

## **Editorial:**

# **Library & Information Science Research— Marking the Journal's 20th Anniversary**

In 1979, Melvin J. Voigt, as editor, together with the Ablex Publishing Corporation, launched *Library Research* (later renamed *Library & Information Science Research*), in the belief that the discipline and profession of library and information science could (and would) support a new journal devoted to discussions of research, the presentation of research findings, analyses of existing research, the identification of topics meriting investigation, and the identification and analysis of research designs, methods, and techniques. One goal was to link theory to practice and another was to underscore the role, value, and utility of research (of all kinds) to a diverse audience. That audience included (and still includes) librarians in all types of libraries and information centers, academic faculty and students, and other information professionals.

Over the years, the articles in the journal have demonstrated the importance of relating research to a conceptual and theoretical foundation, one not limited to any one discipline. As well, the content has ranged from basic to action research and reported experiments, case studies, and many other types of research. The purpose of this editorial is to look back to the first 20 volumes and to offer some general observations about the journal and its contents.

Since the first issue, *Library & Information Science Research (LISR)* has been a peer-reviewed journal subject to a double-blind review process. Since its inception, the journal has had four chief editors: Melvin J. Voigt (volumes 1-3), Jane Robbins (volumes 4-14), and co-editors Peter Hernon and Candy Schwartz (volume 15-current). Each of these has relied on an active and supportive Editorial Board (Table 1), and on the contributions of additional reviewers from the global professional community (Table 2). Clearly, the journal reflects the collective efforts of a large number of people over the years.

The 20 volumes have seen 80 editorials and 353 articles (the focus of the following discussion), as well as letters to the editor, and reviews of books, journals, dissertations, software, Web sites, CD-ROM titles, and other media.

**TABLE 1**  
**Editorial Board (Present and Past)**

<i>Present</i>		
Mary A. Burke	Min-min Chang	Thomas Childers
Charles H. Davis*	Robert M Hayes*	Gary Marchionini
Paul Nicholls	Jane B. Robbins*	Debora Shaw
Alastair Smith	Howard White	Stephen E. Wibertley, Jr.
Ann J. Wolpert		
<i>Past</i>		
Millicent D. Abell, 1979-1981	Ellen Altman, 1979-1982	Ethel Auster, 1982-1992
Michael K. Buckland, 1979-1992	John Budd, 1991-1992	Charles A. Bunge, 1982-1991
Robert W. Burns, 1979-1991	Graham P. Corr, 1983-1992	Evelyn H. Daniel, 1979-1992
Brenda Dervin, 1979-1982	Mary Dykstra, 1993-1995	Anthony J. Evans, 1979-1982
Frank J. Hogg, 1983-1992	Lloyd J. Houser, 1981-1991	Neal K. Kaske, 1983-1992
Ruth M. Katz, 1983-1991	Carl Keren, 1979-1982	Frederick G. Kilgour, 1979-1982
Mary Jo Lynch, 1983-1992	Lowell A. Martin, 1979-1981	Paul D. Metz, 1993-1995
Leon K. Montgomery, 1983-1992	Joanne E. Passet, 1993-1994	Phyllis A. Richmond, 1979-1987
Steffen Ruckl, 1988-1992	Anita R. Schiller, 1979-1992	Charles A. Seavey, 1989-1992
Shmuel Sever, 1983-1992	Lee Shiflett, 1982-1988	Vladimir Slamecka, 1979-1982
Barbara O. Slanker, 1979-1981	Bjorn V. Tell, 1979-1982	Brian C. Vickery, 1979-1991
Melvin J. Voigt, 1979-1982	Thomas J. Waldhart, 1979-1992	Darlene E. Weingand, 1982-1992

*Note:* \*Member of Board of Editors since 1979.

## EDITORIALS

Sixty-eight editorials (85%) were written by the editors or Editorial Board members, with the remaining 12 (15%) prepared by others (library and information science educators, academics in other departments, and librarians) by invitation. Editors and Board members discussed the following topics:

- Research as an activity (e.g., definition, value, types, relationship to practice, impact, who does it, and quality) (37);
- The journal itself (editorial direction, manuscript submission, role, value, and purpose) (9);
- Library and information science education (5);
- Research agendas (4);
- Criticism or defense of published research (3); and
- Other topics, such as scholarly communication, specific organizations or conferences (e.g., the Council on Library Resources, or OCLC), statistics, the peer review process in general, software engineering, measuring research productivity, and writing a scholarly paper (10).

