

Newsletter Committee Recommendations on the
Future of *Tech Notes*

by
Randal Brandt
Editor

I have been asked by Nancy Neal, in-coming President of ACTSS, to present a proposal for the future of *Tech Notes*. The question is: Should *Tech Notes* continue?

This is an issue because, with restructuring in CLA, CLA wants to centralize more of the sections' functions including publishing section news as part of *California Libraries*.

I had attempted to solicit a general response from ACTSS membership in the October issue of *Tech Notes* and have some opinions on the future of the newsletter by the time of the Business Meeting. However, due to a series of events that delayed the printing and mailing of the mailing labels, this issue did not reach the membership in time.

As discussed below, the Newsletter Committee recommends that ACTSS discontinue publication of *Tech Notes* because ACTSS will be relieved of the cost of publishing *Tech Notes*, and distribution of and access to ACTSS news will not deteriorate and may, in fact, improve with CLA involvement.

1. Cost

The publication of the newsletter presents a significant burden to the ACTSS budget. The costs of publishing the newsletter in 1993 were:

Printing: \$70.00 per issue
Postage: \$62.00 per issue

Total for 1993: \$528.00

Bob McDermid and I donated our time to produce the newsletter from articles submitted by Section members to the Newsletter Committee. We spent approximately 16 hours producing each issue.

2. Distribution and Access

Publication of ACTSS news by CLA should be a reliable means to disseminate Section information. In 1993 *Tech Notes* had less material submitted than in 1992. Thus, it was difficult to produce a consistent, high quality, useful newsletter at all times. If *Tech Notes* ceases, there should be a regular ACTSS column in *California Libraries* which, obviously, while not as in-depth as *Tech Notes*, would be more frequent. (*California*

Libraries is published monthly; *Tech Notes* is currently issued quarterly.) News and announcements would also reach a wider audience through *California Libraries*, which would make the entire CLA membership aware of Section activities. There should still be separate mailings to the membership about workshops, meetings, etc. Meeting organizers can easily accomplish this by printing their own flyers and obtaining the mailing list from CLA.

The Newsletter Committee also suggests that ACTSS explore the feasibility of distributing news and announcements to the membership via electronic mail. E-mail is becoming more and more common in libraries, and it is the fastest, easiest, and cheapest way of distributing information.

In any event, ACTSS should continue to distribute information to its membership. It should also continue to use a committee to solicit, gather, and evaluate material. In my two-year experience, I have found that the committee members have made my job of editing the newsletter easier by assisting me in performing these functions. In conclusion, I would like to take the opportunity to thank publicly the 1993 Newsletter Committee for their help, input, and ideas.