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## Authentication

Education Index Retrospective is available through IP authentication or password access. H. W. Wilson will work with customers to accommodate their unique system needs.

## About the Author

**Theresa Liedtka** is Dean of the Lupton Library at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and has previously held positions at California State University at Fullerton, Georgetown University in Washington D. C., and Simmons College in Boston. She received an M.L.S. from Simmons College and M.A.L.S. from Georgetown University. Ms. Liedtka is a coauthor of "A Library Communication Audit for the Twenty-First Century," which appears in the most recent issue of *Portals: Libraries and the Academy* (April 2006). Her research interests include intellectual property, assessment, and library management. ■



## ▼ ADVISOR REVIEWS—STANDARD REVIEW

# Faculty of 1000

*Date of Review: May 15, 2006*

Composite Score:

★★★★ 3/8

Reviewed by: **Victoria Shelton**

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## Pricing Options

The price for Faculty of 1000 depends on the type and size of an institution or organization. For academic institutions the price is based on the number of undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, and faculty in the life sciences departments. For corporate and government organizations, the price is based on the number of full-time research and development staff within the organization. BioMed Central member institutions receive a 15 percent member discount. The 2006 individual subscription fee is \$107 a year. Developing countries receive free access via Faculty of 1000's arrangement with the Health Inter-Net Network Access to Research Initiative (HINARI) <<http://www.f1000biology.com/about/hinari/free>>

Some content is free to all users and includes the "Hidden Jewels" for All of Biology and "Hidden Jewels" for All of Medicine sections. These features list the top papers published in less widely circulated journals.

## Product Description

Faculty of 1000 (F1000) is an online post-publication literature awareness and evaluation service for the biomedical sciences. It offers a rapid systematic review and rating of the most noteworthy primary research papers as judged by a panel of over 1,600 of the world's leading researchers in the life sciences (called Faculty Members). Each Faculty Member is asked to recommend two to four published research papers a month from any source and in areas both within and outside their areas of expertise. For each paper they recommend, Faculty Members write a brief evaluative commentary and assign a rating ("recommended," "must read," or "exceptional"). They also categorize selected papers under one of the following headings: Novel Finding, Technical Advance, Important Confirmation, Interesting Hypothesis, and Controversial Findings. Each selected paper is assigned an F1000 Factor derived from all the ratings the paper has received. Both the selected titles and the comments by Faculty Members are stored, archived, and

available by subscription as a searchable database. Faculty of 1000 is produced by Biology Report Limited and published by BioMed Central, an Open Access publisher. Both companies are part of The Current Science Group. Faculty of 1000 consists of two sites: Faculty of 1000 Biology (launched in 2002) and Faculty of 1000 Medicine (launched in 2006). In 2002, Faculty of 1000 won the international Publishing Innovation Award from the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP). F1000 Biology was shortlisted in the Best STM Information Product category at the 2004 International Information Industry Awards, London, U. K.

## Critical Evaluation

Prior to the launch of Faculty of 1000, researchers relied on four approaches to coping with a high volume of scientific literature: searching bibliographic databases (particularly PubMed), reading journal review articles, scanning tables of contents of a few 'core' research journals with the highest impact factors, and exchanging information with colleagues at work and at conferences. Faculty of 1000 offers investigators a valuable time-saving tool that complements their traditional ways of sifting through the increasing number of published research papers (over 400,000 articles are indexed by PubMed each year since 1993). Timely, concise evaluations from the world's top researchers allow busy researchers to keep up to date with important developments in both their specialty and related fields. The F1000 factor could serve as an alternative to the more conventional scientific ranking method, the journal impact factor. A product of the Institute for Scientific Information (now Thomson ISI), the journal impact factor evaluates articles (both research and review papers) based on the journal in which they appear. The fact that Faculty of 1000 focuses exclusively on primary research literature (as opposed to review articles) and identifies important papers published not only in major journals (such as *Science*, *Nature*, and *Cell*, the journals with the highest impact factors) but also in less prestigious journals makes it possible



## Faculty of 1000 Review Scores Composite: ★★★★★ 3/8

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

**Content:** ★★★★★ 1/2

A unique, high quality, scientific literature awareness and evaluation service. Recommended for researchers in biomedical sciences, librarians, journalists, and anyone interested in keeping up with the trends and developments across biomedical research.

