

SSB Annual Council Meeting Agenda Minutes

Friday, June 12, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Idaho Commons, 4th Floor, Horizon Room

Attending: John Huelsenbeck (President), David Penny (Past-President), David Mindell (Treasurer), Jim Whitfield (Treasurer-elect), Sydney Cameron (Awards Chair), David Hibbett (EVP), Chris Simon (Publications Committee), Joel Cracraft (Trustee), Laura Kubatko, Susanna Magallon, Heidi Meudt, Karl Kjer, Michael Sorenson, Thomas Buckley, Sean Brady, Frank Anderson, and Dick Olmstead (Council), Debbie Ciszek (Managing Editor), Cathy Kennedy and Elizabeth Gardner (OUP)

1. Welcome and call to order. John Huelsenbeck.

2. Election Results. David Hibbett.

- President: David Mindell
- Councilors: David Baum, Olaf Bininda-Emonds, Alexi Drummond, Thomas Buckley, Michelle McMahon
- Constitutional amendment: passed
- Ron DeBry was unanimously elected as new Editor-in-Chief (at this meeting)
- Jim Whitfield was previously elected as Treasurer

3. Joint Council Meeting Report. John Huelsenbeck (joint council meeting notes attached)

4. Endowment Committee/Trustees Report. Joel Cracraft, Vicki Funk, David Hillis (report attached)
Huelsenbeck suggested that development needs to be an ongoing effort. SSB needs a development officer.

5. Treasurer's Report. David Mindell (report attached)

- 5% distribution from endowment is not intended to be automatic. Should be requested every year.
- Previous intention was to use these funds for special initiatives and awards.
- A motion to request 5% from endowment was approved.
- Increases in individual and institutional subscription rates were discussed at the mid-year meeting. There is general agreement that we are undervalued
- It was resolved that Mindell and Whitfield will develop a proposal for a dues increase, which will be circulated to the Council.
- Huelsenbeck will communicate with Membership Committee Chair Tracey Heath about ideas for increasing membership

6. Awards Report. Sydney Cameron (report attached)

- This year, SSB is using \$1000 of the \$3000 from OUP originally intended for "Reception and Editorial Board and Council Meetings" for the Publisher's Award. It was decided that we would like to continue to use these funds for this purpose.
- Next year it would be good to have more funds for awards. At this time, we think we can commit to a figure that is at least equal to this year's amount.
- David Mindell and Jim Whitfield will come up with a figure by the end of the year (by this time, we will have third quarter report from OUP).
- President's Award to Zhiheng Yang will be given out at the banquet this year.

7. Program Report. Kelly Zamudio (report attached)

8. Proposals for symposia for 2010 Meeting. Kelly Zamudio.

- Huelsenbeck will contact KZ instructing her to contact Near and Benton informing them that they will be given at least \$4000, and instructing them to refine the list of speakers (considering gender balance, and maybe more fossil people?) and resubmit proposal by Aug. 1.
- Will also encourage KZ to solicit additional symposia, also with an Aug. 1 deadline. If another good symposium is not proposed, then the budget for the Near/Benton symposium could be increased.

9. Membership Committee Report. No report. Skipped.

10. Editor's Report. Jack Sullivan (report attached)

11. Report on Dryad meeting May 21-22 2009 at NESCent. Rod Page (not attending; see attached notes, and notes from joint ASN/SSE/SSB Council meeting)

12. Report on satellite Evo/Phyloinformatics conference. Hilmar Lapp

- SSB has endorsed this meeting (no financial support requested).
- NESCENT group will make a decision about the timing/format of conference (before or after Evolution, or possibly overlapping in some way?)

12. Managing Editor's Report. Debbie Ciszek (report attached)

13. Publications Committee and Oxford University Press. Debbie Ciszek, Chris Simon, Jack Sullivan, David Mindell, Rod Page (Publications, Committee), and Cathy Kennedy (OUP). Publisher's report distributed separately.

Other business:

14. Appointment of new nominations committee, as per constitutional amendment. Chris Simon.

[Joint Council Exit Meeting minutes attached]

SSB, SSE, ASN Annual Joint Council Meeting

Friday, June 12, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Attending: Joel Kingsolver (SSE Pres.), Sydney Cameron (SSB Awards Chair), David Hibbett (SSB EVP), John Huelsenbeck (SSB Pres.), John Thompson (ASN Past Pres), Carol Horvitz (ASN Past Treas.), Doug Schemske (ASN VP), Charlie Fenster (SSE EVP), Jim Whitfield (SSB Treas-elect), Olle Pellmyr (2009 Program Organizer), Mitch Cruzan (2010 Organizer), Craig Moritz (SSE Pres), Judy Stone (SSE Secretary), David Penny (SSB Past Pres), Hilmar Lapp (NESCENT), Butch Brodie (SSB VP), Kathleen Donoghue (ASN Treas?)

Notes in blue

Joel Kingsolver, President ASN: Call to Order & Welcome.

Introduction of Society Officers Present.

Olle Pellmyr, Program Organizer, Evolution 2009: Program update. (?)

1093 registrants + ca. 40 workshop attendees

New items this year:

Child care available, now have 19 kids being cared for (initially had 50 kids signed up). This is a first for Evolution meetings. Parents also pay \$40/day. In this case, care provider can take children 6 months and older.

Supported by a one-time grant.

Mentornet is also new, supported by grant from Elsevier Foundation. Multi-year grant.

Sorting of program is difficult. This year, sorting was based on a newly-created sorting algorithm Scott Newsome and Barry Robison, which will be made available for future meetings.

Budget: Hard to predict final position, but confident that we will break even.

Mitch Cruzan Program Organizer, Evolution 2010, Portland State University: meeting update.

See handout/report

→ Christian Homeschool Assn and Deaf People of Color meetings overlap with us. Should we make an effort to reach out to either group (signing for public lectures, workshops for homeschoolers?)?

Paper program will be distributed, and possibly NO BAG

Hilmar Lapp: Evo/Phyloinformatics satellite conference in 2010

Long-term hope to launch series of meetings on this subject—2010 will be the first one

Not sure yet if this will be before or after evolution mtg (probably before)

Program is wide open. Probably invited keynote and invite abstract submissions

Want to have a **two-day** conference

Suggestions from Jnt Council to promote connections between the meetings (overlap is good). Maybe a SSB symposium? Maybe merge into Evolution meeting?

Funds are coming from NESCENT for now. Would like to make this self-sustaining eventually (contingent on continued funding for NESCENT).

Joel Kingsolver for Mike Whitlock: update on Dryad

See “talking points” handout

→ Would be useful for SSB to write something promoting/raising awareness of DRYAD

No set date for when DRYAD submission will be mandatory, maybe next year?

What will it cost per journal? Don't know—ask Rod Page.

Hilmar: 250-400K needed on annual basis for curation/maintenance of DRYAD

1500-2000 pubs per year would translate to >100/article, if supported only by page charges

Societies need to provide input via representative on Management Board (Rod Page)

Charlie Fenster: waiver of fees for symposium speakers who normally would not come to the meeting.

Proposed that reg fees not be routinely waived, but let individual societies choose to pay for reg fees

Gen. Discussion of future meetings:

Discussion of joint mtg with ESEB in 2012 (Ottawa). Need to coordinate format/goals

Need to coordinate with ATBC

Charlie Fenster on behalf of Larry Weider: Update on 2011 meeting proposal, Norman, Oklahoma.
[Did not discuss this?](#)

X:XX Carol Horvitz, ASN Treasurer: Prospects for joint Evolution/OTS/ATBC meeting in 2013. (?)
[Did not discuss this?](#)

X:XX Agenda for Joint Council Exit Meeting:
[Did not discuss this?](#)

SSB, SSE, ASN Annual Joint Council Exit Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2009, noon – 1:00 p.m.

