

# STS SIGNAL



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTION / ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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## From the Chair, Catherine Soehner



At the Midwinter conference in Seattle, we held just one Council meeting bright and early on a Monday morning. While the meeting went very well, a majority of the Council members agreed that two Council meetings were preferred. As a result, there will be two Council meetings

at the upcoming Annual conference. While any member of STS is welcome to attend, these two meetings are mandatory for co-chairs of STS committees and discussion groups. Mark your calendars for Friday and Monday evenings, 7:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.

Planning for the upcoming ALA Annual meeting is well underway and STS has many excellent events scheduled that I'm sure you will find useful and interesting. Our program will be held as usual on Monday morning, June 25 from 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and the poster session and the reception will follow immediately from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The focus of the program and poster session is an overview of current thinking regarding the use of digital repositories to collect and archive non-textual information, such as data sets, visual images, sound, etc. The Program Planning Committee has secured several excellent speakers:

**Thomas Dowling**, Assistant Director of Library Systems, Client/Server Applications OhioLINK

**D. Scott Brandt**, Associate Dean for Research, Purdue University Libraries

**Frank Cervone**, Assistant University Librarian for Information Technology, Northwestern University

You will also want to mark your calendar for the All STS Meeting & Breakfast, which will take place on

Sunday, June 24, from 8-10:00 a.m. This is only our second time hosting this event and this year we plan to incorporate informal small group discussions on various topics. Look for more information in this issue of *Signal* and over STS-L.

I want to thank all those who ran for office during the Spring 2006 election and hope that all of you continue your interest and commitment to STS. As you know, STS is run by volunteers and it is only through your time and hard work that STS continues to flourish. Many thanks to all of you for your ongoing commitment to STS.

*Catherine Soehner*  
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**From the Vice Chair/Chair Elect,  
Barbara MacAlpine**

It's traditional in the Spring *Signal* for the Vice-Chair to extol the virtues of the just-past ALA Midwinter meeting and encourage folks to keep on trucking toward ALA Annual in June. Unfortunately I had to miss the Seattle Spectacular, though I heard from plenty of folks that it was a great meeting. My point? Not just True Confessions that I was remiss in my duties, but there's a message here: you can still stay connected and involved with STS even when attendance at conferences is not always possible. One good avenue is our STS-L listserv, which has occasional news, excellent sharing of questions and answers from our members, and not so much traffic that your inbox groans under the weight of multi-messages. If you haven't joined STS-L, this would be a fine time to go to <http://www.ala.org/sts>, click on STS-L under Publications, and hop on board.

Another excellent way to be involved with STS is to join a committee. In the past few months it has been most gratifying to see so many people step up and offer to help our section, and I've been especially pleased with the number of newer STS members who want to be involved. By the time this *Signal* is published, I will have completed committee appointments for 2007-2008. However, next year is just around the corner. If you're thinking about testing the waters, or serving on a different committee, consider attending the STS All Committees Meeting that will be held at ALA Annual in Washington D.C. in June. Almost all committees have open meetings, and visitors are very definitely welcome. Virtual membership is also a possibility in some cases and can be requested if you don't attend conferences on a regular basis.

I hope to see many of you in Washington or hear from you in whatever way you'd like to communicate.

*Barbara MacAlpine, Science Librarian  
Trinity University  
bmacalpi@trinity.edu | Phone: 210-999-7343*

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**NEWS FROM SEATTLE**  
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**Membership & Recruitment Committee**

At ALA Midwinter, we went through initial planning for organizing the New Members Orientation and Reception at Annual 2007 in Washington. As for the format of the program, it was agreed upon to follow the old format with a layout of small round tables to facilitate informal discussion and networking between new attendees and STS officers, along with light refreshments and door prizes. The committee members also suggested that maybe one or two of the attending STS officers or Council members could speak about the association, share their past experiences, and answer any questions raised by new attendees.

The committee continued its work on various other activities such as outreach to library professors of sci-tech reference courses and library school students. The committee members expressed a need to contact Science & Technology librarians that are not a part of ACRL and also to contact STS liaisons to SLA or ASEE to boost up the ACRL/STS membership. Between the Annual 2006 and Midwinter 2007 meeting, a group of committee members worked on designing the new STS brochure that was based on a standard template designed by ACRL for all the sections. The final edits have been submitted to ACRL and brochures may be available for distribution at the ACRL conference in March in Baltimore.

