

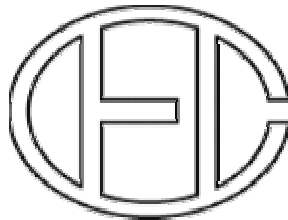
# Handling Electronic Issues in the International Mathematical Community

Jonathan Michael Borwein, FRSC  
Shrum Professor and Canada Research Chair



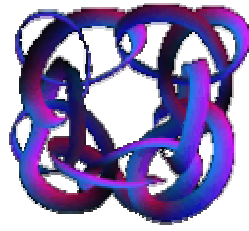
Director, [Simon Fraser CoLab](#)

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*“The common principle ... is that those who write, disseminate, and store mathematical literature should act in ways that serve the interests of mathematics, first and foremost.”*



## INTRODUCTION

- Great changes are underway in the way we compute and communicate. This talk discusses a few of the changes that impinge especially on the mathematical sciences, **concentrating on the initiatives of the IMU**.
- The full [CEIC Report](#) to the General Assembly is available on line in Word and PDF at <http://www.ceic.math.ca/>.
- This is a complicated world, e.g., the Canadian Mathematical Society *adheres* to the IMU within the [International Council of Scientific Unions](#) (ICSU <http://www.icsu.org/>), via the Canadian *National Research Council* (NRC)!
- And as Mathematicians we are growingly powerless to effect our future.

As evidence of the changes, I refer to two recent issues of *Computers in Science and Engineering*, a journal jointly published by the ACM and the IEEE. The first, in February 2000, was on the [Top Ten Algorithms](#) having the

"greatest influence on the development and practice of science and engineering in the 20th century".

See also the Science News coverage at  
([www.sciencenews.org/20000212/mathtrek.asp](http://www.sciencenews.org/20000212/mathtrek.asp))  
entitled 'Algorithms for the Ages'.

- A follow up issue in May 2001 was on *Tomorrows' Hardest Problems*

(<http://computer.org/cise/cs2001/c3toc.htm>).

It includes my article with P. Borwein, discussing

"Challenges in Mathematical Computing."

A *true* preprint---the editor actually edited---is available at

<http://www.cecm.sfu.ca/preprints/2001pp.html>.

- Therein, we make the claim that

*"Almost all interesting mathematical algorithmic questions relate to NP-hard questions and such computation is prone to explode exponentially. More space, more speed and processors, and even say massive parallelism will have an impact but it will be largely at a 'micro not macro' level. We anticipate the greatest benefit accruing from mathematical platforms that allow for highly computer assisted insight generation (more 'aha's' per cycle), not from solution of grand challenge problems."*

- While I talk primarily from the perspective of a researcher, it is important to remember how many 'players' there are and how small a part of the scheme mathematical [science publishing](#) and computing really is.
- Though we, like Tom Lehrer, know math is [everywhere](#), in reality even the bioscience disciplines are likely to tread over us.

- For example, Nobel Laureate Richard J. Roberts recently wrote in "**PubMed Central: The GenBank of the published literature**", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, Vol. **98**, 2, 381--382, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2001.

(<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/041601398v1>)

*"What is a reasonable delay? I would argue that 6 months seems a reasonable time for a journal to monopolize the content. Most of us would not dream of scanning the contents of a journal published 6 months ago unless we were searching for a specific article. Thus it seems unlikely that a large number of subscriptions would be lost if 6-month-old issues were made freely available. I think rather few worthwhile journals would be adversely affected if they were to institute such a policy."*

- Such an outcome would *destroy* most current mathematics society publishing. Despite that, *such issues are not high on mathematicians' agendas*. For example, only a handful out of over ten thousand mathematicians have chosen to grant the AMS permission to publish rather than transfer copyright, since they were offered the choice a decade ago.

- Nor do we often take care to distinguish public ventures from purely commercial initiatives like <http://www.mathpreprints.com/> (which actively hides its Elsevier roots).

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### Neutrality ([Nature](#) Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 2001)

*"But PMC and E-Biosci highlight the urgent need to index the full text of papers and their metadata and not just abstracts, as is the practice of PubMed and other aggregators.*

.....

