PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Now here we are, back from the Annual Meeting, wiser about some things, confused about others, riled up about some, satisfied about the rest. I must say that I learned a thing or two. Let me tell you what I learned about planning a meeting.

First, give yourself some time. You need time to play with ideas for themes, go back and forth with various participants, and figure out a sequence of events. What would make you want to attend the meeting? What would you like to see? Whom do you want to introduce to the rest of us via a talk, a walk, or if it's during a forum, a squawk? Think of preparing the schedule as you would pack for a trip. You put a bunch of clothes out on the bed, and then you cut away. In a meeting, you don’t want to overschedule. You have to remember that the main focus of the meeting is to talk to people you know and those you just met. The program is a skeleton on which to hang these encounters. So get the main parts of the program in place and leave plenty of breathing room. Some of the details won’t go the way you plan. For example, I had the chef of the Sheraton looking for fugitive Nantucket Nectars after the hotel had substituted Snapple. Also, some of the rooms were too cold. Does it matter? Not too much. We survived the little snafus, and, I think, had a good time. One last thing: I found that you can enjoy your meeting even while you're watching it unfold. I attribute this to the collegiality and the general good spirits of the membership.

Now let's talk about some Society business. First, I invite you to tell me your committee interests. Several members indicated their interest in Boston. If you missed the meeting or haven't told me yet, please send your interests to me soon. The list of committees and representatives and their roles starts on p. 48 of the Membership Directory. If your term expires in 2001, send me a message if you want to be reappointed. You can still contribute to your Society even if you can't attend the Annual Meeting.

The Executive Board has decided to give the membership an opportunity to develop new geoscience librarians and information specialists by creating a professional development stipend. The renewal form will give you a choice of making a contribution to fund a student’s registration for the Annual Meeting. The Membership Committee will develop guidelines. The Annual Meeting is a great way to nurture the interest of a prospective member to the profession.

Let's finish with some kudos. First, I thank Barbara DeFelice for co-chairing the Topical Session, setting up the Powerpoint presentations, and making sure we ran on time. The talks were well received and full of interesting points and data.

Charlotte Derksen arranged a lively and timely Collection Development Issues Forum on AGU electronic journal pricing and monograph use at the Univ. of Wyoming. Elaine Clement's Preservation Forum had a fine presentation on preserving oversize maps and a good discussion on digitizing field trip guidebooks.

Adonna Fleming arranged a whole session on Endnote for the Digital Forum, which elicited several questions. Nancy Blair chaired the GeoRef Discussion Group, which included a spirited presentation on USGS' experience in changing GeoRef vendors. I guess you could say that the Professional Issues Forum this year was chaired by Myrtle, the giant green turtle, for it was held at the New England Aquarium.

Thanks to all of the award committees. Timothy Lawton received the Best Guidebook Award from Lisa Dunn at the GIS luncheon. He remarked on the wonderful guidebook operation at the New Mexico Geological Society. Another highlight of the luncheon was the appearance of Connie Wick, who organized the last GIS Annual Meeting in Boston.

The final kudos go to Sharon T., who ran a smooth enough business meeting so that we could walk quickly in the wind across the Harvard Bridge to MIT, and to everyone who joined me on the field trip. It's nice to have a paying audience.
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GIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the February, 2002 issue should be received no later than January 25, 2002. If possible, please send materials by e-mail.
Greetings! We had a great meeting in Boston and I'd like to thank everyone involved in its organization, especially Michael Noga, our new President. The GIS Topical Session, "Geoscience Information: A Dynamic Odyssey," provided thought-provoking topics on the changes in libraries and information provision. The other sessions were packed with useful information and generated some spirited discussion (possibly an understatement) about electronic resource management, pricing, and other issues that impact our professions.

It's exciting to take on the responsibilities of Vice-President for GIS, especially for next year's meeting in Denver, Colorado, my home territory. The conference theme is "Science at the Highest Level." I'm working on the GIS Topical Session theme—ideas are welcome. Although it seems like I just unpacked my bags from Boston, it's not too early to think about submitting an abstract for next year's meeting. Please contact me if you are interested in submitting an abstract or have an idea you want to talk over.

My biggest challenge as Vice-President for this year will be to reduce conference costs born by the Society as a whole. I will be seeking sponsors from among geoscience publishers and other companies to help us defray event costs such as those for the GIS Reception or Digital Forum. We will also be looking for sponsors to support the International Fellowship program and other sponsored memberships. If you know of a potential sponsor, please contact myself or Michael Noga.

See you in Denver next year!