*Submitted by Kavita Mundle and Peter John Larsen*

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**Organization and Planning Committee**

At Midwinter, we focused on three areas: STS Manual revisions, the development of a new STS Strategic Plan, and responding to the ACRL 5-10 Year Planning Horizon document. Revisions to the Manual have been completed, and the revised document will be submitted to the STS Executive Committee for review. Work on the STS Strategic Plan is well underway. A draft STS Strategic Plan was devised by reviewing the 2004 STS Strategic Plan and matching objectives in that plan to the current ACRL Strategic Plan goal areas. This draft was then revised by the

Committee. A web-based survey (utilizing Survey-Monkey) is being conducted to solicit input from STS members on the revised draft, prior to a second revision cycle. The Committee intends to present their recommendations – and a formal draft of the Strategic Plan - to STS Council at Annual 2007. The Committee provided substantial input on the ACRL Planning Horizon draft, and this information was submitted to STS Executive Committee to include in the feedback STS provides to ACRL.

*Submitted by Lori Critz*

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## **Government Information Committee**

Midwinter Highlights: Under old business, the committee discussed the ACRL Environmental Plan, advocacy initiatives for the committee, the "Top 100" update, and virtual meetings. No conclusions were made about the ACRL Environmental Plan, but the committee felt that it would make a good topic to explore during a virtual meeting. Amy Prendergast will explore the available opportunities for a virtual meeting. The "Top 100" update will hopefully be posted soon by the STS Webmaster. The Committee was contacted by Kara Malenfont, Scholarly Communications & Government Relations Specialist for ACRL. Alison Ricker will explore opportunities with ACRL for the committee.

During new business, the committee discussed the ACRL Strategic Plan and future program ideas. Matt Marsteller will draft a paragraph for the committee to describe committee alignment with the ACRL Strategic Plan. Sidney Lowe and Matt Marsteller will recruit other willing committee members to discuss future program ideas.

*Submitted by Matthew R. Marsteller*

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## **Information Literacy Committee**

At the January 20 inaugural meeting of the STS Information Literacy Committee, members initially shared what each thought would be particularly useful products to come out of this committee's work. Key ideas included: identification of best practices for teaching and assessment, development of a clearinghouse of visual representations of concepts for teaching, identification of best practices for using course management systems and exploration of best

practices for communication of instruction issues with faculty. The committee divided into two subgroups, one focused on assessment and the other focused on teaching methods. Each group is charged with identifying competencies from the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Science & Engineering that are particularly important and/or easy to address as well as identifying best practices and/or existing resources that might be useful and adaptable for different disciplines and different types of institutions.

*Submitted by Jeanne Davidson and Betsy Spackman Hopkins*

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## **Publications Committee**

The Publications Committee met virtually once again for Midwinter this year, using the Chat feature of the new ACRL Online Communities software. The meeting was held in December, 2006 with ten committee members and six guests in attendance. We met last year via telephone conference, so this experience provided members with a good opportunity for comparing different modes for meeting virtually. Co-chair Linda Eells reported on the benefits and drawbacks of the experience at the STS Council meeting in Seattle.

STS-L moderator Peter Spyers-Duran reported that the number of subscribers is now 1,143 after falling below 1,000 a few years ago. Peter notes that users who change email addresses without notifying him will continue to receive posts to STS-L but are unable to post to the list themselves. Andrea Duda reported that ISTL now has 4,235 subscribers, up significantly from a year ago. Andrea suggested several ideas for publicizing noted upcoming issue themes. The deadline for submissions for ISTL, and the Summer 2007 "all topics" issue of ISTL is July 15. Webmaster Paul St-Pierre suggested forming a "web team" coordinated by the Publications Committee, with representation from other STS committees. ACRL is migrating to a new CMS this fall.

New business included the conversion of the STS Recruiting Brochure to a poster, the status and value of an STS blog, and the possibility of creating a Science Librarian recruitment video.

*Submitted by Linda Eells*

## ON THE SOAPBOX

*Q: What emerging technology are you using at work, in library instruction, or at the reference desk?*

**Paul St-Pierre** at Tulane said, "Right now I'm really excited about the convergence between OpenURL link resolvers and bibliographic management software. We have SFX and RefWorks here, and automatically linking to full-text from your RefWorks database is awesome. Add email alerts from databases and e-journals to that, and you've got tremendous power to streamline information management."

**Nestor Osorio** from Northern Illinois University created a wiki to write a collaborative collection development grant proposal. Under the auspices of CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois) grants for building the strength of collections in specific areas are made available on an annual basis. The group worked on a proposal for purchasing materials related to the "Scientific, Technological and Managerial Aspects of Disasters Prevention and Intervention." For more information on how the wiki worked for this project, contact Nestor (nosorio@niu.edu).

