

SIG NEWSLETTER JUNE 1988 GUEST EDITOR: RALPH DUMAIN

REPORT ON THE 17TH ASIS MID-YEAR MEETING, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN,
MAY 15-18, 1988

This year's theme was ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: EXPERT SYSTEMS AND OTHER APPLICATIONS. Far from being a dry technocratic program, this conference was a cornucopia for the humanist, especially the philosopher. One could have filled up practically all of one's time just attending sessions of a philosophical nature.

"Artificial Intelligence and the Science of Information: Philosophical Issues" sponsored by SIG/FIS, moderated by Richard Diener. Speakers: T.J. Froehlich, R.J. Skovira, P.W. Dalrymple, L.B. Heilprin.

T Froehlich: "Some reflections on artificial intelligence, ideology, and the foundations of information science" warns of the lure of control, salvation through technology. Uses Heidegger, Habermas. Invoking H. Dreyfus, he questions fundamental assumptions: (1) Biological; Brain processes like computers are binary [natural science] (2) psychological: formalization of behavior = rules by which behavior itself operates, (3) epistemological: non-arbitrary behavior is formalizable and reproducible by computer, (4) ontological: use of context-free, independent rules.

"Inventing and Applying the Language of the Arts: From Thesauri to Semantic Networks" sponsored by SIG/AH, moderated and organized by David Bearman.

"Constructing a language of the arts: knowledge representation in thesauri" Toni Petersen
"Employing a language of the arts: navigating semantic networks and the representation of complex relationships beyond those captured in thesauri" Pat Molholt

"Midwifing the 'World Brain': Progress of Labor" moderated and organized by June Aniel. SIG/AH

"Extending the human record: the future of automation at the Library of Congress" Manfred Kochen

"The intelligent world encyclopedia (CYC) project at Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation" Glynn Harmon

(Dis)integrating mechanisms in current information activities, G.Vladutz

"Analogy: formation in biological and electronic neural nets" P.F. Anderson

"What Philosophers Say Intelligent Systems Should Not Do" moderated by Diana Woodward. Speakers: Terrence Erdt, Robert F. Barnes. SIG/TIS

"The Basis for Choice" SIG/IAE. 2 of 3 papers of interest to us:

"Two biological metaphors for synthetic neural systems" William B. Dress, Jr.

"Evaluation and evolution: the problem of choice" Homer J. Hall

"Issues in Expert Systems" moderated by Glynn Harmon. One of the two papers of interest to us:

"Proprietary expert systems: a threat to intellectual freedom" Diana Woodward

The most interesting

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