ANNUAL REPORTS

Auditor
I have reviewed the 2000 financial records of the Geoscience Information Society, as provided by Acting Treasurer Shaun Hardy. While some documentation is not as complete as it should be, I did find sufficient paperwork to give me confidence that the records are an accurate representation of GIS finances.

I would like to thank Shaun Hardy for assuming the responsibility of organizing the 2000 financial records and I compliment him on his success.

Respectfully submitted,
Margy Walsh

Preservation Committee
The Preservation Committee will begin a concentrated effort to update its bibliography and Web pages during the coming Fall. No major projects were accomplished by us as a group during the past year. During the conference in Boston, we will meet to formulate plans for a project to be presented at the 2002 meeting. Many of us have been involved in local initiatives concerning archiving and preservation of maps and map information in digital form, and we anticipate that we will move in this direction for the coming year. During the Preservation Forum in Boston, the invited speaker will be a representative from the Northeast Document Conservation Center who will be speaking about paper conservation.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Clement, Chair

Web Advisory Committee
The Web Advisory Committee has been working on maintaining the GIS Web site; developing criteria for a GIS Best Website Award; and reviewing a proposal for the Archiving of Geonet-L. Everything is proceeding as expected, and we should have some things to talk about in Boston.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim O'Donnell, Chair

Collection Development Committee
by Charlotte Derksen, GIS Collection Development Committee Chair

A comparison was done between book prices paid for Earth Sciences books at Stanford University during fiscal year 2000/2001 and the first two months of fiscal year 2001/2002. Volumes purchased on standing orders are not included in these figures.

First I looked at the cost of books purchased from approval plans, versus those I purchased as firm orders:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order type</th>
<th># titles</th>
<th>Ave price</th>
<th>Total price</th>
<th># titles</th>
<th>Ave price</th>
<th>Total price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approval</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>$88.64</td>
<td>$3,900.23</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$85.53</td>
<td>$769.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firm</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>$72.33</td>
<td>$32,332.93</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>$72.56</td>
<td>$6,893.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>$73.79</td>
<td>$36,233.16</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>$73.69</td>
<td>$7,663.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Approval plan books were significantly higher than those ordered as firm orders. This makes sense as the approval plan books are more likely to come from commercial sources whereas the firm order titles are more likely to come from the following sources: society publishers, non-European/North American publishers and small presses. There didn’t seem to be a significant price increase from last year and this year.

Next I looked at monograph purchases by call number break down:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call No.</th>
<th># titles</th>
<th>Ave price</th>
<th>Total price</th>
<th>% increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>$64.63</td>
<td>$2,714.38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>$75.40</td>
<td>$2,186.59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$73.74</td>
<td>$1,106.09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>$76.95</td>
<td>$2,539.28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QE</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>$61.18</td>
<td>$10,032.73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>$96.42</td>
<td>$1,639.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>$101.34</td>
<td>$8,309.86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>382</td>
<td>$74.68</td>
<td>$28,528.09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices for monographs on Groundwater, Oceanography, and Geology topics seem to show a sharp increase for this year. On the other hand, Geophysics, Soils and "Technology" (Ore Deposits, Petroleum Geology, and Petroleum Engineering) seem to be coming down about an equal amount. The price drop in petroleum areas may be illusory as the large ticket items are most likely to be conference proceedings; I haven’t purchased any of these so far this fiscal year.

Will check the data again at the end of the fiscal year.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

by

Carol J. La Russa

Carol Tenopir and Donald W. King describe current issues in scientific journal publishing in their article in the October 18, 2001 issue of Nature. They believe that electronic publishing alone cannot fix the problems of high prices and the possible overproduction of articles inherent in the current publishing system. Electronic archives of articles, although useful, do not provide the value-added features of peer review, editing, indexing, abstracting, and bundling of articles into an issue. Publishers have feared losing business due to interlibrary loan. Journal prices have not decreased in the electronic environment because publishers have large fixed costs for collecting manuscripts and reviewing and editing them. Printing costs are a minor component while electronic publishing requires increased in fixed costs. High prices of commercial journals are related to their low circulation. The authors conclude that publishers, scientists, and librarians are often ignorant of each other’s viewpoints. Site licenses may help diminish the factors that raise prices and make it possible for librarians and publishers to negotiate. ("Lessons for the Future of Journals" v. 413, p. 672-674).

