



Public-Private Collaboration Develops BioOne, Providing Online, Full-text Access to Aggregated Database of Bioscience Research Journals

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For more information, contact:

Alison Buckholtz at 202-296-2296 x115 or alison@arl.org

Web-based Forum Provides Unique, Cost-Effective Access to Cross-Linked Scientific Publications Previously Available Only in Print

Washington, D.C. -- A public-private collaboration of five organizations, including the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), the Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium, the University of Kansas and Allen Press, announced today the development of BioOne. BioOne is an electronic aggregation of the full texts of dozens of leading research journals in the biological, ecological and environmental sciences.

BioOne will provide Internet access, for the first time, to a common database of leading journals in their fields at prices and under usage terms sensitive to the interests of both society publishers and institutional subscribers. The project will be launched with a broad selection of the journals and bulletins published by the 55 AIBS member societies. Back issues are expected to be included. Additional publishers and journals will be added over time. Ultimately, the BioOne aggregation could include nearly 200 science titles, including those from non-AIBS members.

Despite their significance in their respective fields, few of the AIBS-affiliated journals are currently available electronically. Online access to an aggregated database of these publications represents a major advancement in information dissemination for critical fields of scholarship and research. The Internet delivery system will provide state-of-the-art functionality based on an archival SGML database and will offer cross-journal searches and inter-journal linking from references.

"The wide-ranging collaboration behind BioOne can serve as a model among the scientific and university library communities with respect to service, design, features, cost, and terms of use," said Richard

O'Grady, AIBS Executive Director. "AIBS looks forward to working with its member societies on this project," said Gregory Anderson of the University of Connecticut, President of AIBS.

"Without BioOne, few of these publications would have the opportunity to meet the electronic marketplace's demands while maintaining independence in today's fast-changing environment," said Rick Johnson, SPARC Enterprise Director. "BioOne allows a group of undercapitalized scientific societies a low-risk means of moving decisively into electronic dissemination of research, while expanding their service to science."

"The Big 12 Plus believes that scholarly societies can help provide high-impact, lower cost alternatives to commercially published journals, and BioOne is the kind of solution research libraries are looking for," said Adrian Alexander, Executive Director of the Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium.

"The University of Kansas' role as a center for learning and scholarship translates into our active technical support for and commitment to BioOne," said Marilu Goodyear, Vice Chancellor for Information Services at the University of Kansas. Robert Kidd, Director of Development at Allen Press, noted that "BioOne is a natural extension of Allen Press' close work with scientific societies, and we are committed to helping these journals stay viable and competitive on the Web."

BioOne is scheduled for beta release in early 2001 and expects to be operational soon thereafter. Its financing model will enable libraries and societies to fashion a mutually beneficial relationship in which customers have an opportunity to influence service features and moderate the pricing of information resources.

Each of the collaborating organizations has been deeply involved in various aspects of the scientific communications process. AIBS, publisher of the journal *BioScience*, is a federation of scientific societies that facilitates the exchange and dissemination of scientific information among its members and with the public at large. SPARC is a coalition of libraries that promotes and facilitates expanded competition in the scientific journals market. The Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium represents 23 major research libraries with common objectives related to scholarly communications. The University of Kansas is a major comprehensive research and teaching university committed to research as a means of mutually reinforcing the scholarly inquiry underlying and informing the educational experience. Allen Press is one of the nation's leading producers of scientific, academic and medical journals and has been providing its clients with SGML-based Web delivery of journals since 1997.

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