Agenda

Evolution 2012: Ottawa -- Andrew Simon's (for Howard Rundle, Program Organizer)
Evolution 2012: Sally Otto on Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution co-host for Evolution in Ottawa
Scott Edwards on undergraduates coming to meetings

2009 ANNUAL REPORT
RESERVE FUND TRUSTEES
JOEL CRACRAFT, VICKI FUNK, DAVID HILLIS

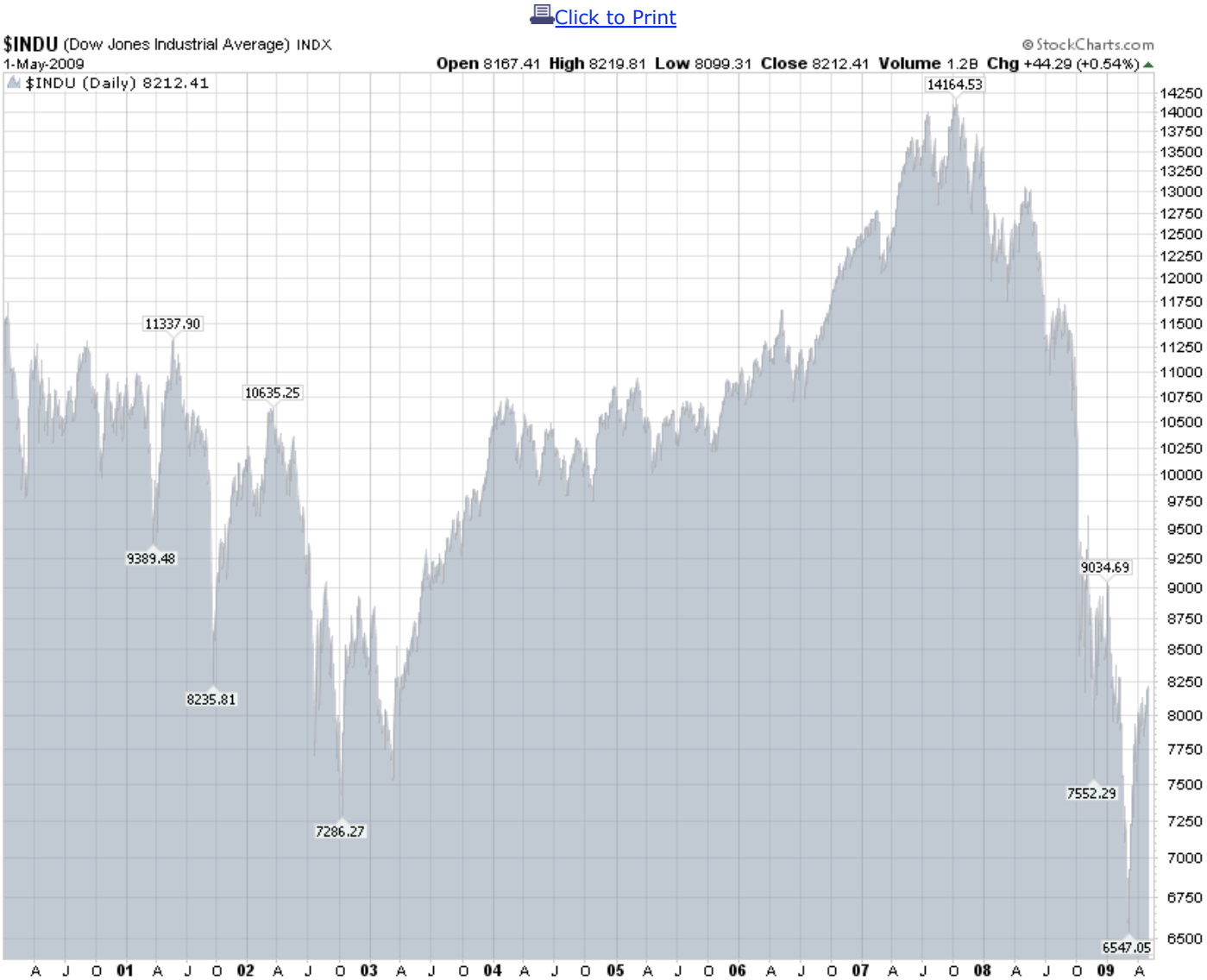
In the last fiscal year the SSB Reserve Fund got caught up in the global events of end-2008 and suffered the same fate as the global market. The account lost \$245,524 in value and closed down -36.9%. This percentage includes \$150 fees and \$23,000 disbursement to the Treasurer. Excluding the latter, the portfolio was down -34.4%. This can be compared to a -37% for the S&P 500 and -40% for the NASDAQ. As shown below, at the end of 2008 the portfolio was allocated to 90.1% equities, 4.4% to fixed income, and 5.5% in cash. We ended the fiscal year with a total market value of \$420,731. Because of the 2008 downturn, the fund is only \$19,602 ahead of its inception value of \$401,129 in 2004.

In the face of this dismal news, we can report some encouraging signs. As of 31 May 2009 the portfolio saw a +16.13 growth since the beginning of the fiscal year, and the fund value stood at \$419,374 on 31 May. This was after \$27,072 was disbursed to the Treasurer. Thus, the net portfolio appreciation has been \$25,564 so far this year. Over this same period, the S&P rose 2.96% and NASDAQ 12.9%. Importantly, during this quarter so (3/31/09-5/31/09) the Fund has increased 15.7%.

By decision of the Council, the Reserve Fund disperses each year to the Treasurer 5% of a 5-year moving average as of 31 December. This conservative strategy was designed to buffer against downturns as we have just experienced. Because of this philosophy we can expect to disperse next year about \$26,000, assuming an end-2009 balance the same as end-2008.

We call attention to three attachments: (a) the history of the stock market over time, which suggests that the investment philosophy we have adopted is the right one for the long-term, and (b) the end-December account sheets, (c) the end-May performance report, and (d) an end-May market update.

STATUS OF ASSETS	31 DECEMBER, 2007		31 DECEMBER, 2008	
	Market Value	%	Market Value	% of fund
Cash and Money Market	\$ 14,016	2.1	\$ 22,989.06	5.5
Stocks	15,546	2.3	5,816.80	1.4
Corporate Fixed Income	20,600	3.1	18,384.00	4.4
Mutual Funds	616,093	92.5	373,541.43	88.7
Value of Reserve Fund	\$666,255		420,731.29	
% Change		+ 8.87		- 36.9%
Annual Allocation to Operations	0		0	
Net Reserve Principal	\$666,255		420,731.29	
Change in value for year	- \$245,524			
Change in value since inception (\$401,129; 9/17/04)			+ \$ 19,602	



Society of Systematic Biologists, Council Meeting 12 June 2009, Univ. Idaho

Treasurer's Report, *submitted by David Mindell*

State of the Budget

We had cash-flow problems in 2008 resulting from publication and operating costs increasing while membership and subscription revenues declined. Switching to a new publisher in January 2009 with a delayed royalty payment plan also contributed to the cash shortage.

We resolved the situation by deferring payments on invoices for two months until we received income from the 2008 annual meetings proceeds, and from the SSB endowment (5% of a five-year moving average of the principle). We also arranged for an advance on the delayed royalty payments for the journal from our new publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP). This was needed to offset the new practice in which membership dues and journal subscriptions are collected and held by OUP, rather than being collected by a third party (Burk Associates) and held in the SSB operating account, as in the past.

The current balance in the SSB operating account is (positive) \$48,070 and all invoices have been paid. The Executive Committee has approved allocations of \$13,000 total for the 2009 SSB Awards Program and \$8,000 total for two symposia at the 2009 annual meetings.

As in the past, the first priority is ensuring that expenditures remain less than income. I have made a cash-flow projection, working with our CPA Rob Clayton, and we estimate an ending cash balance for the year of \$111.50.

General operation

James Whitfield will begin a three-year term as SSB Treasurer in January 2010. Rob Clayton is continuing as SSB's contracted CPA; we pay him \$7,200 per year.

Recommendations

(1) In order to sustain revenues for funding SSB initiatives and operation, I recommend that the SSB Executive Committee consider, in concert with OUP, moderate dues increases for membership / journal subscription.

(2) I recommend that both the SSB Membership Committee and OUP be asked to actively pursue increasing membership in the society and subscriptions to the journal.

Plan

I will work with incoming Treasurer Whitfield for a smooth transition. I will, as usual, submit a query to SSB Executive Committee in December 2009 to consider requesting a disbursement from the SSB Endowment of 5% of a five-year moving average of the principle as of 31 December 2009, for SSB programmatic initiatives in 2010 in concert with the SSB Long-range Planning Committee.

Awards Report
Sydney Cameron, Chair, SSB Awards Committee

SSB Council Meeting 2009
Moscow, Idaho
12 June 2009

Summary

As a result of the severe decline over the last year in SSB finances, the overall awards budget plummeted from 50K (2008) to 13K for 2009. We therefore eliminated two of the three award categories for this year: the mini-PEETs and International Travel awards. This left the Graduate Student Research Award intact with a relatively small budget. Assuming average awards between \$1500 and \$2000, we would be able to fund 8-9 awards. We made 9 awards. The Ernst Mayr award, as usual, will include a separate \$1000 prize and a set of back issues of *Systematic Biology*.

This year, SSB is using \$1000 of the \$3000 from OUP originally intended for “Reception and Editorial Board and Council Meetings” for the Publisher’s Award. Shall we continue? Is there an alternative?

Submission Deadlines

The deadline for submission of proposals for the grad student research awards was 31 March. Ernst Mayr abstracts were due by 15 March, which allowed us time to determine who would compete for the award before the 5 April deadline submission of talk titles for Evol 2009.

Applications

Applications for the grad student research awards increased by approximately 25%, from last year’s 63 applicants to this year’s 85 applicants.

Ernst Mayr applicants numbered 14 this year, which is identical to the number of last year’s applicants.

Funding for 2009.

This year we spent \$13,000 on Graduate Student Research awards and \$1,000 for the Mayr Award.