In the September 2001 issue of American Libraries Karrie Peterson, Elizabeth Cowell, and Jim Jacobs discuss the possible problems with the new U.S. Government Printing Office policy that makes online the primary distribution media for government documents. Some of their concerns include: single server access with no backup; lack of guarantees that a document on a government server cannot be corrupted, modified, or deleted; archiving and preservation; reliability and economics of online distribution; access for those without computers; and privatization of government information. To at least partially address these issues the authors believe that in addition to Web access GPO should make available to libraries digital versions of government documents that libraries can store locally. ("Government Documents at the Crossroads," v. 32, no. 8, p. 52-55).

David E. Shulenburger, provost of the University of Kansas, describes the scholarly evaluation (including tenure) process of research universities and its relationship to journal publishing in an article in the September 2001 issue of College & Research Libraries. He believes that refereeing weeds out bad research but not insignificant work. Tenure decisions are based on work published in high-quality, well peer-reviewed journals; work published in perceived low-quality journals is ignored. He sees the problems with the scholarly review process as not being due to an emphasis on quantity of publications but rather as being due to its emphasis on publishing in top-ranked journals. This raises the "market power" of these journals by making it essential that libraries provide them. He sees the SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) as a way to reduce the power of the expensive, top-ranked journals. He also sees PubMed Central and the Public Library of Science as possible solutions. ("On Scholarly Evaluation and Scholarly Communication," v. 62, no. 8, p. 808-811).

Rosemary Streadfeild and Darlene Hildebrandt did a
study of how special issues of journals are indexed in science and technology bibliographic databases (though not Georef). They show that it is not possible to retrieve the entire contents of a special issue using one search. Records for individual articles in these issues are not tagged to show they are part of a special issue. ("Special Issues in the Sciences: The Case of Bibliographic Access," *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, v. 27, no. 5, p. 398-405, Sept. 2001).

Brenda G. Mathenia has put together a guide to web-based maps and mapping resources for the October 2001 issue of *College & Research Libraries News*. She has included virtual map collections, interactive mapping sites, and data mapping sites. ("Maps and Mapping Resources: A guide to Select Resources on the Web," v. 62, no. 9, p. 90+)

*The Journal of Electronic Publishing* features an article on the deep Web. The deep Web is the part of the contents of the Web that is only accessible using searchable databases. Michael K. Bergman estimates that public content available only through the deep Web is 400 to 550 times larger than the surface content that available through conventional search engines. This deep Web content is more specialized, resides in subject-specific databases, and is nearly all freely available. He suggests that Internet searching should be divided into three forms: (1) Search directories to the surface web for popular searching needs (2) search directories for more detailed surface searches and (3) vertical "infohops" that will provide aggregation of contents from deep Web sources to provide comprehensive answers. (The Deep Web: Surfacing Hidden Value," v. 7, no. 1, updated Aug., 2001) (http://www.press.umich.edu/jep/07-01/bergman.html).

Also in *The Journal of Electronic Publishing* is an article titled "Returning Scientific Publishing to Scientists" in which Alison Buckholtz describes how SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) is starting to influence the scientific publishing industry. Buckholtz lists the factors that have led to the current publishing situation and describes how some editors and editorial boards are breaking away from commercial publishers to start competing journals. Next Buckholtz shows how to determine if a journal is meeting its primary goal (serving its community) and how to explore and evaluate options to commercial publication. (v. 7, no. 1, Aug. 2001) (http://www.pres.umich.edu/jep/07-01/buckholtz.html).

Walt Crawford explains in the October 2001 issue of *American Libraries* why you should check out library Weblogs on a regular basis. Library Weblogs are current compilations of library-related news Web links. Crawford includes a list of Weblogs with URLs. ("You Must Read This: Library Weblogs", v.23, no. 9, p.74-76).

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**JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Earth, Space and Atmospheric Sciences Librarian, University of California, Los Angeles**

The UCLA Science and Engineering Library (SEL) seeks applicants for the position of Earth, Space and Atmospheric Sciences Librarian. Under the general direction of the Head of Public Services, provides in-depth reference services, user education, and consultation for the earth, space and atmospheric sciences. Participates in the development of instructional modules and guides for online databases. Actively promotes and delivers seminars, workshops, and class lectures for SEL’s primary clientele. Under the general direction of the Head of Collection Development, serves as the selector for earth, space, and atmospheric sciences and other SEL disciplines as assigned. Manages and justifies materials budget. Prepares and maintains collection development policies. Works with the Acquisitions and Cataloging Division to acquire and provide access to earth, space and atmospheric materials. Formulates and implements storage and preservation plans for the collection. Cooperates with other campus libraries and other important geoscience and atmospheric science libraries in resource sharing and planning. Serves on the Department of Earth and Space Sciences/Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (ESS/IGPP) Library Committee and works with the Atmospheric Sciences faculty liaison. In consultation with the Head, SEL Circulation Services, participates in the work assignment and evaluation of the Geology/Geophysics library assistant. In consultation with ESS, trains and supervises the map research assistant for the Putnam Map Room.

