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Performance of a single effect solar absorption cooling system (LiBr-H₂O)

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Fossil fuels are on the verge of depletion and the world energy consumption is in constant progression, resulting in very serious concerns about environmental issues. Mechanical refrigeration based on vapor compression principle uses high grade electrical energy and refrigerant fluid with a global warming and ozone depletion potentials. Absorption machines using solar thermal energy are excellent alternatives to mechanical refrigeration. Absorption cooling systems are mature technologies that proved their abilities to provide clean cooling with the use of low grade solar and waste heat. In this paper we presented a modeling and simulation study of a 70 kW Yazaki absorption cooling machine working with water-lithium bromide mixture. The influence of different parameters (Heat exchanger efficiency, Generator, absorber and condenser temperatures) on the system performance is showed.

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Newspaper coverage of biobanks: Reporting trends on benefits, risks and legal and regulatory issues

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Biobanks are an important research resource that provides researchers with biological samples, tools and data, but have also been associated with a range of ethical, legal and policy issues and concerns. Although there have been studies examining the views of different stakeholders, such as donors, researchers and the general public, the media portrayal of biobanks has been absent from this body of research. In this presentation, I will discuss findings from a study that examines how biobanking has been represented in major print newspapers from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. The main aim of the study was to identify the issues and concerns surrounding biobanks that have featured most prominently in the print media discourse. Using Factiva, articles published in major broadsheet newspapers in Canada, the US, the UK, and Australia were identified using specified search terms. The final sample size consisted of 163 articles. Study findings show that majority of articles mentioned or discussed the benefits of biobanking, with medical research being the most prevalent benefit mentioned. Fewer articles discussed risks associated with biobanking. Researchers were the group of people most quoted in the articles, followed by biobank employees. Biobanking was portrayed as mostly neutral or positive, with few articles portraying biobanking in a negative manner. The study concludes that reporting on biobanks in the print media heavily favours discussions of related benefits over risks. Members of the scientific research community appear to be a primary source of this positive tone. Under-reporting of risks and a downtrend in reporting on legal and regulatory issues suggests that the print media views such matters as less news worthy than perceived benefits of biobanking.

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