Graduate Student Research Awards

Jamie Oaks, University of Kansas

Christopher Owen, University of Connecticut

Fernanda Werneck, Brigham Young University

Dawn Xiao, University of Toronto

Rosanne Healy, University of Minnesota

Jozef Slowik, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Patricia Lu-Irving, University of Washington

Amy Luxbacher, University of Minnesota

One still to be determined as a result of an awardee having to decline the award

Mayr Award

To be determined

Judging

For the 85 grad student research applicants I employed 13 judges representing a wide array of disciplines. Of the 13 judges I asked to serve, 12 agreed outright. The judges were: Peter Lockhart, Rick Ree, Dick Olmstead, Sean Brady, Elizabeth Jockusch, Kevin Johnson, John Wiens, Mike Alfaro, Laura Kubatko, Greg Rouse, Tom Dowling and Antonis Rokas.

June 6, 2009
SSB Council Report
Kelly Zamudio, Program Chair

This is my first year as SSB Program Chair, so I am still learning the ropes. Have plenty of notes on what can/should be different next year.

Updates and items of note:

- 1) Our three symposia are scheduled for the meetings:

Chair Dan Rabosky; Evolutionary bangs and whimpers : methodological advances and conceptual frameworks for studying exceptional diversification. Saturday June 13, 1:30-5:30 PM, Ag Sciences 106.

Chair Susan Renner; Advances in Tree Reconstruction from Complex Data Matrices. Tuesday June 16, 1:30-5:30 PM, Ag Sciences 106.

Chair Sydney Cameron; Ernst Mayr symposium. Monday June 15, 8:00-12:00 AM, Ag Sciences 106

- 2) Scheduling for the meeting this year proceeded with very little input from me, despite my efforts to interface with meeting organizers ahead of time. I sent the committee a list of sessions that were NOT to overlap with our symposia, and those apparently did get avoided. I was sent a pre-release of the schedule, but by the time that was sent out, the schedule had already been rushed to press, so my comments (offered 28 hours after receipt of the pre-schedule) were essentially moot.

Despite this, all symposia and SSB business meetings were scheduled, and as far as I can tell there are no awful conflicts. One unfortunate hitch is that one of the SSB symposium speakers (last speaker in the Rabosky symposium) was dropped from the schedule, and not noticed before the schedule went to press. I have asked that the extra talk be added to the "late-breaking evolution" pamphlet and Dan Rabosky will advertise the extra talk many times during the day, so hopefully this will prevent attendance drop off.

- 3) The 'call for symposia' for the 2010 meetings was posted on evoldir, ecolog, taxacom, the SSB Forum, and the SSB website. We also sent out announcements to the SSB membership, posted it on the SSB and I asked that the weblink be advertised on the dechronization blog. Calls went out in April, which was relatively late (my fault). I will aim for earlier announcement next year (late January). We received one proposal for an SSB symposium (see action item below). I will continue to solicit proposals over the course of the Fall semester, and will offer them up for vote by the council via email, in the event any more are forthcoming.

Action Item for the Council Meeting:

This year we received one proposal for a symposium entitled 'Paleontological and neontological approaches to dating the Tree of Life'. The proposers are Tom Near and Michael Benton. The proposal is still in early stages of development, and speakers have not been contacted yet. Tom Near consulted with me about how to go about this, and I advised him that the typical symposium includes 6 talks, and that if he proposed double the number of potential speakers, from which the final 6 would be drawn, that would suffice for evaluation by the council.

The proposal seems timely (activity in this area is high). In terms of career stage the line up is somewhat diverse, with a good balance of younger speakers (post-doc and assistant professors) and more-established researchers. If council has suggestions for other relevant speakers who might increase diversity further, I am sure Tom and Brian would like to hear of them.

- I need a vote from council on whether this proposal is adequate and whether it should be funded, and at what level.
- Given the economic situation, I'd also like to hear from council opinions on whether I should continue to beat the bushes for a second symposium, or whether we should be content with this one (and the Mayr Award symposium) for 2010.

Those are the Program items for the council meeting.

I will make sure to get the joint council minutes for this year (because I will be absent), to make sure SSB does not miss out on anything important. And, I will check in with David H. for the result on this vote and any council feedback after the meeting is over.

Best,
KZ

Paleontological and neontological approaches to dating the Tree of Life. A symposium proposal for the Society for Systematic Biologists 2010 meeting.

Thomas J. Near and Michael J. Benton

The past ten years have seen a substantial increase in the development of sophisticated molecular evolutionary models that facilitate the estimation of divergence times using molecular phylogenies. However, much less critical attention has been applied to the paleontological database that is most often used to provide calibrations in molecular divergence time studies. An understanding of the methods and types of data used to provide geological age estimates can illuminate many of the strengths and limitations of using fossils as calibrations.

This symposium will bring together a group of scientists whose expertise span theoretical approaches to the fossil record and molecular evolutionary rate heterogeneity, and empirical strategies for integrating fossil information with molecular phylogenies. We will attempt to establish a dialogue that centers on the optimal use of fossil and geological age information to develop informed temporal hypotheses that are applied as calibrations in molecular divergence time studies. In addition, we hope that this symposium would help lead to the development of a set of protocols to aid neontologists who desire to use temporal information in the fossil record.

We would like to have 30-minute presentations. There are too many speakers to fit in a half-day session, but we would anticipate that not all of the speakers listed below would be able to attend.

List of speakers and tentative titles/subjects.

Brian Moore, University of California-Davis, Comparing relaxed molecular clock methods. What methods are the most appropriate, and why. Has agreed to participate.

Charles Marshall, Harvard University, Theoretical approaches to sampling the fossil record and determination of the maximum lower age. Has not been contacted.

Ziheng Yang, University College of London, Theoretical approaches to prior ages on fossil calibrations. Has not been contacted.

Alexei Drummond, University of Auckland, Bayesian relaxed molecular clocks and the importance of fossil information. Has not been contacted.

Michael Benton, University of Bristol, Strategies for dating the Tree of Life using the fossil record.

Susana Magallón Puebla, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Phylogenetic placement of fossil taxa for molecular divergence time calibrations. Has not been contacted.

Thomas Near, Yale University, Fossil sampling and the estimation of informed priors for relaxed molecular clocks: an empirical example using teleost fishes.

Simon Ho, Australian National University, Pitfalls in using fossil calibrations. Has not been contacted.

Fredrik Ronquist, University of Uppsala, A Bayesian approach to the phylogenetic analysis of fossil taxa and determination of minimal ages for calibration of molecular phylogenies. Has not been contacted.

Todd Oakley, University of California-Santa Barbara, Using a dense fossil record to calibrate ostracod phylogenies. Has not been contacted.

Kevin Peterson, Dartmouth College, The fossil record and molecular divergence time estimates among animal phyla. Has not been contacted.

Philip Donoghue, University of Bristol, Determining minimal ages using the fossil record. Has not been contacted.

2009 SSB Council Meeting
University of Idaho June 12th
Editor's Report

I. Submissions and Decisions: 2008

Number of Submissions 2008: 243 (up by 7 from 2007, which was a record by ~21%).

Of these, 39 were rejected as not appropriate without review (~16%); 3 of them were sent to AEs who declined to send them out. This is lower than last year (54 of 236; 23%).

An additional manuscript was rejected without review, but with resubmission encouraged; I solicited the opinion of an AE, who agreed with me that there were too many equations and not enough words.

In addition, there was a single resubmission that I didn't send out (reject, encourage) because the resubmission hadn't changed sufficiently from the original submission.

We therefore reviewed 202 manuscripts. One of those was from a student I work with, and I was not involved in that review process.

All decisions have been made on papers submitted in 2008; we have made 243 decisions.

Of these completed reviews, I've followed the AE recommendation 182 of 201 times (> 90% of decisions). Of the 19 times I made a decision at odds with the opinion of the AE, 7 times I favored the author by allowing resubmission when the recommendation was outright rejection. I provided a more critical decision than the AE recommendation 12 times. Six of these, I rejected with resubmission encouraged when the recommendation was to accept pending major revision; five of these I accepted with major revisions when the AE recommendation was to accept pending minor revision. I rejected a single paper outright, when the AE recommendation was reject with resubmission.

Decisions: (243)

Accept pending minor revisions: 23 (10%, down from 12% in 2007)

Accept pending major revisions: 51 (21%, up from 20% in 2007)

Reject, encourage/permit resubmission: 73 (30%, up from 26% in 2007)

Reject: 57 (23%, up from 16% in 2007)

Not Appropriate: 39 (16%, down from 23% in 2007)

Overall acceptance rate: 31% (down from 32% in 2007)

Overall rejection rate: 69% (up from 68% in 2007)

II. Submissions and Decisions: 2009 (as of 6/08/09).

We have received 94 submissions, which is almost 10% below 2008.

Of these, 11 have been rejected without review (~12% of submissions). One has been returned by AE without review.

The first decision is complete on 36 of these: 7 Reject; 8 Reject, permit resubmission; 11 Accept, major; 9 Accept, minor.

