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Top 10 Darwin and Design Resources for 2007

Colorado Springs, CO (Dec 27, 2007) – Following are the Top 10 Darwin and Design resources for 2007 as selected by the News Staff at Access Research Network.

1. *The Edge of Evolution: The Search for the Limits of Darwinism* by Michael Behe. The top intelligent design book honors for 2007 goes to Michael Behe's [*The Edge of Evolution*](#). Biochemist Behe reviews the scientific data and lays out clearly what evolution can and cannot do which he identifies as the "Edge of Evolution." The genomes of many organisms have been sequenced, and the machinery of the cell has been analyzed in great detail. The evolutionary responses of microorganisms to antibiotics and humans to parasitic infections have been traced over tens of thousands of generations. As a result, for the first time in history Darwin's theory can be rigorously evaluated. The results are shocking. Although it can explain marginal changes in evolutionary history, random mutation and natural selection explain very little of the basic machinery of life. The "edge" of evolution, a line that defines the border between random and non-random mutation, lies very far from where Darwin pointed. Behe argues convincingly that most of the mutations that have defined the history of life on earth have been non-random.

2. *The Design of Life: Discovering Signs of Intelligence in Biological Systems* by William Dembski and Jonathan Wells. Coming in a close second behind *The Edge of Evolution* for the top intelligent design book for 2007 is [*The Design of Life*](#) by two of the leading ID theorists. This 339 page color hardback is the best one stop resource for understanding intelligent design and the underlying concepts such as molecular machines, information content in biological systems, and irreducible complexity.

3. *The Design Matrix: A Consilience of Clues* by Mike Gene. Ask a group of scientists how life on earth arose, and you will get a multitude of answers. In the field of origin-of-life research there is little consensus and much speculation. Any good researcher knows this, and is careful to remember that what seemed clear today may be wrong tomorrow. It is with this in mind that the author proposes the Design Matrix. The Design Matrix is a method for assessing a design inference and can help when using the hypothesis of design to guide research. This method is both tentative and open-ended, and can be used by both supporters and critics of intelligent design. The book is an attempt to make sense of a question where the evidence about origins is ambiguous. In [*The Design Matrix*](#), the author considers a number of clues that, when merged together, point to new ways of thinking about evolution and intelligent design.

4. *Explore Evolution: The Arguments for and Against neo-Darwinism*. Finally, a biology textbook that presents the scientific evidence both for and against key aspects of Darwinian evolution. Co-authored by two state university biology professors, two philosophers of science, and a science curriculum writer, [*Explore Evolution*](#) was peer-reviewed by biology faculty at both state and private universities, teachers with experience in both AP and pre-AP life science courses, and doctoral scientists working for industry and government. The textbook has been pilot-tested in classes at both the secondary school and college levels. The textbook looks at five areas of biology that are typically viewed as confirming the modern theory of evolution: fossil succession, anatomical homology, embryology, natural selection, and natural selection and mutation. For each area of study, *Explore Evolution* explains the evidence and arguments used to support Darwin's theory and then examines the evidence and arguments that lead some scientists to question the adequacy of Darwinian explanations.

5. *The Spiritual Brain: A Neuroscientist's Case for the Existence of the Soul* by Mario Beauregard and Denyse O'Leary. Some scientists ignore hard evidence that challenges their materialistic prejudice, clinging to the limited view that our experiences are explainable only by material causes, in the obstinate conviction that the physical world is the only reality. But scientific materialism is at a loss to explain irrefutable accounts of mind over matter, of intuition, will

power, and leaps of faith, of the “placebo effect” in medicine, of near-death experiences on the operating table, and of psychic premonitions of a loved one in crisis, to say nothing of the occasional sense of oneness with nature and mystical experiences in meditation or prayer. Traditional science explains away these and other occurrences as delusions or misunderstandings, but by exploring the latest neurological research on phenomena such as these, [The Spiritual Brain](#) gets to their real source.

6. *God’s Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* by John Lennox. This captivating book written by John Lennox, M.A., Ph.D., D.Phil., D.Sc. (a professor of mathematics and the philosophy of science at Oxford University), is an excellent short primer providing basic coverage of key intelligent design issues and is written for a lay audience. Lennox addresses topics such as worldview and the impact it has upon our thinking and reasoning; the limitations and scope of science; information theory and other topics as they relate to faith, science and the interaction between the two. Throughout his [book](#), he fastidiously presents his positions with remarkable clarity and insight. Lennox also takes on several arguments proposed by Richard Dawkins and others who dismiss intelligent design theories.

7. *There is a God: How the World’s Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind* by Anthony Flew and Roy Abraham Varghese. In one of the biggest science and religion news stories of the new millennium, the Associated Press announced that Professor Antony Flew, the world’s leading atheist, now believes in God. Flew is a pioneer for modern atheism. His famous paper, *Theology and Falsification*, was first presented at a meeting of the Oxford Socratic Club chaired by C. S. Lewis and went on to become the most widely reprinted philosophical publication of the last five decades. Flew earned his fame by arguing that one should presuppose atheism until evidence of a God surfaces. He now believes that such evidence exists, and [There Is a God](#) chronicles the logic, evidence, and journey that converted Flew from staunch atheism to belief in a designed universe.

8. *Darwin Day in America: How our politics and culture have been dehumanized in the name of science* by John G. West. At the dawn of the last century, leading scientists and politicians giddily predicted that science—especially Darwinian biology—would supply solutions to all the intractable problems of American society, from crime to poverty to sexual maladjustment. Instead, politics and culture were dehumanized as scientific experts began treating human beings as little more than animals or machines. In criminal justice, these experts denied the existence of free will and proposed replacing punishment with invasive “cures” such as the lobotomy. In welfare, they proposed eliminating the poor by sterilizing those deemed biologically unfit. In business, they urged the selection of workers based on racist theories of human evolution and the development of advertising methods to more effectively manipulate consumer behavior. In sex education, they advocated creating a new sexual morality based on “normal mammalian behavior” without regard to longstanding ethical and religious imperatives. Based on extensive research with primary sources and archival materials, John G. West’s captivating [Darwin Day in America](#) tells the story of how American public policy has been corrupted by scientism’s ideology. West’s narrative explores the far-reaching consequences for society when scientists and politicians deny the essential differences between human beings and the rest of nature.

9. *Real Science-4-Kids Pre-Level I Biology*. Now you can teach your K-3rd grader the concepts behind real biology without the assumptions of the Darwinian worldview. Ten chapter lessons with eye-catching color illustrations introduce students to life, cells, food for plants, plant parts, growing a plant, protozoa, protozoa eat, butterflies, frogs and our balanced earth. Includes lab workbook and teacher’s guide. The [best biology text available](#) for the age group and suitable for public, private or home school use.

10. *Science’s Blind Spot: The Unseen Religion of Scientific Naturalism* by Cornelius Hunter. In this [thought-provoking book](#), biophysicist Cornelius Hunter shows that modern science has in fact been greatly influenced by theological and metaphysical considerations, resulting in the significant influence of what he calls “theological naturalism.” Naturalism is therefore not a result of empirical scientific inquiry but rather a presupposition of science. This bias is science’s “blind spot,” and it has profound implications for how scientific theories are evaluated and thus advanced or suppressed. In the end, Hunter proposes a better way—moderate empiricism—and shows how intelligent design fits into such a method.

Many of these resources, as well as many more about the Darwin and Design debate, can be found on the Access Research Network website www.arn.org.

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Access Research Network is a 501(c)3 scientific and educational organization dedicated to providing accessible information on science, technology and society issues from an intelligent design perspective.

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