

SIG / ARTS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER SPRING 1984

MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Katherine Haskins had to resign this position. Your new editor is Ralph Dumain, who is also conference program chairman.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Everything in this newsletter was written by your new editor. Although I enjoy having a forum for unlimited self-expression, the eventual viability of SIG/AH will depend upon the participation of our membership. Please consider at least sending in some contribution for future newsletters: interesting bibliographic citations, short book reviews, conference announcements or reviews, news items. Send your contributions to Ralph Dumain; 242 Ashland Ave.; Buffalo, NY 14222; (716) 882-9347. I know that everyone is already overburdened by work, but....

QUESTIONNAIRES

We cannot print the results of our survey because only one member sent in a SIG/AH Project questionnaire. Please fill out and send in your questionnaires so that we can gauge your interests.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Karen Markey for finding the speakers for our upcoming mid-year meeting in Bloomington. For their efforts on behalf of our two programs for the annual conference in Philadelphia thanks are due to Robert Barnes for setting up a panel discussion on human-machine interaction with plenary speaker Myron Krueger and others, and to Howard D. White for agreeing to moderate and for suggesting speakers for our session on bibliometrics.

ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTERS AND THE HUMANITIES (ACH)

SIG/AH members should strongly consider joining ACH, an international organization devoted to the study of computer applications in language and literary studies, history, musicology, the visual arts, education and other areas. ACH is responsible for the biennial International Conference on Computers and the Humanities (ICCH).

Membership benefits include the quarterly *ACH Newsletter*, reduced registration fees for ICCH, and the option of subscribing to the journal *Computers and the Humanities* at a greatly reduced rate. Annual membership is \$15. A subscription to *Computers and the Humanities* costs an additional \$20. Mail dues to Dr. Harry Lincoln, Music Dept., State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 13901.

13TH ANNUAL ASIS MID-YEAR MEETING INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, MAY 20-23, 1984 THE MICRO REVOLUTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE INFORMATION AGE

SIG/AH will present a session entitled "Microcomputers in the Arts and Humanities" on Tuesday, May 22, 8:30 - 9:50 AM. Thomas Ohlgren (Director of Medieval Studies, Purdue University) and William I. Bormann (Systems Programmer, Computing Center, Purdue University) will discuss "Using Kaypro's Perfect Filer to Create an Iconographic Database." A Kaypro II microcomputer is being used to create a database of information about the illuminations of medieval manuscripts. Three indexes in production

involve the creation of detailed inventories of the iconographic contents of the illuminations as well as indexes to the pictorial subjects in the illuminations. [1]

-1-

Eileen Fry (Fine Arts Slide Librarian, Indiana University) will report on "Microcomputers, Databases, and the Humanities; Customized Access to Specific Information," specifically, the application of the DBASE II DBMS to the African Slide and Photograph Collections at Indiana University, with focus on Benin, Yoruba, and Masai cultural materials. This project also serves as a primary compilation of specific terminology for the African Art Thesaurus Project being undertaken by the National Museum of African Art Library, Washington, DC. [2]

Lawrence McCrank (Head of Rare Books and Special Collections, Indiana State University) will lecture about "Computerized Medievalia." Research trends, databases, and evolving information systems and services for medieval studies will be covered with an emphasis on microcomputer applications.

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

SIG/AH in conjunction with SIG/Behavioral and Social Sciences is bringing you a top-notch technical program this fall.

"Bibliometric Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences" will feature some of the most distinguished people in our field. [3]

Howard D. White (Drexel University), a leading light in co-citation analysis, will serve as co-moderator. The prospective speakers and their presentations are: Miranda Lee Pao (Case Western Reserve University), "Bibliometric Analysis of Ethnomusicology;" Virgil P. Diodato (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee), "The Impact and Scholarliness of Book Reviews: A Citation Analysis in the Arts and Humanities;" Frances L. Hopkins (Temple University), "Cited Passages as Concept Symbols: The Uses of Wittgenstein in Recent Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology Articles;" [4] Katherine W. McCain (Drexel University), co-citation analysis of macroeconomics literature; and Virginia Doland (Biola University), sociology of English literature.

On Tuesday, October 23, Dr. Myron W. Krueger of the Dept. of Computer Science, University of Connecticut, will be the featured speaker of a plenary session. His work on the frontiers of human-machine interaction is summed up in his recent work *Artificial Reality* (Addison-Wesley, 1983). Dr. Krueger is the creator of an art form, the "Responsive Environment," based on an interactive computer-controlled environment designed to sense the body movements of human participants and respond to them, creating aesthetic visual displays and sounds. The technology of this computer-based art form is evolving to respond ever more sensitively to human needs. Artificial environments based on composed laws rather than natural laws or uncontrolled experience provide the means to comment on experience itself at a philosophical level. Revolutionary applications for this technology exist in the domains of education, the organization of knowledge, creative activity and recreation.