*The reality is that all of those involved in scientific publishing are in a period of intense experimentation, the outcome of which is difficult to predict (see Tim O'Reilly, Information wants to be valuable). **Getting there will require novel forms of collaboration between publishers, databases, digital libraries and other stakeholders. It would be unwise to put all of one's eggs in the basket of any one economic or technological 'solution'. Diversity is the best bet."***

- As Lawrence Lessig cogently points out, innovation and freedom are under digital threat at **content, code and concrete** levels.

I finish this introduction by quoting Lessig quoting [Jefferson](#) on the nature of ideas.

## **JEFFERSON**

*“If nature has made any one thing less susceptible than all others of exclusive property, it is the action of the thinking power called an idea, which an individual may exclusively possess as long as he keeps it to himself; but the moment it is divulged, it forces itself into the possession of everyone, and the receiver cannot dispossess himself of it.*

*[2] Its peculiar character, too, is that no one possesses the less, because every other possesses the whole of it. He who receives an idea from me, receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lites his taper at mine, receives light without darkening me.*



*[3] That ideas should freely spread from one to another over the globe, for the moral and mutual instruction of man, and improvement of his condition, seems to have been peculiarly and benevolently designed by nature, when she made them, like fire, expansible over all space, without lessening their density at any point, and like the air in which we breathe, move, and have our physical being, incapable of confinement, or exclusive appropriation.*

*[4] Inventions then cannot, in nature, be a subject of property. ’’*

- Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Issac McPherson (August 13, 1813), in *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson* 6, page 94 of *The Future of Ideas* by Lawrence Lessig, Random House, 2001.

## THE WORK OF THE CEIC (1998-2003)

- To further set the stage:

*“The work then proceeds in a manner unique to science. Because practitioners publish their work electronically, through the e-print archives at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the entire community can read a paper hours after its authors finish typing the last footnote. **As a result, no one theorist or even a collaboration does definitive work. Instead, the field progresses like a jazz performance: A few theorists develop a theme, which others quickly take up and elaborate. By the time it's fully developed, a few dozen physicists, working anywhere from Princeton to Bombay to the beaches of Santa Barbara, may have played important parts.**”*

- Gary Taubes in “String Theorists Find a Rosetta Stone” *Science*, July 23 (1999), 513.
- I draw attention to various specific CEIC activities:

a. Our *statement on copyright* and related *copyright activities*; and more generally on current and future *Best Practices*;

b. Our plans for development of *personal collected works* and;

c. Our attempts at propagating *secondary home-pages*---such as CECM's at:

[www.cecm.sfu.ca/althome.html](http://www.cecm.sfu.ca/althome.html)

and my own *personal home page*

[www.cecm.sfu.ca/Math-Net/persons\\_meta/jborwein.html](http://www.cecm.sfu.ca/Math-Net/persons_meta/jborwein.html))

See also the *Installation Interface*:

<http://elib.zib.de/cgi-bin/mpm.cgi>

and a list of current [Math-Net sites](#).

d. I also note the growing attempts to collect mathematical data in learning object repositories and in ``global data-bases" such as *arXiv*:

<http://front.math.ucdavis.edu/>.

e. The arXiv has grown out of the Los Alamos preprint server, which has now moved to Cornell

[www.nature.com/nature/debates/e-access/Articles/ginsparg.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/debates/e-access/Articles/ginsparg.html)

and so should mesh better with the various **World** and **Digital Library Initiative(s)**, Euclid, and like projects.

- I especially note CEIC's own involvement with:

1. *MPRESS*: <http://MathNet.preprints.org/>  
through international extension of the German *Math-Net*: <http://www.Math-Net.org/>

2. *Persona Mathematica*: [www.mi.uni-koeln.de/Math-Net/persona\\_mathematica/](http://www.mi.uni-koeln.de/Math-Net/persona_mathematica/)

3. Other services still to be set up, in accord with the *MathNet Charter*: [www.math-net.org/Math-Net\\_Charter.html](http://www.math-net.org/Math-Net_Charter.html)

4. Two new initiatives are the World [Digital Math Library](http://www.wdml.org) ([www.wdml.org](http://www.wdml.org)) and the WDM-online.
- These, and like topics, will be covered by other speakers today. Many were described in some detail in Swanzl and Sperber's contribution to the 2001 Linz meeting: *MathNet: Semantics, Visualization and Internalization*.
- 
- I conclude by discussing our hopes to further develop tools for coordinating these efforts---and the issues and obstacles involved.