Instructional technology **Beth Roberts** is using at Pennsylvania State University includes InterWrite SchoolPad and the Student Response System made by Turning Point technologies. Beth writes, "We use them to encourage interactivity and active learning in the classroom. With Interwrite SchoolPad students can actually interact with the presentation from their seats. The technology enables students in the class to stay on task because they are engaged with the process and learning from each other. The Student Response System allows the instructor to gauge student knowledge and interest in the material as a pre-test or as a pre-assessment as well as review concepts at the end of class."

**John J. Meier** is using the instant messaging "aggregator" Meebo (meebo.com) at work and at the reference desk. He says, "Many of my colleagues and coworkers here at Penn State use instant messaging. Meebo allows me to log in at any computer, and connect to multiple IM services including AIM, Yahoo, Google Talk, and MSN. It requires only a browser, so it doesn't upset your IT folks."

## MIDWINTER HOT TOPICS DISCUSSION GROUP 2007

This year's STS Midwinter Hot Topics Discussion Group was held Saturday, January 20; the topic under discussion was "The S Word: Taking the Fear out of Science Reference" and focused on how science librarians can effectively mentor and train their non-science colleagues to handle (without fear!) science-reference questions. The fast-paced discussion included more than thirty-five attendees and was led by Jezmyne Westcott, science and engineering librarian at the Claremont Colleges.

Ms. Westcott kicked off the discussion by sharing some of the ways she has used to make her non-science librarian colleagues more comfortable with science at the reference desk. Some of her tips included approaching any training you offer by thinking how you answer non-science questions and having other librarians shadow your answers to science reference questions both at the desk and via email. She also advocated teaching colleagues to use their reference interview skills to involve the patrons as much as possible by asking questions such as:

*What subject do you think that is?*

*What types of sources do you need?*

*Let's brainstorm for keywords.*

*What are the synonyms?*

*What would your perfect source be titled?*

*How do these results look to you?*

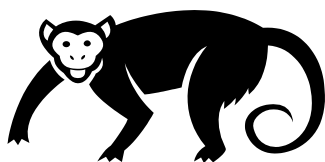
Many other ideas for making science reference questions more accessible to non-science librarians were brainstormed by the discussion group's attendees. These ideas included creating tools like cheat sheets, OPAC annotations, and database pathfinders to support the answering of science reference questions. Other ideas centered around providing training in answering science questions. The librarians in attendance advocated greater participation in MLS internships and training programs as well as in-service training sessions for current librarians, including the use of wikis to collaboratively create training manuals. But the most inspiring idea seemed to be leading by example: modeling the behavior you'd like to see in other librarians. For a complete listing of all ideas brainstormed at this session, contact Julie Shen, (jshen@csupomona.edu) or Kara Whatley, (kara.whatley@nyu.edu).

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# Coming Attractions: Annual 2007

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*Hot Topic: Web Tools for Library Assessment  
Focus on SurveyMonkey*



The Hot Topics discussion is scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 24th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This discussion immediately follows the All STS Meeting and Breakfast. The location is still being determined, but we have asked that it be in close proximity to the Breakfast so you can easily attend both events.

Library assessment is like the quest for the Holy Grail. It changes form(at), and it is simultaneously elusive and powerful. An experienced survey designer will briefly talk about using the Web-based tool SurveyMonkey to gather assessment data, and a survey user will recount their experience designing and implementing a library survey. There will be time for questions, discussion and sharing of our own experiences. Potential discussion points include:

- **How can online surveys be most effectively used in library assessment?**
- **What limitations, advantages, disadvantages of online surveys have you observed or experienced?**
- **How do you plan an online survey to verify post-implementation change?**
- **What other online surveys have you used and what can you tell us about them?**
- **What have you gotten from these surveys? And what hasn't worked?**

If you have used SurveyMonkey in your library and would like to give a brief account of your experience, we are currently hunting for the person to fulfill that role in the description above. Please contact Maribeth Slebodnik (slebodnik@purdue.edu) or Annie Zeidman-Karpinski (annie@uoregon.edu) if you would be willing to share your experience to help jump start the discussion. We hope to see you there!

## College Science Librarians Discussion Group: Pay-Per-View Article Access

Plan to attend the College Science Librarians Discussion Group at Annual; the discussion will be held on Sunday June 24 from 1:30-3:30. The topic will be "Pay-Per-View Might Work For You." Rather than continuing to cut enough subscriptions each year to meet budget limitations, why not consider cancelling all titles from a specific publisher and switching to a pay per view model? Trinity University (Texas) librarians will describe what led them to this decision and how it's working for their users. They will address budgetary issues, public relations, empowering faculty with their own accounts, and the student side of the issues. The view from the publishing industry will be presented by a vendor representative. Come prepared to question, comment, and think outside your box.

