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SUNCOAST

INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS NEWSLETTER -January 1988  
Volume 2, Number 1

The SIS Newsletter rolls into its second year. I've added a new feature--Potpourri--a catchall for announcements and news items. Feel free to send me For Sale or Freebie advertisements. I'll include them in future newsletters.

Ken Kister of the Pinellas Park Public Library spoke at the last SIS meeting at Jim Walter Research. Mr. Kister's talk on the newest general reference books was informative and entertaining. We're grateful to him and to Jim Walter for the complimentary lunch.

The February meeting will be held at GTE Data Services. The featured speaker will be Michael S. Kelly of the Bay Area Consortium for Business and Higher Education.

Enclosed in this issue are the SIS bylaws. Thanks to Betsy King for compiling them.

Pete Basofin

Suncoast Information Specialists Program

DATE: February 1, 1988

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: GTE Data Services  
Technology Center  
1 Telecom Parkway E.  
Temple Terrace, FL  
I-75 and SR-582 (Fletcher), southwest corner.  
Take 55 Exit off I-75.

PROGRAM: Michael S. Kelly, Pres.  
Bay Area Consortium for Business and Higher Education  
"Educational Resources in Support of Information Services."

COST: Complimentary lunch will be served.

CONTACT: Tim Pasden  
978-4329 or 685-6595  
Please RSVP before Jan. 31.

## POTPOURRI

### Magazine Notes:

White, Herbert S., "The Funding of Corporate Libraries--Old Myths and New Problems," Special Libraries, Summer 1987, pp. 155-61.

I recommend White's article to everyone. Those of you who saw it probably didn't pass it by. If you didn't see it, you should make a point of finding a copy. I'll be happy to send you one if you need it. His premise is that saving money is not our job as corporate librarians. Avoiding waste in the process of obtaining information is. He points out the difference in mind set which supports both approaches in the corporate environment and the consequences of each.

He cites the pitfalls business management expert Peter F. Drucker sees as characteristic of service professions. A bit more creatively stated to fit with the library picture than Drucker's original text, White says we start with three shots against us in that our performance is based on how much we spend, not on what we do. Our priorities are controlled by a number of individuals or groups who may have little knowledge of what we are about and whom we must satisfy; and we tend to take on a "moral imperative" of doing more with less.

"Your job is to provide a professional ingredient that nobody else can provide and to provide a level of information service that nobody else really understands as well as you do, although some bosses have to be trained to that realization. You will succeed or fail specifically on the basis of how well you meet these obligations," White says in concluding the article. "There is no safety in being small, and there is no safety in being cheap."

The only point with which I quibble is his notion that compiling statistics about routine library functions is a pointless exercise. Maybe disseminating them on a monthly basis is boring, but to my mind measuring what we do is a powerful way to get the ammunition we need to get what we want.

Cary Kenney

\* \* \*

Special Libraries Association, "1987 Salary Survey Update," Special Libraries, Fall 1987, pp. 305-307.

SLA conducts an in-depth salary survey every three years. Recently the organization updated its 1985 study based on a poll of 25% of the membership. The results are interesting and unsettling.

From 1986 to 1987 the mean average salary of U.S. librarians dropped 1.6% (from \$30,180 to \$29,676); the median salary dropped 5.6% (from \$28,800 to \$27,250). Librarians in the South Atlantic region saw a 2.8% hike in median salaries (\$28,000 to \$28,800), but a 3.2% drop in mean salaries (\$31,907 to \$30,904). The survey examined four classes of library job titles: Manager, Assistant/Section Head, Librarian/Information Specialist, and Support Staff. The 1987 median salary for each were, respectively: \$34,500, \$28,500, \$26,000, and \$21,100. Overall, 1,072 people responded to the 1987 survey.

Pete Basofin

For Sale:

The St. Petersburg Times Library has a 3M Model 201 reader/printer for sale. It will take 35mm microforms mounted in aperature cards or in rolls, fiche jackets or cards. It's distinguishing feature is a large-size print (18 x 26" full screen print or 18 x 13" half screen print), good for engineering drawings. Any reasonable offer will be considered. If you'd like to see it, call Cary Kenney, 893-8846.

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS  
BYLAWS

Approved April 7, 1986

I. Name

The name of this association shall be Suncoast Information Specialists.

II. Purpose

The purpose of the association is to provide an open forum for the communication and discussion of mutual concerns and the exchange of ideas in information management and dissemination.

III. Goals and Objectives

The basic goals and objectives of the association are to:

- A. Encourage information exchange;
- B. Provide continuing education opportunities;
- C. Encourage resource sharing; and,
- D. Serve as liaison to other organizations.

IV. Membership

Membership is open to individuals interested in furthering the association's purpose.

V. Official Year

The official year for conduct of the business of the association shall be from October 1 of a year through September 30 of the following year.

VI. Meetings

A. Regular meetings:

1. Regular meetings of the association will be bi-monthly beginning with the first month of the official year of the association.
2. Meetings shall be held at varying locations.
3. The Program Committee Chair, in consultation with the President, shall determine the date and the location.
4. Notice of the time and place of each meeting will be mailed at least 20 business days prior to the meeting date.
5. A quorum will be those members present at a meeting. Only those who have paid such dues as may be required by the association may vote. To vote, a person must be present at a meeting or be represented by a written, signed proxy which has been registered with the presiding officer.

B. Special meetings:

Special meetings of the association must be authorized by the presiding officer.

VII. Officers and Elections

A. The following officers will be elected and will have these duties.

1. **PRESIDENT:** The President presides at all meetings; appoints all committees; performs all other duties pertaining to the office; and shall be or shall appoint the official representative of the association.
2. **VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT (VP/PE):** The VP/PE will assist the President and in the absence of the President will perform all duties of the office. The VP/PE is the Chair of the Program Committee and coordinates arrangements and programs for meetings. The VP/PE will succeed the President.