*For example, in our mandate we were asked to "consider transferring the World Directory of Mathematicians to an electronic freely accessible form".*

*For logistic and IP reasons, we had recommended not doing so in 2002 but have now opted for **FEDERATED SEARCHING** ('moving the bar up').*

- More generally, we see our future as less technological and more advisory: providing a clearing house and an advisory role on these and similar complicated issues.

*Our **Best Practice** and **Copyright** documents are already serving as models for other disciplines, and are frequently googled.*

- In each case the active endorsement of the IMU Executive has proven invaluable and that of ICIAM and ICME is invited.

## **A CALL TO ARMS**

- The period in which we as academics might ensure control of any significant part of this rapidly changing environment is rapidly slipping away.
- One idea is to actively organize to return copyright to its status at the time of the original **Act of Anne** (1709) allowing fourteen years renewable once.

- Despite the obstacles, the rewards can be amazing:

*“Three years ago, said Dr. Zanelli in Chile, one of his own students posted a paper and the next day received an e-mail message from Dr. Witten. The student was at first so shocked that he accused Dr. Zanelli of playing an elaborate practical joke.*

*We learned that great physicists do read the archives daily and they browse through all the preprints,’ Dr. Zanelli said, ‘even if they come from an obscure place in the end of the world.’*

*Dr. Witten’s instant response, Dr. Zanelli said, ‘was like having the pope drop by for tea.’ ”*

- James Glanz, “Web Archive Opens a New Realm of Research,” *New York Times*, April 30, 2001.

**AND IT IS ANYONE'S GUESS AS TO WHERE WE**

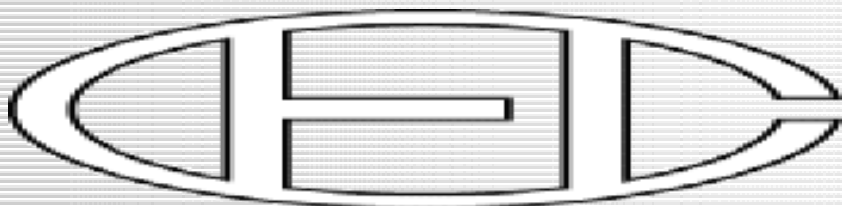


**ARE GOING**

**OR WHO**

**INDEED 'WE' ARE.**





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**Welcome to Committee on Electronic Information Communication**

**Saturday, May 31 2003 @ 06:55 PM PDT**

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The CEIC is an International Math Union (IMU) committee.

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- [search.yahoo.com](http://search.yahoo.com).....1
- [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).....1

### Aspects of Electronic Publishing


Saturday, September 28 2002 @ 04:28 PM PDT

Views: 229

A program of the *Committee on Electronic Information and Communication* (CEIC)

Presentations and discussions of CEIC activities since 1998 and its future plans as presented at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Beijing on Monday, August 26, 2002, 14.00-18.00.

The document is also available in the following format: [\[MS Word\]](#)

[read more](#) (550 words)  

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### Recommendations on Information and Communication

Wednesday, August 07 2002 @ 03:20 PM PDT

Views: 109

- [Preface](#)
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- [Best Current Practices](#)
  - [for Mathematicians](#)
  - [for Librarians and Mathematicians](#)
  - [for Publishers and Mathematicians](#)
- [The Math-Net Charter](#)
  - [The Charter](#)
  - [Supplement](#)
- [The Math-Net Page](#)
  - [Call to all Mathematical Institutions to Install Math-Net Pages](#)
  - [Launching the Math-Net Page](#)
  - [Press Release: Math-Net Page Launched for Mathematics Institutions Worldwide](#)
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### CEIC News Feed

The CEIC website supports standard RSS news feeds. Aside from being able to show them on the site, you can view the news from this site. Just link to our [RSS file](#).



**Publications Electronically Available**  
**- CEIC Copyright Recommendations:**  
**What Do You Want from Your**  
**Publisher**

- [Executive Summary for Authors of Research Papers in Journals](#)
- [An annotated Checklist for Mathematical Authors](#)

Printable versions of the booklet are electronically available at:

[\[WORD\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

Shanghai, August 2002  
IMU Committee on Electronic Information  
and Communication



[Post a comment](#)

**International Mathematical Union**  
**endorses 'Best Practices' in Electronic**  
**Scholarly Publishing**


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Friday, May 10 2002 @ 10:31 AM PDT

Views: 338

*May 10, 2002:* The Executive of the International Mathematical Union has endorsed a broad ranging set of recommendations on **Electronic Information Communication**.