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## 10<sup>2</sup> (Ten -Squared): STS Breakfast Discussion Program

**The concept:** During the second hour of the All STS Membership breakfast (Sunday June 24), 10 round tables (10 people to a table) will each have a hot topic for discussion. Each table will have a facilitator/recorder to report back on the discussion. (If you would like to serve as a table recorder, please contact Fred Stoss.)

Please submit topics, issues of interest, concerns, or other items that you would like to see addressed as one of the Ten Topic Tables. You can send your topic ideas to Fred Stoss (fstoss@buffalo.edu). The Continuing Education Committee will make a list of all topics and will use a voting process via the STS-L email discussion list to determine what Top Ten Topics will be given a table at the 10<sup>2</sup> Event. Here are some possible topics for discussion:

- **Promoting computer science/information literacy**
- **How can RSS feeds help librarians professionally**
- **Teach patrons to get the most from Google Scholar**
- **Reaching Millennials via IM, Facebook**
- **Finding, storing geospatial data**
- **Podcasts as instruction tools**
- **Visual literacy**

## 2007 Program Committee

The STS Program for the ALA Annual meeting in Washington D.C. will be Monday June 25, 2007, beginning at 8:30 a.m., and is titled "Issues and Trends in Digital Repositories of Non-Textual Information: Support for Research and Teaching". Librarians and researchers alike are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of also preserving the scientific community's prodigious output of data, which are often difficult, if not impossible, to find in published literature. This engaging and informative program will address the issues and trends of storing and providing access to the vast amount of non-textual information produced by scientific research.

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### Subject and Bibliographic Access to Science Materials Committee

Work continues on the committee's project to survey libraries in the United States and the United Kingdom on availability and accessibility of science electronic theses and dissertations. Input from committee members by e-mail and discussion at ALA Midwinter helped to further refine the survey questions. A telephone conference with our colleagues in the UK then aligned both versions of the survey to enable an accurate comparison of the survey responses. Plans are to distribute the US survey in late spring 2007 to academic libraries with extensive doctoral programs listed in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. We look forward to a successful response rate. The intent is to publish the survey results as a research paper in 2008.

*Submitted by Anne Christie and Sophie Bogdanski*

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### Research Committee

The STS Research Committee reviewed several different paper proposals for presentation at the upcoming Research Forum for Science & Technology Library Research at ALA Annual in Washington D.C. One paper was selected for presentation:

*"Assessing Reference Service in Academic Science and Technology Libraries"* by **Janet Hughes, Amy L. Paster, and Helen Smith**, Life Sciences Library, The Pennsylvania State University.

**David Stern**, Director of the Science Libraries at Yale University will be the guest commentator for the STS Research Forum.

### ***STS Field Trip:***

**June 26, 2007 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

A tour of the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) facility in Silver Spring, MD is being planned.



Registration is required and more information is forthcoming. Watch for announcements on STS-L and on the STS website.

The Committee also reviewed poster session proposals to be presented at the STS Reception following the STS Program at Annual. Ten posters have been invited to present their activities and research in Washington D.C., including:

"DSpace as a Repository for Map and GIS Resources: A Case Study and Overview of Issues" by **Kathy Weimer**, Texas A&M University Libraries

"An Educational Program on Data Curation" by **Melissa H. Cragin, P. Bryan Heidorn, Carole L. Palmer, and Linda C. Smith**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"Librarians and the Data Challenge: Exploratory Work of the MIT Libraries Data Initiatives Group" by **Anna Gold**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

"Spatial SQL – Querying Spatial Objects Based on Geographic Information: An Open Source Approach" by **Chieko Maene**, Northwestern University

"ComPADRE Digital Library: Repository of Non-Textual Educational Resources in Physics and Astronomy" by **Elizabeth Bolton**, University of Oklahoma

"Preserving Soil Survey Data with GIS" by **Christopher Miller**, Purdue University

"Using an Institutional Repository for Prostate Tissue Array Image Data Preservation" by **William Simpson**, University of Delaware

"Capturing Visual Scientific Assets: The GSFC Library's IMAGES Database" by **Mitzi Cole and Kathleen McGlaughlin**, Goddard Library, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

## SCHEDULE

ACRL Science & Technology Section \* 2007 Annual Meeting \* Washington, D.C.

