

Symposium on Cooperative Efforts in Information Processing. Introduction*

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The symposium papers which follow are an outgrowth of a previous paper¹ by the author in which the duplication of efforts in the area of physicochemical property data handling was pointed out, and the need for cooperative efforts was stressed.

The need for cooperative efforts is even more strongly indicated by some recent work by the author and Steven Hildrich (unpublished work) in which a random sample of 145 abstracts of journal articles in *Chemical Abstracts* was checked for duplicate processing in several other abstracting and indexing services. Preliminary results indicate that the intellectual effort of processing these articles is repeated for better than half the cases by another abstracting and indexing service. Extrapolating these preliminary results to the total volume of publication in *Chemical Abstracts*, and using conservative figures for costs and time spent in quality abstracting alone leads to a total expenditure in duplicate costs of roughly two million dollars annually, and in duplicate time of 75 man-years annually.

Considering the present climate of economic belt-tightening and the lack of good information personnel, such duplication of effort is unforgivable. The papers that follow were chosen to be representative of the present laudable efforts to eliminate some of the processing duplication in various areas of chemistry by cooperation, or to detail how cooperative effort has led to a more useable product. These examples of cooperation in the areas of abstracting and indexing (the first paper by C. M. Flanagan), information storage and retrieval systems (the next three papers by S. J. Martinez, S. A. Rossmassler, and P. Urbach, respectively), and structural data handling (the last two papers by C. E. Granito and W. J. Wiswesser *et al.*) are encouraging developments in working toward the ultimate goal of the most efficient processing of information to make maximum use of money and talent available to the information community.

LITERATURE CITED

*Presented before the Division of Chemical Literature, 164th Meeting, ACS, New York, N. Y., Aug. 27, 1972.

- (1) Schlessinger, Bernard S., "Physicochemical Property Data Handling," *J. Chem. Doc.* **9**, 20-4 (1969).

Coordination—A Detailed Review of the Relationships Among the Publications and Services of BIOSIS, CAS, and Ei*

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In April 1970, the BioSciences Information Service of Biological Abstracts (BIOSIS), the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), and Engineering Index, Inc. (Ei) announced a joint five-part study with the following objectives: to determine the amount of overlap among the lists of primary journals each of the services regularly monitors, to find out how the same journal articles are selected for analysis, to study differences in the editorial policies and procedures employed by the three services, to measure the degree of compatibility or interconvertibility of the computer-readable files of each of the services, and to determine the similarities and differences of indexing policies. This paper reports the findings of the first two parts of this study.

In 1963, the Report of the President's Science Advisory Committee, stated that "Since the entire information system is a network of separate subsystems, rapid and effi-

cient switching between the different elements of the system is essential. Such switching will be fully effective only if the different subsystems adopt uniform practices toward abstracting and indexing."¹

Again in 1969, the Satcom Report noted that "The increasing volume of material to be covered has caused the

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