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CURRENT SIG/AH OFFICERS

Chairman:                         Secretary-Treasurer:
Karen L. Meizner                          Shannon K. Macioroski
SIG/AH OFFICERS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

All elected SIG/AH officers serve on an annual basis. It is now time to select candidates. We cannot hold true elections unless you the membership provide nominees. Self-nominations are most welcome. Please submit the name of your nominee for a given office together with a brief biography, qualifications, and/or statement of goals for SIG/AH to Karen Meizner (see address above) by Sept. 25. The offices and their responsibilities are listed below.

Chairman. Responsible for coordination, development, implementation, and reporting of SIG activities.

Chairman-elect. Automatically becomes Chairman at end of term. Assumes chair in event of premature termination of current Chairman's office. Works closely with Chairman. Responsible for implementation of SIG conference programs.

Secretary-Treasurer. Records expenditures. Interprets budget. Submits annual SIG Budget Plan. May write reports of SIG activities for external dissemination.

Cabinet Representative. Represents SIG/AH at SIG Cabinet Meetings.

Alternate Cabinet Representative. Represents SIG/AH at SIG Cabinet Meetings in lieu of Cabinet Representative.

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RECRUITMENT OF NEW SIG/AH MEMBERS

The revitalization of SIG/AH both justifies and demands a larger membership. This year's newsletters and conference programs are of high quality (not to mention quantity). I would like to publish an eight-page newsletter like this one on a quarterly basis. That will require a larger budget, which means more members. I urge you to show this newsletter to your colleagues and persuade them to join SIG/AH for a pittance of $3 in addition to regular ASIS dues. It will be well worth it!
ANOTHER CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

I, Ralph Dumain, have written the entire contents of this newsletter. I have much more material in the works as can be seen from the list of coming attractions. Writing all this material is very time-consuming. Any one who would like to contribute to this newsletter please contact me. If you are starved for ideas I have some.

WANTED: YOUR INTERESTS AND IDEAS

A questionnaire to survey our members' arts and humanities projects in progress was mailed out with the Fall 1983 newsletter. If you have one and are working on any projects please send it in. If you need a questionnaire, write Karen Meizner and she will send you a copy. If you prefer, simply write a letter and state your interests and the areas you would like SIG/AH to concentrate on. Ideas for future conference programs are most welcome. If I don't hear from you, I will take the liberty of pursuing my own interests.

Here are some of my ideas for future conference programs:

Bibliometrics in the Humanities II

"Content Analysis" in the Humanities

Information Science Perspectives on the Discipline of Philosophy

Information Retrieval, Databases, Classification and Indexing in the Humanities

Personal Databases, Online Organization of Text, and the Future of Scholarly Work

Terminology Banks in the Humanities

Expert Systems, Knowledge Representation, and Other Artificial Intelligence Techniques Applied to the Humanities
THE MISSION OF SIG/AH

The following paragraph describing the mission of SIG/AH was taken from the 1983 ASIS Handbook & Directory.

SIG/AH explores the applications of information technology to: a) humanistic scholarship, such as language, history, philosophy, and archaeology; and b) in the creative process, including literature, music, the visual and fine arts, and dance. It aims to place critical theory within the framework of information science and to improve information flow in the arts and humanities. Illustrative activities include making concordances, collating texts, discovering verbal correspondences between passages, characterizing styles, machine-editing bibliographies, choreographing dance, and computer art.

Are you satisfied with this description? At the SIG/AH business meeting in Philadelphia we will discuss whether it accurately reflects the contemporary focus of SIG/AH and whether a new description of our mission is needed. I welcome your comments.

47TH ASIS ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 21-26, 1984, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
1984: CHALLENGES TO AN INFORMATION SOCIETY

SIG/AH BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, October 22, 5:55 - 6:45 pm. All members please attend.

Following are descriptions of the two programs co-sponsored by SIG/AH and SIG/BSS. For further details, see the conference program and proceedings.

BIBLIOMETRIC STUDIES IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Wednesday, October 24, 1:10 - 4:00 pm

BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF ETHNOMUSICOCGY. Laurie S. McCreery and Miranda Lee Pao, Matthew A. Baxter School of Information and Library Science, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.

