

BOSTON COLLEGE

LIBRARIES

FACULTY NEWSLETTER

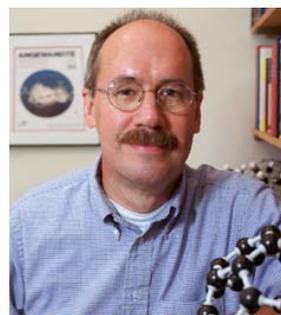
Prof. Larry Scott on Journal Pricing and Scholarly Communication

Editors note: in the previous Faculty Newsletter we remarked that the Faculty Newsletter could be a vehicle for faculty ideas and perspectives on the library and research. In the first of what we hope will be many faculty contributions, we offer an interview with Prof. Larry Scott of the Chemistry department on issues related to scholarly communication and serials pricing. Larry was interviewed on October 15 by Marilyn Grant, Brendan Rapple, and Ed Tallent. Please let us know if you have ideas for this continuing series of faculty contributions, and if you would like to participate!

Can you comment on your and your colleague's position on the current serial crisis facing libraries?

The other organic chemists in the department and I were fed up with Elsevier's price gouging on library costs for [Tetrahedron](#) and [Tetrahedron Letters](#), especially [Tetrahedron Letters](#), which was the principal international vehicle for short 2-4 page communications in organic chemistry. Each week there would be approximately 30 of these pieces in [Tetrahedron Letters](#). In comparison, the [Journal of Organic Chemistry](#), a publication of the American Chemical Society, had a section for this type of publication and would print maybe half a dozen every two weeks. The default, generally, was to send short pieces to [Tetrahedron Letters](#). Elsevier knew that [Tetrahedron Letters](#) was widely read and subsequently charged through the nose for it. There is a discounted price for personal subscriptions, which I have discontinued. Organic chemists got so annoyed at Elsevier's library pricing that four years ago the American Chemical Society started up a new journal,

[Organic Letters](#), with the goal of providing direct competition with [Tetrahedron Letters](#). It has been very successful, publishes about the same amount as [Tetrahedron Letters](#), and formally took over the publishing of short pieces from the [Journal of](#)



[Organic Chemistry](#). [Organic Letters](#) instantly became a first-rate publication, and chemists, like myself, began to send their publications to [Organic Letters](#). The publication was innovative, unlike [Tetrahedron Letters](#). It offered online submissions and online refereeing. Eventually, [Tetrahedron Letters](#) got on the bandwagon and now offers these same services.

I did a brief survey of the five organic chemists in our department of publications in the last three years: twelve papers in [Organic Letters](#); two of five have published nothing in [Tetrahedron Letters](#); three of five have published one paper each in [Tetrahedron Letters](#) (all in the year 2000, nothing since).

Are you aware of other university departments that are beginning to boycott Elsevier publications?

I do not have specific university names memorized of places that have told me that have cancelled [Tetrahedron Letters](#), but every place I go people are raving

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about [Organic Letters](#), so that publications can be sent somewhere else. One of my colleagues has a form letter that he sends to Elsevier when he refuses to referee papers for [Tetrahedron Letters](#).

Ironically, not all libraries have cancelled, including the Boston College Libraries. Can we cancel TETRAHEDRON LETTERS and spend the money on something else in chemistry?

It is probably still widely enough read that we need to keep it a while longer. It is mind boggling to think that the several hundred papers per year now published in [Organic Letters](#) that would have gone to [Tetrahedron Letters](#) in the past has not diminished the number of papers published in [Tetrahedron Letters](#).

Librarians often think faculty are not aware of the prices of journals. It's a good thing that this is happening in your department.

When prices are so out control, it becomes a big issue. A few people notice, they rave about it, and alert others to it.

Do you think there is widespread knowledge in the chemistry department about the serials crisis, and not just with organic chemists?

Yes, throughout the chemistry department we know that budgets are tight and journal prices seem to be going up faster than budgets.

Is the environment any different for non-tenured faculty as regard where they might choose to publish?

