CLAIMS

1. A guide arrangement for a capillary holder of the type having a housing and a capillary protruding from the housing, the guide arrangement comprising:

a bracket; and

a carriage translatably arranged with respect to the bracket, the carriage having a bed, wherein the bed is movable with respect to the carriage and is configured to receive the housing of the capillary holder.

2. A guide arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the bed is movable with respect to the carriage between:

a first position, for receiving the housing of the capillary holder onto the bed; and

a second position in which the capillary holder and carriage are translatable with respect to the bracket.

3. A guide arrangement according to claim 2, configured such that when the bed is in the first position relative to the carriage, translation of the carriage with respect to the bracket is substantially prevented.

4. A guide arrangement according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the bed is biased towards the first position.

5. A guide arrangement according to any preceding claim, wherein the carriage comprises one of a pair of magnetically attractive members, for co-operation with the other of a pair of magnetically attractive members on the housing of the capillary holder, to retain the capillary holder on the bed in use.

6. A guide arrangement according to any of claims 2 to 5, configured such that, in the first position, the bed is arranged at an angle to the direction of translation of the carriage, and in the second position, the bed is arranged to be substantially parallel to the direction of translation of the carriage.

7. A guide arrangement according to any preceding claim, wherein the bracket or carriage comprises at least one rail and the other of the bracket or carriage is slidably mounted to the at least one rail.

8. A guide arrangement according to any preceding claim, wherein the carriage has a capillary support channel, for receiving a capillary projecting from the housing of a capillary holder receivable on the bed in use.

9. A guide arrangement according to claim 8, wherein the carriage comprises a plinth arranged adjacent the bed, the plinth defining the capillary support channel.

10. A guide arrangement according to any preceding claim, wherein the bracket comprises opposing side walls and a base, defining an enclosure therebetween for receiving the carriage, and the carriage comprises an end wall configured to engage the side walls of the bracket when the carriage is translated with respect to the bracket.

11. An assembly for attachment to a housing of a source assembly, the housing having a port for receiving a capillary into the source assembly in use, the assembly comprising:

a guide arrangement according to any preceding claim, wherein the bracket is mountable to the housing of the source assembly; and

a shutter arrangable adjacent the port, movable between an open position, to substantially expose the port, and a closed position, to substantially cover the port.

12. An assembly according to claim 11, wherein the guide arrangement is configured to open the shutter as the carriage is translated with respect to the bracket, towards the housing of the source assembly.

13. An assembly according to claim 12, wherein the guide arrangement is configured to open the shutter as the carriage is translated with respect to the bracket, towards the housing of the source assembly, only if a capillary holder is received on the bed of the carriage.

14. An assembly according to any of claims 11 to 13, wherein the guide arrangement further comprises at least one lever, a first end of the lever being rotatably mounted to the bracket and the second end engagable with the shutter, and wherein the bed of the carriage comprises a cam member configured to engage with the lever as the carriage is translated with respect to the bracket, towards the housing of the source assembly, to open the shutter.

15. A guide arrangement or assembly according to any preceding claim, further comprising a capillary holder having a housing and a capillary protruding from the housing, the capillary holder received on the bed of the carriage.

16. A method of loading a capillary into a source assembly, the capillary retained in the housing of a capillary holder and protruding therefrom, the method comprising:

providing a guide arrangement comprising: a bracket; and a carriage translatably arranged with respect to the bracket, the carriage having a bed movable with respect to the carriage and configured to receive the housing of the capillary holder;

mounting the bracket on the housing of the source assembly;

moving the bed to a first position, for receiving the housing of the capillary holder and arranging the capillary holder on the bed of the carriage;

moving the bed to a second position in which the capillary holder and carriage are translatable with respect to the bracket;

translating the carriage with respect to the bracket towards the source assembly, such that the distal end of the capillary is received in the source assembly.