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Aerospace Division

Katherine Harkness

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AEROSPACE DIVISION

The objectives of the Aerospace Division are to encourage the free exchange of ideas and information between libraries and librarians who are directly concerned with aerospace technology and related sciences; and to maintain a dialog with NASA and other governmental agencies upon whom we rely as sources of technical data and bibliographic sources.

FROM THE CHAIR

KATHERINE HARKNESS



BOSTON REVIEWED

With nearly 7,400 registrants at this year's conference in Boston, we are planning for 8,000 next year in Seattle. How about that! We

hope you'll note June 7-12, 1997, on your calendars and start planning now! We'd like to see more Aerospace Division (or Section) members in attendance next year. (I'll be telling you more about ideas for Seattle later ... in future columns.)

One of the special events in Boston that I enjoyed in particular was the "High Tea" organized by Sandy Moltz and her committee. Held at the Marriott Hotel, it provided an opportunity to make new acquaintances while enjoying special goodies. Another high point for me was the opportunity to visit the MIT Aeronautics and Astronautics Library, which is overseen ably by Eileen Dorschner.

There were many excellent presentations given throughout the conference, too. Tapes of many of the sessions can be purchased for \$12 each, a

fairly economical way to get ideas on problems with which you may be dealing.

And, although there were only about 25 members at the Aerospace Division annual meeting and luncheon, there was lively discussion on the proposed merger with the Engineering Division. A majority voted in favor of the merger, so ballots will be heading to the memberships of both Aerospace and Engineering Divisions soon, if not already so.

I'd like to add here that since the Aerospace Division has a noble tradition of contributing many who became leaders of the Special Libraries Association, it is unfortunate that circumstances seem to have reduced most of the membership and resources (in terms of human effort) that previously were available to the division. Too few people have been doing too much work. Many of us believe that to become a Section of the Engineering Division, at least for now, is the best course of action open to us. Vote, and let us know how you feel.

THANKS

I'd like to offer my thanks to two people of the many who have put in much effort on our behalf over the past year. One is Mitzi Rinehart, who stepped into the chair position suddenly with the resignation of Dorothy Gannon last year. We were fortunate she had the experience of being a chair of another division and

could readily step forward when needed. Mitzi has volunteered to continue coordinating the efforts needed to merge Aerospace with Engineering, too, and I am grateful for that.

I also want to thank Mercedes Cobb of McDonnell Douglas, our membership chair for the past year. She made the extra effort to get all our Internet addresses included in the forthcoming Aerospace Division membership directory. The directory has been printed and distributed once again by the Carroll Publishing Company. Thanks, CPC.

We also received support this year from AIAA, NERAC, FAXON and READMORE. Several of us made a point to thank representatives from those companies at the conference, and the division also gave the firms thank-you letters, as is always the case. In your dealings with these companies, please let them know we appreciate their support.

GOALS

One of my hopes for the coming year is to identify ways to help more Aerospace Division members attend annual conferences, and not just because the next one is in Seattle! The benefits you obtain from attending the conference are immense: not only can you learn about solutions others have developed to problems you are facing, you can interface with vendors and see their products demonstrated, and you can meet other librarians with similar jobs and interests ... and then know whom to call when a new problem occurs.

One way to obtain \$500.00 of support is to be recognized with the George Mandel Memorial Award. Applications for the award are due January 1, 1997, and need to be sent to

Mary Ellen McMurtrie. To be considered for the award, an individual needs to have made contributions to our profession, the association, the division or the public's perception of libraries/librarians. This year's winner, Stan Elman, earned the award for contributions in several categories and subsequently wrote a paper on international librarianship that illustrates what enthusiasm and inventiveness can achieve any where in the world. His paper, which he presented at the Boston Conference, will be published here, in *Sci/Tech News*, or on the Aerospace Division listserv if not elsewhere.

I will be brainstorming with other Aero Division board members, my coworkers at Boeing, and Pacific Northwest Chapter SLA members to generate other ideas to make it easier to reduce the costs of division members attending the conference in Seattle. Stay tuned.