These recommendations, written by its Committee on Electronic Information and Communication (CEIC, [www.ceic.math.ca](http://www.ceic.math.ca)), suggest ways in which mathematicians, librarians, and publishers can help shape the future of scholarly communication. The common principle used to formulate recommendations is that those who write, disseminate, and store mathematical literature should act in ways that serve the interests of mathematics, first and foremost.

[read more](#) (285 words) 

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**Recommendations on Electronic**  
**Information Communication (2002)**

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Friday, April 19 2002 @ 12:21 PM PDT

**Views: 140**

Communication of mathematical research and scholarship is undergoing profound change as new technology creates new ways to disseminate and access the literature. More than technology is changing, however; the culture and practices of those who create, disseminate, and archive the mathematical literature are changing as well. For the sake of present and future mathematicians, we should shape those changes to make them suit the needs of the discipline.

For this reason, we have identified a number of "best practices" for those involved with the mathematical literature—mathematicians, librarians, and publishers. Many of these are practices that apply to other academic disciplines as well. Although we focus primarily on mathematics, we recognize that we can learn from each other as we move forward, and that no single discipline should act in isolation.

Our advice is meant to guide practice as it changes rather than to set forth a collection of firm rules and admonitions. The recommendations concern all forms of scholarly publishing and do not promote any particular form. Indeed, the authors of this document hold many differing views on the future of scholarly publishing. The common principle used to formulate our recommendations is that those who write, disseminate, and store mathematical literature should act in ways that serve the inter-ests of mathematics, first and foremost.

This is advice that is meant to ease the transition in scholarly communication for present mathematicians. Most importantly, however, it is advice aimed at protecting mathematicians in the future.

Recommendations (30 April 2002) [[CMS](#)]  
[[CEIC](#)]



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**IMU/CEIC Recommendation**

Sunday, March 24 2002 @ 10:20 AM PST

Views: 104

IMU/CEIC Recommendation:

Call to all mathematics institutions to  
install Math-Net Pages

*Recommended by the Committee on  
Electronic Information and Communication  
(CEIC) of the IMU on February 17, 2002*

IMU endorsement [[HTML](#)] [[WORD](#)]



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### **Copyright und elektronisches Publizieren: Auf dem Weg zu vernünftigen Regelungen?**

Thursday, August 16 2001 @ 10:33 PM PDT

Views: 60

Das Committee on Electronic Information  
and Communication (CEIC) der  
International Mathematical Union (IMU) hat  
die Aufgabe, sich über die langfristige  
Informationsversorgung in der Mathematik  
Gedanken zu machen und  
Lösungsvorschläge hierfür zu erarbeiten.  
Das Kernthema ist natürlich  
"Elektronisches Publizieren". Dazu  
gehören auch Copyright-Regelungen. Mit  
diesem Artikel beginnt eine kleine Serie  
von Aufsätzen, in denen ich (in meiner  
Funktion als eines von elf CEIC-Mitgliedern)  
die Empfehlungen des CEIC erläutern  
werde. .

<http://www.zib.de/PaperWeb/abstracts/ZR-01-13>

Grötschel Martin



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### **Mathematical copyright**

Tuesday, July 03 2001 @ 01:46 PM PDT

Views: 54

# What do you want from your publisher?

## Executive summary for authors of research papers in journals

*Endorsed by the Executive Committee of the IMU in its 68th's session in Princeton, NJ, May 14-15, 2001)*

The number of mathematical papers that are stored or circulated as electronic files is increasing steadily. It is important that copyright agreements should keep in step with this development, and not inhibit mathematical authors or their publishers from making best use of the electronic medium together with more traditional media. While most mathematicians have no desire to learn the subtleties of copyright law, there are some general principles that they should keep in mind when discussing copyright for research papers with their publishers.

1. A copyright agreement with your publisher is a bargain struck between his interests and yours. You are entitled to look out for your interests. Most journal publishers have a standard copyright form, and may be unwilling to vary it for individual authors. But nothing prevents you from asking, if you see room for improvement. Pressure from authors may lead publishers to change their standard contracts.
2. Three groups of people have an interest in your paper:
  - a. Yourself and your employer (who may in some countries be automatically the original copyright holder and hence a party to the copyright agreement);
  - b. The journal publisher;
  - c. Users of paper who are not parties to the copyright agreement, including readers and libraries.