Analyzing all forms of publication of the literature of ethnomusicology indexed in RILM during the period 1966 - 1976, the authors conclude that Trueswell's 20/80 rule and Bradford's Law hold true for ethnomusicology. Bradford's Law is a valid quantity-quality indicator which can profitably be used in collection development. Productive authors can be identified through application of Lotka's Law. Most
scholars in this field work alone, but those who co-author publications are among the most prolific and highly valued scholars. Goffman's author migration pattern holds true for many subtopics within ethnomusicology.

THE IMPACT AND SCHOLARLINESS OF BOOK REVIEWS: A CITATION ANALYSIS IN THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES. Virgil P. Diodato, School of Library and Information Science, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

Using citation frequencies and Frost's citation classification system, the author found little evidence of impact (i.e., citation of book reviews), but reviewed authors have some kind of impact on their reviewers, who cite these authors in works other than the source book reviews. Most book reviews are scholarly, i.e., they cite works other than the work being reviewed. Literary criticism is different from other humanities disciplines: reviews contain more citations and more frequent expressions of disapproval.

MAPPING THE INTELLECTUAL STRUCTURE OF MACROECONOMICS. Katherine W. McCain, School of Library and Information Science, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA.

Author co-citation analysis using computer mapping and clustering techniques enabled the creation of a two-dimensional map, the axes of which correspond to (1) temporal development of intellectual activity, (2) degree of use of empirical research and econometric tools.

PORTRAIT OF THE CRITIC AS A JOURNAL READER: A STUDY OF READERSHIP PATTERNS AMONG LITERARY SCHOLARS. Virginia M. Doland, Dept. of English, Biola University, La Mirada, CA.

The aim of this study is to determine the relationships among readership patterns, editorial practices of journals, and the professionalization of literary scholars. Based upon responses to a questionnaire, the readership patterns of representative journals of five different categories of literary scholarship are analyzed. Readership of a literary journal appears to be significantly related to the scholar's literary specialty, critical approach, orientation towards literary form, age, productivity, and the prestige of his current academic affiliation.

MORE THOUGHTS ON 'ARTIFICIAL REALITY': HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN-MACHINE INTERACTION
Tuesday, October 23, 10:10 - 11:30 am

A panel discussion will follow Myron Krueger's plenary address. Dr. Krueger's work was described in the spring 1984 issue of this newsletter. The panel members will comment on the applications and consequences of new technological possibilities from the vantage points of their respective disciplines. Mr. Dumain will raise relevant social, political, psychological, educational, artistic, and philosophical issues about computers neglected, glossed over, or dismissed by technocratic fetishists indulging in rose-colored futuristic speculation. Examination of the social context of the computer revolution must include the problems of increasing social stratification and unemployment, degradation of work, centralization of power, decline of democracy, and loss of privacy. Those concerned with the use of computer technology in the arts must deal with the psychological and philosophical issues of alienation, depersonalization, social withdrawal, trivialization of social relationships, loss of unmediated experience, passivity, avoidance of responsibility, machine fetishism, subjectivism, stereotypization of thought and experience, operant conditioning and standardization of choice, decrease of attention span and memory ability, and trivialization of consciousness and the arts. A lively discussion involving the audience is anticipated.

Panelists:

Thomas Haynes, Dept. of Philosophy, Lehigh University
Ricardo Viera, Dept. of Art and Architecture, Lehigh University
George Shortess, Dept. of Psychology, Lehigh University
Myron Krueger, Dept. of Computer Science, University of Connecticut

Reactor: Ralph Dumain

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PHILOSOPHICAL, SOCIAL, AND HUMANISTIC ISSUES REGARDING COMPUTERS: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compiled by Ralph Dumain


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**13TH ANNUAL ASIS MID-YEAR MEETING**

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, MAY 20-23, 1984**

**THE MICRO REVOLUTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE INFORMATION AGE**

Attendance was a record high for the mid-year meeting, and there were numerous programs of interest to humanists. SIG/AH presented a program entitled "Microcomputers in the Arts and Humanities" on Tuesday, May 22, 8:30 - 9:50 AM.
In her presentation "Microcomputers, Databases, and the Humanities: Customized Access to Specific Information" Eileen Fry (Fine Arts Slide Librarian, Indiana University) discussed the problems of subject access to slides and pictorial information generally, the major problems being the lack of terminological standardization and the different subject access needs of the specialized and the non-specialized user. The creation of customized databases on microcomputers for specialized visual collections is especially appropriate because such collections are self-contained, require individualized classification schemes, use unique and detailed terminology, and have multiple subject access needs. Indiana University's visual collection on African art, organized for the needs of one scholar, is such a collection. Classification of ethnic groups and conceptual categories and the lack of standardization were discussed. Classification by style has proved to be a major stumbling block. [2]

