how to effectively communicate one's intended message under the numerous circumstances encountered in the everyday life of an engineer. Examples on how to run an efficient meeting, negotiation skills, the interview process, and proposal writing are just some of the communication techniques detailed. Engineering schools generally rely on the student to attain communication skills informally. This book would go a long way in teaching new engineers as well as anyone in a technical background where the demand of technical course work does not allow time for communications development. Not only would the engineer benefit, but so would their employer.

Understanding Materials Science

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333 Meadowlands Parkway
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www.springer-ny.com
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This book not only provides a through introduction into the science and engineering of materials but also covers historical aspects of materials. The interesting historical perspective traces the utilization, properties, and production techniques of materials from the Stone Age via the Bronze Age and the Iron Age up to modern times. It explains the physical properties of common materials as well as advanced materials such as superalloys, high-tech ceramics, optical materials, and plastics. In addition, natural and artificial fibers and the techniques of porcelain and glass making are detailed. The author lays the foundation for understanding mechanical, electrical, magnetic, optical, and thermal properties of materials. Of specific interest for *EI Magazine* readers would include about one third of the book which covers electronic properties of materials ranging from conductivity, conduction in polymers, dielectric properties, piezoelectricity, magnetic properties, optical constants, and thermal properties of materials. This book was written for engineering, physics, and material science students who will find this book an easily understandable and enjoyable introduction to the properties of materials and the fundamental theories that describe them. Today engineers need to be able to understand numerous fields of study in the course of their jobs. Practicing engineers without a materials science background who need to use material science techniques will find this book very useful for quickly gaining an overview of materials science. ∿