ALPSP is the only international trade association representing all types of non-profit publishers as well as the largest trade association for scholarly and professional publishers. It has over 350 members in 36 countries, who collectively publish over 10,000 journals – around half the world’s total - as well as books, databases and other products and services. ALPSP carries out research and other projects, establishes good practice guidelines, monitors national and international issues and represents members’ interests to the wider world. It offers an extensive programme of seminars and training as well as an informative website (www.alpsp.org), a quarterly journal, Learned Publishing, and a monthly e-newsletter, ALPSP Alert. The ALPSP Learned Journals Collection (ALJC) is a unique online collection which enables small and medium sized publishers to package their journals with a single umbrella licence, pricing model and delivery platform. In 2008 it will comprise 728 journals from 53 publishers.

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ALPSP is grateful to the following for their generous support of the ALPSP Awards Dinner:
Applications were invited for four awards this year, including two new awards: Best Online Journal and Best New Journal. The aim of the awards is to reward excellence in the field of learned and professional publishing. The awards were judged by two panels of experts, chaired by Alan Singleton of Professional Engineering Publishing and Richard Gedye of Oxford University Press.

The ALPSP/Charlesworth Award for Best Learned Journal recognises outstanding design and production qualities in the printed journal, including the cover, layout and ease of use for both reader and librarian. Close attention is given to how closely it matches the needs and demands of its users. To be eligible, journals should consist primarily of peer-reviewed scholarly research articles. Once again, the standard of journals submitted was generally very high.

This year the award was made to the Journal of Glaciology, published by the International Glaciological Society which demonstrates excellent design and production standards and has a very dynamic feel. While the subject clearly lends itself to dramatic photography, the cover design with the contrasting colours of the logo and photograph is very striking. The contents page is well laid out, the typography traditional but clear and both mono and colour illustrations easy to read. On a practical level, information about the journal eg parts, columns, dates, barcode, ISSN, subscriber and information for authors is clearly displayed; the paper is of good quality and weight and the journal holds open easily for the reader.

The International Glaciological Society is delighted that the Journal of Glaciology has won this prestigious award. Published first in 1947, the Journal has undergone a radical redesign to reflect the topical and dynamic nature of glaciology today. We wanted a design that would make the most of the often stunning images of glaciers taken from the ground and from space, while making large amounts of data and complex mathematics lucid and attractive on the page. It has been a time of rapid change in the Journal office. Along with the redesign, we have introduced speedy online publication, ease of internet access and fast-tracking of cutting-edge new papers. We are very pleased that our efforts have been recognised by the judges.

Christine Butler
Production Manager
International Glaciological Society

Special mention goes to Clinical Medicine (Journal of the Royal College of Physicians) which offers a wealth of information to the clinician in a clear and easily accessible way.

Nature Clinical Practice also employs a clear design which allows easy assimilation of content for the busy practitioner, while the reference information about the journal is easily located.
The ALPSP/Charlesworth Award for Best Online Journal was introduced this year in recognition of the fact that more and more journal content is published online. The judges considered the overall appearance including ease of navigation, search facilities, accessibility and overall match to the journal’s community (both reader and author). The applications formed two groups, those offering an online version of the print journal and those which offered a full information portal both for the journal itself and a host of related content. It was not always clear in some cases, however, what the exact relationship was with the print product. For the purposes of this year’s award, the panel focused on the presentation of the journal as an entity and in the effective use of the digital environment to serve the needs of both authors and readers.

The winner of this year’s award was the Biochemical Journal from Portland Press. Launched in January 2007, it is both visually attractive and easy to use. Content is clearly displayed and information for authors, readers and librarians readily available. Small touches such as the vertical banners and the inclusion of the editorial board’s biographies help bring the journal to life. The site maintains the character of the journal while exploiting the digital medium to offer a range of additional features such as the different ‘knowledge environments’, pre press ‘Immediate Publication’ articles, ‘BJ Central Home’ and the ‘My BJ toolbox’.