Lawrence McCrank (Head of Rare Books and Special Collections, Indiana State University) not only lectured about "Computerized Medievalia," but gave an overview of research trends, databases, and computer applications in the humanities at large. Dr. McCrank made some challenging remarks we would do well to attend to. Workers in computers and the humanities were pioneers in the use of information science techniques. Their work was called lexicography or applied linguistics [3] and it took place outside of the field of library and information science. ASIS has never been in the forefront of this research and its people are largely unaware of developments in the field, whereas the Association for Computers and the Humanities is very active. There is a great deal of redundancy [4] in computerized humanities research and there are disciplinary and international barriers to cooperation. The microcomputer revolution will exacerbate the already serious problems of excessive individualism, lack of cooperation, lack of standardization, idiosyncratic databases, and unreusable data. [5]

Thomas Ohlgren (Director of Medieval Studies, Purdue University) and William I. Bormann (Systems Programmer, Computing Center, Purdue University) [6] were unable to attend as planned (see SIG/AH Newsletter, Spring 1984). Instead, Ralph Dumain delivered a talk on "Using dBase II to Create a Thesaurus, Bibliographic Database, and Information Retrieval System for the Philosophy of Science." This menu-driven online bibliographic information retrieval system is comprised of three modules: bibliographic database creation, thesaurus construction, and information retrieval. The overall design of the package was discussed, with focus on the structures of the thesaurus and bibliographic databases and the merits and especially deficiencies of dBase II for bibliographic applications.

Summaries of other sessions of special relevance to SIG/AH members follow.

Paul Tutwiler delivered a talk on "Microcomputers as Philosophical Tools." The nature and types of
philosophical research were discussed. Though philosophy does not lend itself to empirical verification, it
nevertheless uses data, builds upon existing scholarship, and is creative. Microcomputers can aid
philosophical research in several ways. (1) Electronic note-taking and heuristic indexing (aided by
appropriate software packages) allow varied patterns of data retrieval and ways of organizing source
materials and ideas. (2) Artificial intelligence techniques could be applied to analyze philosophical
systems with the use of symbols which stand for large amounts of data initially collected. Applications
include the analysis of successive layers of philosophical argument and automatic organization of data.
(3) Computer-aided research would improve comparative philosophy and aid in the construction of a
metaphilosophy.

Leota Sigrid Boesen dealt with the question, "Will the Microcomputer Revolution Destroy Document
Evolution?" Although the benefits of word processing are becoming well-known, there may be serious
debits as well, especially for literary historians. 1) For authors, computers may place constraints on the
form of the text: consider the unusual physical formations of words on the printed page in figure poetry,
carmen figuratum, or the poetry of ee cummings. 2) Authenticity of manuscripts will be difficult to
determine. 3) The storage of manuscripts on disks (which may be usable only on obsolete equipment as
technology changes) will create problems of storage, retrieval, classification, archiving, and preservation.
4) The only possible historical research on manuscripts left will be about the author's personal computer,
type of printer, etc. 5) Successive revisions illuminate the creative process: the choices made,
self-censorship, adaptation to audience. The number of revisions may indicate writing difficulty. The
artist may use revisions as reference material for new compositions. With computer-produced
manuscripts, rough drafts with revisions made in them will not be saved. Use of formatting commands
could eliminate all evidence of struggle during the writing process. 6) Using a work by Sylvia Plath,
Boesen showed the value of original manuscripts with revisions made in them in showing the evolution of
a creative work as well as in preserving the integrity of the author's intent in the face of altered or
censored material on the part of editors, publishers, or literary executors.