3. SECRETARY: The Secretary causes minutes of the meeting to be recorded; conducts correspondence as needed; and coordinates membership mailings as necessary. The Secretary shall maintain a file of all policies and procedures promulgated by the association.
4. TREASURER: The Treasurer collects dues, pays bills approved by the President, keeps an account of receipts and expenditures and submits a financial report at meetings.

#### B. Elections

1. The officers will be elected by a majority of a quorum at a general meeting held during the month of June and shall be invested at the October meeting of that year. All officers will serve until their successors are invested.
2. A slate of officers will be prepared by the nominating committee and presented to the membership in attendance at the June meeting. Nominations may be made and accepted from the floor.
3. In the event the office of Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer is vacated for any reason, the remaining officers will select a replacement until the next official election.

### VIII. Committees

Committees shall be one of two types:

- A. Standing Committees: The three standing committees of the association are the Executive Committee, the Program Committee, and the Nominating Committee.
  1. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is composed of the officers of the association. The Committee is chaired by the President and they serve while in office. The responsibilities of the Committee are to serve as an advisory council to the President.

2. Program Committee. The Program Committee is chaired by the Vice President/President-Elect and is composed of at least two members, other than the VP/PE, to be appointed by the President. The Committee responsibilities are to coordinate arrangements for programs to be presented at each meeting and to establish the time and location of each meeting in consultation with the President. The terms of office are one year.

3. Nominating Committee. The Committee is composed of three members of the association to be appointed by the President during the month of January. The Committee will serve until completion of their duties inherent in the presentation of the slate of candidates. The Chairman of the Committee is to be appointed by the President and shall serve as the official for certifying vote count.

#### B. Ad-hoc Committees:

Ad-hoc committees may be appointed by the Executive committee at the suggestion of the membership for specific duties for specified periods of time.

### IX. Dues

Assessment of dues may be established by a majority vote of a quorum. If dues are assessed, they will be due before the first day of the official year in order to maintain membership.

### X. Amendments

The text of any proposed amendment to these By-laws must be mailed to the membership at least 20 working days prior to the regular meeting at which it is to be considered. A vote of two-thirds majority of a quorum must be attained to amend the By-laws.

SIS OFFICERS (1987-1988)

PRESIDENT: Gwen Walters (University Community Hospital, Tampa)  
VICE-PRES: Tim Pasden (GTE Data Services, Tampa)  
SECRETARY: Carolyn Bass (Tampa Electric, Tampa)  
TREASURER: Betsy King (Reflectone, Tampa)

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DUES ARE DUE !!

Membership dues in SIS are now being collected for the business year of October 1987 through September 1988. Annual dues are \$5.00, and a subscription to INFO is included in SIS membership. See the form below for instructions for sending in your next year's dues.

The INFO mailing label indicates the status of your membership in SIS:

"Exp9/87" shows that membership will expire at the end of September 1987, unless you send in \$5.00. Your name will be dropped from membership at the end of 1987 if membership is not renewed for the coming year.

"Exp9/88" shows that dues have been paid through September 1988.

"Courtesy" indicates that you have requested and will receive two complimentary newsletters. Then your name will be dropped from the mailings unless dues are paid.

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The INFO is published bi-monthly by the Suncoast Information Specialists (SIS), an organization of librarians and information specialists in the Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida, area. We are interested in providing an open forum for the communication and discussion of mutual concerns and for the exchange of ideas in information management and dissemination.

Current membership in SIS is open to all, with the payment of \$5.00 dues for the business year of October through September. A subscription to INFO is included in SIS membership.

Articles (unpaid) are solicited for inclusion in future issues of INFO.

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS  
MEMBERSHIP DUES: OCT 1987 - SEPT 1988

Make check payable to:

SUNCOAST INFORMATION  
SPECIALISTS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and check to:

Betsy King, SIS Treasurer  
c/o Reflectone, Inc.

Engineering Library  
5125 Tampa West Blvd.

Tampa, FL 33634-2481

MAILING

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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SUNCOAST

INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS NEWSLETTER -March 1988  
Volume 2, Number 2

Thanks goes to Tim Pasden, GTE Data Services, for writing this edition's library profile. We're also grateful to him and GTE for hosting the last program. Michael Kelly, Bay Area Consortium for Business and Higher Education, spoke on local educational resources relevant to libraries.

Betsy King is preparing the SIS Membership Directory. People who have not renewed their memberships by March 15 will not appear in the directory. So, don't forget to send in the coupon and pay your dues (if you haven't already).

POTPOURI

Wanted: Business Researcher

Great opportunity to join a professional organization conducting research (on-line and secondary sources). MS Library Science, strong personality, work well with high-powered people, sense of humor required. Excellent salary, bonus and benefits. Contact: Liz Locke, (813) 221-7827.  
(Hunter George Search Firm)

For Sale: Book Search Service

Book Look, out of print book search specialists, will find most titles in 30-90 days. The fee is \$1 per month per title. Contact: Book Look, 51 Maple Ave, Warwick, NY 10990, (914) 986-1981.

Pete Basofin  
St. Petersburg Times  
893-8836

NEXT SIS MEETING

MEETING DATE: April 4, 1988.

LOCATION: Eckerd College  
William Luther Cobb Library  
4200 54th Ave. S  
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

TIME: 11:30-1:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: William Krach of the Gaylord Co., producer of  
library furniture, equipment and supplies.  
His topic is "Library Planning and the Electronic  
Library."

SEMINAR FEE: \$6 per person.

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APRIL 4 REGISTRATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and a check to Jamie Hastreiter (Eckerd College  
Library, P.O. Box 12560, St. Petersburg, FL 33733) by March 25.

## Directions to Eckerd College

The entrance to the college is off of 54th Avenue South in St. Petersburg.