**Searchability:** ★★★★★

Easy-to-use, customizable. Search by subject area, publication date, paper classification and/or rating. Adequate online Help files.

**Pricing Options:** ★★★★★

Reasonable. Orders should be placed directly with BioMed Central. A range of pricing is available for various types of academic institutions, organizations, and individuals. Free trial.

**Contract Options:** ★★★★★

Reasonable. No limit on the number of concurrent users and no limit on usage.

to compare scientific journals on the basis of their high-quality research articles rather than on the basis of the journals' impact factors. "People assume that if you publish in *Science* that it's a great article," says Gordon Fletcher, a spokesman for BioMed Central Limited, which is operating Faculty of 1000. "There's plenty of other good research published in other journals."<sup>1</sup> Thus, Faculty of 1000 offers an alternative to the way peers judge the significance of a scientific article and subsequently scientists themselves, for they are acknowledged for their research merit and not for the journal in which they are published. Unlike journal impact factors, the F1000 factor "is calculated from a value judgment given by identified experts," says Vitek Tracz, chairman of Current Science Group.<sup>2</sup> Faculty of 1000 has received the support and recommendations of many top researchers. "... We need new models for how to keep up with the scientific output, and to publicize it, and [Faculty of 1000] is an interesting one," says Elliot M. Meyerowitz, a professor of biology at the California Institute of Technology.<sup>3</sup> By 2005, over 80 percent of the world's top institutions had subscribed to Faculty of 1000. A key benefit of Faculty of 1000 for librarians is that it can help them identify the journals that publish the highest number of most important papers within the life sciences. Faculty of 1000 is also a valuable service for anyone who is interested in keeping up with the trends and developments across biomedical research. The utility of some aspects of Faculty of 1000 to a general audience is emphasized by the service's instructions to Faculty Members, that their comments should be written in such a way that "the first sentence [is] intelligible to a general biology audience."<sup>4</sup> A sophisticated but user-friendly interface to Faculty of 1000 allows users to perform complex searches as well as to customize the site to suit the specific needs of individual researchers (My F1000). The recommended papers are grouped into subject areas (called Faculties and run by Heads of Faculty) and within each Faculty into Sections. Unfortunately, the majority of the subdisciplines are presented in a very basic way almost to the exclusion of research with a marginal element. The selected papers are further broken down into Top 10 lists of the papers either across the whole of Biology and Medicine or for individual Faculties: Current Top Ten (most highly rated papers of the previous month), Most-Viewed Top Ten (most frequently viewed papers of the previous month), and Hidden Jewels Top Ten (papers published in less widely

circulated journals). In addition to features common to Faculty of 1000 Biology, Faculty of 1000 Medicine includes the Clinical Impact label assigned to papers that may have an immediate effect on clinical practice. Users can store their searches and opt to receive e-mail alerts of all newly evaluated papers relevant to their My F1000 sections as well as to any stored searches they have created. In addition, they can download references of interest using various reference packages (such as EndNote). Most articles are linked to PubMed. Full-text links are available for all BioMed Central and other Open Access journals or through an institutional subscription to the journal provided the library has set up the links for the library holdings using PubMed's linkout system <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/linkout/doc/liblinkout.html>>. In addition, each paper contains a link to other related articles within the Faculty of 1000 Web site as well as to related articles in PubMed. Faculty of 1000 keeps an archive of all listings, fully accessible and searchable for subscribers. New entries made by the Faculty members are usually posted within 48 hours of submission. The default software prohibits repeated citations by any Faculty Member. The service is updated daily.