I continue to work with others on developing an exciting program of events for next year's conference, too. In addition to ideas I mentioned in the last issue, I plan to repeat a successful idea tried in Montreal: a Monday morning networking breakfast. We'll have a chance to meet new acquaintances and hear brief news updates, from the likes of the AIAA, McGraw-Hill, and Transport Canada, so try to attend.

We also hope to have someone speak at the annual business meeting and luncheon on the development of the Boeing 777 and its underlying spirit of "working together." If we need all the time scheduled then to discuss Aerospace Division (or Section) business, we'll try to schedule the speaker at another time. (I originally hesitated to suggest this or a

topic like it, fearing that everyone had heard more than enough about it. However, someone with no affiliation with Boeing made the suggestion to consider it in earnest, so I am going to look into it.)

We have received many requests to organize a tour of the Boeing factory in Everett, and we will do that. We hope to reserve enough capacity (i.e., tour sessions and buses), so that everyone who wants to attend can. The plan now is to offer two choices, one to the factory only, another to the factory and to the Boeing Technical Libraries. I'll tell you more as plans crystallize.

OFFICERS, CHAIRS FOR 1996-1997

Since a merger with the Engineering Division is on the table, there are certain "economies of scale" from which the division should benefit in relation to needing officers. The following is a full slate of division officers and committee chairs which hopefully reflects the "savings." If there is a particular chair or area in which you are interested, please let division chair—Kathy Harkness—know at harkness@atc.boeing.com.

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Minutes of Business Meeting

June 10, 1996

By Sue Brewsaugh

Outgoing Chair Mitzi Rinehart opened the meeting. The minutes of the business meeting in Montreal were approved. (Susan Lamanna moved to accept them, and Kitty Scott seconded.) Committee reports were given then. Eileen Dorschner reported for the

Nomination Committee, informing all present that the new Chair is Kathy Harkness, the Chair-Elect is Mary Ellen McMurtrie, the Secretary is Janna Jantz, and Don Welch will continue as Treasurer. Mercedes Cobb, Membership Chair, then reported that our membership directory has been updated to include Internet addresses. Carroll Publishing also produced the directory again, she said. Sandy Moltz, Conference Planning Chair, then listed and described the kind of events awaiting members in Boston. The Treasurer's report was submitted next and approved as written. (See separate story which follows.) Kathy Harkness, of the Awards Committee, then presented the George Mandel Memorial Award to Stan Elman.

Awards also were given to the following people: the staff of McDonnell Douglas West for getting the proposed merger mailing done within two hours; Eileen Dorschner for her work on the Nominations Committee, which was much more active than anticipated; Sandy Moltz for continuous effort for our division; and Don Welch for outstanding support, especially as newsletter editor.

We next discussed old business. The major topic was whether or not to merge with the Engineering Division. Mitzi Rinehart reported that a survey was sent to the membership asking it how it felt about merging with another division and which division with which it would like to merge, if that were to happen. Only 49 responses were returned (and 200 were mailed). The majority favored merger. Nineteen preferred the SciTech Division as a partner and 27 preferred the Engineering Division. Terms of Agreement were developed cooperatively then

between the Aerospace and Engineering Divisions and those will be mailed to all Aerospace and Engineering members for consideration when voting. Susan Clifford moved to discuss whether or not to have the membership vote on merging with the Engineering Division. Sandy Moltz seconded the motion. Mitzi reminded us that we could not change the verbiage on the proposed Terms of Agreement since the Engineering Division would be voting on the same verbiage. Discussion then ensued. The final vote on the motion was 18 in favor and three against. If the Engineering Division agrees to this proposal, ballots will be sent to the entire membership.

Mitzi then turned the meeting over to Kathy Harkness. Kathy gave Mitzi a well-deserved award. Kathy then offered everyone her Internet address (harkness@atc.boeing.com) in case anyone wanted to contact her.

The meeting then closed with an announcement that the division was willing to mail those members in attendance a free Aerospace Division T-shirt. Don Welch had mentioned to the board that more than 90 were still in storage, and the board felt it could reward members for attending the business luncheon in this way.

Treasurer's Report By Don Welch

The division is doing well financially. Given the fact that it is not designed to make a profit, but simply to finance its operations, the division has what amounts to a surplus. This is a realization that has come to light recently in considering the ramifications of

possibly merging with the Engineering Division.

