Served to you on a Silverchair

by Chris Willmott, Science Editor

This is the first editorial I’ve had the opportunity to write since a major overhaul of the Biochemical Society and Portland Press websites, including delivery of The Biochemist. Unless you are an obligative devotee of the paper copy of the magazine, you will hopefully have noticed the new clean and efficient appearance of our online version.

At the beginning of October 2019, Portland Press, which publishes The Biochemist on behalf of the Biochemical Society, moved onto a platform designed by a company called Silverchair. Silverchair specialize in delivery of scholarly content and magazines; their other clients include Oxford University Press, McGraw-Hill Education, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and a growing number of learned societies.

If you haven’t yet had a look around the new website, please can I encourage you to do so. The new platform offers us a range of advantages over the previous online offering which, if we are brutally honest, had been rather clunky for a number of years. A major advantage for users of the new site will be enhanced discoverability. We retain the capability to browse articles by edition, but these now go as far back as February 2002 in which, quite by chance, we were looking at the theme of poisons and toxins (as we are doing in the current issue). In addition to this, it will now be possible to conduct tailored searches across the whole site, within all the journals or targeting just one publication (including The Biochemist).

From a publishing point of view, Portland Press is looking to continue to improve the user experience; future developments include making articles available as soon as they are prepared rather than awaiting closure of the issue, which had been the pattern previously.

Furthermore, we can offer collections of themed content on the home page for the magazine; currently Careers and the Beginner’s Guides are being promoted in this way, but we could choose to highlight other material at different times.

As you will have gathered, we are excited by these developments which we are confident will improve the experience for all readers. Suggestions and comments are, as always, welcomed.

We are aware that print copies of the October issue arrived to some readers very late, we would like to apologize for this.

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