

# Appendix D

## Annotation guidelines for *this issue* annotation

We followed the guidelines below for annotating *this issue* instances in Medline abstracts.

**Namely Test** Following Dipper and Zinsmeister (2010), we recommend using the “namely test” for identifying the correct antecedent. Start reading aloud the sentence containing the anaphor. Add a *namely* clause after the anaphor and look for the appropriate text that fits best in the namely clause, as in the following example.

(60) And Jones warned **that with wired products, the longer the cable, the more the sound quality can degrade**. An option that avoids this problem, he said, is a wireless connection.

Namely test: ...this problem, namely that with wired products, the longer the cable, the more the sound quality can degrade.

**Split Antecedents** The antecedent might not always be a single span of text. Mark disconnected spans if necessary. For example, in (61), the phrase *it appears* is not really a part of the reason so we mark a split antecedent.

(61) Ms. Anderson, the performance artist, is preoccupied by the epic form as well. Her “Songs and Stories From Moby Dick,” which is to be presented by the Brooklyn Academy of Music later this season, amounts to her own alternative telling of Melville’s classic American novel. One senses

that Ms. Anderson is still in pursuit of the elusive core of her multi-media spectacle. What she presented at Spoleto were intriguing songs and scenes that combine her personal response to the novel with bits of whale trivia that may not have been known to Melville.

**Her goal**, it appears, **is to elucidate what is relevant to a modern audience in “Moby-Dick.”** It must be for **this reason** that Ms. Anderson includes a passage of her own devising that would probably do Greenpeace proud, a lecture on how sperm whales communicate and how they got that unusual name. (It dates back, Ms. Anderson explains, to a misunderstanding over the consistency of the whale’s brain.)

**Closest Antecedent** If there is more than one antecedent, mark the closest antecedent to the noun phrase. Mark only the words that are sufficient to be a meaningful antecedent.

**Paraphrase** Often the actual referent is not explicitly stated in the text and the resolution process requires the reader to infer the actual antecedent from the context and his/her common-sense knowledge of the world. We call such inferred referents as *paraphrased* referents. In (62), the actual referent *lack of garage space* is only implicitly stated in the marked text *garage space*. We mark the textual antecedent in such cases and write the paraphrase to clarify the intended meaning.

(62) On a recent Friday, Mr. Ferraro of Avis stood in a steamy garage and described the problem of keeping up with weekend demand. In car rental parlance this is called fleet management, and it is a nightmare in Manhattan, where the primary problem is **garage space**.

“We can hold 40 or 50 cars,” said Mr. Ferraro, who, like his counterparts at other companies, was deliberately unspecific to avoid tipping off the competition. “But we are renting hundreds today.”

Avis and other big rental car companies solve **this problem** by paying 30 to 50 drivers to shuttle autos in from their airport and suburban locations, which is cheaper than renting more parking space.

**Inflected Forms** When marking the antecedents, do not be oversensitive to plurals and verb tenses. In (63), for example, you would mark the textual antecedent *plotted a special route for evening walks to avoid canine sniffer units* even though the precise antecedent would be *to plot a special route for evening walks to avoid canine sniffer units*.

- (63) Such raids, in which the police regularly make hauls of five kilos of cocaine with a street value of \$150,000, occur so often that some residents have adjusted their routines. A couple that owned a dog **plotted a special route for evening walks to avoid canine sniffer units**. **This decision** came after one tense night when the dog almost got into a fight with an unleashed Rottweiler, which was circling a mound of white powder at the corner deli.

**Extra Information** Often an antecedent is accompanied by extra information in the form of a reason, time, location, actor, and patient, as in shown in the following examples. We skip such extra information and mark the minimal antecedent. For example, in (64), *the lure of attractive salaries in the high-tech world should be the basis for passing on college* is the reason for the decision, but the actual decision is *to pass on college*.

- (64) The computer fields are growing at a torrid pace, according to government figures. In the last decade, there has been a 17 percent annual employment growth among computer systems analysts, a broad category that includes network administrators, Web designers, computer security professionals and computer scientists. That figure compares with an overall employment growth of 1.5 percent annually in the same period.

Salaries in computer-related fields reflect the demand for workers that has accompanied this growth. According to the Census Department's Current Population Survey, the median income in 1999 for computer systems analysts was \$1,008 a week and the median income for computer programmers was \$898 a week. That compares with an overall median wage of \$550 a week, or \$29,000 annually.

Still, not everyone is convinced that the lure of attractive salaries in the high-tech world should be the basis for deciding whether **to pass on college**. Students who make **this decision** often face skepticism from teachers and parents.

Shell nouns such as *decision* usually have an agent (who took the decision) and patient (the decision about whom). In (65), *the director of U.S.I.A., acting on behalf of the President* is the agent of the marked antecedent. The preceding sentence also includes information about when the decision was taken (May 7, 1990). We do not include such information in the marked antecedent.

- (65) "Poor Peru Stands By as Its Rich Past Is Plundered" (news article, Aug. 25) mentions the United States, Japan and Western Europe as the principal markets for looted material from Peru. However, the United States, as a signatory of the 1970 Unesco Convention on unauthorized international

movement of cultural property, can restrict import of such material when a state that is party to that convention requests relief.

The Government of Peru requested the United States to institute a ban on the importation into the United States of Moche artifacts from the Sipan region. My committee, which examines and makes recommendations on such requests to the director of the United States Information Agency, recommended this restriction. On May 7, 1990, the director of U.S.I.A., acting on behalf of the President, **imposed an emergency import ban on such artifacts**. To the best of my knowledge, this decision has virtually stopped their illegal importation into this country.

**Insufficient Context** If more context is needed to help you identify the correct antecedent, click on the article link at the bottom of the text which will take you the complete article.