If we vote to merge with the Engineering Division then we also vote to transfer division funds to the Engineering Division, with the exception of the George Mandel Memorial Award funds. These have been identified as assets the division can use to continue a special membership program.

Specifically, we have almost \$18,000.00 in division accounts, of which there are three. The accounts, and available funds, are (as of May 31, 1996):

Checking	\$ 4,964.97
Savings	\$ 8,976.41
GMMA	<u>\$ 3,899.60</u>
TOTAL	\$17,840.98

These funds probably will not dissipate much in the wake of conference expenses. Programs and events in which the division took part this year were co-sponsored events. This means that the costs of these programs or events will be shared with other divisions and not shouldered totally by the Aerospace Division.

The biggest expenditure the division had in 1995-96 was "publishing" *Sci-Tech News*. Its share of doing that was \$735.00. The division also spent \$558.36 for expenses in Montreal. The division also spent \$303.77 on printing and mailing ballots for the elections and surveys which were conducted.

The membership allotment from the SLA was \$1,806.00. In 1994-95 the allotment, which is based on membership totals, was \$2,064.00.

Highlights from Boston

Few visiting Boston had trouble finding programs and activities to stimulate thought or invigorate souls ... professionally speaking that is. Members of the Aerospace Division were not an exception to this, finding plenty to glean from programs and events co-sponsored by the division.

Those who were there early Sunday—and early is the word to note here—got to walk the Freedom Trail in Boston and watch for birds around the Common and among historic sites. While the hour was not agreeable to some, the sites—and the birds—were worth the walk.

Monday's division-backed programs began with "Electronic transmission of SGML Documents." Here, three speakers discussed the work of their agencies on the electronic transmission of documents. Barbara Bauldock, from the Department of Energy (DOE); Clara Gannon, from the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC); and Michael Nelson, from NASA, were the speakers. Barbara reported on some of the benefits of SGML—like neutral data format, a content-oriented standard, and content reusability—as well the challenges of it. The challenges include acquiring an expertise in its use, its actual implementation, difficulty in "selling" it to authors, and coming to grips with the fact that while it's a universal format, it is not the prevailing one. DOE is at the beginning of the learning curve on this, but it has making headway by working with SGML groups. Clara reported on a cooperative effort between the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and DTIC to facilitate the electronic transmission of all

information dealing with DLA's Apparel Research Program. Their challenges were the number and variety of contractors submitting reports and a lack of standardization and understanding of the technology. The prototype program they setup progressed to the point of establishing an e-mail box for incoming Apparel Research reports, an IP address for FTPing reports to DTIC and a method for transmitting reports to DTIC via surface mail. They learned (1) they needed additional skilled staff and (2) there is a demand for reports to be converted and made available electronically. Michael told of how NASA established an internal FTP site at NASA Langley in 1993 to facilitate the electronic transmission of technical reports, even though additional types of reports were wanted. A one-stop shopping center for all NASA publications is what was wanted. This is so that users would not have to go to individual sites, like Langley, to get what they wanted. They could go instead to the NTRS, which would connect them to ICASE, AAS, and DFRC ... in addition to Langley. For now, all that's available for the most part are unclassified documents, technical papers, and memorandum. In the future access to restricted information, for those with the need to know, of course, and access to the remaining centers of NASA will be possible. Challenges he mentioned specifically were not having enough skilled people, high demand for more types of documents, slow acceptance of the system, managerial support throughout NASA, and the need to sell the agency and authors on documents on-line.

A standards roundtable later on Monday was co-sponsored next by the division, and it was led by Claudia Bach of Documents Center. She reviewed some of the current events of providing and using standards, noting early in the session that since 1994 the standards community has been in an uproar over the Department of Defense's moving to review, reduce, and replace or eliminate many, if not most, of the military's specifications and standards. She said users are reporting horror stories almost too unbelievable to be true—like specifications being canceled before they are replaced. One initiative by the federal government to help provide quick access to standards is the National Standards System Network (NSSN). This is a webpage which eventually will provide links to all, or most, of the standards developing organizations (SDOs) and their documents. Still in development, the NSSN is bringing as many of the SDOs on-line as possible and as fast as possible. And, since it's the SDOs—like ASTM, the IEEE, etc.—whose standards are replacing many of the ones formerly written and specified by the Department of Defense, the NSSN is hoped to provide users with convenient and timely access to standards. The NSSN webpage is at <http://www.nssn.org>

Monday closed with a reception for division members at the Marriott Hotel. This event was co-sponsored by the Solo, Military, and Sci-Tech Divisions and was a good place to meet librarians from a spectrum of places. The reception was from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. and let those who wanted, or needed it, a place to unwind.

