

Machine-Written Summary: Missed Opportunity?

Gerard Salton *et al.*, in their article "Automatic analysis, theme generation, and summarization of machine-readable texts" (3 June, p. 1421), provide an interesting update on automated retrieval and analysis of text. They conclude that "[f]ormal evaluation data on the effectiveness of the methods introduced here are difficult to produce. . . ." The authors miss an opportunity to let readers evaluate the effectiveness of automatic summary writing for themselves by not including, as the last paragraph of their article, a machine-written summary of the article itself. It would be a fine challenge to set the parameters so that the summary would not describe an article about abolition, Greek gods, and the history of India.

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Correction: Ferricyanide and Pattern Formation

In our report (1) on page 192 in the issue of 9 July 1993, "Pattern formation by interacting chemical fronts," the term "ferrocyanide" should have been "ferricyanide" 11 lines from the end of the first column on page 193 and in the caption of figure 4 on page 194. We thank G. Rabai for pointing out these errors, which in no way change the results or the interpretation of the patterns studied.

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References

1. K. J. Lee, W. D. McCormick, Q. Ouyang, H. L. Swinney, *Science* **261**, 192 (1993).

Corrections and Clarifications

The Research News article "Pulling hair from the ground" by Virginia Morell (5 Aug., p. 741) should have said that biologist Kate Field of Oregon State University worked with Walt Ream on DNA extraction from ancient hair fragments.

In the News & Comment article "Orphan chimps won't go back to nature" by Virginia Morell (15 July, p. 312), an incorrect figure was given as the dollar amount the Jane Goodall Institute spends on maintaining orphan chimpanzee sanctuaries. The correct figure is \$40,000 per month.

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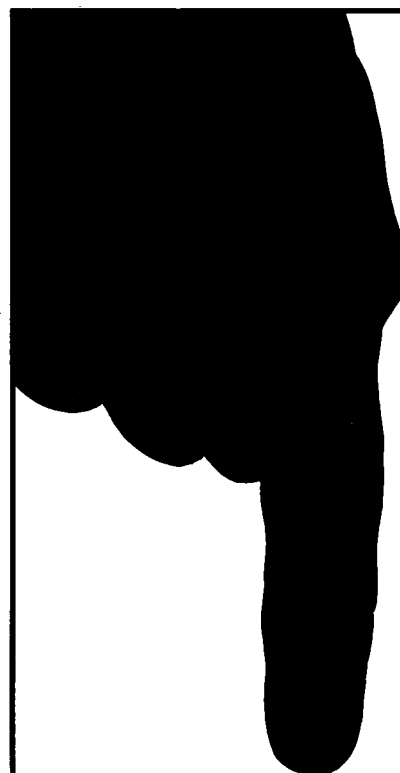
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