

Website Review

Observatori Comunicació i Salut (OCS)

<<http://www.portalcomunicacion.com/ocs/cat/index.asp>>

Via the Portal de la Comunicació (Incom – UAB) we can access the Observatori Comunicació i Salut (Observatory of Communication and Health or OCS in Catalan) which, since 2005, has studied health-related communication regarding three aspects: communication between subjects, communication between institutions and subjects, and the analysis of social-health information transmitted by the mass media. The OCS's lines of research are, among others, the influence of marketing and advertising on behaviour and living habits, relations between public and private institutions and the mass media, an analysis of how health is treated in the media, journalism specialised in health-related areas and the role of the internet in the area of health. The portal has a wide range of services as well as access to research and activities carried out by the OCS, a bibliography, online documents, links, an agenda of activities related to communication and health, etc.

Observatori de la Comunicació Científica (OCC)

<<http://www.upf.edu/occ/>>

The Observatori de la Comunicació Científica (Observatory of Scientific Communication) is a special research centre linked to the Department of Journalism and Audiovisual Communication of the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), created in 1994 by a joint initiative between the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society of the Catalan government and the UPF. The OCC specialises in the study and analysis of the transmission of scientific, medical and technological knowledge to society. The OCC's main areas of research are crisis communication, scientific communication and knowledge representation, journalism specialised in science and technology, the evaluation of the quality of biomedical information, participation in the International Network of Discourse Studies and the strategies and new products to popularise science and technology.

Associació Catalana de Comunicació Científica (ACCC) <<http://www.accc.cat/>>

The Associació Catalana de Comunicació Científica (Catalan Association of Scientific Communication) was created in 1990 as a professional body to bring together scientific communicators, specialised journalists, scientists, popularisers and editors in the Catalan area interested in communicating scientific information in the media. Among its objectives is that of promoting, disseminating, extending and improving scientific communication, emphasising the social and political aspects of scientific information, facilitating the continued training of its associates and encouraging debate and self-criticism among communicators of science, technology and innovation. By means of its website we can access publications, links to other associations, applications for awards for popularising scientific research, courses, conferences, activities, directories (of members, of scientific, environmental and health communication).

Associació Espanyola de Comunicació Científica (AECC) <<http://www.aecomunicacioncientifica.org/>>

The Asociación Española de Comunicación Científica (Spanish Association of Scientific Communication) was created in 1975. One of its aims is to promote scientific journalism and communication in Spain, Europe and Latin America, promote the presence of scientific information in the media, stimulate the training of journalists and of communicators, safeguard the independence and objectivity of content and free speech and facilitate dialogue and relations with sources of information. It covers journalists and communicators from the fields of science, technology, health and the environment. It organises seminars, colloquia, courses and meetings between journalists and scientists with the aim of dealing with contemporary scientific themes. On its website we can find a list of European universities offering scientific journalism studies and forums on themes on the communication of science, technology, health and environment.

European Association of Science Journalists' Associations (Eusja) <<http://www.eusja.org/>>

The European Union of Science Journalists' Associations (Eusja) was set up in 1971 and currently represents 27 science journalism associations from 25 European countries. It acts as a network between science journalists throughout Europe with the aim of facilitating meetings, promoting discussions on topics related to science journalism and open up a forum to extend the coverage of European science. Its website provides access to websites of allied associations, to various reports by the Association, newsletters and detailed information on announcements for congresses and conferences related to science journalism.

American Association for the Advancement of Science <<http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/>>

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is an international organisation dedicated to advancing science around the world by serving as an educator, leader, spokesperson and professional association. It also publishes the journal *Science*, as well as many scientific newsletters, books and reports. Founded in 1848, the AAAS has 262 affiliated societies and academies of science. Its mission is to advance science and serve society through initiatives in science policy, international programmes, science education and more. Some of its objectives are to enhance communication among scientists and the public, promote and defend the integrity of science and its use, foster education in science and technology and increase public engagement with science and technology. On its portal we can find a link to "Communicating science: tools for scientists and engineers", which provides resources to communicate research to the public via the media.