Tuesday morning the schedule of division sponsored events started with

“Locating Government Resources on the Internet.” Holly Wilson of DTIC, Sami Klein of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and Walter Blados, who was representing the Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD), were the speakers, and they came prepared with lists and overheads that provided scores, possibly even hundreds, of sources on the Internet for government compiled and/or funded information. Holly spoke first, and she concentrated on discussing military Internet sites. These included sources for directories, publications and reports, think tanks, news services, and more. She said some were good and some were not as good. But, she showed that a lot of information was available. Sami talked next of the virtual library the NIST has established, adding that outsiders can get to it at <http://www.nist.gov>. She detailed some of the features of it and noted, too, where the NIST wanted to make improvements or modifications.

She also added comments on what to consider if anyone wanted to create a virtual library (or webpage) for their library. Some were (1) that whatever information was going to be available must be accessible to the user without a lot of scrolling and (2) that the graphics did not overpower the information available. Walter, the secretary of a working group at AGARD investigating electronic access to worldwide aerospace and aeronautical information, spoke lastly about the International Aerospace Information Network (IAIN). He said AGARD wants to make access to aerospace information around the world easy. The project team wants to identify the major aerospace data collections,

provide the mechanism and access resources to make them available, and stimulate the integration and use of the resources. Please see a story later in the column for more on this network.

Next came a program titled "Professional Women in Engineering." Planned and organized by Dottie Moon, this program assembled an interesting and inspiring group of four speakers from United Technologies Corporation. They spoke directly on overcoming obstacles with hard work and intelligence. As they described how it was done, common themes emerged that could be applied, either by librarians or engineers, as they plan and navigate their careers and as they reach back to help others. One was to commit to learning how to do whatever is necessary to achieve your goals. (It's important, too, to encourage children to do the same, they said.) "You can do it!" is a powerful message everyone should hear. Skill development is essential. Find out what you're good at doing and build upon it. Other advice was to know trends affecting your industry and your company; think about how to apply your skills to help your employer achieve its goals. Create a network of contacts; pay back someone who has helped you by telling them about someone you know who might help them. Try new things; volunteer inside and outside of the work environment. Use your enthusiasm about something to mobilize others; and, finally, review best practices in key companies to help solve problems in your arena.

Also on Tuesday was a program on webpages. Kevin C. Marsh, executive director of the Information Access Institute, framed his presentation on

"Designing Your Web Site" to answer the basic question of who is fighting the information revolution. The enemy, he said, is unanswered questions. The fighters of the revolution are Info Potatoes (usually the patrons of a library), Info Specialists (librarians), and Info Wizards (the technical support staff). The first line of defense is the Institutional Web Site. The secret weapons in the battle are web-accessible information services and web-accessible catalogs. The nuclear arsenal is the Digital Knowledge Records. And, this is how Kevin led a detailed discussion of the different standard and non-standard search engine standards available, including WAIS and Z39.50, mime content type standards and field names and controlled vocabulary. He stressed that it was important for librarians to be aware of these constantly changing standards in order to create and maintain the best possible web pages.

Wednesday featured Dottie Moon presenting the program "Internet to Intranet." She began it by introducing the intranet— "...the use of web technology to provide an inexpensive but powerful way to communicate and collaborate within a private net..." She then said that a quick search of the literature on this produced no hits from 1994, 32 from 1995 and more than 300 in the first half of 1996, showing that this is one of the most dynamic uses of Internet technology—and one of the most useful ones for special libraries. Dottie next cited several examples of special libraries' uses of the intranet, but concentrated on the approach of United Technologies Corporation. There, the library maintains the external information

for the corporation's intranet. That includes commercial databases, directory information, maps and other geographic links, and any other information that improves business processes. While encouraging everyone to take advantage of this inexpensive but powerful tool, Dottie warned that we need to consider a few points in doing so. Server space must be adequate. Security must be ensured. Choose your search engine carefully. Content organization is critical. Define early who owns the data. Be creative in both the use and application of the 'net. Collaborate—it's tough but it's also necessary. And, finally, think globally—not locally.

