

Computer-Based Libraries

New and effective technology now exists for using computers and related technologies in libraries and information systems on a national level, according to a report, *Libraries and Information Technology—A National System Challenge*, issued by the Computer Science and Engineering Board of the National Academy of Sciences (\$3.25).

The report was prepared by the Information Systems Panel for the Council on Library Resources, Inc., a private nonprofit organization which was established in 1956 with funding from the Ford Foundation for the purpose of aiding in the solution of library problems, particularly those of academic and research libraries.

For assured progress toward a full-scale national network, improvement must continue to be made in several technical areas—for example, the cost and performance of large-capacity digital storage technology. More work needs to be done on data base organization and management, a critical factor in network development, and on microform technology which is not yet stable in design standards. Ways must be found to bring down the costs that today impede the full use of electrical communications. Also, key workers and managers involved in building and operating segments of the national information system need special training to bring together the many fields of knowledge required for the task.

Ronald L. Wigington, Chemical Abstracts Service of the American Chemical Society, was chairman of the Information Systems Panel.

CAS Advisory Board

Appointed for three-year terms to the Chemical Abstracts Service advisory board were Dr. W. Stanley Brown, head of the computing mathematics research department, Bell Laboratories; Arthur W. Elias, president, 3i Company/Information Interscience Inc.; Frederick G. Kilgour, director of the Ohio College Library Center; Mrs. Margaret S. Morris, supervisor of technical information services, Allied Chemical Corp.; and Dr. Harrison Shull, vice chancellor for research and development, Indiana University.

John Griffith of IBM was reappointed to the board for a second term.

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ASCATOPICS

A new information-alerting service that provides subscribers with weekly bibliographies of the journal literature published on nearly 100 scientific and technical subjects with high research priorities has been announced by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). Most of the subjects covered are in the areas of environmental science, medicine, biology, and chemistry, with emphasis on the adverse effects of pollutants, food additives, pesticides, and drugs.

The new alerting service, called ASCATOPICS, monitors the complete output of the 2500 most important scientific and technical journals in the world. The weekly bibliographies sent to subscribers list every new article on a given subject that has a title containing words related to the subject, or is written by people or organizations known for their work in the subject, or references the key books and papers already written on the subject. Articles are usually listed in the bibliographies within three weeks after their publication in a journal.

Crystal Data, Determinative Tables

The Office of Standard Reference Data has sponsored the issuance of the Third Edition of Crystal Data, Determinative Tables. The current edition which comprises two volumes, Organic and Inorganic, is a thoroughly revised and updated work, containing over 30,000 entries.

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CORRECTION

In the article, "Biography of a 'Chemical Economics Handbook' Report" by K. E. McCaleb [*J. Chem. Doc.* 11, 218-20 (1971)], there is an error on page 219. The captions for Figures 2 and 3 should be exchanged.