Recent science and engineering graduates
According to a newly released study, about 95 percent of 1999 and 2000 science and engineering baccalaureates were U.S. citizens. Among master's degree recipients, however, only 75 percent were U.S. citizens. Nearly half of recent science and engineering baccalaureate recipients reported that they attended community colleges.

Trends in Internet usage
While online activity continues to grow for much of the U.S. adult population, the growth in the number of Americans going online has slowed. For the past two years, the proportion of adults using the Internet in the United States has remained near 63 percent. Internet users are doing more things online. Online banking showed the highest growth of all Internet activities, increasing 127 percent for the period 2000–2002. Email continues to be the primary activity of most Internet users.

Reading to children
The percentage of children read to frequently by a family member increased from 78 percent in 1993 to 84 percent in 2001. Children whose parents read to them become better readers and perform better in school. Other family activities such as telling stories and singing songs also encourage literacy skills in children.

J. R. R. Tolkien and the OED
While familiar to scholars and aficionados, it is not widely known that the author of the Lord of the Rings trilogy worked on the staff of the Oxford English Dictionary in 1919 and 1920. Tolkien was an assistant to editor Henry Bradley. He worked on words near the beginning of the letter W, including waistcoat, walnut, walrus, and wampum. Later, in 1969, he even contributed to the entry for the word hobbit. The slips of paper on which some of his work appears in Tolkien's handwriting survive in the OED archives.

Literacy in U.S. cities
A recent study using data from the U.S. Census, newspaper circulation rates, library resources, publishers, and other public documents, profiled the 64 largest U.S. cities. In the “Overall” rankings, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Seattle, Washington; and Denver, Colorado rank as America’s most literate cities. One of the indicators was a public library index created for the study. Miami, Florida; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Louisville, Kentucky, ranked highest in this indicator.

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