The next event for division members was a High Tea—Boston-style. Co-sponsored by seven divisions, the conference tea party was an event of grand proportions. The Marriott Hotel was ready for the occasion, too, providing not only the ambiance, but the tea, the treats, and the tales people will tell. It was an event worth the time and the teatotaling.

Thursday featured "only" a tour of respected libraries in the area. It began early with a visit to the MIT Rotch Library for the School of Architecture and Planning. Warren R. Schwartz of Schwartz Silver Architects (and the man responsible for the award-winning renovations and additions to the library) did a slide presentation on the work that was done. This was followed by a tour of the library. "Tourists" went next to the Aeronautics/Astronautics Library of MIT, where Eileen Dorschner and her assistant gave everyone a first-hand look at the facilities, showing everyone many of the unique items in the collection there. The

third library visited at MIT was the Barker Engineering Library. Folks on the tour got an overview of the library, recent renovations, and its collection from Ruth Seidman, Head—Engineering and Science Libraries at MIT. Then, several of the staff demonstrated some of the electronic resources at their disposal. Lunch followed that, during which Ann Wolpert, Director of all the libraries at MIT, welcomed everyone on the tour. After lunch, the tour went to the MIT Media Lab where Valerie Minard, Information Coordinator - Communications and Sponsor Relations, gave a slide and video presentation on the cutting edge research projects in which the Media Lab was involved. Finally, the assemblage toured the Lotus Development Corporation and were given a presentation by Kristen Liberman, Manager, Tools and Technologies Marketing Intelligence Group. She talked some about Lotus and then she described the electronic tools and products produced by the corporation.

We're Listening...Are You?

Have you recently joined the legions getting access to the Internet? Did you just as recently get an email address? Or will? The division has a listserv onto which you can sign.

Members who wish to subscribe to the list, which is hosted through the auspices of the NASA Scientific and Technical Information Program Office, should send an email message to:

listserv@sti.nasa.gov

that says in the text:

subscribe sla-aero <yourfirstname
yourlastname>

The subject line of the message header should be blank.

An example of this would be:

subscribe sla-aero Sally Ride

A confirmation of the registration will be sent to you via email.

Once you are subscribed then you can send messages to everyone in the division by addressing, and sending, the messages to:

sla-aero@sti.nasa.gov

The listserv does not have a moderator so messages will be distributed to everyone who is a subscriber; the division had 148 subscribers late in June.

Specialist in the Field

Networking, cooperation, and enthusiasm—and understanding the needs of people and libraries—were factors mentioned over and over again in a paper by Stan Elman as ones that have contributed most to the successes he has experienced as a librarian for more than 35 years, as a Library Fellow of the American Library Association, as a Fulbright Senior Lecturer, and as a member of the Aerospace Division.

A retiree from Lockheed, Stan presented much of the paper—“International Networking, Involvement, and Responsibilities for Information Professionals”—at a meeting of the board in Boston. In it, he tells of being as active in retirement as he ever was in 35 years of librarianship. In the past couple of years, he has helped to automate the Polish National Library in Warsaw and has taught at the library school of the University of Warsaw.

The paper was written and presented as a fulfillment of sorts for receiving the George Mandel Memorial Award. A longtime member of the SLA and a chair of the Aerospace Division in 1981-82, Stan received the award this year

primarily for his involvement in librarianship after retirement and particularly overseas. He reflects on these, and what he has learned about them, in light of where networking, cooperation and enthusiasm can take librarians today.

The GMMA is awarded to a division member who has furthered the profession and/or division either in service or in publication. A \$500.00 stipend to attend the annual conference is awarded with the recognition, and FAXON helps the division make the award by donating \$250.00 of that amount.