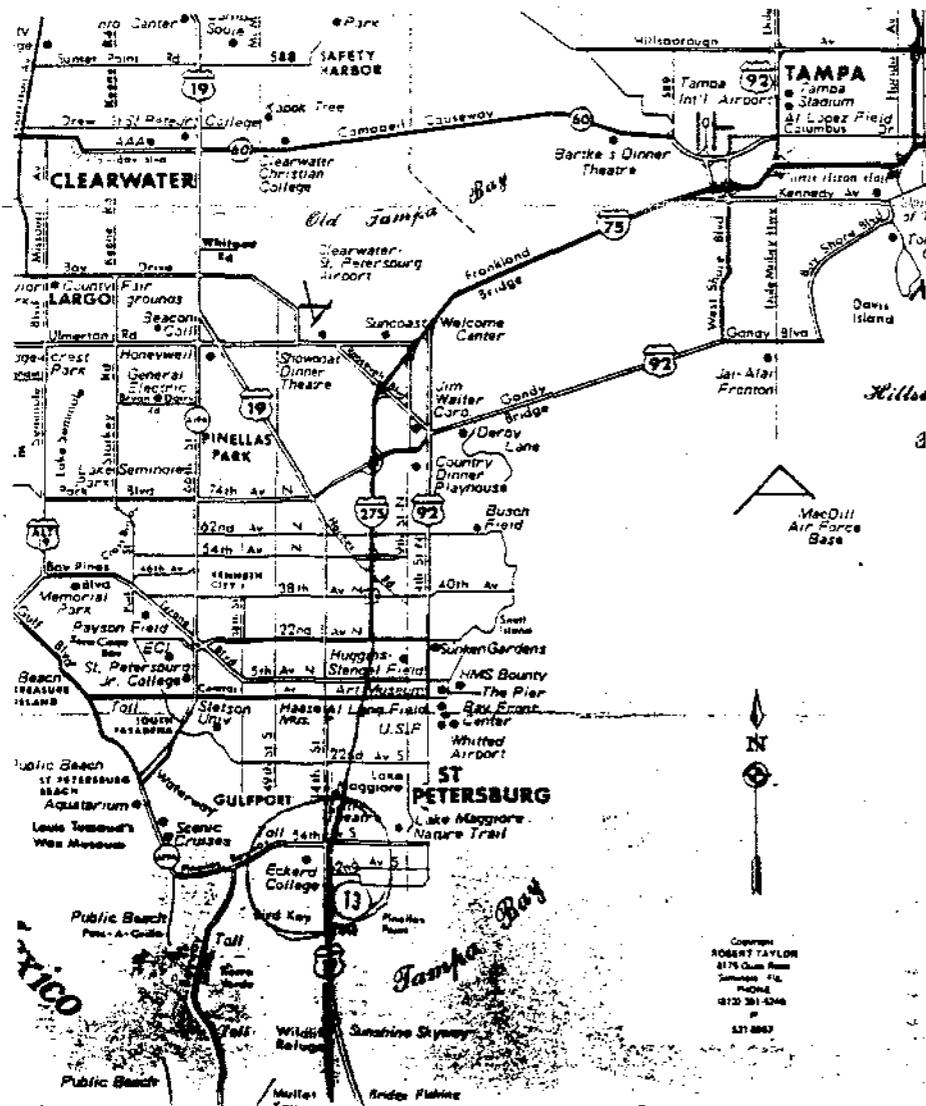
Take the Pinellas Bayway/Eckerd College exit off 275.

The college is a left hand turn before you get to the Bayway toll. There is a traffic light there.

On entering the campus follow the traffic circles around, but bear to the left to remain on the main road through the campus.

The library is the one story building at the far end of Library Circle (of course). You will see a flag pole and fountain on your right as a way of identifying Library Circle. There is parking along the circle, but it might be easiest to park on the grass near the playing field that is opposite the library.

We will meet at the library and walk over to the Triton Room at 11:30. If anyone comes late or misses the group, the Triton Room is in the same building as the cafeteria and anyone on the library staff will direct you there.



Lunch will be a buffet

The cost is \$6 per person

Please RSVP to:  
Jamie Hastreiter  
(813) 864-8337

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ROBERT TAYLOR  
8175 Gull Road  
Tampa, FL  
FLORIDA  
813 981-5246  
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1978

GTE Data Services  
Technical Research Library

It all started in a small 5,000 document library . . . Sounds like Ted Knight of special libraries, huh? Telling just what the GTE Data Services Technical Research Library (TRL) is can be tough. As you might suspect, it is a Special Library. No news there. It supports the Research and Development arm of the company. Currently, it is only a departmental library.

When I was assigned the task of being the Information Sciences (department) librarian in October, 1986, it was more of a "collection". You know how these things start: first a bookcase fills, then a closet, and finally a room. Then someone says "We need someone to take care of the 'library' that we have here." That is more or less what happened to me.

If I had been a Profit Center, we would have shown one that first quarter. I weeded the collection and there were at least 500 pounds of paper sold to the recyclers as a result of that effort! I know that I filled three 'tubs' with paper. People were beginning to wonder if there was going to be anything left. The paring down was definitely needed.

In March, 1987, the TRL was moved -- along with the rest of the department -- to our new location at the Technical Center in Telecom Park. Preparing for that move, I packed 200 boxes of material. What a surprise awaited me when I arrived to unpack the Monday following the move: more than the 200 boxes had arrived in the TRL! I was the victim of the usual "This is too good to throw away, but I don't have the space for it. I know: I'll send it to the library!" The weeding had to start all over again.

Now, instead of trying to cram 18' of double-faced shelving, 6' of single-face periodical shelving/display, 12 4' bookcases, and work stations for two people into a commandeered conference room, we had the luxury of a 30' x 30' room. It still filled up. However, we now had two cubicles for library staff and a small work area. Of course, there are no windows, but you can't have everything -- the first time.

Since it does support R&D, the emphasis tends to be on the latest and the newest. By the time that things appear in books, they can be passed to an R&D group. Therefore, the majority of the TRL materials are newsletters, consultants' reports, periodicals, and proceedings. Books actually account for about seven feet of shelf space. Consultants' reports, on the other hand, occupy more than twelve feet.