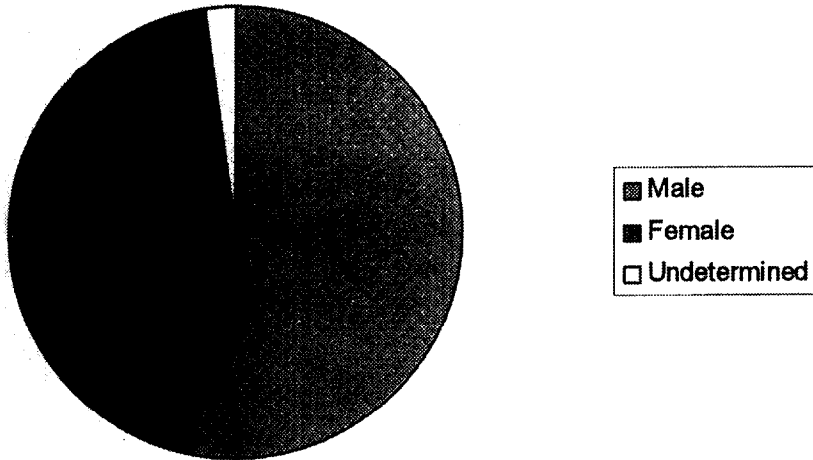
Non-Board members looked at research as an activity (5), research agendas (3), and other (4)—topics meriting investigation, tenure, a conference report, the American Library Association (ALA) and research, and transcriptions of confer-

