

A-State launches electronic journal of biology articles

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SPECIAL TO THE SUN

From now on, researchers all over the world will be able to read and write scholarly articles in biology in a new journal published by Arkansas State University.

With the title of Electronic Journal of Integrative Biology, ASU is experimenting with a new form of scholarly publishing.

The journal, in addition to the standard research articles, will offer researchers the possibility to submit articles whose format and content are not allowed in the ordinary printed media: For example, they will be able to publish large amount of data and "live articles" in which the data is fed as the experiment takes place.

Because it is published on the Internet, the text of the articles will contain links to cited papers, color pictures, videos and even "live feeds" of images from researchers with Web cams in their labs or field sites.

The articles can also have embedded software, by which users can mirror authors' work, manipulate data and run simulations based on other inputs.

Another novel characteristic of this journal will be to allow for "live" discussions on articles with suggestions, criticisms and replies.

In addition to research articles the journal will accept op-ed pieces on any topics related

to biological sciences and book reviews. The journal will also have a "Profiles and Legacies" section, for which we will invite prominent scientists to write about their careers and experiences and will publish their photos. In addition, we will invite groups of authors to pay tribute to outstanding individuals who have had major impact in Biology.

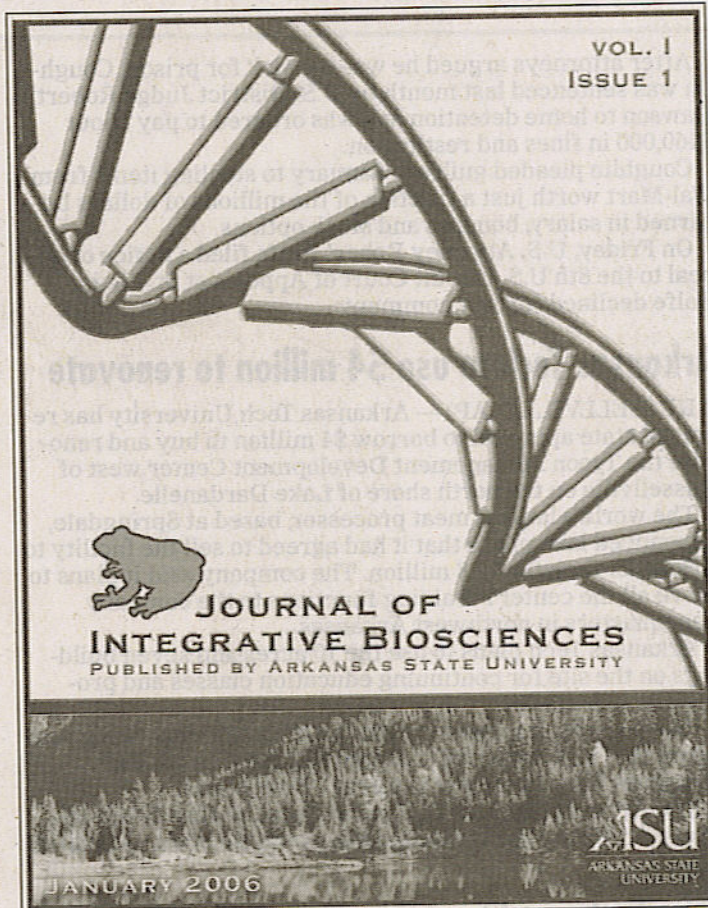
We will also invite submissions featuring new centers or major expansions at well-established institutions. This is a great way to share the excitement and attract attention to what's happening.

The articles published in this journal will be "peer-reviewed" meaning that experts all over the world will be asked to referee submitted articles so they can give their opinion on whether or not the article has sufficient academic quality with suggestions for improvements.

The journal is offered as "open access," meaning not only that its articles can be accessed via the Internet but also free of charge, so virtually anyone with a computer anywhere in the world can read the journal.

The readers will be able to subscribe to this journal for free by sending their e-mail and as soon as an article is published they will receive an e-mail alerting them of the new article.

For those who want a printed version of the articles, those articles will be posted in



Cover of the first issue of the interdisciplinary journal.

what is called pdf format that allows for printing press quality on anyone's printer. Thus a library that wants to bind the journal to put it in its stacks only has to print it directly from the Internet.

Besides immediacy and open access, electronic publishing brings in a number of advantages not available to print publishing such as increased control of publishing by scholars at no cost to the users.

The basic subject of the journal will be biology, but it will have a strong interdisciplinary emphasis, publishing articles ranging from ecology to molecular biology.

The members of the editorial board of this new journal are Dr. James Bednarz, Dr. Carol Cramer and Dr. Gregory Phillips from ASU, Dr. Steven M. Green of the Uni-

versity of Miami and Dr. Phil Regal of the University of Minnesota.

The author of this article is the editor-in-chief.

The journal has already launched its first issue which can be found at: <http://clt.asate.edu/electronicjournal/index.htm>.

The Department of Biological Sciences is also planning to launch in the next few months another electronic journal, this one exclusively for undergraduate students so they can publish the results of their research.

For questions, please contact the ASU biology department at biology@astate.edu

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