III. Associate Editors:

In the past year, we've had three AEs step down. Paul Lewis has been replaced by Mark Holder has taken his place. Alan Baker has stepped down, and Robb Brumfield has agreed to replace him. Mark Hafner has indicated that he is stepping and I'm working on a replacement. I am very grateful to all of these individuals for their past or future service to the journal.

IV. My Successor

We have a successor lined up, Ron DeBry, and will vote on his ascension today.

I Where is the February issue?

(In the mail.)

A. Delay directly related to Debbie

1) I was told verbally and also read on the Oxford University Press (OUP) website that manuscripts (ms') would appear online about two months after receipt by OUP. However, it was later pointed out to me that I had previously been emailed a schedule that indicated I should get ms' to OUP four months before the desired publication date. The schedule was not clear to me, and I assumed the 2 month timing was in effect.

2) Due to my injury and subsequent brain surgery, I sent out many of the February papers approximately 3 weeks later than I intended.

B. Delay related to interaction with OUP

1) Generally stated, it took OUP much longer than expected to adjust to *Systematic Biology* (SB) style and produce finalized papers. I'm not sure of all the details; OUP would know more. I'm told they put our February issue on a priority schedule for any portions they could, so they were making a particular effort to get it out as quickly as possible.

2) Cas Gentry, the then OUP Production Editor (soon she will be moving on, and will be followed by one replacement, then fairly closely by a hopefully permanent PE) and I worked well together on solving problems, by phone and email. However, problems to be solved kept coming up, and still do.

3) Some of the problems were frustrating to me, as it sometimes seemed the proofreader had not read our instructions to authors.

4) SB style now follows the seventh edition Council of Science Editors (CSE) Manual, with some exceptions designed to keep SB similar to the format in which it has been presented in the past. Some exceptions cause more delays (sometimes expense) than others; discussion and compromise regarding exceptions was a category of reasons why mutual adjustments to new styles was slow.

5) We've implemented changes to make the production (different from administrative) aspect of Manuscript Central (MC) processing more efficient. It's extremely helpful to us that OUP has a MC support person on staff, Simone Larche.

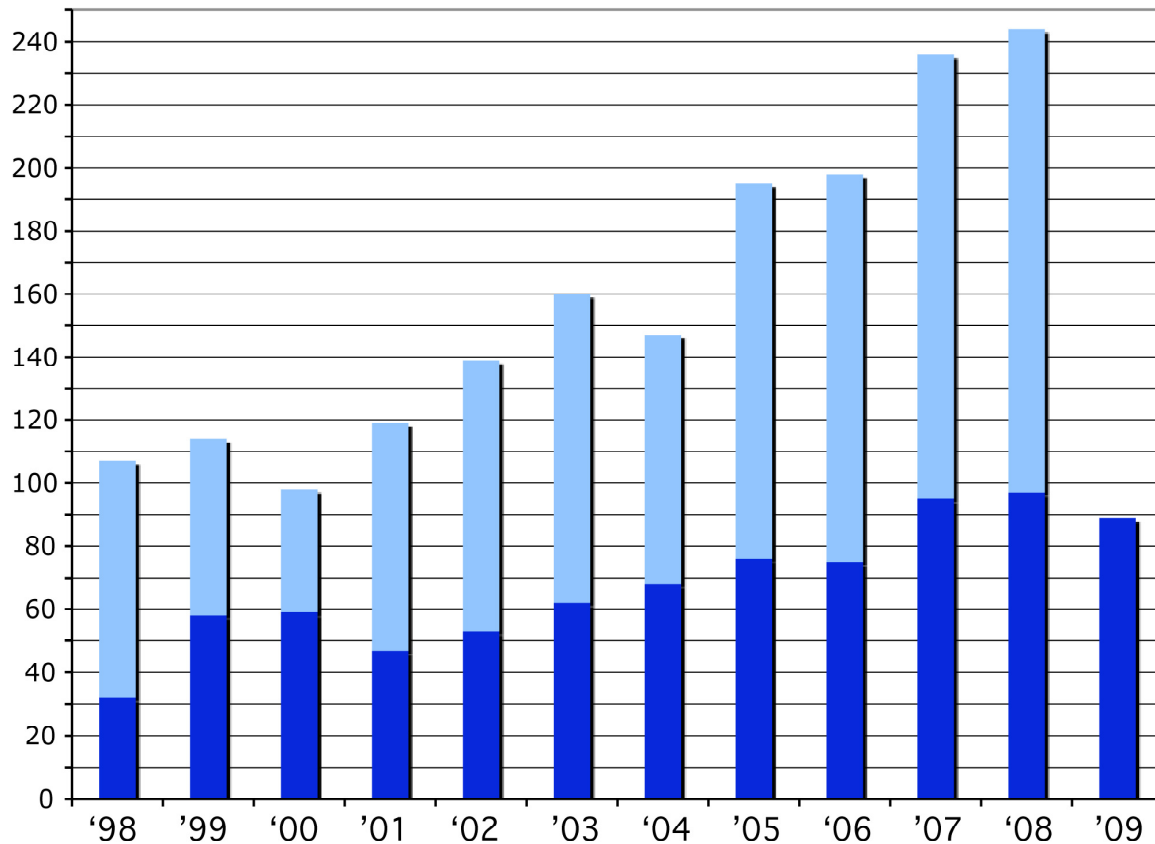
C. The April issue will be late as well (as is clear by now). This is due to a combination of a lack of papers ready to be sent to OUP on time, and continued slow processing as OUP adjusts to SB style. All but two or three April papers have been typeset. I hope June will be close to on time, as well as issues thereafter. Any delay in the June issue would presumably be primarily due to the lack of a backlog of papers to be sent on time.

D) I've implemented plans to speed the final stages of ms processing, from the AE recommendation phase through my final approval of proofs. This should temporarily give us more papers to work with (we should get caught up), but ultimately the number and timing of finished papers we receive is unlikely to change.

II Submissions

A. Number *(still increasing)*

Number of Submissions per year



We received 243 submissions in 2008, yet another record. In the graph above, the lower (darker) portions of the bars show the number of submissions through May of each year. Each combined bar shows the total number of submissions in the year. Through May of 2009 we received 89 submissions, 8 fewer than this time last year.

B. National Origins, and Acceptance by Country *(mostly from outside the US; New Zealand highest acceptance rate again, Germany swings and misses, China remains very low)*

61% of submissions came from outside the US, based on the address of the author for correspondence. This continues the slight trend of a decline in international submissions, although they are still in the majority. Our diversity is actually much higher than the 61% indicates, because many papers have authors residing outside the US even though the corresponding author is in the US. See Appendix 1 for a pie chart of all country's number of submissions.

The 10 countries, in addition to the US, from which we received the most 2008 submissions:

Country	# submissions	# accepted	Acceptance rate
USA	96	29	30%
UK	17	7	41%
Canada	14	5	36%
Germany	13	0	0%
Australia	12	2	17%
Sweden	12	2	17%
Austria	10	1	10%
France	10	2	20%
China	9	0	0%
Belgium	6	1	17%
New Zealand	6	3	50%

* Read the following only if you're about to ask me "what's up with China?"

Every year I am asked why China has such a low acceptance rate. I'm no expert, but here are my answers: 1) Perhaps authors from China who intend to return there are more likely to come to the US during part of their education and career than are authors from other countries, meaning they have a US address for some of the time during which they submit manuscripts. 2) If a group of authors collaborate on a manuscript that they plan to submit to a US-based journal, a native or fluent speaker of English might be more likely to be chosen as the corresponding author, and native or fluent English speakers might be more likely than their coauthors to have US or UK addresses. It's my understanding that fluency between English and the several languages spoken in China is difficult to achieve. 3) There are many countries in which the role of SB, compared to other journals that report on systematics (such as organism-based journals), seems to be widely misunderstood and we receive papers that are not appropriate for the journal. The full list of countries submitting to SB would show a very large number with 0% acceptance rates. They are not in the table because very few papers were submitted per country. However, there are many people, many scientists, in China, and some areas of the country may be similar to parts of the world in which the role of SB seems to be misunderstood. By prediction of population alone, China is more likely to appear in the table based on number of submissions received. The low acceptance rate is then visible, unlike many other countries. However, the population argument would only explain low acceptance rates, not necessarily 0%. These three reasons, as well as more I haven't thought of, may combine to explain China's consistently low acceptance rate.

C. Other Notes

- We plan to publish the Species Tree/Gene Tree Heterogeneity symposium in the August issue at the latest.
- In 2008 we published 59 Regular Articles, 15 POV's, 9 Book Reviews, Index. Total # pages = 1007 (different from the page number listed at the end of the Dec. issue due to printing requirements). We ended with 50 pages to spare. Based on 2007 data, page lengths are as follows: regular articles average length 14 pages (SD = 4); POV's average length 8 pages (SD = 2).
- Book Reviews do not come through MC and are not included in the count of 243 submissions.
- We have no backlog of papers for print.