The judges would also like to give special mention to bmj.com from BMJ Publishing and the New England Journal of Medicine published by the Massachusetts Medical Society. Relaunched in early 2007, BMJ.com offers a complete change of direction from the traditional print:online relationship model. The focus is on the online publication of individual articles, with only a selection of these appearing in the weekly print issue. It offers a seamless portal to an extensive range of content, together with a number of interactive features. It is very user-oriented and may well become a model for others to follow. It will be interesting to watch how it develops.

We are delighted to be awarded the ALPSP/Charlesworth Award for Best Online Journal for 2007. Portland Press has overcome the limitations of print and exploited the flexibility of the digital environment to re-purpose the Biochemical Journal online. The journal has been re-mastered for the digital age to offer readers and authors an enhanced platform in which to build online communities within selected knowledge environments.

With ‘My BJ’ we have also developed an online area where users can create their own personal space including customized searching and alerting, and access to a personal filing cabinet to store favourite articles. After celebrating the journal’s Centenary in 2006, we hope the transformation we have made will ensure the Biochemical Journal moves forward to the next 100 years.

Rhonda Oliver
Managing Director
Portland Press Ltd

New England Journal of Medicine is also very user-centred and easy to navigate. A number of additional tools and features are offered but the emphasis remains on providing clinicians with up to date information, analysis and commentary.

ALAN SINGLETON (Chair)
Managing Director
Professional Engineering Publishing Ltd

PANEL OF JUDGES FOR BEST LEARNED JOURNAL AND BEST ONLINE JOURNAL AWARDS:

Alan Singleton, Managing Director, Professional Engineering Publishing Ltd
Andrew Giaquinto, Art Director, Institute of Physics Publishing
John Jarvis, Senior Vice President, Europe; Managing Director, Wiley Europe Limited
Diana Leitch, Deputy University Librarian (Information Resources and Academic Support), The John Rylands University Library, University of Manchester
Sue Pandit, Dean of School, London College of Communication
The ALPSP/Charlesworth Award for Publishing Innovation recognises a significantly innovative approach to any aspect of scholarly publication. Fifteen applications were received, from which a shortlist of four was selected to give a presentation to the judges. The panel considered the originality and innovative qualities of each, together with their utility and benefit to their community and long term development prospects.

The clear winner of this year’s award was Project Prospect from the Royal Society of Chemistry. This project sees the introduction of semantics into chemical science publishing. Project Prospect journals incorporate standard metadata within the full text of their articles and combine this with an elegant and intuitive on screen manifestation of the advantages of including this metadata. As a result, sophisticated and effective searching of the literature is greatly improved and the value gained from reading each article is significantly enhanced. Project Prospect is delightfully simple to use and its benefits to authors and readers are immediately obvious.

Project Prospect from the Royal Society of Chemistry
AWARD FOR PUBLISHING INNOVATION: WINNER

StratOG.net distance learning programme from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
AWARD FOR PUBLISHING INNOVATION: HIGHLY COMMENDED

Also shortlisted for this award were: the Berkeley Electronic Press Guest Access Policy which offers an interesting and imaginative response to the question of open access vs subscriber content; and the STIX Fonts project to develop a set of comprehensive, unicode-based fonts for use in scholarly electronic publication. These will be released under an open source licence and, it is hoped, greatly improve the online display of documents by negating the need to use graphic images to represent special characters. Supported by the American Chemical Society, American Institute of Physics, American Mathematical Society, Elsevier and the IEEE, the project is impressive in terms of its scope and the thoroughness and determination with which it has been developed over 12 years.

RSC Publishing is proud to win the 2007 ALPSP/Charlesworth Award for Publishing Innovation, which is great recognition for the work our publishing staff and academic partners have put into the development and evolution of Project Prospect. We feel this award demonstrates that the addition and application of standard data and terminology can add real value and increase scientific accessibility within the published literature, and learned societies are ideally placed to widen the use and application of structured science in their publications.

