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## Afterword: The 1994 POD Conference

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# Afterword

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## The 1994 POD Conference

To members of POD the annual conference is an opportunity to learn the latest theories and practices, renew their energy, re-establish contacts with old friends, and meet (and help) people new to the field. Although long-time POD members believe that the organization is special in many ways and the traditions of the organization promote an atmosphere unlike any other professional conference, we often have little data to confirm our closely-held beliefs. Conference evaluations are not published, and anecdotal information tends to fade into the oral tradition over time. We offer the following article, *Family Portrait: Impressions of a Nurturing Organization*, to place into the printed record the impressions of four first-time POD participants, Jon Travis, Lisa Cohen, Dan Hursh, and Barbara Lounsberry. The authors are from four different institutions and have considerable experience at other professional meetings. Their impressions, and their evaluation of how they were welcomed and what they learned at the conference are evidence that POD often succeeds in promoting an atmosphere of openness and helpfulness in the best traditions of the organization.