- Open Access: the OUP website and emails give authors clear information on how to do this.

III Adjusted Acceptance Rate *(add 12% to acceptance rates)*

One of the decision categories is called Reject with Resubmission Encouraged (or sometimes Permitted). These are considered reject decisions in the calculation of the acceptance rate. However, some of these papers are resubmitted, and most of those are accepted.

It's necessary to use papers submitted in 2007 to address this because resubmissions are allowed a year-long deadline for receipt, then they undergo full review and revision. Of the 236 papers submitted in 2007, 58 (25%) received a decision of reject/encouraged. Of the 58, 35 (60%) were resubmitted; of the 35, only four were rejected. 27 were accepted, while four received another decision of reject/encouraged and may still be resubmitted. Splitting the remaining four into 2+2 gives 29 acceptances out of the original 58 reject/encouraged, therefore: 50% of reject/encouraged ms' are eventually accepted (based on 2007 submissions). The unadjusted 2007 acceptance rate was 32%.

Recalculated 2007 acceptance rate: 44%. If this datum is representative, we should add about 12% to our unadjusted acceptance rates. I'll repeat the calculation for next year to see if the adjustment is similar.

IV Manuscript Processing Time: *(Immediate future unknown)*

I am not calculating new numbers for 2008 because we are currently experiencing such a flux in timing. For comparison in next year's report, here I'm using 2007 data:

A. Average # Days from original submission to 1st decision = 61 (2 months). This is a dramatic decrease from 2005, when it was about 3 months.

B. Average # Days from original submission to final decision = 108 (3.6 months). This figure depends on the speed with which authors perform revisions, as well as processing by all editorial staff involved in the paper and, occasionally, additional reviews.

C. Reviewers take an average of 31 days to return a review (reviewer data are from 2008). There are several reasons why time to 1st decision is longer than this 31 days mark – for example, two reviewers on a paper might each take 30 days, but one starts 3 weeks later than the other. Please see Appendix 2 for an example of ms processing that is extremely slow but not the fault of any one person.

D. Time from original submission to print publication averaged 9.7 months for papers printed in 2007 (this was a decrease compared to previous years). The time was essentially the same for online because T&F paginated issues before online publication. OUP's method for online publication is faster. For print publication, our goal is 7 months from original submission.

V Logo: *(the text spirals in to systematics at the core)*

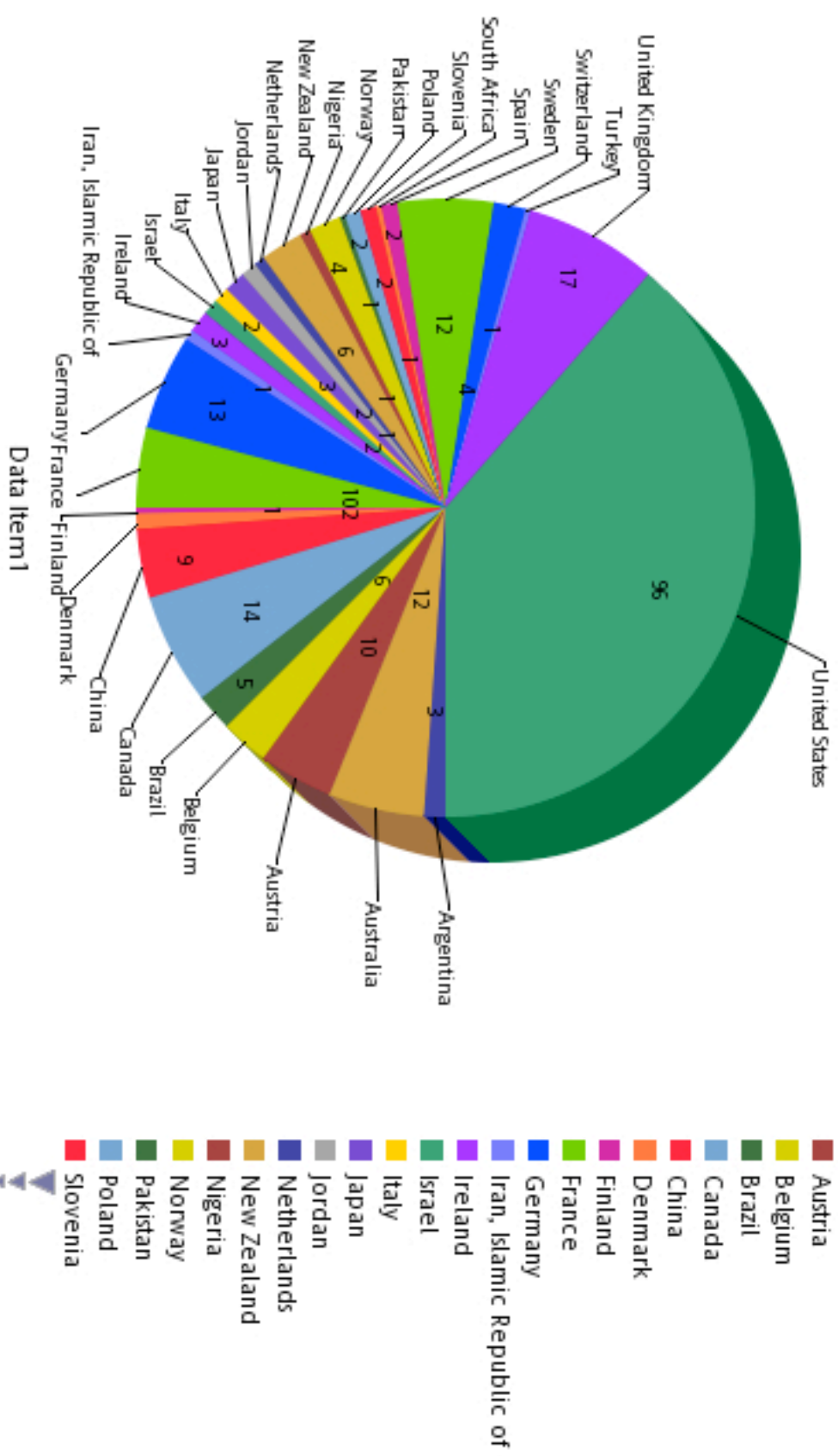
A. Scott Steppan and I wrote the following description of SSB's new logo:

The *Nautilus* shell depicted here represents the diversity, extraordinary adaptations, and especially the intrinsic beauty of life on Earth. *Nautilus* and its relatives with similar morphologies have existed for most of the history of multicellular life, imbuing the *Nautilus* with a sense of the antiquity and continuity of evolution. The *Nautilus*' spiral growth pattern graphically illustrates the ontogenetic unrolling of an organism's life through development,

which often recapitulates phylogeny. The naturally bifurcating shell banding patterns, modified slightly here, evoke images of phylogenetic trees. The depiction of phylogenetic trees emphasizes the understanding of evolutionary relationships among organisms that is fundamental to systematic biology. Design by A. Mayumi Kawamoto, of Rising Sun Design, and Scott Steppan.

B. Logo items are available for purchase through CafePress, and OUP will be giving out free stickers and buttons at their booth. Please consider wearing a depiction of the logo each day of the conference, and explaining its meaning to anyone who even looks interested. Other new items are also available on CaféPress (<http://systbio.org/?q=node/253>), and some samples will be available for sale at the meetings. The order in which SB covers are added to the store can be influenced (within limits) – just ask me.

Number of Manuscripts by Country



Any country not listed had 0 submissions

I don't know why MC does not continue the color key.

















Country	# Manuscripts	Percentage
Argentina	3	1.2 %
Australia	12	4.8 %
Austria	10	4.0 %
Belgium	6	2.4 %
Brazil	5	2.0 %
Canada	14	5.6 %
China	9	3.6 %
Denmark	2	0.8 %
Finland	1	0.4 %
France	10	4.0 %
Germany	13	5.2 %
Iran, Islamic Republic of	1	0.4 %
Ireland	3	1.2 %
Israel	2	0.8 %
Italy	2	0.8 %
Japan	3	1.2 %
Jordan	2	0.8 %
Netherlands	1	0.4 %
New Zealand	6	2.4 %
Nigeria	1	0.4 %
Norway	4	1.6 %
Pakistan	1	0.4 %
Poland	2	0.8 %
Slovenia	2	0.8 %
South Africa	1	0.4 %
Spain	2	0.8 %
Sweden	12	4.8 %
Switzerland	4	1.6 %
Turkey	1	0.4 %
United Kingdom	17	6.9 %
United States	96	38.7 %

Appendix 2

This ms was submitted in February. I took 2 days to send it to Jack, he took 1 day to send it to an AE, and the AE took about 3 weeks to read it/determine if it was appropriate/choose and invite reviewers. The AE then proceeded to bang his head against a wall trying to find reviewers.

Even though we all completed tasks on time, this author will not receive their decision until mid-to-late June, and even then, with only one review (which we've reminded the reviewer about).

This is not a rant against reviewers. It's an illustration of how one step in the process can slow a paper dramatically, sometimes without affecting any statistic except overall time in processing.