C4. Consell Català de Comunicació Científica <<http://www.cquatrecat.cat/>>

The mission of the Consell Català de Comunicació Científica (Catalan Council of Scientific Communication) is to "contribute to the incursion of science into popular culture, inspiring and generating significant impacts that encourage solid opinion and a critical spirit among citizens. The aim is to promote innovative initiatives and, at the same time, bring together those being carried out to make Catalonia an international benchmark in the public comprehension of science". On its website we can find information on how it operates and its members, as well as a number of resources.

World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) <<http://www.wfsj.org/index.php>>

The World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) is a non-profit organisation created in 2002 representing 37 associations of science and technology journalists from Africa, the Americas, the Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. Its objective is to further science journalism as a bridge between science, scientists and the public, improve the quality of science reporting, promote standards and support science and technology journalists worldwide. On its website we can find information on the latest advances and trends in science journalism. It also provides extensive information on science journalism congresses, books, documents, online resources, grant and award applications and offers the first online course on science journalism.

Servicio de Información y Noticias Científicas (SINC) <<http://www.plataformasinc.es/>>

By the Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology or FECYT) and an institutional result of the Year of Science, in December 2007 the SINC was created to manage and produce science news aimed at the media, the science community and citizens. Its website, constructed using freeware tools, is a source of resources on scientific communication divided into basic areas of knowledge as p.e. natural sciences, biomedicine and health or mathematics. Although this website has been recently created, it is one of the most complete institutions initiatives on this area in Spain.

Instituto de Comunicação e Informação Científica e Tecnológica em Saúde (ICICT) <<http://www.cict.fiocruz.br/>>

The Brazilian Instituto de Comunicação e Informação Científica e Tecnológica em Saúde (Institute of Communication and Scientific and Technological Information in Health) comes historically from the Superintendência de Informação Científica. It defines itself as a scientific-technical unit of the Osvaldo Cruz Foundation that develops strategies and carries out actions to extend the field of scientific information, communication, science, technology and health with the aim of strengthening the free access to scientific knowledge in Brazil and in other Portuguese-speaking countries. On its website we can find access to journals, to virtual libraries on health, information systems and the generation of indicators developed by the ICICT itself, etc.

Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA)

<<http://www.csa.fr>>

The portal of the French regulatory authority contains documents, studies and decisions on science in the media. So we can find a study carried out by the Council itself on scientific broadcasts on French television ("Science et télévision: état des lieux") where it is verified that strictly scientific broadcasts are minimal and that on TV news scientific topics are presented quickly and schematically. Another study on the dissemination of documentaries on national channels has shown an increase in this genre in programming and also that scientific documentaries are more present on public channels, while the private channels prioritise topics on modern life and the economy. Regarding media literacy, we find an intervention on the role of the media (television and radio) on information and education of citizens regarding subjects of bioscience ("Biosciences, éducation du citoyen, information: le rôle des médias").

Consell de l'Audiovisual de Catalunya (CAC)

<<http://www.cac.cat>>

The website of the Consell de l'Audiovisual de Catalunya (Catalan Audiovisual Council) includes a series of documents related to the treatment of different scientific and health-related topics in the media. Among others, we can find a study on *La ciència als espais de televisió infantils* (Science on children's television), with a diagnosis of the kind of science shown on children's television on the Spanish and Catalan TV channels in Catalonia. Another study, *Publicitat audiovisual i trastorns del comportament alimentari* (Audiovisual advertising and food behaviour disorders) analyses the decoding and interpretation by children of TV stimuli and advertising and the repercussion on everyday actions, especially eating patterns and the possibility of developing food disorders. On health we can also find *Comunicación y alegaciones de salud en los lácteos funcionales: análisis de casos de la comunicación* (Communication and health claims in functional dairy products: analysis of communication cases), which analyses the corporate websites and TV adverts promoting functional dairy products and analyses the claims used to promote them. Finally, *Presència i tractament del contingut sobre salut en la programació de la ràdio generalista* (Presence and treatment of health-related content in generalist radio programming) analyses the presence of health-related themes and how they are treated on the programming of generalist radio stations in Catalonia during the 2004/2005 season.