In addition to the printed materials, online services are heavily utilized, primarily Dialog and NewsNet. Using our own technology, much of the results never touch paper in the TRL. Online information is captured to disk. After a bit of editing, the data is transmitted as an attachment to an electronic memo per our LAN (Local Area Network). The recipient then has the option of reading the information electronically or printing it to paper.

To augment the searching done 'in house', we also utilize the services provided by the NASA-sponsored Southern Technology Application Center (STAC) at USF. STAC handles 'overflow' and vacation (mine) searches. Since we are departmentally funded and cannot do searches for other departments, online search requests from other departments are also

referred to STAC. Within our department we have several active Current Awareness (CA) profiles which are being handled by STAC. Document retrieval requests -- especially for documents cited in the CA printouts -- are sent through STAC.

In October, 1988, the TRL will move again. Our 'borrowed' space in the Data Center is being reclaimed for expansion. The completion of two more wings of the building complex will at least give us a place to which we can move. It will also allow the TRL to be more centrally located and to be close to the main service community. Currently, we are two wings/buildings away from our main 'customers'.

Perhaps, in addition to being closer to them, we will be able to provide more services as well. TOC services, periodical ordering, book ordering, online searching, and general information provision are the current 'grocery list' of services. These are provided to approximately 125 people. The staff is one professional. Fortunately, funds have been available to hire temporary personnel. Since May, 1987, that temporary person has been working 40 hours a week!

As we raise our profile, we hope to raise our staffing level. Isn't that the dream of us all? Some times dreams do come true: for six years I dreamed of being a 'resource person' for the company. Is that not the function of the Special Librarian? Guess I'll just dream on a little more and one day . . . ZZZZZZZZZZ

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SUNCOAST INFORMATION  
SPECIALISTS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and check to:  
Betsy King, SIS Treasurer  
c/o Reflectone, Inc.  
Engineering Library  
5125 Tampa West Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33634-2481

MAILING  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
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PLEASE PRINT

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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SUNCOAST

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SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS NEWSLETTER -May 1988  
Volume 2, Number 3

Many thanks go to Jamie Hastreiter and Eckerd College Library for organizing the last SIS meeting. William Krach from the Gaylord Company spoke on library space planning and library furniture. He distributed library planning kits to the audience. Kits and catalogs may be obtained by contacting Mr. Krach at Gaylord, P.O. Box 11005, Orlando, FL 32803, (407) 442-6133.

This edition features an article on problems created by the proliferation of scholarly journals--food for thought in these budget-lean times! Thanks to Doug Cornwall of Florida Power for suggesting we reprint it.

Thanks are also in order to the St. Petersburg Times, which has been photocopying and mailing this newsletter since last year.

Betsy King, SIS Treasurer, submitted the minutes of the last meeting held on April 4 at Eckerd College at 11:30 a.m. Sixteen members and 3 guests attended. This is a summary of the proceedings:

- \* 1988 membership directories were distributed by Betsy King. Members not obtaining one at the meeting will have copies mailed to them.
- \* A new reference position is available at Stetson College Library, starting June 1. Applications will be accepted through May.
- \* USF School of Library Science is offering a graduate seminar in June on "Business Reference Sources and Services." Contact Dr. John Knego at USF for details.
- \* Nametags were suggested for use at SIS meetings, since many of us do not know all the members. Please make and bring your own tags to future meetings.

#### JOB OPENING

Price Waterhouse (Tampa)  
Information Specialist

Qualifications: Masters degree and 2-3 years experience.  
Responsibilities: Online searching of DIALOG, LEXIS and in-house services; reference service; cataloging; supervision of one assistant. Salary: Commensurate with experience, up to \$25,000.  
Contact: Cathi Bostic (813) 223-7577.

NEXT SIS MEETING

MEETING DATE: June 6, 1988

LOCATION: Latam Restaurant  
2511 W. Columbus Dr.  
Tampa  
(get off I-275 at Howard/Armenia; go north a mile to Columbus Dr.; turn left one block to Latam).

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: SIS Business Meeting. Officers will be elected for 1988-89.

COST: Participants will order dinner from the menu (the food is Spanish, very good, and reasonably priced).

CONTACT: RSVP by May 31 to Tim Paden, 978-4329 or 685-6595.

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\* GET WELL SOON \* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\* Gwen Walters, SIS President is recuperating from a \*  
\* recent illness. \* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\* Flowers, cards, etc. may be sent to her at: 19243 Blount \*  
\* Rd., Lutz, FL 33549 \* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# Science publishers have created a monster

By WILLIAM J. BROAD  
 © New York Times

The number of scientific articles and journals being published around the world has grown so large that it is starting to confuse researchers, overwhelm the quality-control systems of science, encourage fraud and distort the dissemination of important findings.

At least 40,000 scientific journals are estimated to roll off presses around the world, flooding libraries and laboratories with more than a million new articles each year.

While no one knows exactly how many new journals have appeared in recent years, the literature surge and its associated problems have prompted a series of worried editorials and, somewhat ironically,

scientific articles. The American Medical Association is planning an international conference on improving biomedical publications.

"The modern scientist sometimes feels overwhelmed by the size and growth rate of the technical literature," said Michael J. Mahoney, a professor of education at the University of California at Santa Barbara who has written about the journal glut.

Belver C. Griffith, a professor of library and information science at Drexel University in Philadelphia, said: "People had expected the exponential growth to slow down. The rather startling thing is that it seems to keep rising."

Much of the growth is seen as a healthy part of the success and expansion of the scientific enterprise in

the 20th century. But experts say at least part of it is symptomatic of fundamental ills, including the emergence of a publish-or-perish ethic among researchers that encourages shoddy, repetitive, useless or even fraudulent work.

Surveys have shown that the majority of scientific articles go virtually unread. But the world of scientific publishing does not always operate according to the laws of supply and demand. Some scientific journals are little more than vanity publications to which authors pay "page charges" to have their work in print.