Richard Kidd
Manager, Editorial Production Systems
RSC Publishing
The ALPSP/Charlesworth Award for Best New Journal, new for 2007, was open to journals launched within the last three years. The judges considered the success of the journal as a whole, including the timeliness of its launch, success in attracting papers and opportunities for future development. Seventeen applications were received, of which two were online only. Five were shortlisted to give a presentation to the panel.

The winner of the award was Jazz Perspectives published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis. The rapid growth of jazz scholarship over the last ten years and the apparent absence of a peer-reviewed academic publication in the field prompted the launch of this journal early in 2007. It aims to represent the broad, cross-disciplinary nature of the subject and to provide an international platform for historical inquiry, music analysis and cultural studies. The title was chosen to indicate the broad scope of the journal; it also offers the opportunity to extend the theme into other musical genres. The journal has been very successful in attracting a wide range of papers and both personal and institutional subscriptions. Future plans include increasing publication to three and then four times a year, the introduction of more multimedia features to the online content, an annual conference and perhaps even the formation of a learned society. The judges were impressed by the accurate identification of the market need, the journal’s rapid success and clear and exciting possibilities for future development.

The judges awarded a Highly Commended Certificate to Nanomedicine published by Future Medicine Ltd. Launched in response to the development of a new scientific community this journal aims to offer commentary and analysis as well as research. Readers are offered both executive summaries and abstracts which are proving popular, particularly among non English readers. The increased use of tables and illustrations also improves accessibility. A strong in-house editorial team allows a rapid schedule of 8-10 weeks from receipt to publication. Good links have been built with authors and there are plans to increase publication from bi-monthly to monthly and also to enhance the online content. The rapid growth of nanomedicine as a field has made this journal a vital resource.

What can be more cool than this?! It is always rather humbling to receive an accolade from one’s peers, but it is also especially pleasing to know that lots of hard work and dedication have been recognised. Both the academic editors and the Routledge team had a vision of a new type of journal in music studies, and this has carried through into the content, design, production and marketing of the inaugural issue. The award is testament also to a long tradition of successful innovation in arts and humanities publishing under the Routledge imprint.

David Green, Global Journals Publishing Director
Taylor & Francis Group Ltd

We are delighted that Nanomedicine has been awarded a highly commended certificate for the Best New Journal Award. The commendation is a tribute to the hard work of our Senior Editors, Kostas Kostarelos of the University of London, and Charles Martin of the University of Florida. We must also give profound thanks to our own Launch Editor, Dr Morag Robertson, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that this rapidly emerging scientific discipline is now served with an excellent forum for commentary and debate.

Elisa Manzotti, Editorial Director
Future Medicine Ltd
The judges would also like to make special mention of the other journals on the shortlist: Intellectual Property Law and Practice (Oxford University Press); ACS Chemical Biology (American Chemical Society) and The Economist’s Voice (Berkeley Electronic Press). The judges praised the thorough and professional nature of the launch of Intellectual Property Law and Practice, the journal’s close attention to the needs of its audience and its success in extending scholarly legal publishing beyond academic into professional practice. ACS Chemical Biology offers a wide range of features to the chemical biology community, and ACS is enthusiastic about its future development. The Economist’s Voice aims to provide a forum for the best economic thinking applied to policy in an open and accessible way, and as such appeals to both the professional economist and non specialist.

RICHARD GEDYE (Chair)
Sales Director
Journals Division
Oxford University Press

PANEL OF JUDGES FOR PUBLISHING INNOVATION AND BEST NEW JOURNAL AWARDS:

Richard Gedye, Sales Director, Journals Division Oxford University Press
Sue Corbett, Managing Director, Medicine, Wiley-Blackwell
Jane Moody, Head of Publications, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Fytton Rowland, Senior Lecturer, Information Science, Loughborough University
Hazel Woodward, University Librarian and Director of Cranfield Press

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