### Contract Provisions

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## Authentication

IP authenticated. Allows roaming access.

## Notes

1. Young, Jeffrey. "New Online Service Lets Biologists Vote on Most Important Articles." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 13, 2001.
2. Monastersky, Richard. "Impact Factors Run into Competition: Researchers Look for Other Ways to Evaluate a Paper's Importance." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 14, 2005.
3. Young, Jeffrey. "New Online Service Lets Biologists Vote on Most Important Articles." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 13, 2001.

4. BioMed Central, "The Faculty of 1000 Biology Evaluation System," BioMed Central, <http://www.f1000biology.com/about/system>. Retrieved on June 7, 2006.

## About the Author

**Victoria Shelton** is the Life Sciences Librarian at the University Libraries of George Mason University. She received her M.L.S. from Texas Women's University, Denton, Texas. Since 2001, she has been providing liaison services to the School of Computational Sciences-Bioinformatics, the Department of Molecular and Microbiology, National Center for Biodefense, Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study, and American Type Culture Collection. She has also worked on various Open Access projects, e.g., <http://library.gmu.edu/resources/lifesciences/openaccess>. ■



*Date of Review: May 14, 2006*

Composite Score:

★★★★ 1/8

**Reviewed by: Richard Stringer-Hye**  
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## Pricing Options

Subscriptions are currently available to institutions only. GeoScienceWorld (GSW) plans to offer individual subscriptions in the future. Site licenses are based on a tiered pricing model that takes into account several factors, including number of geoscientists working at the institution, type of organization (academic, government, commercial, etc.), and number of locations.

Tier one pricing for an institution with 5 or fewer geoscientists is \$5,000, whereas tier five pricing, with 51 or more geoscientists, is \$15,000. Other pricing is available for nonprofits and commercial organizations. Pricing inquiries should be directed to one of GSW's sales agencies to obtain a quote. In the United States, the agencies to contact are Amigos Library Services and Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA). Discounts are available to multilocation sites and consortia as well as to institutions that subscribe to GeoRef through the same vendor. Subscription information and tiered pricing pages are available on the GSW site.

## Product Description

GeoScienceWorld is an online resource for research and communications in the geosciences, built on a core aggregation of high-impact, peer-reviewed journals that are indexed, linked, and interoperable with the GeoRef bibliographic database. Launched in early 2005, and formed as a nonprofit corporation by six leading geoscience societies and sponsored by the American Geological Institute as well a number of major petroleum companies, GSW's mission is to be the most comprehensive, widely accessible, easy to use, integrated, and cost-effective online resource for journals in the geological and earth sciences.

## Critical Evaluation

With the debut of GeoScienceWorld in early 2005, the earth science community finally has a extensive internet-based resource for research and communications in the geosciences. GSW was founded by a group of leading geoscientific organizations as a nonprofit corporation for the purpose of making geoscience research and related information easily and economically available via the internet.

Hosted on the Stanford University Libraries' HighWire Press publishing platform, GSW's substantial collection of peer-reviewed journals are indexed, interlinked, and tightly integrated with GeoRef, the major bibliographic database in the earth sciences. GSW serves as a Web portal to both full-text geoscience literature and to the GeoRef database. The user interface is well-designed and logically organized, using eye-friendly colors—mostly shades of blue; navigational menus and toolbars are grouped at the top and on the sides of the screen, and the search and browse choices are grouped in the center of the page. Links for Help pages and other types of information are prominently displayed. One problematic design element is the white font on an orange background on the Browse Journals by Publisher page; the white type makes the text difficult to read.

The GSW Millennium Collection consists of 30 high-impact journals covering a broad range of geoscience areas. The collection is regularly updated as new issues are published. All journals have a minimum of at least one year of content; most have content dating back to 2000. The Literature Archives includes past issues from participating publishers of journals prior to 2000. These issues are fully searchable via GeoRef, and although the full-text articles are available only in PDF format, they are included within the GSW database. The content for a