<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Committee</u>
<b>Friday, June 22</b>		<b>Sunday, June 24</b>	
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	ACRL New Leader Orientation (chair, vice-chair & new vice-chair)	8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	All STS Breakfast & Meeting
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	ACRL Leadership Council (chair, vice-chair & new vice chair)	10:30 - noon.	Hot Topics Discussion Group
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	ACRL Sections Council (chair, vice-chair)	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	College Sci. Librarians Discussion Grp.
6:00 - 7:15 p.m.	STS Welcome Event	4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Research Forum
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	STS Council I	6:30 p.m. -	STS Dinner (reservations required)
<b>Saturday, June 23</b>		<b>Monday, June 25</b>	
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	New Members Orientation & Welcome	8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	STS 2007 Conference Program
10:30 - noon	All STS Committees Meetings	11:00 a.m. - noon	STS Poster Session & Reception
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	New & Continuing Chairs Orientation	1:30 - 5:30 p.m.	ACRL President's Program
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	2007 Program Planning Meeting	7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	STS Council II
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Liaisons Task Force Meeting	<b>Tuesday June 26</b>	
		8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	STS Field Trip to NOAA (reservations required)

EDITOR'S NOTE: some times are tentative as of press time; check the ALA conference website and/or the STS website for confirmed times and locations.

"A Watershed Moment: Preserving & Improving Access to Water Quality Data" by **Marianne Bracke and Michael Witt**, Purdue University

"Selecting a Digital Asset Management Program for a Medical School Department" by **Margaret Henderson**, Virginia Commonwealth University

*Submitted by William Simpson and Sarah Jeong*

### MEMBER NEWS:

**Sara Tompson**, Science & Engineering Team Leader in the University of Southern California Libraries, was recently elected Vice President of the Library Faculty Congress by her peers.

**Irwin Weintraub** announces that he's the author of a new book titled *Jews in American Agriculture: An Annotated Bibliography* (McFarland, 2007).

**John J. Meier** has been appointed to assistant librarian in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences Library at The Pennsylvania State University.

In February 2007, **Joe Murphy** began as General Science Librarian & User Education Coordinator at Yale University's Kline Science Library.

**Barbara DeFelice** has been named Director of the Digital Resources Program at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Congratulations to **Barbara MacAlpine**, Science Librarian at the Coates Library, Trinity University, who has been granted tenure and rank of Associate Professor.

**Katherine O'Clair**, Life Science Librarian at Arizona State University, has been named a 2007 Mover and Shaker by *Library Journal*. Her profile, "Living the Life Sciences" was published in conjunction with the March 15, 2007 issue of *LJ* and is now available online <<http://www.libraryjournal.com/articles/CA6423400.html>>. The article highlights Katherine's accomplishments as liaison to the School of Life Sciences, including co-teaching a first year seminar with a faculty member.

**Fred Stoss** recently was trained by the USDA Forest Service and the North American Association for Environmental Education as a trainer for "Nonformal Environmental Education Programs."

The Signal Editor joins the STS Chair in recognizing **Mel DeSart** for his outstanding efforts to secure sponsor funding for STS events at Midwinter and Annual. Many thanks, Mel!

*Thanks and appreciation to the following Friends and Sponsors of the Science & Technology Section:*

<b>Elsevier</b>	<b>Proquest CSA</b>
<b>IEEE</b>	<b>Springer</b>
<b>Knovel</b>	<b>Thomson ISI</b>
<b>Morgan &amp; Claypool</b>	<b>YBP Library Services</b>

## STS ALA Program Monday, June 25, 2007

*Issues and trends in digital repositories  
of non-textual information: Support for  
research and teaching*

Program 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Poster Session and Reception  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Panel of speakers:

**Thomas Dowling**  
Assistant Director of Library Systems,  
Client/Server Applications OhioLINK

**D. Scott Brandt**  
Associate Dean for Research,  
Purdue University Libraries

**Frank Cervone**  
Assistant University Librarian for Information Technology,  
Northwestern University

### STS Electronic Communications Update

#### STS-L Listserv

STS-L is a moderated discussion group, open to all interested persons. It is sponsored by the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

STS-L is running on the Sympa software on the American Library Association servers. You can subscribe by logging into the web interface: <<http://lists.ala.org/www/info/sts-l>>. Moderator: Peter Spyers-Duran

#### Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL)

<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/>  
Editor: Andrea Duda

#### STS Web Page

<http://www.acrl.org/sts>  
Webmaster: Paul St-Pierre

#### STS Signal on the Web

Available as a pdf file at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stspublications/stssignal.htm>  
Editors: Caroline Gilson and Jennifer McKinnell

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