For non-tenured faculty, there is not really any distinction. The culture in the Chemistry Department is that the graduate student chooses a research advisor sometime in the first few months of the first semester and for the next 4.5 years or so they work in the lab with that faculty member. It is that faculty member's responsibility to raise money from funding agencies to pay a research stipend, pay for chemicals, and to write up jointly with the student any work that is done in the lab.

In some areas there are some purely electronic journals. Is publishing in these journals an issue when it is time for a tenure decision?

I think reputations for journals change slowly. It is rare that a journal like [Organic Letters](#) comes out of nowhere and all of a sudden is one of the top journals. Purely electronic journals have not really grown very prominent in organic chemistry yet.

What kind of a role do you think the library should be playing regarding these issues?

When it comes time to renegotiate with Elsevier, individual libraries or consortia should bring as much pressure as they can on the private publishers not to price gouge. Learned societies really exist as publication media. The ACS does many things, but underneath it is a giant publishing house and one thing they have done is bring some moderation to the journal pricing.

Should the library be publicizing the crisis more? We have a Scholarly Communication page on the library's web page for faculty, but perhaps faculty are not aware of it, for example. What can, or should, we be doing to get the message out?

I think the message is out there, but it does not hurt to stir the pot now and then. Information science is a very fluid environment, journals come and go, journals split. Chemistry departments are similar in that areas of interest differ from institution to institution and changes come from new hires and retirements. So, it makes sense to periodically review the journal collection and make decisions on journals that are still needed or no longer necessary. With enough lead time, faculty can review the list of current journal subscriptions, with prices attached, and information about new journals that are available, and talk with the library about what should go and what new titles should be acquired.

What do you and your colleagues think about the issue of intellectual property and copyright in an academic environment? In many disciplines, for example, the author must sign a copyright waiver, but some faculty have fought for the right to allow access to their publications on a personal web site.

That would be desirable, but I am not sure it is a battle that I want to fight against the big publishing houses. It would seem to me that a pretty minor compromise would be to allow the original authors to have links on their personal web pages.

It appears that a large number of scholars have been able to get publishers to go along with a change like this. That would be a very interesting development.

Yes, and there are a few situations that I can share with you. If I publish something in the [Journal of the American Chemical Society](#), and, I believe, other ACS publications, after it is published the printer sends me a code number and I get a specific number of electronic reprints that I can share with colleagues. *Science* magazine allows the author to put a link on a personal web page to articles

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that they have published in that journal. I think these compromises are reasonable. If all journals would do that, then essentially all information would be free, despite copyright restrictions.

Open Archives Initiative (OAI) harvesting software is allowing institutions to set up their own electronic institutional repositories and allow anyone in the world to access this archive. BC is working on setting up one here. Any thoughts on this?

To me it is inconceivable that 50 years down the road all published literature, or at least archival literature, will not be available to anyone in the world. Somewhere in this picture, however, money must change hands to keep publishers in business; if there is no money to be made, publishers will go out of business. Even learned societies need money to pay editors, for example.

Reclaiming Intellectual Property

A creative or professional writer's livelihood generally depends on royalties, or the money the reading public pays to gain access to his or her work. However, academic authors rarely receive remuneration for articles they publish in scholarly journals. Indeed, scientists sometimes have to pay page charges to get published. Moreover, publishers, particularly those of scientific, technical, and medical (STM) journals, frequently require authors to surrender copyright. Even though faculty research is often subsidized by the university and/or government, unfavorable copyright agreements often force scholars wanting to use their own work for a course pack or a personal web page to accept a publisher's outrageous fees.

Another reason why the present publishing system may not be totally beneficial for authors of scholarly articles is the exponential increase in excessively priced journals. [Association of Research Libraries \(ARL\)](#) statistics for 2000-2001 show that "ARL libraries spent three times more money on serials compared to 1986, yet they bought 5% fewer serial titles." These figures support the view that publishers are more interested in profit growth than the dissemination of scholarship. The situation is clear. Academics want their scholarly work to be read and cited as widely as possible. Unlike many professional writers, they consider restrictions on access to their work anathema. The ceding of copyright to publishers and the increasingly high cost of journal subscriptions represent barriers for scholars, whose careers depend greatly on the availability and influence of their research.

