



The Internet - A Scholarly Community?

Richard Akerman
April 12, 2007



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada



The Internet interprets *lack of community* as damage and routes around it

- with apologies to John Gilmour



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada



Google Groups

alt . wesley . crusher . die . die . die



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada



US Calendar Orders

<http://www.skepchick.org/calendar/ordersus.html>



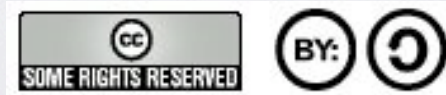
National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada



<http://flickr.com/photos/pfly/22882342/>



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada



Science to the People

- Stardust@Home
- NASA Clickworkers
- Transitsearch
- Systemic





CHANNELS

[Home](#) >

[Last 24 Hours](#)

[Academia](#)

[Biology](#)

[Brain & Behavior](#)

[Chatter](#)

[Culture Wars](#)

[Medicine](#)

[Philosophy of Science](#)

[Physical Science](#)

[Planet Earth](#)

[Policy & Politics](#)

[Ask a ScienceBlogger](#)

THE LATEST POSTS

→ [Get him a job....](#) · A Blog Around The Clock · 13 minutes ago



Young Earth Paleontologist

THE BUZZ IN THE BLOGOSPHERE

02.13.2007

Marcus Ross is a Ph.D. candidate in paleontology whose work has been described as "impeccable." Here's the catch: he's also a young Earth creationist. Although his scientific papers refer to events that happened millions of years ago, Ross himself believes the Earth is less than 10,000 years old and was created as the Bible describes. Should Ross receive a doctorate for work that he thinks is a lie?

LATEST RELATED ENTRIES

[Stealth Creationists and Illinois Nazis](#)

02.13.2007 · Chad Orzel

... yesterday's story about a creationist paleontologist is as good a target as any. The issue here is whether it's appropriate for Marcus **Ross** to receive a Ph.D. for work in paleontology, given that he's a young-earth creationist. His...

[Why is This in the New York Times?](#)

02.12.2007 · Jason Rosenhouse

... From today's New York Times: There is nothing much unusual about the 197-page dissertation Marcus R. **Ross** submitted in December to complete his doctoral degree in geosciences here at the University of Rhode Island. His subject





A peer-reviewed journal provides not just a community of knowledge, but *trusted, authoritative* knowledge



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada



- **Verification** is a slow, static process
- **Participation** is a rapid, dynamic process
- As long as it is easier to participate than to verify, the flood of Internet “noise” will continue





Peer Review Crowds?

- Need sufficient numbers of people
- Need a disinterested crowd





postgenomic

[Home](#)[Stories](#)[Literature](#)[Links](#)[Posts](#)[Blogs](#)[Search](#)[Zeitgeist](#)[Help](#)[Everything](#)[Papers](#)[Books](#)

5,809 total << < 1 **2** 3 4 5

Expression profiling identifies microRNA signature in pancreatic cancer.

  *linked to by 1 published by Int. J. Cancer on Wed 28th Feb 07*

Non coding RNA and brain.

  *linked to by 1 published by BMC Neurosci on Sun 29th Oct 06*

Zebrafish miR-214 modulates Hedgehog signaling to specify muscle cell fate.

  *linked to by 1 published by Nat. Genet. on Wed 31st Jan 07*

[miR-214](#)[zebrafish](#)

National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada 



Chemical blogspace

[Home](#)[Literature](#)[Links](#)[Posts](#)[Molecules](#)[Blogs](#)[Zeitgeist](#)[Markup Help](#)[News](#)

Welcome to Chemical blogspace

Chemical blogspace collects data from tens of scientific chemistry blogs and then does useful and interesting things with it.

With Chemical blogspace, you can:

- Find, read and subscribe to new [science blogs](#)
- Find out what scientists are saying about the latest [books](#) and [papers](#)
- Read [mini-reviews](#), [conference reports](#) or even [original research](#)
- See the buzz surrounding [different websites](#)
- Browse different subject areas - [chemoinformatics](#), [organic chemistry](#), ... see the 'Explore' options on the top right hand side of the page

Chemical blogspace is hosted by the [Research Group for Molecular Informatics](#) at the CUBIC in Cologne, and powered by [PostGenomic.com](#).

Latest Molecules



Latest posts

[About Chemistry](#)[About Chemistry](#)[Good Science Doesn't Always Involve a Lab](#)

National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada



Three Challenges

1. How can your journal or press better **connect with the community** of interested academics, and with the public?
2. How can you **promote the value** of trusted information?
3. How can you **enable the discovery** of your own trusted content?





Thank You

- Richard dot Akerman at NRC dot CA
- Supplementary bookmarks at <http://www.connotea.org/user/scilib/tag/ap2007akerman>
- This presentation is in the Creative Commons <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/>