Consejo Audiovisual de Andalucía (CAA)

***Recomendaciones sobre la comunicación social de la ciencia y la tecnología (divulgación científica) en los medios audiovisuales* (Recommendations on the social communication of science and technology (popularising science) in audiovisual media)**

<<http://www.consejoaudiovisualdeandalucia.es>>

Due to the celebration in 2007 of the Year of Science, the Consejo Audiovisual de Andalucía (Audiovisual Council of Andalusia) produced a series of recommendations on the social communication of science and technology aimed at the audiovisual operators of Andalusia. These recommendations involve all society, especially families and their aim is to establish principles and criteria for the social communication of science and contribute to improving the audiovisual system. The sixteen recommendations are divided into four sections. The first one is aimed at the different actors, who are asked to encourage the communication of science and technology across the board and also to encourage criticism and help society follow science, as well as helping to remove the digital divide. The second section deals with programming and recommends to increase the quality of programmes, find new formats and promote debate programmes on science and technology. The third one recommends avoiding the presence of programmes or content that offer a distorted idea of science and to include the gender perspective in science and technology. Finally, recommendations are also made on the appropriate languages for communicating science to citizens.

Science and Environment Communication Section of ECREA **<<http://www.scienv-com.eu/>>**

The Science and Environment Communication Section of ECREA (European Communication Research and Education Association) seeks to foster a strong and dynamic research network in the area of science and environment communication. It is an interdisciplinary section that, broadly and without limitations, aims to focus on the study of media representations of science and the environment; political and commercial discourse on the environment; communication and scientific governance; public engagement with science and the environment; and interactive communication of research-based knowledge. On its website there are news items from the Section, such as annual reports, news on meetings and international congresses and links to other related websites. It is an academic meeting point for the area of environment and science communication in Europe.

Portal de la Comunicación. Lección del portal:

“Hacia un nuevo contrato entre ciencia y sociedad: el papel de la comunicación científica”

(Towards a new contract between science and society: the role of scientific communication)

<http://www.portalcomunicacion.com/cat/n_aab_lec_1.asp?id_llico=32>

Within the online articles we can find on the communication portal of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), it is worth highlighting this “Portal Lesson” by Victòria Mendizábal, within the context of the Observatory of Communication and Health of the same university, which we have mentioned before. In this lesson, the researcher from the Observatory for Scientific Communication of the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) attempts to summarise the great challenges facing a society as technological as our own, with a view to accurately disseminating scientific knowledge so as not to violate the principles of free, transparent communication required in all democratic societies. Of note is the critical reflection regarding the apparent perfection that generally surrounds scientific knowledge, as well as propositions regarding the figure of “scientific communicator” as an actor presented as necessary within this situation, once the dimensions of scientific communication in social organisation have been analysed.

Colexio Profesional Xornalistas de Galicia (CPXG)

<<http://www.xornalistas.com>>

The portal of the Colexio Profesional de Xornalistas de Galicia (Professional College of Journalists of Galicia) provides access to the minutes of the first Communication and Science Forum that took place in September 2007 in Santiago de Compostela where the role of scientific communication in today’s society was debated. This document contains the contributions made by the speakers on information and knowledge, the social perception of science, relations between journalists and scientists, different aspects of scientific information, how the content is treated, and the relationship between the internet and scientific information, among others.

Sopa de ciencias

<<http://www.sopadeciencias.es>>

Sopa de ciencias (Science soup) is a blog created by Elena Sanz (science journalist) and Patricia Vicente (graphic designer), presented as a blog to share “plates loaded up with information, ideas, notes and reflections related to the world of science and communication”. It is really interesting to find in the blogosphere sites such as this one, where we can access announcements for courses, congresses, exhibitions, grants and awards, articles from a post dedicated to the technology used in the last Olympics in Beijing to an article dedicated to vestigial organs, information on various projects and other resources.

Other websites of interest:

Association of Health Care Journalists (AHCJ)

<<http://www.healthjournalism.org>>

European Science Communication Network (ESConet)

<<http://www.esconet.org/>>

Intute: Health and Life Sciences (Psci-com)

<<http://www.intute.ac.uk/healthandlifesciences/psicom/>>

Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST)

<<http://www.upf.edu/pcstacademy/>>

Science Journalism Research Group

<<http://www.sciencejournalism.net/>>

Society of Environmental Journalists

<<http://www.sej.org/>>

Yale Climate Media Forum

<<http://www.yaleclimatemediaforum.org/>>

Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació

<<http://www.fcr.es/>>