

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee for Systematic Botany Monographs for 2007-2008

Patrick Herendeen

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The ASPT Council approved the appointment of an ad hoc committee to investigate various topics related to Systematic Botany Monographs business and publication operations with the objective of minimizing these aspects of the work load for the Editor in Chief. Unfortunately the chair of the committee, Patrick Herendeen, was not able to devote much time to this task during the past year due to a very busy work schedule. I am working on compiling data now and hope to have some useful information to share at the Council meeting in Vancouver.

Committee to Examine the Future of *Systematic Botany Monographs* (and to a limited extent *Systematic Botany*).

Charge: To examine issues that affect the future of *Systematic Botany Monographs* (SBM) including, but not limited to, the following questions/topics:

Should ASPT bundle SBM with *Systematic Botany* (SB) for a single price? Should a bundled package be an option that members can select if they wish?

Should ASPT members be able to purchase SBM via online access (e-copy) instead of print (also something we need to look at again for SB in the near future)?

Chris has brought up the topic of the future of the editor of SBM. She estimates that she will be able to hold the position for another five years. It is not too early to give some thought on how to make such a transition go smoothly.

Should the finances for SBM be moved to the ASPT Business office?

How should SBM prepare for the ever changing world of e-publishing especially if the demand for books diminishes? For instance, do we want to consider "print-on-demand" and pdfs entirely?

Considering the "set up" costs and the need for archival quality copies, and our general love for books, no one is ready to give up on print versions, but we need to consider these issues and look as far as possible into the future so we can be prepared. Right now our journal and monograph series are in good health and it is the responsibility of this committee to examine ways that will allow us to keep them that way.

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