In trying to determine "The Effect of Word Processing on Writing" John A. Cross and Bob J. Curey are
attempting to measure the variables connected with writing performance, the writing process, and feelings
and attitudes that affect writing (e.g. writing apprehension, enthusiasm for new technology). A pilot study
is described which suggests that college students like microcomputer word processing, outstanding results
are possible in individual cases, but general results are likely to be much harder to produce. The effect of
word processing on writing is still unknown.

The keynote speaker was the noted Joseph Weizenbaum, one of the few social consciences of the
computer world. His address, "The Future of the Personal Computer," raised skepticism about the need
for everyone to own and use computers. There will be some enthusiasts, like ham radio operators or
stereo enthusiasts preoccupied with the equipment rather than music, but aside from games, there will be
little real need or use for home computers for the average person. Online financial record-keeping,
calendars, address books, and other seemingly practical clerical applications are cumbersome and
unnecessary. There will probably be little personal need for word processing, programming, electronic mail, or online database searching. Weizenbaum mentioned some new products and services that will be available, but issued caveats when mentioning them. Online books and journals may enable another step toward the destruction of history - printed matter could die of neglect. There will be consumer databases: yellow-pages, airline booking, dating services, etc. [7] Customized newspapers (via selection from menus) will be available. All this will enable police surveillance of personal selections. [8] Regardless of the actual need for computers, they are being aggressively marketed. The threat of computer illiteracy and the requirements of home computers by schools will blackmail the public into purchasing a solution for a phantom problem.

SCOPE

SCOPE: Scholarly Communication Online Publishing and Education is published bimonthly by Paradigm Press, P.O. Box 1057, Osprey, FL 33559. The subscription price is $47 per year, $23.50 for individual members of the Association for Computers and the Humanities. In its second year, SCOPE reports on software, hardware, networking, data bases, meetings, workshops, publications, legislation and grants pertaining to the humanities.

HUMANITIES SOFTWARE

Readers who have an interest in discussing humanities-related software within the context of SIG/AH should write the newsletter editor. I promise that we will maintain our focus on scholarly and research-oriented issues and not reduce ourselves to a software supermarket. Computer applications constitute only one interest out of many. Those with a strong interest in computers in the humanities should consider also joining the Association for Computers and the Humanities, described in the last SIG/AH Newsletter.

Any mention or description of software in this newsletter must not be considered as an endorsement or recommendation of any kind. Software packages will be mentioned only for their novelty, interest, or representativeness of trends in software development.

PHILDICT: A SPELLING CHECKER FOR PHILOSOPHY

We are all familiar with general vocabulary spelling checkers that operate in conjunction with word processing software. Many spelling checkers allow additions to the glossary or the use of separate files containing user-selected words. There are also specialized vocabularies available; legal and medical dictionaries seem to be the most common. This is the first specialized online vocabulary for a humanities discipline that has come to my attention. I was somewhat surprised to find a market for software for philosophers.
PHILDICT is an auxiliary spelling checker glossary consisting of proper names and philosophical terms organized in seven ASCII files. All entries in Dagobert Runes's *Dictionary of Philosophy*, 2nd ed., Philosophical Library, are included. Two brief utility programs are also included: SELECT for generating a data subset compatible with the user's hardware/software constraints and CF, a file comparison program for verifying data transmitted by telephone. PHILDICT costs $75 and is provided on diskette for Radio Shack's TRS-80 Model I and II computers or is transmitted by modem for owners of other microcomputers. For further information contact the author, Walter A. Coole, Scaramouche, 1325 Shirley Pl., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273, (206) 428-0441.

HYPERTEXT

Theodore Nelson's concept of "hypertext", inspired by Vannevar Bush's memex, will interest those who are curious about novel forms of textual organization and manipulation made possible by the computer. Hypertext, as opposed to the printed page, is non-linear in nature. Text may branch into trees and networks and may have multiple levels of summary and detail. Graphics may be included. One may navigate through the network of textual units as needed rather than read in a linear order.

One implementation of this concept is Brown University's Hypertext Editing System. Text is organized into units called text areas. The areas may be interlinked and cross-referenced to form a directed graph of text fragments through the use of branches and links. Manuscripts need have no preordained structure or sequence.

