



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Foresight Institute Newsletter Collection, 1987-2004

NMAH.AC.0863

Alison Oswald

October, 2010

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Foresight Institute Newsletter Collection
Date:	1986-2004
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0863
Creator:	Foresight Institute. (Palo Alto, California) Lubar, Steven D.
Extent:	0.3 Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection contains an almost complete set of the quarterly newsletter Foresight Background and its successor Foresight Update from 1987 to January, 2004. Also included are five issues of Foresight Briefing. The Foresight Institute of Palo Alto, California, studies transformative technologies.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Steven F. Lubar, former curator in the National Museum of American History's Division of the History of Technology (now Division of Work and Industry) in 2004.

Provenance

Steven F. Lubar, former curator at the National Museum of American History, was a member and subscriber to the newsletter.

Available Formats

Electronic copies of *Foresight Update*, June 1987-Spring 2007 and *Foresight Nanotech Institute Weekly News Digest*, June 2005-Present are online at: <http://www.foresight.org/>

Processing Information

Processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, October, 2010.

Preferred Citation

Foresight Institute Newsletter Collection, dates, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

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Biographical / Historical

Started by Dr. Eric Drexler in 1986 in Palo Alto, California, the non-profit Foresight Institute's mission is to anticipate and meet the future challenges of advances in technology. The Institute seeks to increase knowledge about advances, and to encourage and enable free and open discussion and study of them. Its primary focus is on "molecular nanotechnology, the coming ability to build materials and products with atomic precision." It was the first organization to educate society about the benefits and risks of nanotechnology. The Institute hosts regular conferences on nanotechnology subjects, and it publishes articles, books, and a quarterly newsletter entitled Foresight Update (formerly Foresight Background). The Institute awards annual prizes in two categories, entitled the Foresight Institute Feynman Award, in honor of physicist Richard Feynman. One award is given for experimental research and the other for theory in advances in nanotechnology.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains an almost complete set of the quarterly newsletter Foresight Background and its successor Foresight Update from 1987 to January, 2004. Foresight Update is now a weekly newsletter. Also included are five issues of Foresight Briefing, a newsletter containing single, in-depth articles. The newsletters contain essays, reviews of nanotechnology research, student prizes, question-and-answer sets, reference information, in-depth full length articles, and advertisements for nano-related scientific companies and legal services. Miscellaneous mailings from the Foresight Institute to members, such as contribution requests, announcements of upcoming events, and publication offers are included.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1, Newsletters, 1989-2004

Series 2, Miscellaneous materials, 1986-2002 and undated

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Nanotechnology

Types of Materials:

Newsletters -- 20th century

Container Listing

Series 1: Newsletters, 1989-2004

Box 1, Folder 1	Foresight Institute Briefing, Numbers 1 and 3-5, 1998-1999
Box 1, Folder 2	Foresight Background, Numbers 0-4, 6, 1987-1989
Box 1, Folder 3	Foresight Update, Numbers 1-3, 5-9, 1987-June 1990
Box 1, Folder 4	Foresight Update, Numbers 10-19; 1990 October -1994 September
Box 1, Folder 5	Foresight Update, Numbers 20-29; 1995 February 1995--1997 June
Box 1, Folder 6	Foresight Update, Numbers 30-39, 1997 September--1999 December
Box 1, Folder 7	Foresight Update, Numbers 40-49, 2000 March--2002 August
Box 1, Folder 8	Foresight Update, Numbers 50-53, 2002 November 2002--2004 January

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Series 2: Miscellaneous materials, 1986-2002, undated

Box 1, Folder 9	Miscellaneous mailings, 1986-1994
Box 1, Folder 10	Miscellaneous mailings, 1995-2002
Box 1, Folder 11	Miscellaneous mailings, undated

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