One of the main purposes of your copyright agreement is to control how your publisher or you make the paper available to this third group. Publishers will hardly allow individual authors to dictate agreements with libraries. But if you know that a certain journal publisher makes life hard for libraries, you can take this into account when choosing where to submit your paper.

3. There is no ideal copyright agreement for all situations. But in general your agreement should contain the following features:
  - a. You allow your publisher to publish the paper, including all required attachments if it is an electronic papers.
  - b. You give your publisher rights to authorize other people or institutions to copy your paper under reasonable conditions, and to abstract and archive your paper.
  - c. Your publisher allows you to make reprints of the paper electronically available in a form that makes it clear where the paper is published.
  - d. You promise your publisher that you have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that your paper contains nothing that is libellous or infringes copyright.
  - e. Your publisher will authorize reprinting of your paper in collections and will take all reasonable steps to inform you when he does this.

4. Should you grant full copyright to the publisher? In some jurisdictions it is impossible to transfer full copyright from author to publisher; instead the author gives the publisher an exclusive right to do the things that publishers need to do, and these things need to be spelt out in the agreement. This way of proceeding is possible in all jurisdictions, and it has the merit of being clear and honest about what is allowed or required.

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*The complete copyright checklist was written by Wilfrid Hodges. It was approved and is recommended by the Committee on Electronic Information and Communication of the International Mathematical Union (IMU). A final version will be posted in the near future.*



## Welcome to the SFU CoLab Website

### Official Opening

- **Sept 23rd, 2002** 1.00-2.30pm. ([By invitation.](#))  
Further **Open Houses** from 1.30-3.30 on **Sept 25, Oct 9, Nov 29, March 14, 2003** **Pi Day Open House** ([A Tour of Pi](#)). **July 24, 2003**: SFU Board Demo.

### What's New

- WestGrid [Official Launch](#) on **May 8, 2003** ([PDF](#)), [Press Release](#) and [WestGrid](#) slide show.
- Rob Scharein's [CoLab Visualization Tools](#)
- [Jon Borwein's](#) personal resources and [Math-Net Pages](#)
- Workshop on [Special Functions in the Digital Age](#) (**Jan 23-24, 2003**)
- [ACE Group Meetings](#): **Thursday 3.30-5.00** in CoLab. ([Details](#))
- [ACE External Events](#)
- [CoLab Bookings](#)
- Information about [IRMACS](#) --SFU's related future Research Centre.

### Feature Seminars

#### 2003 CECM-CoLab Summer Meeting & Party

- **Thursday, July 31** at Halpern Centre



Canada Research Chairs

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[math-net@zib.de](mailto:math-net@zib.de) © Konrad-Zuse-Zentrum für Informationstechnik Berlin ([ZIB](#))

Bookmark URL: <http://www.math-net.de/navigator/>

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# Under Construction

This site [www.wdml.org](http://www.wdml.org) is currently under construction. Please check back later.

27 May 2003



## CoLab Regular Meetings

- ACE Group Meetings: **Thursday 3.30-5.00** in CoLab.

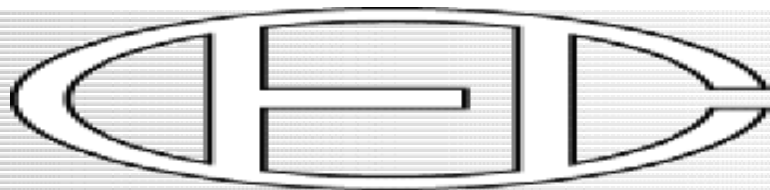
NewMIC's ACE group meets at same time with "access grid" connectivity. Monthly openhouses will be held in turn at CoLab and NewMIC.

1. **June 19th**: CoLab Meeting at SFU at 2.30.
2. **May 29th**: CoLab Meeting at SFU.  
Presentation by **Silicon Chalk**
3. **May 1st**: CoLab Meeting at NewMIC
4. **April 3rd, 17th**: CoLab Meeting at CoLab
5. **March 13th**: Joint CoLab/NewMIC Meeting at NewMIC
6. **March 7th**: IRMACS Open house (1.30-3.30). Gregh Buck Knot theory lecture at 4.00 in Collab
7. **February 27th**: Regular CoLab Meeting
8. **January 30th**: Joint CoLab/NewMIC Meeting
9. **January 9th**: Organizational Meeting

## Recent and Upcoming External Events

- Minisymposium on "Advanced Collaborative Environments" at **ICIAM 2003**, Sydney Australia, July 7-11, 2003.