Criticizing what it called a "publishing mania," *New Republic* recently noted that about 2,400 scholar-

Please see **GLUT** 2-D

## Glut from 1-D

ly articles are generated each year in sociology alone. It said useless journals stocked by university libraries were adding to the skyrocketing cost of college education and proposed that "periodicals go first" in a bout of "book burning."

While other proposed remedies are less radical, they are considered important because the smooth functioning of the publication process is crucial to science. At its heart, research is a profoundly social process based on written discourse among scientists in widely separated laboratories.

The article explosion, which began after World War II and has been accelerating since, is said to be caused primarily by sharp increases in the ranks of researchers. The National Science Foundation notes that from 1976 to 1986 the number of scientists in the United States more than doubled, rising from 959,500 to more than 2.18-million.

An added factor is that new technology is lowering age-old barriers to science publication, said Katherine S. Chiang, chairman of the science and technology section of the American Library Association and a librarian at Cornell University. "It's much easier to publish these days," she said. "The new technologies are allowing more information to be generated and controlled. Now there's desktop printing. And some journals are disseminated and read electronically."

Researchers know that having many articles on a bibliography helps them win employment, promotions and federal grants. But the publish-or-perish imperative gives rise to such practices as undertaking trivial studies because they yield rapid results, and needlessly reporting the same study in installments, magnifying the apparent scientific output.

In some cases, authors pad their academic bibliographies by submitting the same paper simultaneously to two or more journals, getting multiple credit for the same work.

"The quality of research has been seriously influenced by the growing pressure to publish voluminously," Mahoney of the University of California wrote last year in *The Journal of Social Behavior and Personality*.

A final factor is the growth of research "factories," where large teams of researchers churn out paper after paper. Since authorship is shared, the laboratory chief sometimes has up to 600 or 700 publications listed in his bibliography.

The upshot of all this is a continuing surge in the number of new journals. Experts estimate that the scientific literature doubles every 10 to 15 years.

One result of this growth is that almost any submission can get into print, experts say. In the past, many barriers, including panels of scientific "referees" who reviewed manuscripts submitted for publication, left would-be authors out in the cold.

Dr. Drummond Rennie, a senior editor at the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, wrote recently: "There seems to be no study too fragmented, no hypothesis too trivial, no literature citation too biased or too egotistical, no design too warped, no methodology too bun-

gled, no presentation of results too inaccurate, too obscure and too contradictory, no analysis too self-serving, no argument too circular, no conclusions too trifling or too unjustified, and no grammar and syntax too offensive for a paper to end up in print."

Another result is an inflation in the status of leading journals, experts said. These publications are seen as beacons in stormy seas, often becoming powerful national institutions devoted to screening information and directing its release to both scientists and journalists.

Some experts say top journals can attract too much attention and distort the flow of scientific findings. Marcello Truzzi, a sociologist at Eastern Michigan University, said, "Some of the preeminence tends to be artificial."

Distortion can result when minor journals are neglected. Scientists in every field can cite horror stories of how brilliant papers in obscure journals were long overlooked.

The literature proliferation also leads to confusion about what is new, Truzzi said. "People discover the same thing over and over when a search of the literature would show it's old stuff," he said.

One of the most worrisome results of the literature growth is the apparent overloading of the quality-control systems of science, including the watchful eyes of co-authors and referee panels that scrutinize submissions to journals. A spate of recent scientific frauds in which gross errors of fact and logic have slipped through the safety nets suggests that the system is seriously taxed.

The most notorious case involved a young heart researcher, John R. Darsee, who in the early 1980s was found to have fabricated much of the data for more than 100 papers he wrote while working at Harvard and Emory universities.

An analysis of the case, published last year in *Nature* magazine by Walter W. Stewart and Ned Feder, assessed the vigilance of referees, journal editors and Darsee's 47 co-authors, 24 of whom were at Emory and 23 at Harvard. It found an "abundance of errors" in the papers, some minor but some "so glaring as to offend common sense."

The *Nature* article said the episode raised serious questions about the adequacy of the review mechanisms intended to ensure the accuracy of reports in the nation's top scientific journals.

Many solutions to the problems have been proposed, but only a few acted upon. Journal editors are struggling to crack down on authors who carve up a single study into several parts or who send the same paper simultaneously to two or more journals.

Some experts have suggested that the vast numbers of scientific journals be drastically reduced or, at the very least, that their processes be subject to much greater scrutiny.

In this spirit, the American Medical Association plans to sponsor an international congress on peer review in biomedical publication next year. Rennie said it would "stress responsibility, as it applies to authors and editors, and the improvement of quality control."

Dr. Marcia Angell, senior deputy editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, has focused on the individual scientist, calling for a ceiling on the number of publications submitted for reviews of promotion or financing.

"At present, it is nearly impossible for those evaluating a researcher who has a long bibliography to become acquainted with all of the work," she wrote in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. "If the number were limited, the emphasis would shift from the quantity of the research to its quality."

Some experts are skeptical of reforms. Thomas P. Stossel, editor of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, recently wrote, "Despite the complaints and some modest radical proposals for change, the literature proliferation, like bad weather and taxes, remains something to be endured but apparently impossible to modify."

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

1987-88 Officers

PRESIDENT: Gwen Walters, University Community Hospital  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Tim Pasden, GTE Data Services  
TREASURER: Betsy King, Reflectone

\*\*\*\*\*

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SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS membership Oct. 1987-Sept. 1988.

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SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS NEWSLETTER - July 1988  
Volume 2, Number 3

NEXT MEETING

The Aug. 1 SIS meeting will be held in St. Petersburg at the Steak and Ale Restaurant, 445 99th Ave. N (near Gandy and 4th St.), from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. The featured speaker is James Shelton, owner of the Hyde Park Book Shop, who will discuss out-of-print and rare books. Steak and Ale offers three special lunches (quiche with salad, chicken or beef), which cost \$7.00 and can be served quick with advance notice. Please contact Deborah Henry (228-1206), if you will attend, and please indicate if you want the special lunch.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6 MEETING

Tim Pasden convened the meeting at 6 p.m. at Latam's Restaurant, Tampa. About 20 people attended.