Qualifications: Knowledge of earth, space and atmospheric science literature. Demonstrated experience in selecting monographs and serials in diverse formats and managing a science collection budget. Understanding of trends, concerns, and methods of scientific research. Experience with electronic databases and ejournals and with the development and utilization of Internet and locally developed resources. Experience working in a highly automated environment including online public access catalog and local and wide area networks. Experience in working with computer hardware and software including Windows. Excellent oral and written communication skills, teaching ability, and interpersonal skills. Public services experience, including reference and information literacy instruction. Experience in integrating innovative learning technologies with traditional learning resources. Demonstrated interest in professional and/or scholarly activity (research, publications or teaching). Background will normally include a professional degree from an accredited library and information science graduate program.

Salary Range: $37,920 - $64,164

Anyone wishing to be considered for the position should write to: Karen Murray, Administrative Specialist, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA, 11334 YRL, Box 951575, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575

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Candidates applying by January 4, 2002, will be given first consideration. For full description of duties and qualifications and application procedures, see website: www.library.ucla.edu/admin/staffserv/openposn.htm


Harvard College Library is seeking a creative and innovative manager, tolerant of ambiguity, who likes to work with other creative and innovative managers, to participate in the ongoing evolution of the Social Sciences Program.

The Social Sciences Program (SSP) of the Harvard College Library (HCL) was organized to coordinate and consolidate collections and services in support of the social sciences. The program, still evolving, includes at this time, five functional units in four locations: and economics and political science library, numeric data services, a government documents and microforms library, a maps library, and an environmental information center. Harvard College Library is seeking a Librarian to manage the government documents and microforms unit, to lead in the development of a coordinated social science reference and instruction program, and to help define a broad vision of library services to the social sciences.

Reporting to the Librarian for the Social Sciences, the Head of Reference & Instructional Services provides overall responsibility for the Government Documents and Microforms unit. Is responsible for supervising reference and microform machine help services with staff of 6 full time professional staff and 4 full time support staff, also supervises collection development of the Government Documents collection. Develops a program of reference and instruction for the Social Sciences, coordinating units of the Social Sciences Program (SSP) and serves as liaison with Widener Library Reference and Instructional Services, with Lamont and Hilles libraries and other Harvard University Libraries concerned with the Social Sciences. Contributes to and participates in the management of the Social Sciences Program.

Qualifications: Master of Library Science degree from an ALA accredited institution or equivalent required. Undergraduate degree in the social sciences desirable with a graduate degree in a social science program preferred. Minimum of five years experience working in public services with social sciences resources and/or government documents in a research library required. Demonstrated effective supervisory experience and strong interpersonal and communication skills required with a user centered service orientation.

Compensation: Harvard University offers a competitive program of benefits. Appointment salary is dependent on qualifications and experience.

Available: Immediately. The Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Interested parties are invited to submit a letter of application addressing position qualifications with a resume and with the names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers of three references to: Resume Processing Center, Harvard University Requisition #11910, 11 Holyoke Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

Or apply on line to http://www.hr.harvard.edu/employment/jobs.html

Harvard University Upholds a Commitment to Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity.

Cartographic Materials Catalog Librarian, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

(Interim Academic Librarian)

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is a Carnegie-designated research institution committed to academic excellence. It is one of the two doctoral degree-granting institutions in the multi-campus University of Wisconsin system, and has an enrollment of over 23,000 students. UWM's 93-acre campus is located on Milwaukee's east side, near Lake Michigan. The campus, an attractive combination of historic buildings and modern architecture, is a short drive or bus ride from a wealth of cultural and recreational resources. The Golda Meir Library is a modern, centralized library housing over 4.7 million bibliographical items including the 1 million item American Geographical Society Collection.

Responsibilities: Reporting to the Curator of the American Geographic Society Collection, performs original and complex copy cataloging of cartographic materials in print and electronic formats, with an emphasis on maps and cartographic resources, for access by patrons of the library. With other members of the AGSC staff contributes to catalog management policy decisions for the library's local online catalog system. Trains library staff and School of Information Studies interns and fieldworkers in cataloging cartographic materials and resources.

Qualifications: Required: A Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from an ALA-accredited institution with course work in cataloging; knowledge of current automated library systems; experience with automated bibliographic utilities, e.g. OCLC; working knowledge of AACR2, LC classification and subject headings, MARC formats, authority records; proven analytical and problem solving skills; ability to work well independently and with others; demonstrated ability to communicate effectively. Desired: Successful cataloging experience; BA/BS or advanced degree in geography, cartography or related field.

