

doubt that a few of our “good” programs will provide “bad” examples for some future writer — we hope only that he and his readers will learn from the experience of studying them carefully.

A manual of programming style could not have been written without the pioneering work of numerous people, many of whom have written excellent programming textbooks. D. D. McCracken and G. M. Weinberg, for instance, have long taught the virtues of simplicity and clarity. And the work of E. W. Dijkstra and Harlan Mills on structured programming has made possible our rules for properly specifying flow of control. The form and approach of this book has been strongly influenced by *The Elements of Style* by W. Strunk and E. B. White. We have tried to emulate their brevity by concentrating on the essential practical aspects of style.

We are indebted to many people for their help and encouragement. We would like especially to thank the authors and publishers who gave us permission to reproduce the computer programs used in this text. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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