

Chemo::Blogs #2

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Abstract

Because no one picked up my Chemo::Blogs suggestion, I will now officially claim the blog series title. However, unlike the original Bio::Blogs series, I will not summarize interesting blogs, but just spam you with websites I recently marked as toblog on del.icio.us.

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Semantics and Text Mining

[Evan Prodromou](#) wrote about [RDFa vs microformats](#). The latter are commonly used in [enhancing blog semantics](#), and for example used by [PostGenomic.com](#). While RDFa is more explicit, e.g. by using namespaced markup, we have to wait until XHTML2 to see it working. I do not think chemists are using tags a lot yet, but let me propose the following microformats: [1/CH4/h1H4](#) and methane. Standard JavaScripts and CSS scripts will then do the rest. (Think: addressing newlines, auto [googling-for-inchi](#), etc).

The reason why using microformats is interesting, is text mining, of various kinds. Whether it is setting up a molecule-article link database, or [find hot molecules in blogspace](#), adding semantics will help tools like [OSCAR3 to mine chemistry](#). Some time ago [OTMI was proposed by Nature](#), and they now set up a [dedicated web site](#) to explain their view on text mining. [Zack Rosen](#) has a good idea why [RDF Semantic web research isn't working](#).

Blogspace

There are a few new chemistry blogs I want to mention (and already added to [Chemical blogspace](#)): [ChemBark](#), [lirico](#) which has an interesting [chemoinformatics section](#), and [The Curious Wavefunction](#). Worth reading indeed.

[Pierre's YOKOFAKUN](#) deserves a paragraph of his own. He recently blogged about [bio2rdf](#) which provides an [RDF interface to biochemical knowledge](#) via [Life Science Identifiers \(LSID\)](#), [OBOEdit](#) which is a Java-based ontology editor, and [Amadea](#) which is a [Taverna](#)- and [KNIME](#)-like tool for setting up UNIX pipes.

Online EMBL Symposium

A few EMBL PhD students are having the [First Online EMBL PhD Symposium](#) (catchy name, or ... ;) Anyway, discussions are held on IRC, and it has a rather interesting Web2.0 session. All [media is available on the website](#) but requires registration right now. After the conference it will become open access to all. [Jean-Claude](#) contributed *The UsefulChem Project: Open Source Chemistry Research using Blogs and Wikis* to the [Participants' Contributions section](#), and I had a poster on *Distributing molecular information over the Internet*, discussing CMLRSS, blog aggregators, CML and other things. The IRC session was logged and is [available here](#).

Literature

Finally, I want to mention three recent articles. First one is a recent write up by Bourne and Friedberg about *Ten Simple Rules for Selecting a Postdoctoral Position* (DOI: [10.1371/journal.pcbi.0020121](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.0020121)). With the end of my current postdoc position nearing, rather useful reading. Some time ago I blogged about a [New open access journal Source Code for Biology and Medicine](#) , and the journal is now up and running. Details can be read in the first editorial (DOI: [10.1186/1751-0473-1-1](https://doi.org/10.1186/1751-0473-1-1)). The third article I would like to mention is *Scientific Software Development Is Not an Oxymoron* by Baxter (DOI: [10.1371/journal.pcbi.0020087](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.0020087)), though I do not think it has new insights.

OK, this was a rather lengthy write up, but really needed to clean up my toblog section :)