Two officers needed to be elected for the 1988-89 year: President-Elect and Secretary. The Nominating Committee offered two names: Deborah Henry and Stephen Bumgarner, respectively. Several nominations were made from the floor, but the individuals declined to run. Ms. Henry and Mr. Bumgarner were then elected by acclamation.

Ms. Henry asked about the responsibilities of the office of President-Elect. Mr. Pasden said that the P-E substitutes for the President and coordinates the SIS meetings held every other month. Next year's topics might include out-of-print book dealers and bookbinding services. Members are encouraged to invite vendors to come to Tampa for training and demonstrations. SIS might invite them to also speak at our meetings.

Not all members are able to attend every meeting. So, the newsletter will contain summarized minutes for those who do miss a session. Since the group has grown to 80 members, and since we often do not see each other for months, members are encouraged to wear name-tags to the meetings.

Thanks go to Betsy King, who agreed to stay on as Treasurer and to maintain the SIS financial records and membership list. Thanks also to Pete Basofin for continuing as newsletter editor. Members are asked to write or recommend articles for INFO.

## CALL TO FREE LANCERS, CONSULTANTS AND INFORMATION BROKERS

Have you ever set up a library, worked free lance as an information specialist, or in some way provided reference or information service for a fee? I am interested in finding out what capabilities are available in Tampa Bay.

I am aware of STAC and CALL/USF. Are there other institutions which provide information services to the community? Are there individuals who can search, locate material, organize collections, or in other ways respond to a client's information needs?

If you have experience or just interest in this topic, or if you know of resources available locally, please let me know. Results of this informal survey will be published in INFO later. Please contact Betsy King, Reflectone, Inc., Engineering Library, 5125 Tampa West Blvd., Tampa 33634, 885-7481 x3751 (days) or 932-8883 (evenings). Thanks for your responses.

## WANTED

1987 Encyclopedia of Associations. Directory of Special Libraries and Information Centers (any edition after the 8th). Contact Linda Tabor, Honeywell Inc., 539-3246.

SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

1988-89 Officers

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VICE-PRESIDENT: Deborah Henry, Tampa Electric Co.  
SECRETARY: Stephen Bumgarner, St. Petersburg Times  
TREASURER: Betsy King, Reflectone Inc.

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# SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

INFO NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 NO. 5

SEPT. 1988

**Editor's Corner** As you can see, your faithful newsletter editor has been let loose with a desktop publishing program. It may take a bit of tinkering before I settle on a lasting format. (Your comments are welcome).

Computer aficionados might like to know I am using an Epsom Apex PC with a Silver Reed EXP 400 daisy-wheel printer to produce this newsletter. The software is Easy Text & Graphics Plus by Savtek--one of the few programs that goes with a daisy-wheel printer.

## *Last Meeting*

About 20 SIS members met on Aug. 1 at the Steak 'n Ale Restaurant in St. Petersburg. The featured speaker was James Shelton, Hyde Park Book Shop, who discussed rare and out-of-print books.

SIS Treasurer Betsy King reported that 1988/89 dues are now being collected until December. Current balance is \$596.99.

New people are always welcome to join the club. Members are encouraged to wear name tags to the meetings.

The 1988/89 officers were introduced: Tim Pasden, President, Deborah Henry, Vice-President, Betsy King, Treasurer, Steve Bumgarner, Secretary, and Pete Basofin, Newsletter Editor.

Betsy King is compiling a list of information brokers and consultants in the area. Anyone who is interested in the project, (continued next page)

## *Next Meeting*

Tampa Electric Co. (TECO) will host the next SIS meeting on Wed., Oct. 12 at 12:00. The featured speaker will be Pat McParland, who will demonstrate NewsNet, a database of business newsletters. The presentation will be held in TECO Hall South. Members may purchase lunch afterwards in the downstairs cafeteria.

TECO is located at 702 N. Franklin, Tampa. Exit I-275 at Ashley Street, and then park at the Poe Garage next to Curtis Hixon Hall.

## **Librarians consider optical disc products**

"Optical Disc Systems in Libraries: Problems and Issues," Stephen P. Harter and Susan M. Jackson, RQ, Summer 1988, pp. 516-525.

**Summary:** Today's reference librarians face an overwhelming choice of formats to store and retrieve information. Optical disc systems offer information, previously available only online, to wider range of users, notably the library patron or enduser. These new optical products pose serious questions and issues for the reference librarian.

At present, CD-ROM (compact disc-read only memory) and videodisc are the only viable (continued next page)

(Last Meeting continued)

or would like to appear on the list, should contact Betsy.

Gwen Walters, past SIS President, attended the meeting after a prolonged illness. She thanked everyone for the flowers sent by SIS members.

The October meeting will probably feature a representative from Newsnet speaking on online newsletters.

## WANTED

The St. Petersburg Times Library seeks a 32-hr./wk. researcher to perform reference work and database searching for the paper's reporters and editors.

Knowledge of research tools, online searching experience, and good communication skills are essential for the job.

Hours: 12:30-9:00 p.m.,  
Tues.-Fri.

If interested, please contact Cary Kenney, Chief Librarian, St. Petersburg Times, 490 First Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701, 893-8111.

(Optical Disc continued)

optical formats on the market. Both types store massive amounts of text--up to 600 megabytes (275,000 pages). Specific pieces of information may be retrieved in seconds using appropriate hardware and software. Optical disc searching is much faster than using printed indexes, and it appears less expensive than online research. The potential for enduser use is great.

The advantages of optical disc over print searching are: hundreds of access points to documents; truncated word stems; boolean operators; word proximity; KWIC access; and field searching. In addition, the user may upload, download, or print search results.