**TABLE 2**  
**Manuscript Reviewers Not on the Editorial Board\***

Ellen Altman	A.J. Anderson	James D. Anderson	John F. Anderson	Hugh C. Atkinson	Earl W. Balch	Marcia Bates
James C. Baughtman	Jamshid Beheshti	Nicholas Belkin	Trudi Bellardo	Steve Bensman	Dan Bergen	John Carlo Bertot
Julie Bichler	Eather Bierbaum	Ronald Blazek	George Bobinski	John Boll	Susan Bonzi	Abraham Bookstein
Harold Borko	Virginia Boucher	Martina Bovee	Bert R. Boyce	Bob Broadus	Terrance Brooks	John Budd
Robert W. Burns	Dorothy Campbell	Philip J. Calvert	Ruth F. Carnovsky	Jane R. Carter	Roy Chang	Elfred Chatman
Lots Chen	Thomas Childers	Philip Clark	Jack Clarke	Pat Cooney	Pauline Cochrane	Michael D. Cooper
Graham Coor	Edwin Cortez	Susan E. Cozzens	Timothy C. Craven	Terence Crowley	Gwen Cruzat	Rowena J. Cullen
Charles Curran	Phyllis Dain	Prudence Dailymple	Nicola M. Daval	Sally Davis	George P. D'Elia	John DePew
Ernest DeProspero	Biane K. Deesy	Robert K. Dikeman	Virgil P. Diodato	Sheila Dodd	Richard M. Dougherty	Karen Markey Drabbenstott
Miriam Drake	Eliza Dressang	Sally Drew	Rosemary DuMont	Joan Durrance	Katharine T. Emerson	Eugene Engeldinger
Katharine Enger	G. Edward Evans	Josephine Fang	Adele Fasick	Carol Fenichel	Valami Fenster	Reya Fidel
Sara Fine	Shirley Fitzgibbons	Beverlee A. French	Carolyn Frost	Tina Fu	R. Dean Galloway	Sue Galloway
Budd L. Gambree	Trudy Gardner	Mary George	Margaret Knox Goggin	Helen Gothberg	Roger Greer	José-Marie Griffiths
Ruth Hafter	Roger K. Hanson	Michael Harris	Roma Harris	Stephen P. Hafter	Kathleen Helm	Jane C. Heiser
Eitel Himmel	John Hinkle	George Hodges	Edward G. Holley	Raymond M. Holt	Dianne Hopkins	Lloyd Houser
Norman Howden	Ingrid Hsieh-Yee	C.D. Hurt	Barbara Imbroth	Sheila Inimer	Barbara Ivy	Mary Ellen Jacobs
Péter Jascó	E.J. Jossey	Dorothy Kanter	Paul B. Kantor	Jeffrey Katzer	Edward J. Kazlauskas	Mary E. Kennedy
Alan Kent	Yves Khawam	Roy Kidman	Eva Klewitt	Donald King	Artemis Kirk	Thomas Kochtarsnek
Michael Koenig	James Kikeias	Geraldine Kulig	Ginny Moore Kruse	Carol Kufthau	David Laird	Gary Lawrence
Gerald J. Lazorick	June Lester	Robert F. Lewis	Kathryn Luede	Elizabeth Logan	Jean Lowrie	Beverly P. Lynch
Mary Jo Lynch	Carmel Maguire	Maurice P. Marchant	Charles Martell	James M. Matarazzo	M. Kent Mayfield	Katharine McCabe
Charles McClure	Carole McCollough	William E. McGrath	Cheryl Metoyer-Duran	Douglas P. Metzler	Francis Miksa	William A. Moen
Margaret Monroe	Everett T. Moore	Barbara Moran	Margaret Myers	William Nasri	Priscilla Neill	James A. Nelson
Dan O'Connor	John Olsgaard	Linda Olson	Edward T. O'Neill	Carl Orgren	Charles B. Osburn	Miranda Pao
Robin Peek	Bluma C. Peritz	Patsy Peritt	Sydney Pierce	Alison I. Piper	William Gray Potter	Ronald Powell
Alan D. Pratt	Gary Purcell	Kevin Quinn	Susan F. Rhee	John Richardson, Jr.	Phyllis A. Richmond	Donald Riggs
Galen E. Pike	William C. Robinson	Teiko Saracovic	Joey Rodger	Rhea Rubin	Richard Rubin	Stephen R. Salmon
Alan Samuels	Tefko Saracovic	Reijo Savolainen	Harry Scheiber	Linda Schexnaydre	Dagmar Schmidmaier	Alvin M. Schneider
Edith S. Scott	Susan Searing	Charles A. Seavey	Justin Serebnick	Russell Shank	Debra Shaw	Kenneth D. Shearer
Timothy Sineath	Elaïne Sloan	L. Allen Smith	Linda C. Smith	Phillip A. Smith	Dagobert Soergel	George Soete
Mary Ellen Soper	Vida Stanton	Richard Stayner	Dorothy Steffens	Barbara Stejn	Margaret Stieg	Robert D. Stueart
Krishnappa Subramanyan	Peggy Sullivan	Keith Swigger	Richard J. Talbot	Carol Tenopir	Kathleen Tesmer	Barbara B. Tillet
Bo-Gay Tong	Dan Tonkery	Maurice Travillian	Betty Turock	Judy Tuttle	Lois Upham	Rose Varstein
Harvey Varvet	Nancy Van House	Jana Vartejs	Lamar Veatch	Julie A.C. Virgo	Richard Walker	Danny Wallace
Amy Warner	William Webb	Duane Webster	Kathleen Weibel	Wayne A. Weingand	Lynn Westbrook	Herbert White
Howard White	Marilyn D. White	Holly Willert	Robert V. Williams	Bill Wilson	Pauline Wilson	Virginia Wifucke
Bianche Woods	Ronald E. Wyllis	Neil Yerkey	Jennifer Younger	Paul A. Zanins	Steven Zink	Douglas Zweifelg

Note: \*Individuals may appear here as well as in Table 1, if they were not on the Editorial Board when they conducted the review.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Authors by Gender**



**TABLE 3**  
**Frequent Authors**

<i>Author</i>	<i># of Articles</i>
Nancy Van House	9
Thomas Childers	6
Robert M. Hayes	5
Lloyd Houser	5
Deborah Shaw	5
Bryce Allen	4
Terrence Brooks	4
Elfreda A. Chatman	4
George D'Elia	4
Peter Hemon	4
Cheryl Metoyer-Duran	4