International Aerospace Information Network

In the Spring of 1995, the Technical Information Committee (TIC) of the NATO Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) established a Working Group to examine the issues, strategies, and actions required to develop and establish an International Aerospace Information Network (IAIN). The Working Group was to examine the models of existing international databases and cooperation, make recommendations on the organizational structure of a network, resolve issues and develop strategies, and identify actions necessary to establish as comprehensive and complete a resource as possible.

The network is being developed and established, therefore, to facilitate access to, use, and understanding of aerospace and aerospace-related information world-wide. IAIN is premised on the need to identify major collections of data relevant to aerospace R&D; to provide mechanisms to access these data and information resources; and to create a vehicle to stimulate the integration and access of

multidisciplinary data related to aerospace R&D.

The goal of establishing IAIN is to achieve a self-sustaining worldwide network of partner organizations committed to sharing their data and information resources. The network will allow user communities to share data and information electronically among major international data archives and resource centers. It will serve a diverse set of users who are geographically separated and require access to disparate data and information. These resources will be made accessible globally through a system of computer and human networks.

IAIN will provide a catalog to aerospace information sources from which information searches can be launched. It will provide easy access to aerospace and aerospace-related information holdings within cooperating nations.

In the short term, IAIN will be based on a loose formation of interested organizations; in the near term, IAIN will look to an international organization to obtain an endorsement and support of the concept. In the long term IAIN will consider obtaining an endorsement, commitment, and participation by nations.

The success of IAIN will be determined primarily on its ability to deliver the desired data and information and needed services to the user. Some of the principal user services and features to be implemented include:

- * the ability to search for aerospace and aerospace-related data and information across heterogeneous systems and to order data products through a simplified "one-stop shopping" procedure.
- * aerospace and aerospace-related data directory information

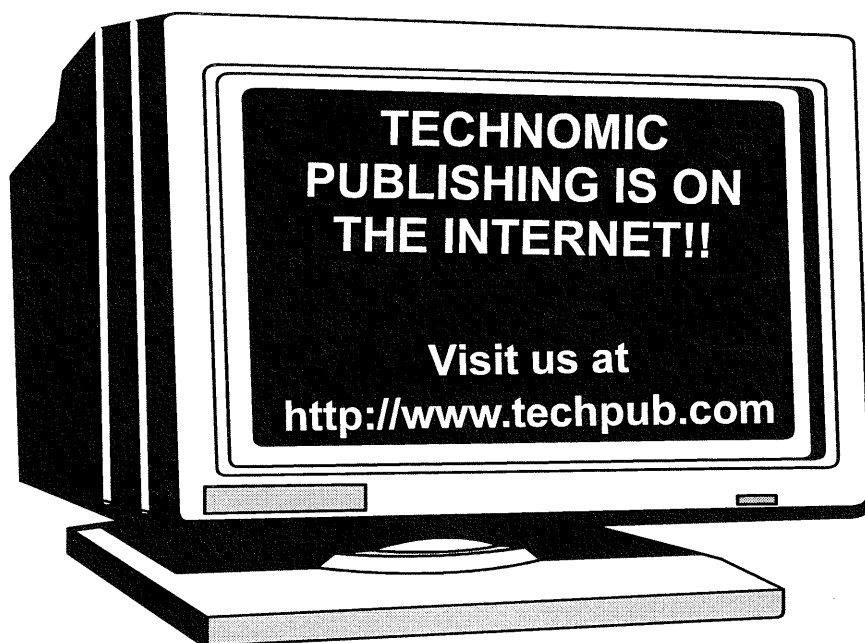
- * guide information about data
- * summary, reduced-resolution browse products and full-resolution data products
- * delivery of data to users on a variety of standard media, including electronic delivery for moderately sized products.
- * international interorganizational user referral service.
- * agreement to standard methods for describing and documenting data.

The Working Group has decided that the Internet would be a suitable vehicle to provide such services, and determined that a prototype IAIN homepage must be developed immediately to be used as a Proof of Concept tool. In this prototype homepage, several connections would be made to information sources as a demonstration of the concept and capability that would be inherent in the final stage. Essentially, this would be a limited version of the finished network. Feedback from viewers would be essential. Working Group members already have identified information sources for the prototype homepage.

The prototype homepage is currently under development, ready by Fall 1996.

If anyone has comments, please contact the Secretary of the Working Group: Walter R. Blados, Uucom, Inc.
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