In March 2000, academic administrators, library directors, and faculty met in Tempe, Arizona, to draw up principles that could direct the transformation of scholarly publishing. The resulting Nine Principles have been endorsed by the Association of Research Libraries, the Association of American Universities, and academic officers of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. Principle 6 is particularly pertinent to the issue of intellectual property:

In negotiating publishing agreements, faculty should assign the rights to their work in a manner that promotes the ready use of their work and choose journals that support the goal of making scholarly publications available at reasonable cost. <<http://www.arl.org/scomm/tempe.html>>

Many have recommended that instead of automatically ceding copyright to publishers, faculty should substitute an already signed "scholarship dissemination-friendly" copyright form for the publisher's. Stevan Harnad, University of Southampton, suggests the following sample text:

I hereby transfer to [publisher or journal] all rights to sell or lease the text (paper and online) of [paper-title]. I retain the right only to distribute it for free for scholarly/scientific or educational purposes, in particular, the right to self-archive it publicly online on the Web.

While giving the publisher distinct rights, this also allows the author to place the paper on a personal web site as well as publish online both the preprint prior to peer review and the reviewed postprint on scholarly web sites. Further treatment of the advantages a scholar gains through the judicious management of his or her copyright is available in "Managing Your Copyrights", a section of [Create Change: A Resource for Faculty and Librarian Action to Reclaim Scholarly Communication](#), a document co-sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries, the Association of College and Research Libraries, and SPARC.

A number of other proposals regarding intellectual property rights and the widest dissemination of scholarship

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involve author self-archiving repositories operated by Open Archives Initiative (OAI) software. The aim is for scholars to deposit their work electronically in e-print archives which most likely would reside in the institution where they work. Then the OAI metadata harvesting protocol, essentially a tool which takes advantage of universally adopted content identifiers, collects data residing in these separate e-print archives and makes documents available to users of the worldwide network of shared repositories. In short, all the separate e-print archives appear as a single archive. More information about this OAI protocol and self-archiving e-print repositories may be found at the [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#) web site.

The BC Libraries are planning to establish their own college-wide electronic repository where faculty can de-

posit their preprints and refereed articles in a format compliant with Open Archives Initiative specifications. This e-print archive will meld with other institutional e-archives, its documents becoming fully accessible to scholars throughout the world. This will constitute an important strategy to help faculty retain real control over their own intellectual property, to facilitate the broadest dissemination of faculty scholarship, and to reclaim the central role the academy can play in supporting scholarly publication. (More information regarding electronic repositories may be found in [The Case for Institutional Repositories: A SPARC Position Paper](#).)

[Brendan Rapple](#)
Collection Development



In keeping with the mission “to improve scholarly productivity by providing tools to use information effectively,” the Libraries, working closely with Academic Technology Services, is bringing RefWorks to Boston College students, faculty and staff! RefWorks is a web-based bibliographic citation management tool which allow users to create personal collections of citations by easily importing references from hundreds of online databases. These references can be inserted into papers and RefWorks will automatically format the footnotes and bibliography in seconds. As a web-based product, RefWorks is available to users across various platforms including Windows, Mac, Unix, etc.

To set up a personal RefWorks account, go to <http://www.bc.edu/refworks> and click on USER LOGIN to Sign up for an Individual Account. You’ll be asked for your

name, a login name, password and email address. Click on REGISTER.

Once you have registered you can create bibliographies, import from other databases and export entries to existing bibliographic programs, such as EndNote and Procite. EndNote users will be glad to learn that Refworks can be used to gather citations when you’re at conferences or away from your office. There’s plenty of online help and after you create a user name and password, you’ll be sent our Group Code for off campus access.

For a complete list of vendors and the databases supported go to <http://www.refworks.com/refworks/importdbs.asp>.

Check with your [subject specialist](#) for further information and training.

[Adeane Bregman](#)
Bapst Library

Boston Library Consortium Expands Membership

The [Boston Library Consortium \(BLC\)](#) recently expanded its membership to include Williams College, the University of New Hampshire and the University of Connecticut bringing the total number of academic and research member libraries to 19.