Reviewer List				
Order	Name	Status	History	Remove
1	 Sjölander, Kimmen	Declined	Invited: 08-Mar-2009 Declined : 08-Mar-2009 view full history	
2	 Philippe, Herve	Declined	Invited: 08-Mar-2009 Declined : 09-Mar-2009 view full history	
3	 Cotton, James	Declined	Invited: 12-Mar-2009 Declined : 13-Mar-2009 view full history	
4	 Drummond, Alexei	Declined	Invited: 12-Mar-2009 Declined : 16-Mar-2009 view full history	
5	 Purvis, Andy	Declined	Invited: 19-Apr-2009 Declined : 20-Apr-2009 view full history	
6	 Pybus, Oliver	Declined	Invited: 19-Apr-2009 Declined : 20-Apr-2009 view full history	
7	 Delsuc, Frederic	Overdue	Invited: 26-Apr-2009 Agreed : 27-Apr-2009 Due Date: 27-May-2009 Time in Review: 43 Days. view full history edit reminders	
8	 Ragan, Mark	Declined	Invited: 26-Apr-2009 Declined : 30-Apr-2009 view full history	
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Save

Dryad Meeting

Dryad is a repository of ecological and evolutionary data sets, hosted by NESCent. It is already live at <http://datadryad.org>. The initial goals of Dryad are to provide a repository of data from published papers, and to provide tools for authors to submit their data (including ways to submit data to Dryad and have it forwarded automatically to databases such as GenBank and TreeBASE).

NESCent held a meeting May 21-22

(https://www.nescent.org/wg_dryad/Management_Board_Meeting_Spring_2009) that brought several journal editors and other representatives together. My participation was limited to two mornings via a (surprisingly successful) remote video link from Glasgow. There was lively discussion about several issues, such as the notion that authors submit enough data for their results to be replicated (how feasible is this, in some cases this may require huge amounts of data, and specific versions of software and operating systems?), and whether data citation should be accorded the same status as paper citation (this is my own view, but I was something of a voice in the wilderness). There was also some discussion about the mechanics of submitting data (how this would integrate with tools such as Manuscript Central, etc.).

In many ways most of the issues raised are not contentious for our community, Systematic Biology insists on authors making data available for peer review, and for accepted papers we make the data available on our web site. What Dryad offers is long term stability (depending on funding), a consistent way of identifying data sets, and the promise that we would not have to undertake the tedious task of uploading data sets onto our site.

I recommend that Syst Biol supports Dryad (we more or less do already), and takes an active part in it. We are fortunate that the main drivers behind Dryad are members of our community, and hence are aware of how we do things. I think it would be great if we could get links to Dryad-hosted data displayed on the OUP web page for each article that has data in Dryad (Dryad will display links to the article on their site).

I gather that Dryad are/will be talking to Scholar One about Manuscript Central supporting Dryad's data depositing tools, so eventually the whole process will be relatively seamless, although it would be useful to determine whether Dryad will add to the work load of our Managing Editor.

Rod Page

Dryad Talking Points - June 2009

Background

Dryad is a digital repository for data underlying published works in ecology, evolution, and related fields being developed by the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) in the service of, and in collaboration with, scientific societies and journals.

The goals:

- To preserve all the underlying data reported in a paper at the time of publication, when there is the greatest incentive and ability for authors to share their data. Particularly important for data where a specialized repository does not exist.
- To allow journals and societies to pool their resources for one shared repository.
- To lower the burden of data sharing by integrating with journal submission process and providing one-stop deposition via handshaking with specialized repositories (Genbank, TreeBASE)
- To assign persistent, resolvable identifiers to datasets so they can be cited in print and linked on the web.
- To allow end-users to search for data across journals, and by fields such as taxon, geography, geological age, biological concept, etc.
- To enable bidirectional search and retrieval with other data repositories from related disciplines.

Dryad Consortium

Consortium *Partners* have endorsed the Joint Data Archiving Policy, which specifies that, at some time to be determined by the board, deposition at publication will be required. An optional embargo of one year will be allowed, and exception can be granted for sensitive data. The aim is for the policy of required deposition to be adopted in a coordinated fashion. See specific wording below. The JDAP need not require Dryad, and Dryad need not require JDAP, but they are mutualistic symbionts.

Consortium partners also agree

- to have a representative on the board
- to assume responsibility for the long-term financial sustainability of the repository (although the details of this commitment remain TBD)

The journals from ASN, SSB, & SSE are all considered Partners at this stage. The consortium is not closed, and additional partners are welcome at any time. The larger the consortium, the less expensive it will be for each Partner.

Associate Partners are not ready to take the steps above but wish to have nonvoting representation on the board.

What kinds and formats of data does Dryad store?

Any format is accepted as long as it is associated with a primary publication. The final responsibility for the correctness and usability of the data is in the hands of the author. Journals are free to be more restrictive or have specific guidelines.

Are there restrictions on how archived data can be used?

All data must be deposited under the terms of the Creative Commons Zero license and public domain dedication, which is essentially equivalent to granting open access to the data.

Funding and Management

The initial costs of development were borne by NESCent. Current development is funded primarily by a 4-year grant from the National Science Foundation (expiring 2012). In the long term, some combination of page charge receipts, society and institutional subscriptions, grants and other sources will be needed to ensure that the repository is not dependent on ephemeral grant funding.

Journal integration

- Data submissions are now being accepted, though it is voluntary. Legacy data from Systematic Biology is already being deposited in Dryad from the SystBio archives.
- Dryad staff have been working closely with American Naturalist to integrate data submission into the article acceptance process; currently all articles accepted to The American Naturalist since mid-2008 are available for importing via manuscript numbers. This saves the author the burden of entering the manuscript information, and makes it possible for the journal to send the authors the link to Dryad.
- Dryad staff will start to integrate about a dozen journals that use Manuscript Central (including Evolution and Journal of Evolutionary Biology) in July. Integration with Systematic Biology remains to be worked out.

Dryad Consortium Management Board meeting

- DCMB met for 1st time in May @ NESCent
- Representatives of 17 journals met and established initial policies, set priorities, began planning long-range strategies.

Representatives at DCMB meeting May 2009

- John Allen (University of Southampton) Biological Journal of the Linnean Society
- Scott Baker (Oregon State University) Journal of Heredity
- Erica Fleishman (University of California Santa Barbara) Conservation Biology
- Harold Heatwole (North Carolina State University) Integrative and Comparative Biology
- William Michener (University of New Mexico) Ecological Applications, Ecological Monographs, Ecology, Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment

- Allen Moore (University of Exeter) Journal of Evolutionary Biology
 - Mohammed Noor (Duke University) Evolution
 - Marcy Uyenoyama (Duke University) Molecular Biology and Evolution
 - Tim Vines (University of British Columbia) Molecular Ecology
 - Pete Wagner (Smithsonian Institution) Journal of Paleontology, Paleontology
 - Michael Whitlock (University of British Columbia) American Naturalist
 - Derek Wildman (Wayne State University) Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution
 - *Rod Page (University of Glasgow) Systematic Biology
 - *Michelle Tseng (University of British Columbia) Evolutionary Applications
- *remote participants

Outcomes of DCMB meeting:

- *Interim Executive Committee appointed:* Mike Whitlock, Chair, plus Bill Michener, Allen Moore, Marcy Uyenoyama, Tim Vines. Initial charge includes presenting the governance charter to the whole board, establishing rules for data citations, deciding whether to purchase CrossRef DOIs for data records, and to propose a phased strategy for what needs to be in place in order to make data deposition a requirement.
- *Revised JDAP wording:*
 <<Journal >>requires, as a condition for publication, that data supporting the results in the paper should be archived in an appropriate public archive, such as <<list of approved archives here>>. Data are important products of the scientific enterprise, and they should be preserved and usable for decades in the future. Authors may elect to have the data publicly available at time of publication, or, if the technology of the archive allows, may opt to embargo access to the data for a period up to a year after publication. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the editor, especially for sensitive information such as human subject data or the location of endangered species.
- *top priorities:* integration with partner journals, internationalization, and sustainability planning (at next meeting, serious consideration of budget and different cost models will be needed).
- *intellectual property:* adopted CC0, and decided to supplement this with “community norm” guidelines for data citation
- *embargoes:* max. 1 yr. automatically granted, discretion of journal editor
- *interim data size limitation:* file size = 1GB, whole package = 10GB
- *next meeting:* early Dec., place TBD

Next steps

- *Community engagement:*
 - An AmNat editorial (from M. Whitlock) endorsing data archiving to appear shortly (other journals encouraged to publish similar letters). See also the recent paper by Costello in Bioscience.

