

Chemical Information Bulletin, Volume 58, Number 01, Spring 2006

FUTURE CONFERENCES

ELPUB 2006: Digital Spectrum: Integrating Technology and Culture 10th International Conference on Electronic Publishing, 14 to 16 June 2006, Banskó (Bulgaria)

<http://www.elpub.net>

The ELPUB 2006 conference will keep the tradition of the nine previous international conferences on electronic publishing, held in the United Kingdom (in 1997 and 2001), Hungary (1998), Sweden (1999), Russia (2000), the Czech Republic (2002), Portugal (2003), Brazil (2004) and Belgium (2005), which is to bring together researchers, lecturers, librarians, developers, businessmen, entrepreneurs, managers, users and all those interested on issues regarding electronic publishing in widely differing contexts. These include the human, cultural, economic, social, technological, legal, commercial and other relevant aspects that such an exciting theme encompasses.

Conference Location: A scenic resort in the Pirin Mountain area, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. *Conference Host:* Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

PAST CONFERENCES

First German Conference on Chemoinformatics November 13-15, 2005, Goslar, Germany

<http://www.cic-workshop.de/>

What does a small medieval town in the Harz Mountains have to do with chemistry? The closest connection would be that centuries ago, Goslar used to be a prosperous community thriving on a booming mining industry (the richest reserves of copper ore in the world were in this area). The mine was closed in 1989 and turned into a unique mining museum that has put Goslar on the world map as one of UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Monuments.

In the ambience of 15th century buildings (the former home of the Siemens family is still there), another connection with chemistry was established in November, 2005, when the German Chemical Society organized its first chemoinformatics conference. It allowed some 125 attendees (with fewer than 10 women among them) to discuss such topics as Chemical Semantic Web, Open Data, Open Source, and InChI (IUPAC International Chemical Identifier).

The conference program included sessions in the following areas: Chemical Information Systems and Scientific Publishing, Chemoinformatics and Drugs Development, Computational/Theoretical Chemistry, and eTeaching/eLearning.

One of the most interesting talks that defined the whole mood of the conference was "The Chemical Semantic Web," presented by Professor Peter Murray-Rust (University of Cambridge, Great Britain), in which he discussed the technical and cultural issues preventing free access to chemical information and the creation of a Chemical Semantic Web. Many participants expressed their frustration with the fact that the chemical information field is lagging behind many other disciplines in responding to the Open Access and Open Data movements. They acknowledged that at this moment, there are many problems in presenting and accessing chemical information, but that the nature of chemical information (e.g., the tools and the language chemists are using) gives researchers many opportunities, which can change the way they do their research and present their results.

In his talk, "Open Access/Open Source and the IUPAC International Chemical Identifier (InChI)," Steven Heller discussed his concerns about free access (and the lack of it) to the chemical literature. Stephen Bryant, from the National Institutes of Health (NIH, Bethesda, Maryland), updated the audience on the fast growing chemical database PubChem. "Chemical Information Instruction in America and Germany: A new Bridge?" was presented by Bartow Culp (Purdue University). The Director of the Beilstein Institute Martin Hicks talked about the new Open Access journal, the *Beilstein Journal of Organic Chemistry* and its business model.

In her "After Dinner Talk," Wendy Warr, in an amusing manner, told the story of chemoinformatics ("25 Years of Chemoinformatics."), engaging in a dialog some of the people in the audience, who have actually made this history. Some new authoring tools and trends in publishing and accessing the chemical literature have also been discussed at the conference. According to some of the presenters, 2005 will remain as the year when the chemical information field opened to Open Access.

Most of the content of this article was first published in *Library Matters*, a newsletter of the University of Maryland Libraries.

Svetla Baykoucheva
sbaykouc@umd.edu