

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title: Foresight Institute Newsletter Collection

Collection Date(s): 1986-2004

Extent and Forms of Material: .3 cubic feet (1 box)

Creator: Foresight Institute

Abstract: 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.

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. archivescenter@si.edu 202-633-3270
www.americanhistory.si.edu/archives

Collection Number: AC0863

Processing Note: Processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, October, 2010.

INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Reproduction permission from Archives Center: reproduction fees may apply.

Preferred Citation: Title and date of item, Foresight Institute Newsletter Collection, dates, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, box number X, folder number XX, digital file number XXXXXXXXX

IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Administrative/Biographical History: 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 Content: 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.

System of Arrangement: Collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1, Newsletters, 1989-2004

Series 2, Miscellaneous materials, 1986-2002 and undated

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.

Custodial History: Steven F. Lubar was a member and subscriber to the newsletter.

Existence and Location of Copies: 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/>

Access Points:

Subject/Topical:

Nanotechnology

Form/Genre:

Newsletters-20th century

Container Listing

Box	Folder	
		Series 1, Newsletters, 1989-2004
1	1	<i>Foresight Institute Briefing</i> , Numbers 1 and 3-5, 1998-1999
	2	<i>Foresight Background</i> , Numbers 0-4, 6; 1987-1989
	3	<i>Foresight Update</i> , Numbers 1-3, 5-9; 1987-June 1990
	4	<i>Foresight Update</i> , Numbers 10-19; 1990 October -1994 September
	5	<i>Foresight Update</i> , Numbers 20-29; 1995 February 1995–1997 June
	6	<i>Foresight Update</i> , Numbers 30-39, 1997 September–1999 December
	7	<i>Foresight Update</i> , Numbers 40-49, 2000 March–2002 August
	8	<i>Foresight Update</i> , Numbers 50-53, 2002 November 2002–2004 January
		Series 2, Miscellaneous materials, 1986-2002 and undated
	9	Miscellaneous mailings, 1986-1994
	10	Miscellaneous mailings, 1995-2002
	11	Miscellaneous mailings, undated