## **Past Meetings and External Events**



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Welcome to Committee on Electronic Information Communication

Saturday, May 31 2003 @ 07:26 PM PDT

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### Featured Article



#### **Terms of Reference (2002-2006)**

Saturday, August 31 2002 @ 04:50 PM PDT

Views: 223

At its 70th session on August 16, 2002, in Shanghai the International Mathematical Union (IMU) Executive Committee has reviewed the activities of its "Committee on Electronic Information and Communication" (CEIC) and decided to re-establish CEIC for a second term with the following revised terms of reference.

The terms of reference are also available in the following formats [\[WORD\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

[read more](#) (597 words)  

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#### **Bertelsmann AG selling BertelsmannSpringer**

Tuesday, May 13 2003 @ 11:46 AM PDT

Views: 13

(AFX-Focus) 2003-05-13 08:18 GMT:

GUETERSLOH, Germany (AFX) - Bertelsmann AG said it agreed to sell its scientific publishing unit, BertelsmannSpringer, to UK private equity firms Cinven and Candover for 1.05 bln eur.

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#### **NY Times: The Evelyn Wood of Digitized Book Scanner**

Monday, May 12 2003 @ 01:58 PM PDT

Views: 5

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### CEIC News Feed

The CEIC website supports standard RSS news feeds. Aside from being able to show them on the site, you can view the news from this site. Just link to our [RSS file](#).



By JOHN MARKOFF

"PALO ALTO, Calif., May 10 -- Putting the world's most advanced scholarly and scientific knowledge on the Internet has been a long-held ambition for Michael Keller, head librarian at Stanford University. But achieving this goal means digitizing the texts of millions of books, journals and magazines -- a slow process that involves turning each page, flattening it and scanning the words into a computer database."

[\[Full Story\]](#)



[Post a comment](#)

### **THE MATHEMATICS SURVEY**

Wednesday, December 18 2002 @ 03:07 PM PST

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Views: 47

"This is a proposal to construct a new means of organizing, communicating and archiving mathematical knowledge, by a faithful representation of that knowledge in cyberspace. The purpose is first of all to provide a peer-reviewed survey of all of mathematics, professionally organized, fully searchable, navigable and retrievable, continuously archived and updated, and available free online to anyone with Internet access, in perpetuity. This is to be achieved by creation of an electronic journal, The Mathematics Survey (or MathSurvey for short), which would be a multi-layered network of richly interlinked electronic survey journals, one in each branch of mathematics."

Full information is available at:

[Mathematics Survey](#)



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### **Biologists to Launch Free Journal**

Tuesday, December 17 2002 @ 10:47 AM PST

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Views: 128

With a \$9 million, 5-year grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Nobel laureate Harold Varmus and other biologists are setting out to publish an "open-access" biology journal. Their aim is nothing less than to "create a new economic model in scientific publishing"--a low-cost operation that will not charge for articles but would pay its way with authors' fees (estimated at \$1500 per article initially).

[read more](#) (341 words)

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### **Version 45 of the Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography**

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**Monday, October 14 2002 @ 02:00 PM PDT**

**Views: 160**

The online bibliography described below may be of use to some of you during your discussions as there are lists and links to a number of articles on relevant topics (e.g., copyright).

Keith Dennis

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[read more](#) (676 words)  

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---

### **Intellectual Property and the Long-Term Protection of the Public Domain**

**Monday, October 07 2002 @ 10:38 AM PDT**

**Views: 60**

Special funding initiative:

"The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announces a funding initiative focusing on intellectual property and the long-term protection of the public domain. Through this limited initiative of the General Program, the Foundation seeks to contribute to an intellectual property regime in the digital era that balances the legitimate needs of both creators and the public. The Foundation will also support work designed to protect — over the long term — the public domain of information and ideas."

The entire announcement is available as a: [\[PDF\]](#)



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### **Aspects of Electronic Publishing**



**Saturday, September 28 2002 @ 04:28 PM PDT**

**Views: 229**

A program of the *Committee on Electronic Information and Communication* (CEIC)

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