Salary: Associate Academic Librarian. Minimum salary: $35,330 annually depending upon qualifications and experience.

Appointment/Benefits: This is a 12-month academic staff annual probationary appointment leading to indefinite appointment. Generous vacation and fringe benefits.

Application: Full position description is available. Send
letter of application and statement of qualifications, resume, transcripts, and name/address/telephone number of three references to Maureen Powless, Personnel Department, Golda Meir Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 604, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0604. All applications must be postmarked no later than November 30, 2001.

UWM is an AA/EQ employer strongly committed to maintaining a climate supporting equality of opportunity and respect for difference based on gender, culture, ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation. We particularly encourage applications from individuals who would enhance and diversify our workforce.

Public Services Librarian/Spatial Data Specialist, Cornell University Library

Cornell University is located in scenic Ithaca, a small vibrant college town situated on the southern end of Cayuga Lake in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. The town and university offer a unique cosmopolitan and international atmosphere in a beautiful natural setting of waterfalls, gorges, and lakes. You will find a wide array of bookstores, shops, restaurants, and cultural activities in town, and wineries, state parks, farms, waterfalls and forests throughout the county.

Albert R. Mann Library, part of the Cornell University Library system, is looking for energetic, innovative, and dedicated individuals who would enjoy working in a creative and dynamic work environment.

Albert R. Mann Library provides innovative information services for the 21st century and has achieved national renown for its digital library. (http://www.mannlib.cornell.edu) The Albert R. Mann Library's collection of agricultural, life sciences and related social sciences materials serves the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the College of Human Ecology, and the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell. Mann Library is considered to be the premier agricultural and life science library within an academic institution in the United States and has won several national awards. Our principal user population numbers almost 10,000 and includes undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, researchers, and staff. Mann Library is the second largest of 19 libraries that together constitute the Cornell University Library.

Responsibilities: As a member of a team of 8 professionals, provide quality reference, consulting, and instruction services. Responsible for the management of the Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository (CUGIR), which includes the selection of geospatial data, negotiations with data partners, and end-user support. CUGIR was established in 1998 and is a node of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure see: http://cugir.mannlib.cornell.edu. Lead the expansion and redesign of this site using the latest research in digital libraries (e.g., interface design and preservation.) Play an active role in professional organizations and the Cornell library community.

Qualifications: Required: MLS or equivalent graduate degree. Strong computing, communication, presentation, and interpersonal skills. A strong commitment to service and professional development. Experience with Geographic Information Systems software and the use of information technologies. Ability to manage multiple projects and priorities effectively. Preferred: basic knowledge of UNIX and html, strong public service orientation, some work experience in an academic setting, subject knowledge or work experience in agriculture/life sciences, social sciences, or business/economics.

Applications: Requested by October 31, 2001. Review of applications begins immediately and will continue until position is filled. Rank and salary are dependent on experience and qualifications.

Applications for Academic professional positions should be submitted to Susan Markowitz, Director of Library Human Resources, 201 Olin Library, Ithaca, NY 14853-5301. Phone: 607/255-5181 (Submit cover letter, resume and names, addresses telephone numbers, & e-mail addresses for three references)

These listings are only announcements of open positions; they are not complete descriptions of jobs and their responsibilities. The department normally provides detailed descriptions, if you are contacted for an interview.

Cornell University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer strongly committed to diversity. We value qualified candidates who can bring to our community a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

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Important Notice!!

Starting with the February 2002 issue, the GIS Newsletter will be available to members as a pdf file.

To sign up, just e-mail the editor at connie.manson@wadnr.gov

(Subscribers will continue to receive only the print edition.)

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GIS PUBLICATIONS LIST

Proceedings of the Annual GIS Meetings (ISSN 0072-1409) $45.00 each; standing orders are $45.00 per year. (Proceedings volumes 1 through 25 are out of print and available from: Out-of-print Books on Demand, University Microfilms, Inc., 300 North Zeek Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.)

Proceedings of the International Geoscience Information Conferences


GIS Newsletter (ISSN 0046-5801) published bimonthly; calendar year subscriptions only. United States and Canada $ 40.00; other countries (via airmail) $ 45.00

Mailing labels: Geoscience Information Society member mailing labels: Single use labels $ 100.00. Send orders to:
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Science & Technology Libraries,
Syracuse University Library, Syracuse, New York 13244-2010
phone: 315/443-2160; fax: 315/443-5549; e-mail: ewallace@library.syr.edu
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