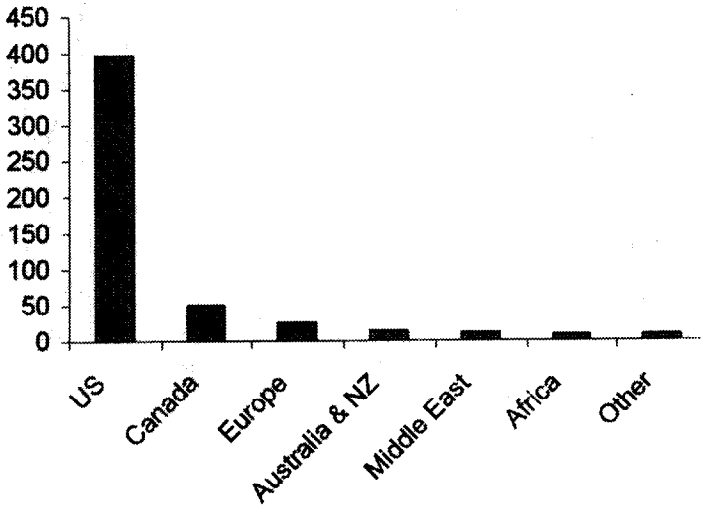
ence presentations. Taking these two different groups together, it becomes evident that editorial attention focuses primarily on research as an activity (52.5% of total editorials).

## ARTICLE AUTHORSHIP

### Numbers and Gender

The total number of authors over the 20-year period was 515, of whom 273 (53%) were male, 231 (44.9%) were female, and for the remaining 11, gender could not be determined from the name alone (Figure 1). Ten authors are responsible for four or more articles (Table 3), and the most frequent author has been Nancy A. Van

**FIGURE 2**  
**Author Affiliation by Region**



House. All of these frequent authors are affiliated with schools of library and information science. However, two of the papers from Cheryl Metoyer-Duran were published during her association as Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian History at the University of California at Riverside.

### Country

Of the total, 397 authors (77.1%) designated addresses in the United States, and 118 (22.9%) represented other countries (Table 4 and Figure 2):

Within the United States, the regional breakdown included 135 (34%) in the Midwest, 106 (26.7%) in the South, 80 (20.2%) in the Northeast, and 76 (19.1%) in the West.<sup>1</sup> California was represented most frequently (51), followed by Illinois (49), North Carolina (31), New York (25), Indiana (23), and Pennsylvania (22).

### Affiliation

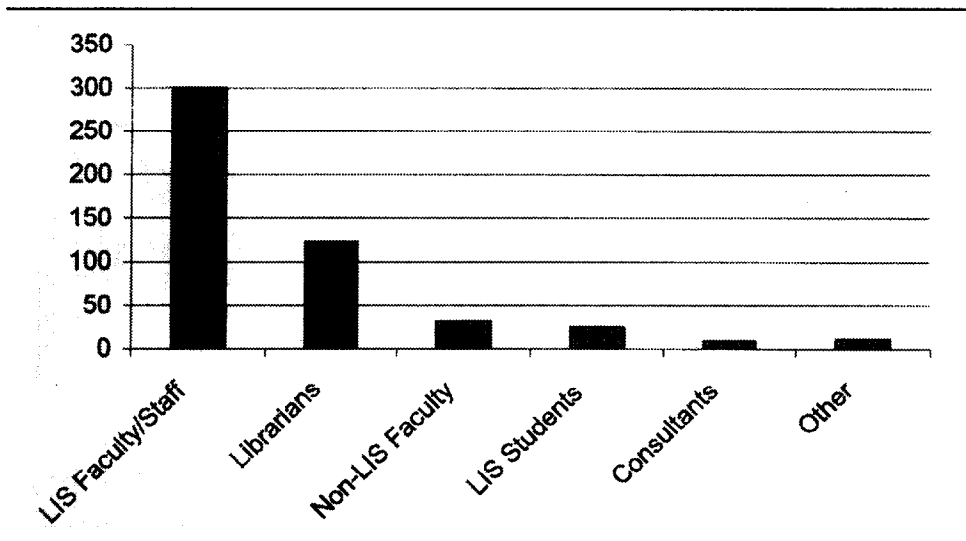
Occupational affiliation could be determined for 501 authors (Figure 3). Of these, 300 (59.9%) were associated with schools of library and information science in different countries. The largest number of contributors from these schools (104)

<sup>1</sup> The depiction of geographical regions was derived from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (see Hemon, McClure, & Purcell, 1985, p. 47).