The BLC is a cooperative association of academic and research libraries. Founded in 1970 for Boston area research libraries, the Consortium expanded first to include Brown University and now to incorporate major university libraries in New Hampshire and Connecticut. Membership in the Consortium supports resource sharing and enhancement of services to Boston College faculty, staff and students through programs in cooperative collecting, access to electronic resources, onsite borrowing and access to physical collections, and enhanced interlibrary loan and document delivery.

The current members of the BLC are Boston College,

the Boston Public Library, Boston University, Brandeis University, Brown University, Marine Biological Laboratory & Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Massachusetts Institution of Technology, Northeastern University, State Library of Massachusetts, Tufts University, University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Massachusetts Boston, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts Lowell, University of Massachusetts Medical Center, University of New Hampshire, Wellesley College, and Williams College.

For further information about the BLC and the benefits to you, stop at any reference desk or call x2-4772.

[Margie Fiels](#)
O’Neill Library Access Services

LIBQUAL+ Library Services Survey Coming in Spring 2003



In the Spring of 2003, The Boston College Libraries will begin a formal assessment program using a web-based survey called LibQUAL+™. This instrument and program will be done in conjunction with other ARL libraries across the country.

A random e-mail sample of the academic community will be selected to help us identify how well BC Libraries meet users' expectations of service. We will use the data

we collect to identify what the library is doing right and what we need to improve upon. This information is very important to us because only you can tell us how well we are providing library services and meeting your research needs. Responses will be held in strict confidence. No identifying links between responses and the individual responding will be retained. Only the combined data of all survey responses will be reported.

If you receive an e-mail message from us this spring, we ask that you complete the survey and take the opportunity to assist us in better serving you. Questions can be addressed to Ed Tallent, Head of Reference and Instructional Services, tallent@bc.edu, 2-2854.

Meet the New Law Librarian

Filippa Marullo Anzalone is the new Associate Dean, Library and Computing Services. Before becoming to Boston College, Professor Anzalone was at Northeastern University School of Law School for almost eleven years. She lead the NUSL Library from 1993, most recently as Director of Information and Research Services and Professor of Law. Professor Anzalone was also Acting Dean of NU University Libraries for the 2000/2001 academic year. Prior to entering academic law librarianship, Prof. Anzalone was director of the law library at the Boston law firm of Bingham, Dana and Gould.

She has also worked as a research librarian at Dike, Bronstein, Roberts, Cushman & Pfund, as a public library administrator at the Cambridge Public Library, and as the head children's librarian in the Medford Public Library. Professor Anzalone has published many articles, book chapters, book reviews and opinion pieces. She is active in professional associations and speaks at both local and national conferences. Professor Anzalone received an A.B. from Smith College in 1975, a S.M. from Simmons College Graduate School of Library Science in 1977, and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in 1985.

Course Reserves in Transition: Online Reserves and WebCT

The Libraries Course Reserves collections continue to include books and paper journals but more and more of the "collection" is virtual. When you provide a course syllabus and/or a list of course materials to place in the Libraries course reserve system, electronic copies of journal articles are created, either from an electronic journal subscription or by scanning from the print format. A listing of all your course reserve materials, including books, and direct access to these "electronic copies" is available through the [Quest Course/Online Reserves](#) system.

The Libraries continue to follow the *Fair Use Doctrine* of the U.S. Copyright Law when accepting items for course reserves, regardless of format. Some restrictions may apply to your requested materials. For instance, we usually put only one chapter from a book or one article from a journal issue on reserve (online or paper) if we have to photocopy or scan the article or book chapter.

Access to the Quest Course/Online Reserves system is limited to current faculty, staff and students with a user name and PIN. Documents are delivered as PDF files and are identified on your faculty course reserves list as *Internet Online Resources*.

articles as required readings on your syllabus it makes sense to consolidate the citations and access in one place to make it easier for students to locate the materials. The Libraries Quest Course/Online Reserves system provides this access by combining your readings under one course list, regardless of format.