- This fall, for journals that have been integrated with Dryad, acceptance letters to authors will contain links to prepopulated Dryad records.
 - An EvolDir announcement encouraging data submission will appear once journal integration has been tested.
- *Formalizing the governance and sustainability of the repository:*
 - Revising the draft of the charter discussed in May
 - Working with a business consultant on financial planning.
- *Curation:*
 - Increasing Dryad's capacity to handle a steep increase in the number of submissions
 - Increasing the quality and quantity of metadata associated with data records

Subject: Re: Evo/Phyloinformatics satellite conference

Date: Friday, June 12, 2009 2:28 PM

From: Hilmar Lapp <hlapp@nescent.org>

To: David Hibbett <DHibbett@clarku.edu>

Conversation: Evo/Phyloinformatics satellite conference

Hi David, as you've probably noticed, I didn't have time to get the summary note about the satellite meeting written last night. I'm enclosing it here though, in case that still allows for forwarding to the other council members.

I'll show up at the council meeting shortly before 3pm.

Best,

-hilmar

Evo/Phyloinformatics Satellite Conference

Executive Summary

The US National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) and the Society for Systematic Biology (SSB) are partnering to organize a satellite meeting, tentatively called "Evo/Phyloinformatics Conference" to take place annually in conjunction with the annual Evolution Meetings, for the first time in 2010 in Portland, OR. The goal of the meeting is to provide a dedicated forum for researchers, developers, and users of evolutionary informatics and phyloinformatics resources, such as tools, databases, standards, and data visualization and analysis algorithms. The meeting would afford attendees and speakers a unique and otherwise not existing opportunity to discuss standards, emerging technological trends, and present about new initiatives or efforts in progress in front of their peers. The meeting is at present envisioned to be two full days in duration, and would feature one or two keynote speakers, topical sessions of talks contributed through an open call for submissions, and tutorial or hands-on working sessions in which interested participants can familiarize themselves with new technologies or resources of the field.

Outlook

The satellite meeting is expected to evolve to an annual event and remain associated with the Evolution Meetings, as it shares a significant part of its audience with the constituency that already attends those. The meeting is expected to generate sufficient revenue to at least sustain its expenses, although NESCent has budgeted significant subsidy for the first two years to demonstrate and establish its value among its potential audience.

Background

The model of the meeting is inspired by a similarly scoped conference for the domain of genome informatics, the Bioinformatics Open Source Conference (BOSC). BOSC has been running for a decade now, associates with the premier annual computational biology conference (ISMB), and has been highly successful in its mission, enjoying a sustained attendance rate of 80-100 participants each year, despite of a registration fee of more than \$200. Furthermore, building a community with strong collaborative ties despite its dispersed nature is one of NESCent's key strengths and achievements, as determined by a community summit in Fall 2008.

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=====
: Hilmar Lapp  -:- Durham, NC -:- informatics.nescent.org :
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Evolution 2010

June 25 - 29

**Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR
Portland State University**

1. Venues and Accommodations.

The Oregon Convention Center is conveniently located adjacent to the Portland-METRO light rail system (MAX). MAX lines run from the airport to the convention center, hotels, Portland State University dorms, and the Oregon Zoo (location of the picnic).

Oregon Convention Center:

1. Exhibit halls A/A1 (60,000 square feet).
 - a. Ample room for exhibitors and poster sessions (25 – 30 booths).
 - b. Poster boards (4 x 8 feet/2-sided) – 38 (152 per session).
 - c. Unused space will be draped off.
2. Session rooms – 9 @ 1,300 – 2,200 SF with seating for 80 – 200.
 - a. Screens will be 9' x 12'
 - b. Each with an LCD projector and notebook computer.
3. Talk practice/smaller meeting rooms – 4 @ 700 SF.
4. Symposia and PA room – 6,300 SF with seating for 700.
5. Banquet – 12,600 SF with seating for 700.
6. Meeting HQ – 1 room @ 700 SF.

Convention Center Hotels:

1. Red Lion – 150 rooms at \$119 per night.
2. Crowne Plaza – 100 rooms at \$139 per night.
3. La Quinta Inn – 60 rooms at \$104 per night.

Total rooms = 310.

Room reservations and payments are on an individual basis.

A rebate of \$6 per room/night contributes to convention center rental.

PSU Dorms:

1. Double rooms with private baths – 86 at \$45 per night*.
2. Double rooms with private baths/kitchenettes – 71 at \$55 per night*.

Total rooms = 157. Total cost = \$34,950 for five nights.

*Price includes a \$5 charge per night over our cost (\$3,925 total).

These rooms are purchased as a block. The extra charge is to cover unfilled nights and to pay for a staff person on call 24/7 during the event. Room key distribution and assignment will have to be covered by our student-staff.

***Should we purchase 4 nights or 5 nights? Do we build in more cushion, or do we require everybody to pay for 5 nights?

Banquet:

1. Cost per person = \$50 (includes ½ bottle wine per person).

Oregon Zoo:

The picnic will be held on Saturday evening in a facility within the zoo that is used in the summer for concerts. This section of the zoo, which is adjacent to the Elephant exhibit, will be closed off from access by the general public. Two to three banquet tables will be placed at the entrance, and four beverage stations will be set up within the picnic area. The picnic area is open with mowed grass on a mildly sloped concert bowl. Trees and covered picnic tables line the edge areas. In the event of rain the zoo will install adequate tents and tables to accommodate at least 1,500 people.

1. Menu – The Great Northwest (Chardonnay Cured Wild Salmon with Grilled Onion and Dill *or* Farfalle Pasta with Grilled Vegetables & a Sun-dried Tomato Cream Sauce as the main dish): \$41.75 per adult.
 - a. Includes an all-day ticket to the zoo (a \$10 value).
 - b. Includes full service plus all taxes and fees.
2. Beverages (estimates assume 1,500 picnickers):
 - a. Bar set up (3 or 4) at \$75 each (\$300 total = \$0.20 per person).
 - b. Beer – 25 kegs @ \$400 each (\$10,000 total or \$6.60 per person)
 - i. We will probably obtain beer off-venue and pay the \$150 keg fee.
That would bring our cost down to about \$250 per keg.
 - c. Wine – 100 bottles @ \$22 each (\$2,200 total or \$1.46 each).
 - i. We may go off-venue for wine too.
 - d. Non-alcoholic (ice tea and lemonade) – 100 gallons @ \$18 per gallon (\$1,800 total or \$1.20 each)
3. Entertainment.
 - a. We have not identified appropriate entertainment, but will probably opt for a light folksy band on the side of the venue.
4. Zoo extras (optional):
 - a. Extra hour of exclusive access to exhibits between 7:00 and 8:00 PM (zoo closes to the public at 7:00 PM) - \$500.
 - b. Animals milling among picnickers (with handlers) - \$100 per animal (we choose which ones from a list).
5. Total picnic cost = \$41.75 + \$6.60 + \$1.46 + \$0.50 + \$1.20 = \$51.71 per person.

2. Meeting Schedule.

The general schedule of the meeting will follow meetings from the last two years, starting with a Friday evening reception and ending with a Tuesday evening banquet.

Undetermined events:

1. Workshops.
2. Field trips – 2 planned so far (local committee members are working on this).
 - a. Birding trips.
 - b. Wine and cheese tours.
3. Special luncheons and receptions.
4. Public lecture.
 - a. We will overlap convention center usage with two smaller groups (Christian Home-School Association and Deaf People of Color).

*** Do we want to make special invitations/accommodations for these participants (i.e., signing for a public lecture or teaching workshops for the homeschool crowd)?

Event type	2008	Days	2009	Days	2010	Days
Exhibitors	25	SUMT	20	SUMT	30	SUMT
Posters	256/2	UM	196/2	UM	300/2	UM
Workshops - all day	2	F	1	F	?	F
Workshops - short	2	SU	2	SM	?	SM
Symposia	16	SUMT (4/day - 1 room)	16	SUMT (4/day - 1 room)	16	SUMT (4/day - 1 room)
Sessions	120	SUMT (4/day - 8 rooms)	108	SUMT (4/day - 7 rooms)	144	SUMT (4/day - 9 rooms)
Field trips	6	ALL	4	SW	?	?
BBQ	1	S	1	S	1	S
Banquet	1	T	1	T	1	T
Luncheon	4	FSUM	5	FSUM	?	
Pres. Address	3	SUM	3	SUM	3	SUM
Receptions large	1	F	3	FU	1	F
Receptions small	3	SUM	1	M	?	
Receptions breakfast	1	U			?	
Public Lecture	1	U			?	

3. Budget (these are estimates from suppliers).

Convention Center Rental

Total \$26,200.00

-

POVA Grant \$12,000.00

Hotel

Rebates* -\$7,440.00

*Assumes 310 rooms for 4 nights each

TOTAL \$6,760.00

Item		Attendance =	1200
		Cost per attendee	
Convention Center	\$6,760.00	Shared costs	\$18.85
Décor/Booths	\$3,775.00	Picnic	\$50.51
AV Equipment	\$5,085.00	Favors	\$10.00
Web services	\$5,000.00	Registration	\$5.00
Buffer	\$2,000.00	Catering****	\$164.90

Total \$22,620.00

Per person \$249.26

****Catering price is “deluxe” for everything. Actual price should be substantially lower****

1. Includes deluxe breaks twice per day (\$9 per person each x 8 = \$72).
2. Includes Friday reception (\$35) and two poster receptions (\$25 each).
3. Includes 6 drink tickets (6 * \$5.50 = \$33).
4. Includes ~ \$41,000 in service charges split among 1,200 participants (~ \$35 each).