A panel discussion, "More Thoughts on 'Artificial Reality': Humanistic Perspectives on Human-Machine Interaction," will follow. In addition to Dr. Krueger, the three prospective panelists, all from Lehigh University, are: Thomas Haynes (philosopher), Ricardo Viera (artist), and George Shortess (psychologist and painter). [5]

-2-

BOOK REVIEW

Bailey, Richard W., ed. *Computing and the Humanities: Papers from the Fifth International Conference on Computing in the Humanities, Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 1981*. Amsterdam: North Holland, 1982. viii, 191 pp. (LC # AZ 105 I57 1981) (ISBN 0-444-86423-7)

This volume is a selection of papers from the Fifth International Conference on Computers and the Humanities held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 17-20, 1981. The topics covered (with numbers of articles that discuss them) include microcomputer applications (1), programming languages (2), data structures and database design (2), natural language understanding (2), linguistics (3), literary stylistics (4), composition (1), computer-assisted foreign language instruction (1), musicology (2), computer simulation in anthropology (1), and computer typography (2).

Only a few papers have a bearing on information science per se. Of these the most interesting is "Data Base Design for Biblical Texts" by H. Van Dyke Parunak. Handling biblical texts has characteristic difficulties: punctuation, commentaries, etc. The relational model of data is used to construct a biblical database. Eight relations (data files) are used to record lexical, syntactical, categorical, and other textual information. [6] Each occurrence of a word receives its own record with reference to the book, chapter, and verse where it appears.

"A Semantic Approach to Automated Resolving [sic] Interdocumental Cross-References in Legal Texts" (Franciszek Studnicki et al) concerns the automatic recognition of embedded references in legal texts.

"The Microcomputer in Linguistic Research" by Charles D. Bush and John S. Robertson concerns the application of an Apple II microcomputer for compiling a Mayan dictionary in a field work situation.

Recognition of the inestimable value of word processing has led to the development of computer-assisted composition. The use of automatic stylistic analysis, performance assessment, and user feedback are described in "UNIX Aids for Composition Courses" (James Joyce).

Barron Brainerd computes "The Type-Token Relation in the Works of S. Kierkegaard" but provides neither an interpretation of the results or any justification for interest in them. "Focus and Attribution in Ford and Conrad (C. Ruth Sabol), "Quantitative Stylistic Analysis of Impressionist Style in Joseph Conrad and Ford Madox Ford" (Todd K. Bender and Sue M. Briggum), and "Reader Responses and Character Syntax" (Rosanne G. Potter) are also devoted to literary stylistics.

In "The Icon Programming Language" Ralph E. Griswold describes a language he claims to be superior to SNOBOL4 for low-level string-handling tasks. Arthur E. Kunst and Glenn David Blank ("Processing Morphology: Words and Cliches") describe the use of a data structure, the augmented lexical tree, for processing linguistic strings. [7]

Enrico Borello and Mario Italiani ("CAI Techniques in Linguistics") describe their package for computer-assisted instruction (CAI) of linguistic theory with exercises. Dirk Geens in "Computer-Driven Remedial Teaching of Foreign Languages" discusses systems design for CAI of foreign languages.

The remaining articles are "Cluster Analysis and the Taxonomy of Words in Old French" (Christian Delcourt and Gisele Mersch), "Harmony vs. Counterpoint in the Bach Chorales" (Ann K. Blombach), "Computer-Aided Techniques for Understanding Performed Music" (Martin Piszczalski and Bernard A. Galler), "Computer Simulation Methodology for Archaeology" (Vicky A. Walsh), "Processing of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts by Computer" (P.H. Nancarrow), "Mathematical Typography for the

Humanities" (Lynne A. Price), "Language and Computer Languages" (Jeffrey F. Huntsman), and "Computing in the Humanities" (Richard W. Bailey).

-3-

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 which were probably for my use only and not printed in the actual newsletter. — RD

[1] Projects in progress: (1) index to all known illustrated Anglo-Saxon manuscripts; (2) index to *Pros Lancelot* manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, Oxford; index to *Roman de la Rose* manuscripts in Oxford.

[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] The roster is not yet finalized and may include speakers not listed here.

[4] Context Analysis of Citations in the Works of Ludwig Wittgenstein.

[5] The panel members will comment on the applications and consequences of this new technology from the vantage points of their respective disciplines in the arts, humanities, behavioral and social sciences.

[6] Relations used: collation, dictionary, lexaddress, lexeme, rawtext, reference, synaddress, syntax.

[7] . . . parsing . . .