**TABLE 4**  
**Author Affiliation by Country**

<i>Country</i>	<i># of Articles</i>
United States	397
Canada	50
United Kingdom	13
Israel	13
Nigeria	11
Australia	9
New Zealand	9
Belgium	6
Finland	3
India	3
Portugal	2
Taiwan	2
Germany	2
Japan	1
Costa Rica	1
Denmark	1
Iceland	1
Saudi Arabia	1

**FIGURE 3**  
**Authors by Occupational Affiliation**

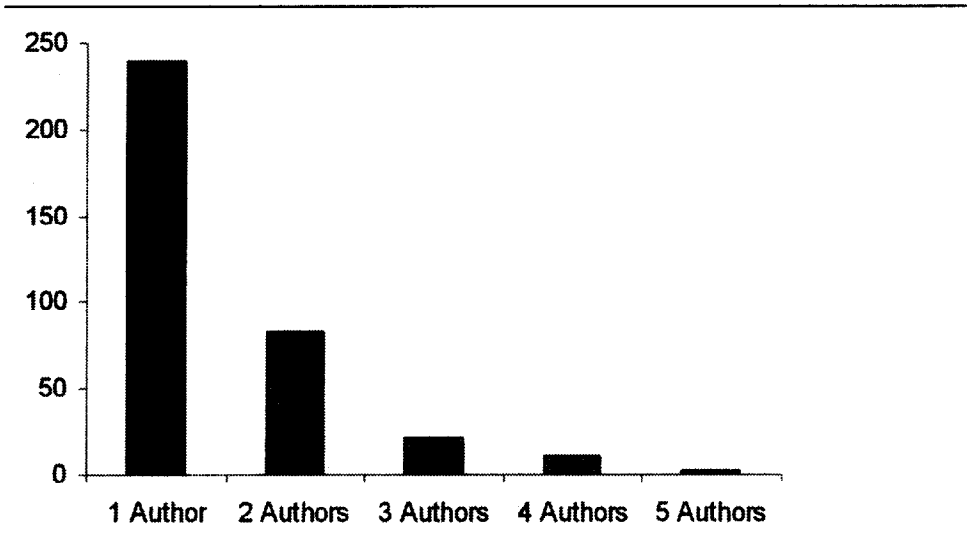


came from eight institutions (Table 5). Of the remaining 201 authors, 123 (61.2%) were librarians: academic (108, 87.8% of the total for librarians), school (7, 5.7%), public (6, 4.9%), and special (2, 1.6%). The remaining 78 authors (38.8%) were faculty members from departments other than library and information science,

**TABLE 5**  
**Frequent LIS Academic Affiliations**

<i>Institution</i>	<i># of Authors</i>
University of Western Ontario	16
University of California at Los Angeles	15
Drexel University	14
Indiana University	14
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	13
University of California, Berkeley	12
Rutgers University	10
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	10

**FIGURE 4**  
**Collaboration**



such as management, business, communications, psychology, and education (32); master’s or doctoral students (25); consultants (9); and other occupational affiliations, for example, company analysts, OCLC staff, and managers of the Getty Art History Project (12).

**Collaboration**

Of the 353 articles which have appeared in the journal, 238 (67.4%) were by one author, 82 (23.2%) by two authors, 21 (6%) by three, 10 (2.8%) by four, and 2 (.6%) had five authors (Figure 4).

**TABLE 6**  
**Topics**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Specific Topics</i>
Information Service Activities	Circulation and interlibrary loan
	Collection development and evaluation
	Indexing and abstracting
	Information needs
	Information retrieval systems design and use
	Online public access catalogs (OPACs)
	Card catalogs
	Online and CD-ROM database systems
	Information seeking
	Information users
Management Issues	Information use
	Literacy education
	Networking
	Reference services
	Resource sharing
Professional Issues	Dimensions of library effectiveness
	Government information policy
	Library management
	Output, outcome, and performance measures
	Work values
The Research Process	LIS education
	LIS as a conceptual domain
	LIS literature
	Mentoring
	Publishing
	Scholarly communication
The Research Process	Experimentation on the World Wide Web
	Research methods
	Research as an inquiry process
	Sampling

## ARTICLE CONTENT

### Topics

Table 6 shows the diversity of topics covered in LISR over the past 29 years. A total of 151 articles (42.8% of the total) focused on a specific type of library (Table 7), while the remainder were not restricted to any particular setting.