The course management software currently endorsed by the University, WebCT, is complementary to the Libraries online course reserves or "e-reserves" system. We can create a direct link within WebCT to the Quest Course/Online Reserves system to items on reserve for your specific course. Remember to advise the Reserves staff so that a link can be made from your WebCT page to your course list in Quest Course/Online Reserves system. Students will then have access to the items on the Libraries Quest Course/Online Reserves system via either your WebCT site or by going directly to www.bc.edu/quest

You may also use WebCT to post scanned material or links to external materials yourself. These items would appear only on your WebCT site, and not in the Libraries Quest Course/Online Reserve system. Consult with the WebCT Administrator or WebGA (webct@bc.edu) for assistance.

[Margie Fiels](#)

O'Neill Library, Access Services

Should I Use Course Reserves, WebCT or Both?

If you have a mixture of library owned books and

Ask 24/7

The Boston College Library Staff is excited to announce that starting on November 12th you will be able to get research assistance on the web through our BLC [ASK 24/7 Service](#). Live, online help from librarians is now available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from your own computer.

[ASK 24/7](#) is a new service provided by the Boston College librarians in collaboration with the Boston Library Consortium, a consortium of institutions in the New England Area. ASK 24/7 lets you ask questions and get answers, in real time, on the Internet from library staff. The ASK 24/7 service is available to all BC students, faculty, and staff of this institution 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You can access the ASK 24/7 service through our library homepage at <http://www.bc.edu/libraries/>. When you click on the “ASK 24/7” link, the librarian who answers will be from one of the following institutions: Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis, University of Connecticut, Northeastern, University of New Hampshire, Tufts, Williams College, University of Massachusetts, Boston, and University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In this way, you will be able to get help from librarians from all over the area.

Are you busy at home? Can't make it to the library? Not to worry—a librarian can be available to you at the click of your mouse!

Kate Silfen, Social Work Library

BC Library Applauds SPARC Partner *Documenta Mathematica*

Alison Buckholtz, Associate Enterprise Director, [SPARC](#) recently announced very interesting news regarding the electronic journal *Documenta Mathematica*. *Documenta Mathematica* (a partner of SPARC, a coalition of research universities and libraries supporting increased competition in scholarly publishing — Boston College is a founding member) has contributed savings gleaned from electronic publication of a recent special journal edition to the creation of a new prize for the international math community. The prize, known as the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize, includes a medal and EUR 10,000. It will be awarded by the International Mathematical Union (IMU) and administered by the German Math Society (Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung, or DMV). The prize will be given every four years during the International Congress of Mathematicians, alongside the Fields Medal. The first award will be given in 2006.

“SPARC is founded on the idea of returning science to scientists and *Documenta Mathematica* has long put that theory into practice,” said Ulf Rehmann, managing editor of *Documenta Mathematica*. “Redirecting our earnings back into research, rather than giving it to commercial science publishers, is both logical and rewarding. It is our way of illustrating that electronic journals can succeed in returning science to its rightful owners, thus pushing research forward.”

Founded by the DMV in 1995, *Documenta Mathematica* is a free, peer-reviewed electronic journal covering general mathematics. The DMV awarded *Documenta Mathematica* the contract to produce the ICM'98 Proceedings as an extra volume, with a grant of EUR 25,000 to cover production costs. As an established electronic journal with little overhead, *Documenta Mathematica* produced the electronic version of the proceedings for only EUR 1,250. It transferred back to the DMV the savings plus EUR 6,500 earned in sales of the edition, for a total contribution of EUR 30,250. The DMV then used this contribution and other savings achieved at ICM'98 to found the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize.

Documenta Mathematica is archived electronically at scores of university libraries worldwide. Any institution or individual with access can print out complete volumes of the journal at no cost.

For further information about *Documenta Mathematica*: <http://www.mathematik.uni-bielefeld.de/documenta/Welcome-eng.html> and http://www.mathematik.uni-bielefeld.de/~rehmann/OAI_2002/index.html.

For further information about the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize: <http://www.mathematik.uni-bielefeld.de/DMV/Gauss/>.

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