Readers may be familiar with branching stories in either print or online versions. Electronic notebook, idea processing, and outline processing software are now available. Obviously, recognition of the potential of a more sophisticated approach to textual organization, composition, and scholarly work is dawning. The articles listed below, written before the advent of this recently available microcomputer software, describe hypertext implementations and explore actual and visionary applications of the hypertext and the more general "hypermedia" idea.

HYPERTEXT BIBLIOGRAPHY


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NEW BOOKS


**BOOK REVIEW**


This folkloric and often funny introduction to the world of word processing records one man's personal odyssey from initial nescience and inferiority complex regarding computers through all the usual tribulations of learning something new, coping with hardware and software malfunctions, neglecting to back-up his disks, and loss of data, to eventual mastery and enthusiasm.

This book may be a good way of breaking the ice for those who are completely unfamiliar with and intimidated by computers. It will be of little practical use to anyone else. Neither selection criteria nor desired features in a word processor are discussed. The author arbitrarily purchased an IBM Displaywriter. Still, there are a few points in the book that bear mentioning.

The author clearly gives the feeling of the attachment to, psychological and environmental characteristics of, and behavior promoted by a particular physical medium, and the changes in physical environment and work habits caused by technological change.

Zinsser vividly describes the effects of the introduction of word processors into his newsroom. He wonders (p. 7) how word processing will affect the writer-editor relationship. Without a surviving record of the editing made in a document, who would remember what the original copy of a document said, or who had done what to the text, and who would be accountable for changes?

Zinsser made a few ergonomically interesting observations (p. 33-36). It took him a while to adapt to the computer's way of 'thinking', i.e. of accomplishing tasks by going through a sequence of choices provided by menu options. [9] The novice has to master a new terminology of word processing. The user is presented with too many options to master. (p. 34-5) Zinsser became selective, only learning what he needed to know. (p. 36) Error messages are intimidating - there is no positive feedback.

Zinsser describes his own writing process in chapter 16. He writes in carefully crafted paragraphs, using them as building blocks, creating his text from the bottom up. He is interested in the visual appearance of working text. His method saves constant retyping. It is good for pruning verbiage, playing with sentence structure, style and rhythm, choice of words, unity, flow, and tone.
His advice (p. 108-110) for writers on revision and saving text is: 1) print the original, then edit it; 2) start a new file on the same disk for a rewrite, move desired text from original to rewrite; 3) duplicate the original on separate disk, which would also hold all early drafts and notes. Put notes, data, footnotes, and chapters for a large topic on single disk. Then put the pieces together to create the final version. A revised second edition will be better and easier to create.

He recommends (p. 110-111) that children be introduced to word processing very early. Word processing would eliminate frustrations of writing, overcome writing obstacles such as neatness requirements, encourage wordplay and creativity, and induce the learning of typing skills. [10]

COMING ATTRACTIONS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

BOOK REVIEWS:

*Sixth International Conference on Computers and the Humanities, Proceedings.*
Krueger, Myron W. *Artificial Reality.*

MICROCOMPUTER SOFTWARE LISTS:

visual arts.
electronic notebooks, outline processing, idea processing.
word processing software with audit trails.
"word processor" for music.
NOTE: Sans access to hard copy, this is an approximate reconstruction of the format of the original newsletter, which was composed with an old word processing program. The footnotes below are comments from the original text—outtakes, for my use only—and were not printed in the actual newsletter. The original newsletter was 7 pages; the 8th page was likely reserved for mailing labels to subscribers. —RD

[1] Outtakes, list 1:


Schwartz, Richard Alan. "New possibiiies for computer literature," ICCH6 (philosophy of art & computer-assisted creative writing)

Wartofsky, Marx.
Outtakes, list 2:

Dewdney, A.K. *The Planiverse: Computer Contact with a Two-Dimensional World*.


[2] Visual collections in specific subject areas are ideally suited to microcomputer database applications in that they are frequently isolated collections characterized by having large numbers of discrete items, individualized classification systems, unique and detailed terminology and multiple subject access needs.

[3] ... stylistics?

[4] ... wasted effort . . .


[7] ... provide new avenues for abuse.

[9] System takes you in successive steps to stage you want to reach, from general menu to more specific. (p. 33)

[10] Should be done early, though some educators think children best start in 6th grade (age 12) when they are first being taught revision. (p. 111-112) Creative writers: poets, novelists, etc.: makes fiddling, constant revision easy.