The University of Oklahoma

BIOLOGICAL STATION

11 June 2009

Progress Report – Update: Evolution 2011 in Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Joint Council:

The University of Oklahoma is pleased to be serving as host of the 2011 Evolution Meetings (SSE, ASN, SSB) in Norman, Oklahoma. The local organizing committee is tri-chaired by Larry Weider, Rich Broughton, and Ingo Schlupp. Other members of the committee include Wayne J. Elisens (Botany/Microbiology and Oklahoma Biological Survey), Ola M. Fincke (Zoology), Daniel J. Hough (Oklahoma Biological Survey), Cecil M. Lewis (Anthropology), Gary D. Schnell (Zoology/SNOMNH), Bradley S. Stevenson (Botany/Microbiology), James N. Thompson (Zoology), and Stephen P. Weldon (History of Science).

Planning is well-underway and the following provides a summary of the current status and updates for the meeting.

- 1.) **Dates:** The meeting dates are from Thursday the 16th June (early arrival) until Wednesday the 22nd June 2011 (departure of all participants). We propose a typical four-day schedule of meetings/sessions with all-day registration and opening reception on Friday the 17th June, with full-day sessions from Saturday the 18th June till Tuesday the 21st June. The conference picnic will probably be held in the evening of Saturday the 18th June, while the conference banquet will be the evening of Tuesday the 21st June.
- 2.) **Professional Conference Organization/Planning:** The University of Oklahoma (OU) Forum and Conference Services will provide full-service conference planning. We have been working very closely with Debra R. Corley, OU Forum/Conference Services coordinator, to draft a contract between OU and the Societies (i.e. SSE serving as the fiduciary society). This draft contract has been provided to Charlie Fenster (SSE Executive VP) for his and legal counsel review. In addition, OU Conference Services has been in close contact with Ms. Carrie Burleson, Sales Manager for OU and Outreach Corporate Sales, John Q. Hammons Embassy Suites and Convention Center (see venue below). Ms. Corley and Ms. Burleson have been working on drafting a contract between OU Conference Services and the Embassy Suites. As soon as a contract is signed between OU Conference Services and SSE, Ms. Corley and Ms. Burleson will finalize the contract between OU and Embassy Suites. We hope this will all take place within the next month or two.
- 3.) **Venue:** As indicated in our original proposal, the 2011 meeting will be held at the John Q. Hammons Embassy Suites and Convention Center, located approximately 4 miles from the OU campus in Norman. This facility opened

up in October 2008 and has >48,000 sq. ft. of premier meeting and conference/business space available for the 2011 meeting. The flexible design of the convention center will easily allow 9 concurrent sessions, along with reception area, and poster session, with rooms being quite flexible in seating arrangements, so that people are not cramped. Also, all meeting rooms would be contiguous, so it would take only a minute or two to move from one session to another. Facilities can easily handle a plenary session of 1500 people or more. OU Conference Services is finalizing negotiations with the Embassy Suites for a complete meeting package rate, which would include continental breakfast buffet, AM and PM breaks, meeting room rental, meeting room set-up, basic audio-visual, among other items.

- 4.) **Accommodations:** The Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center will serve as the official meeting hotel. It has 283 two-room suites that will be available for conference participants to book. Currently, OU Conference Services is finalizing negotiations with the Embassy Suites for a much more competitive hotel room rate than in our original proposal. Also, we have been working with Ms. Pam Sullivan, OU Housing and Food Services, to reserve 900-beds on the OU campus, with the option to include a breakfast package. We have started to look into contracting with a local bus company to provide shuttle service between the convention center and the main OU campus (approx. 10 minute commute). In addition, OU Conference Services has been working to obtain discount hotel rates from other local hotels. We will be working with the Norman Convention and Visitors Bureau to obtain discounts from other local merchants (e.g. food venues).
- 5.) **Program Details:** In the coming months, the local committee will be working closely with the three societies to solicit themes for symposia for the 2011 meeting. Also, we hope to receive needed feedback if the societies would like to propose something new or special for the 2011 meeting. One potentially new twist for a symposium is related to OU's internationally-recognized Department of the History of Science and the History of Science Collection. With over 91,000 volumes including every edition of every published work by Charles Darwin, along with original manuscripts and first editions of key works by Galileo, Copernicus, Newton, among others, it is one of the few collections of its size in the Western Hemisphere. We plan a limited tour of the collection during the 2011 meeting.

In closing, we are happy to address any questions, comments, or concerns that members of the joint council might have. We are excited about hosting the 2011 meeting and hope to make it a memorable one.

With best wishes,



Larry Weider

Rich Broughton

Ingo Schlupp

Tri-Chairs, Evolution 2011 Local Organizing Committee



Université d'Ottawa | University of Ottawa

Faculté des sciences | Faculty of Science
Département de biologie | Department of Biology
Pavillon Gendron Hall
30 Marie-Curie Ottawa ON Canada K1N 6N5
☎ +1 613-562-5800 x2835 ☎ +1 613-562-5486 hrundle@uottawa.ca



Department of Biology
Nesbitt 209
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa Ontario, K1S 5B6

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Progress Report – Evolution 2012 in Ottawa, Canada

Dear Joint Council,

Evolution 2012 is being hosted in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada by a volunteer local organizing committee (LOC) of faculty members from the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, headed by Howard Rundle (uOttawa), with Andrew Simons (Carleton U.) and Rees Kassen (uOttawa). Evolution 2012 will be the first joint meeting between the usual suspects (SSE, ASN and SSB) and ESEB. Following approval of these societies, the Canadian Society of Ecology & Evolution (CSEE) will also join the meeting.

Planning this landmark event is well underway. A key aspect of our original proposal was the physical proximity of the meeting site (the Ottawa Convention Centre) and the student residences of the University of Ottawa, thereby combining the benefits of a large, professionally managed conference space with extensive options for affordable accommodations. Below is a summary of the significant developments that have taken place:

1. Dates

Registration will be in the afternoon/evening of Friday, July 6, 2012, with four days of concurrent sessions on July 7-10. The decision to move the meeting slightly later than has been traditional for the SSE/ASN/SSB of late was based upon financial considerations (hotel rates drop ~25% after July 1 in Ottawa), a larger grant (see #3 below), and a request from ESEB (apparently the end of June is a really bad for them), which normally holds their bi-annual meeting in late August.

2. Professional Conference Organization/Planning

A contract has been signed with *Confersense* Planners Inc. for full service conference management. Because the meeting is being held off-campus and has the potential to be larger than any previous meeting given the additional participation of ESEB, we felt such professional organization was essential. Charlie Fenster, as SSE Executive VP, approved (with the help of a lawyer) and signed the contract on behalf of the societies.

3. Funds

We previously received a \$50,000 'incentive' from Ottawa Tourism to offset rental space charges, with Ottawa Tourism planning to recouperate some of this money by adding a 3%

surcharge to all hotel room rental rates. We have just received news that they are removing this surcharge, making these funds a grant. This money will be paid directly from Ottawa Tourism to the Ottawa Convention Centre.

4. Venue

The meeting will be held at the new Ottawa Convention Centre (OCC; <http://www.ottawacongresscentre.com>). The meeting dates have been reserved and a deposit paid. The OCC is a state-of-the-art new conference center opening in Apr. 2011 (with a built-in 6 month cushion), well over a year in advance of Evolution 2012. We have reserved space for registration, a 'speaker ready-room', nine concurrent sessions, two evening poster sessions, one meeting room (society and journal meetings, etc.), exhibitor booths, and function space for breaks and lunches.

5. Accommodations

Hotel contracts are currently under negotiation by our conference planner and should be signed within the next month. We are seeking a range of accommodation options in addition to the university residences, and striving for maximum flexibility in terms of increasing or decreasing these blocks given the difficulty in predicting European attendance. All options will be within very easy walking distance of the OCC.

6. Opening Reception

We are in negotiation with the Canadian Museum of Nature to hold to opening reception (Friday evening) at the newly renovated Museum, including full access to the collections.

7. Program Details

Planning of the meeting program will commence occur closer to the event. In organizing the meeting, our default approach is to follow the tradition of past N. American *Evolution* meetings. Should the societies wish certain things done differently, we encourage them to let us know. Along these lines, the LOC would very much support the creating of a small committee, perhaps one member from each of the five societies, with whom we can communicate regarding meeting planning and organization.

We are happy to address any questions or concerns the joint council may have and look forward to working with all of the societies to plan a highly successful event.

Sincerely,



Howard Rundle

Andrew Simons

(Also for Rees Kassen)
Local Organizing Committee
Evolution 2012