on manuscript preparation and markup, sample correspondence, and editorial office practices.
Heard of Any Good Books Lately?

The Scientific Library staff members have many different ways that they hear about potential books to purchase, either in electronic or print format, for the Library’s collection. Book reviews and advertisements from publishers are two ways that new titles are noticed. Books that are borrowed frequently or used online repeatedly prompt staff to search for similar or updated titles to procure. Some of the Library’s popular books in 2016 were the following:

- Bioinformatics with R Cookbook
- Introduction to Genetic Analysis
- Lewin’s Genes XI
- Methods in Biomedical Informatics: A Pragmatic Approach

You are welcome to suggest book titles for the Library to consider for the collection. If you have heard of or used a book that should be included in the Library, please contact us. We have a convenient online form that will prompt you to include information helpful when the suggestion is considered, especially the reason that the book should be purchased. The Library does its best to acquire items that are recommended, but if it is not within the Library’s budget or is on a topic that may not be used frequently, it may not be possible to get every title.

For books that we are not able to buy, keep in mind the Library’s interlibrary loan service will borrow items for you from other libraries free of charge. Scientific Library staff strive to make the collection as useful and relevant for your work as possible.

Off the Chart: Unknown Scientists Who Changed the World

Off the Chart: Unknown Scientists Who Changed the World is the name of a new section of the Library’s Bulletin Board display. The idea germinated after reading the obituaries, and discovering the stories of scientists whose contributions had changed the world, yet had gained little acclaim. This idea led to a discussion about, and ultimately the addition of, the new section of the Library bulletin board which highlights some “unknown scientists who changed the world.” The staff has identified many sources from which to choose these obscure figures, including The Evolution of Drug Discovery, a book in the Library’s circulating collection, and websites like SCIENCE HEROES. The staff is hoping that the section will spark interest by identifying these lesser known individuals and their contributions to scientific discovery.

Library Scrapbooks Chronicle History

For twenty-five years, the Library has collected articles from the local newspaper and, local and national magazines about the research and the employees of NCI Frederick. The scrapbooks highlight the strong ties that the research facility has with the community and the scientific achievements that have been made. On your next visit to the Library, stop by the Journal Alcove and peruse the scrapbooks.