### Research/Non-Research

A paper was viewed as comprising *research* if it involved some type of data collection (quantitative or qualitative) or if it presented or refined a model, or



**TABLE 7**  
**Articles by Types of Library (*n* = 151)**

<i>Library Type</i>	<i># of Articles</i>	<i>%</i>
Public	67	44.4
Academic	66	43.7
School	14	9.3
Special	4	2.6

**TABLE 8**  
**Quantitative Research Other Than Survey Research**

Sources of Data	Bibliographic item physical characteristics
	Circulation records
	Citation data
	Historical records
	Interlibrary loan records
	OCLC records
	Queueing data
	Shelflist records
	Shelving statistics
	Transaction logs
	Videotapes
Methods	Bibliometric analysis
	Content analysis
	Standardized tests
	Unobtrusive testing

advanced a conceptualization. Using this definition, we concluded that 269 of the 353 articles (76.2%) could be considered research. The most common quantitative method used was survey research, which might involve mailed questionnaires, questionnaires distributed in-house, in-person interviews, or telephone interviews. However, there was extensive use of other methods and other sources of data (Table 8). Examples of qualitative research methods which appeared in *LISR* included historical and survey research, content analysis, personal observation, individual and focus group interviews, conceptual mapping, audiotaping or videotaping, ethnographic analysis, and so forth.

The 84 non-research papers included analytical reviews of specific issues or topics (31, 36.9%); state-of-the-art reviews of particular aspects of research (26, 30.9%); presentations of methods, techniques, or research designs (25, 29.8%); discussions of databases in which to conduct research (1, 1.2%); and summaries of a scholar's research record (1, 1.2%).

## HOW OTHERS SEE US

*Library & Information Science Research* is included in various guides for librarians and information professionals seeking to publish (Bahr & McLane, 1997; Fraley & Via, 1985; Schroeder & Roberson, 1995; Stevens & Stevens, 1982). Information presented for *LISR* in these books is based primarily on survey forms completed by the editors and/or the publisher. A better indicator of the fact that *LISR* is well regarded can be found in the research literature on journal ranking, scholarly productivity, and citation patterns. *LISR* has been included in source lists in studies of publishing output of academic librarians, LIS faculty, and others (Budd, 1988; Budd & Seavey, 1990; Watson, 1985). The journal appears (usually in the top 15) in ranked lists based on various measures, including publication counts, perceived importance, and citation analysis. These studies include general rankings (Kim, 1991; Kim 1992), as well as examinations of publishing by LIS faculty and deans/directors (Blake, 1994; Cronin & Overfelt, 1994; Esteibar & Lancaster, 1992; Kohl & Davis, 1985), academic library directors (Kohl & Davis, 1985), and LIS dissertations (Esteibar & Lancaster, 1992). Meyer and Spencer (1996) looked at citations to the LIS literature by non-LIS publications, and found *LISR* to be ranked fifteenth, with citations coming primarily from the fields of economics, psychology, management, and business.

*LISR* also appears in evaluative guides to the literature. Katz and Katz (1997) cite *LISR* as "a solid research journal,...highly recommended for any collection supporting research in library and information science" (p. 834). Bowman (1985) identifies *LISR* as being "unique, in that its entire focus is serious scholarly research in the field" (p. 68). The *Library and Information Science Annual* (Rockman, 1989) stated that the journal "will be of greatest value to professors, graduate students, and scholars who want to stay current with a broad span of the latest research" (p. 243), and remarked that many of the the reviews are written by "noted personalities" (p. 243).

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Perusal of 20 volumes, on one hand, was an interesting exercise. It reminds us of the diversity of subjects and methodologies, and of the linking of research to various theoretical bases. It also reminds us of topics that merit revisiting, that there is need for longitudinal studies that take more than a snapshot of a brief moment, and that historical research has appeared infrequently, and should be encouraged as long as it has broad interest and deals with significant problems.

*Library & Information Science Research*, reflecting the changing nature of library and information science, has published research of a generally high quality, that makes contributions within and outside of the field. The initiation of a new

journal in 1979 was a risk well taken—the result seems to have served the LIS community and other communities well.

Peter Hernon and Candy Schwartz

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