Even so, the librarian must decide if the product can and should be used by both expert and

novice searchers. A less complex system may be used by both, but a "user-friendly" tool usually sacrifices advanced searching capabilities necessary for the best and fullest search results.

Information retrieval is a complicated process, and the mere provision of optical disc tools will not transform a novice into a skilled searcher. Even help screens and simplified search programs will not teach the essential knowledge required in effective research. The librarian must ask whether the product can be successfully used by the audience for which it is intended. User "satisfaction" is only a partial measure of the effectiveness of an enduser search. An expert searcher usually expects and gets much more from a reference tool.

Librarians must estimate the amount of training necessary for endusers to search an optical disc product on their own. Library staff must plan where and when training should be offered. Will it be done as scheduled classes, or "on demand"? What documentation and other training materials are required? Who will keep up with product changes and improvements, and who will communicate them to patrons?

Librarians must also allocate staff time to basic maintenance of the disc materials. Compiling statistics, setting and collecting fees, repairing equipment, replacing paper and ribbons, and circulating discs are some of the essential operations. Although vendors claim enduser searching will save the librarian's time, it usually means more work for staff who must provide consulting and training.

It may seem obvious that the cost of optical discs is less than the ongoing hourly charge for online services, but the cost comparison is not so clear. Disc systems often require several terminals to serve more than one  
(continued next page)

**(Optical Disc continued)**

user at a time. Often libraries must buy multiple copies of the discs, as well as updates. Paper and ribbons are also a significant expense.

In determining the balance between mediated service and direct access by patrons, librarians must consider how these products serve the goals and mission of their libraries. The depth and quality of information searches required by the clientele figures in the decision. Even though users may be satisfied with low-quality research, librarians have an obligation to see that patrons retrieve the best, most complete information--by themselves, or with professional assistance.

## **Librarians oppose FBI surveillance**

(Editor's note: The following article from the St. Petersburg Times highlights a controversial program by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to monitor research libraries for "undesirables" who make use of sensitive materials. Also included is a Library Journal editorial denouncing the operation.)

**Librarians no fans of FBI's spy plans** (Times, 4/22/88)

MIAMI - An FBI program warning libraries to look out for spies, subversives and suspicious characters is troubling librarians, who say it may violate both local laws and the U.S. Constitution.

The FBI's "Library Awareness Program" is aimed at monitoring technical stacks that agents fear may provide information to foreign spies, FBI Washington spokesman Bill Carter said Thursday.

"The FBI has no interest in interfering with the American public's academic freedom," he said.

But the FBI has made one

questionable approach in South Florida, Broward County library system director Cecil Beach said Thursday.

"It's apparently only one of several instances across the country where the FBI has contacted libraries to look at their databases, or ask them to look out for suspicious characters," Beach said.

Selma Algaze, branch coordinator for the county, said an agent visited a Plantation branch 16 months ago, showed his identification and said there were "unsavory types in the area and he was looking for subversives."

The agent said he wanted to review her files to see who was taking out books on how to make bombs. She refused, showing him a copy of Florida laws prohibiting such disclosures.

The FBI refuses to confirm or deny any specific cases around the country, although the agency has publicly acknowledged the program applies at least to technical libraries in New York.

Carter said the library program is not much different from those aimed at defense contractors, warning them of how to recognize an approach by a foreign spy.

But national library association officials say it seems to violate constitutional rights.

**A Professional and Patriotic Duty**  
(LJ, 5/1/88)

We are grateful to Paula Kaufman and the many other librarians who firmly declined to cooperate with the Library Awareness Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Their patriotic and professional action has buttressed freedom of information, and, now that it has become public, has demonstrated to a forgetful society and government the strength of at least one profession's commitment to that free, unrestrained access to information that is the right of  
(Continued next page)

(Editorial continued)

all citizens of the world.

As a reminder, the library position on the matter appears this way in the American Library Association's Code of Ethics: "Librarians must protect each user's right to privacy with respect to information sought or received, and materials consulted, borrowed or acquired." In 38 states that right to confidential use of libraries is now protected by state law. The principle of individual privacy and liberty is, of course, as old as our nation and is embedded in our Constitution's Bill of Rights. It is our patriotic duty to defend it.

"I have a double-barreled sense of outrage at this kind of know-nothing intimidation by the FBI!" Representative Major R. Owens of Brooklyn told LJ. "My district faces a drug crisis of huge proportions, about which the FBI does a very poor job, then they waste taxpayers' money on this anti-intellectual absurdity."

Kaufman, director of the Services Group of the Columbia University Libraries and acting vice president for information at the time, was among a number of librarians visited by agents of the FBI as part of that agency's misguided Library Awareness Program (see News, LJ, October 15, 1987, p. 12; November 1, 1987, p. 18; Late Bulletins, January, p. 15; News, April 15, p. 16; and News, May 1, p. 18). She politely but firmly told the two young female agents of the FBI, both nearly as slight in stature as Kaufman herself, that Columbia's librarians and library clerks could not cooperate in the program to keep an eye on "suspicious-looking people" and report what library materials they consulted.

On the dark side, apparently the FBI was successful in recruiting some library clerks and even a few special librarians to their cause. Reports are coming in of a few instances of cooperation in

libraries, and one instance of endorsement of the FBI Library Awareness Program by what the agency called "a specialized library agency" that no one has been able to identify so far.

In general, however, the librarians who faced this surprising attempt to intimidate them into spying on library users acquitted themselves with professional responsibility, dignity, and dispatch. The reports, the most thorough of which was Natalie Robin's report on pp. 497-502 of the April 9 issue of The Nation, made us more proud than ever to be a member of this often unsung and, according to the FBI agents who confronted Kaufman, underpaid profession. "Librarians are clearly targets for recruiting by foreign spies," one FBI agent said, "because they are so underpaid."

Among the other stalwart librarians who stood firmly for the freedom of library users in these sad episodes are Dorothy Byers and Margaret Lippert at the University of Cincinnati, Maurita Peterson Holland at the University of Michigan, Sylvia Evans at the University of Maryland, Nancy Gubman of New York University, and Paul Fasana of the New York Public Library. There were many other unidentified librarians who stood up to the FBI when the agents came to call.

