

research related to psychology.

The BIOSIS Previews database provides access to a wealth of behavioral literature as a result of indexing over 9,000 source journals as well as numerous monographs, books, and theses. In addition to the inclusion of many multi-disciplinary biomedical sources, more than 450 journals devoted exclusively to psychology and psychiatry are also indexed. The database now contains more than 6 million records dating back to 1969.<sup>3</sup> Obviously, a file of this size and scope offers the psychological researcher a large potential pool of relevant scholarly information.

As part of a larger national survey conducted in the fall of 1988, the authors asked database searchers whether they access BIOSIS for topics in psychology. The sample included psychology database searchers from an average of four institutions in higher education in each state and the District of Columbia. Out of 200 survey questionnaires, 130

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<sup>3</sup>DIALOG Information Services, *DIALOG Database Bluesheets* (Palo Alto, Calif.: DIALOG Information Services, 1988).

### **Book review editor needed for *College & Research Libraries***

The editor designate of *College & Research Libraries* invites nominations and applications for the volunteer position of book review editor for *College & Research Libraries*. The book review editor will serve through the editor's three-year term. Applicants must be members of ALA and ACRL. Preferred qualifications include experience in academic libraries, evidence of editing activity, and a knowledge of the issues confronting academic libraries and their parent institutions. The value of the work to other academic librarians is the primary reward. However, the book review editor's institution may receive the monographs reviewed in exchange for partial secretarial and indirect expenses. The position offers excellent experience for someone seeking a future editorial assignment. Nominations and resumes, with names of three references, may be sent to: Gloriana St. Clair, Editor Designate, *College & Research Libraries*, Library Administration, Oregon State University, Kerr Library 121, Corvallis, OR 97331-4501; (503) 737-3411; fax, (503) 737-3453; Bitnet, STCLAIRG%CC-MAIL@UCS.ORST.EDU.BITNET. Applications received by March 15 will receive first consideration.

were returned for a response rate of 65%. A comments section afforded respondents an opportunity to explain their use or lack of use of BIOSIS. This data provided further insights into factors affecting BIOSIS Previews usage for topics in psychology.

The results of our survey indicated that 24% of our respondents had used BIOSIS for psychology-related topics, while 76% had not. However, several interesting observations were noted from the comments section. For example, online searchers use BIOSIS primarily for literature in animal behavior or where animals were designated as subjects. Research dealing with physiology, psychobiology, and neurotransmitters was also mentioned. Several respondents indicated that BIOSIS was informative in investigations on pharmaceuticals, effects of medications or drugs, as well as health-related issues. Interestingly, many respondents indicated that they were not aware that BIOSIS was a useful source for psychological topics.

Our data indicate that many psychology database searchers (over 75%) many be unaware of the

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## **Letters**

### **Leadership**

To the Editor:

Apropos of Richard M. Dougherty's letter in *C&RL News* (October 1989, p.799), may I comment for many librarians who have not found it possible to become active professionals? I happen to be a life member and was active before my retirement nine years ago. This is a luxury few can now afford.

Our first responsibility as a profession is to increase the salary scale of professional librarians. Secondly, we need to reduce the professional bureaucracy at the national level, and the proliferation of meetings. Thirdly, membership dues keep going up to where the average librarian cannot afford to join (other organizations compete for his or her membership dollars). Finally, put the cost of journal subscriptions at a level that the average librarian can afford.

Lower membership dues and less expensive journal subscriptions will attract more members, and future leaders, in our professional organizations. Only subsidized librarians can afford to attend national conferences that cost the individual between \$500 and \$1,000. I believe that most librarians would prefer a democratic ALA to one that appears to be elitist.—H. Vail Deale, Director of Libraries Emeritus, Beloit College. ■ ■