Underpaid, easy targets or not, those librarians stood up for a principle that is fundamental to our national tradition of personal freedom, and basic to our entire apparatus of free access to information. For their courage in the face of this unseemly effort, and the patriotic and professional dignity with which they responded to the FBI, as librarians and as citizens we owe them our deepest gratitude.

John Berry,  
Editor-in-Chief.



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Vice-President: Deborah Henry, TECO  
Treasurer: Betsy King, Reflectone Inc.  
Secretary: Stephen Bumgarner, St. Petersburg Times

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# SUNCOAST INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

INFO NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 NO. 6

NOV. 1988

## Editor's Corner

I hope everyone found interesting last issue's articles on the FBI library surveillance program.

Do you have a strong opinion pro or con? Jot it down and send it to **INFO!** I'd like to start printing "letters to the editor" on topics related to libraries and research. Let me know what Bee is in your Bonnet.

Send letters to Pete Basofin, Petersburg Times, 101 E. Kennedy Suite 1140, Tampa 33602. (Letters are subject, of course, to editing for length and taste.)

## *Last Meeting*

About 18 people attended the Oct. 12 SIS meeting at TECO in Tampa.

Tim Pasden, SIS President, called the business meeting to order. The minutes were approved.

Betsy King, SIS Treasurer, reported \$684 in the account. Our bank will soon be charging SIS \$5-10 per month for the checking account. We need to find a bank offering one at no charge. Any suggestions should go to Betsy at 885-7481.

There was no new business.

The NewsNet database was demonstrated by company representative Pat McParland. NewsNet offers 360 industry newsletters online. These newsletters are searchable and displayable in full text. Search commands include string, boolean, (continued on the next page)

## *Next Meeting*

SIS will meet 11:30-1 p.m. Dec. 6 at GTE Data Services, Fletcher at I-75, Tampa (across from Lettuce Lake Park).

Kathryn Tindall will demonstrate Investext, a database of stock broker evaluations of companies and industries.

Members may bring lunch or purchase it at the company cafeteria after the meeting.

## **JOBS**

Looking for work? Looking for someone to fill a position? You need SLA Florida Chapter's **Jobs Bulletin**. It comes out every six weeks and it lists job openings from around the state. If you have a position to offer, or if you want to receive the bulletin, contact: Alice Primack, Marston Science Library, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. Phone (904) 335-8525.

## **Calendar**

Nov. 16 "Publishing for Libraries: Truth and Consequences," a look at the economics and management of book and non-book publishing. University of South Florida/New College Sudakoff Center. Registration is \$15 (\$12 for library science students). Sponsored by West Coast Library Consortium in Sarasota.

(continued from first page)  
proximity, truncation, and key word search capabilities. In addition to the newsletters, NewsNet includes the AP, UPI and Reuter wires, VuQuote current stock quotations, Official Airline Guide, TRW Business Profiles, and online computer classified advertisements.

## Professional pay leaps forward

The median salary of SLA members in the South Atlantic region (which includes Florida) rose 9.3 percent from \$28,800 to \$31,500 in the years 1987 to 1988.

That's the preliminary finding of an in-depth study called the SLA 1988 Triennial Salary Survey (see Fall 1988 Special Libraries, pp. 336-7).

The survey looks at the pay of librarians and information specialists by regions within the U.S. and Canada.

The Middle Atlantic and Pacific regions tied for first place with 1988 median incomes of \$34,000. The overall U.S. showed a median salary of \$32,000, a 17.4 percent increase in 12 months.

## COPYING SOFTWARE

*Are you breaking the law?*

It seems innocent enough.

You buy a nifty new word processing program. It works wonderfully, so you make a copy for a colleague down the hall.

Are you seriously violating the copyright laws?

Yes, says Joe Ruble, Asst. General Counsel for the Association of Data Processing Service Organizations (ADAPSO), the trade representative of software publishers.

Ruble recently spoke to local SLA Chapter at a seminar on the selection and management of computer programs in libraries.

ADAPSO considers any duplication of copyright programs as software piracy or softlifting. Whether the copying is a casual single occurrence or a widespread practice, a person or organization is subject to civil or criminal action. Damage awards in civil cases have reached as high as \$50,000.

Is disc copying ever permissible? According to Ruble, duplication is never allowed, except in a few specific instances.

The use of software is governed by the licensing agreement which accompanies the product. Usually, licenses allow the purchaser to make "backup" or archival copies of discs.

They also allow the user to copy and transport the software for use at another computer. But the rule is: only the original purchaser may use the program at the second machine. No other person is allowed. (Note: licenses sometimes restrict software use to one computer.) Of course, some publishers offer a site agreement, wherein many people may use the software at a particular site or organization. But when in doubt, consult the agreement.

What about "fair use" in academic settings? The rules are similar to those governing the photocopying of print materials, says Ruble. Software, like a book or magazine, may never be copied in its entirety. Only parts may be duplicated for a limited use, such as examining the portion in a programming class.

The bottom line: copyright prohibits one 1) to receive and use unauthorized copies of software, and 2) to make unauthorized copies for others.

For more information, contact: ADAPSO, Suite 300, 1300 North 17th Street, Arlington, VA 22209.



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**IMPORTANT:** The **INFO** mailing label indicates the status of your membership in SIS.

"Exp9/88" shows your membership expired at the end of Sept. 1988, unless you sent in \$5.00. Your name will be dropped from the mailing list at the end of 1988, if membership is not renewed for the coming year.

"Exp9/89" shows your dues have been paid through Sept. 1989.

"Courtesy" indicates that you have requested and will receive two complimentary newsletters. Then your name will be removed from the mailing list, unless dues are paid.

\* \* \* \*

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Betsy King  
Reflectone Incorporated Engineering Library  
5125 Tampa West Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33634-2481

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