SIG/AH NEWSLETTER   FALL 1985 - SUMMER 1986: DRAFT
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ELIZABETH DAVIS REPORT December 5, 1985

One of the highlights of the annual meeting was the occurrence of the SIG/AH annual business meeting.   Present were officers Elizabeth Davis, Chair, Renee Gelinas, Secretary/Treasurer, and Margaret Jennings, Cabinet Representative, and other members of the SIG.   Outgoing SIG Cabinet Director George Abbott dropped by with in-coming Cabinet Director Carol Diener??? [Ralph, can you check the spelling; she lives in Washington with her husband; they have a free-lance information business, I think]. Much discussion centered on the newly promulgated ASIS mission statement, as well as the mission statement of our SIG.   You will be hearing more from headquarters regarding the mission of ASIS, but we would like to take this opportunity to announce that SIG/AH will be rethinking its purposes and will be presenting its membership with a revised mission statement in the near future.   Stay tuned in!

Other business discussed included upcoming conference plans and the drafting of a questionnaire. It was decided that a committee consisting of Davis, John Leide and Ellen Streeter would devise a means to survey our membership with the goal of preparing a directory of personnel resources, skills, and interests of our members.   After the discussion, refreshments were served.

The increasing visibility of the Arts and Humanities community is evidenced by the latest announcement from the Institute for Scientific Information.   As part of its Automatic Subject Citation Alert, the Institute is adding 1,300 arts and humanities journals to the 5,800 science, technology, and social-science journals already covered; i.e.,   22% of the total number of journals represented will be from the arts and humanities fields.

For your reading:

Katzen, M. *Technology and Communication in the Humanities: Training and Services in Universities and Polytechnics in the UK*.

A recent survey investigated the training provided for students by humanities departments and libraries in locating reference sources, the extent of on-line searching available for humanities users, the provision of instruction on techniques of oral and written presentation, and the availability and use of computers in the humanities in academic institutions.   The major finding was that there has been a rapid increase in the availability and use of computerized facilities, a trend that can be expected to continue in the near future.   Spring 1985. 131 p. LIR Report 32 0-7123-3046-1 $15

Porter, M.F., R.B. Light, and D.A. Roberts. *A Unified Approach to the Computerization of Museum Catalogues.* 1976   82 p.   R&D Report 5338 0-905984-01-3 $8.25

Society for Conceptual and Content Analysis by Computer

Loosely organized group of scholars in the humanities and social sciences interested in the special

area of computerized content and conceptual analysis.   This area is very generally defined as including methods of lexicography, indexing, and text analysis using conceptual systems such as Roget's "Thesaurus" rather than alphabetical systems of order.   It also includes studies following earlier models like the GENERAL INQUIRER or Iker's WORDS system.   Furthermore, it includes automatic retrieval systems and thesaurus building as well as studies searching for motifs and themes in larger text corpora.   Artificial intelligence is of general interest to SCCAC but does not lie within its main focus.

The organization's function is to provide a medium of communication and information to scholars working the various fields within the general area of interest with the least amount of bureaucratic red tape and financial burden.   SCCAC will provide addresses of participating scholars, disseminate project descriptions and plans via newsletter, and organize meetings on a regular basis, sometimes in conjunction with ACH (Association for Computers in the Humanities) and ALLC (Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing) conferences.

For more information, contact Klaus Schmidt: [Ralph: do you have his Bowling Green address]

Upcoming conferences:

March 17, 1986   Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Second International Conference on the Application of Micro-Computers in Information Documentation and Libraries.   Baden-Baden, Germany, March 17-21, 1986.

December 11-13, 1985   The Second Conference on Artificial Intelligence Applications. Sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society,   Miami Beach, FL. To explore the technology, implementation and impact of emerging application areas and indicate future trends in available systems and required research.

For more info: IEEE Computer Society, Conference Dept./attn.: Gerrie Katz/1730 Massachusetts Ave., NW/Washington, DC   20036-1903   202-371-0101

April 13-17, 1986   Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems   Boston
For more info: Marilyn Mantei, Co-chair/Graduate School of Administration/The University of Michigan/Ann Arbor, MI   48109-1234   313-763-5936

May 6-8, 1986   The Society for Information Display International Symposium   San Diego
For more info: Thomas L. Credelle, Chair/RCA Laboratories/P.O. Box 432/Princeton, NJ   08540
609-734-3128

A new **Computer Special Interest Group** has been informed within the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA).   It was officially voted on and recognized as the newest SIG at the ARLIS/NA Conference in February 1985 and has already begun preparing sessions for the 1986 conference, which will be held February 6-13 in New York.   It hopes to sponsor sessions on "Procedural Guide to Automating an Art Library" and "Database Services for Art Research". Membership in the SIG is available to ARLIS members for an additional $5 fee.   Contact ARLIS at 3775 Bear Creek Circle, Tucson, AZ   85749 for more information, or to contribute articles to

their publication, *Art Documentation*.

We have received the following communication from M. Jacob, Chair, ASIS Standards Committee regarding **Standards Activities**.

On Wednesday, November 13, I made an ASIS presentation before about approximately 100 members of an active computer group in New York, **The Northeast Association for Computing in the Humanities**. They were very interested in our SIG and wanted to know more about us, as well as about our parent organization. Several in the audience expressed a desire to join ASIS and participate in our SIG. Many thanks to headquarters for sending me informational brochures!!!

N.E.A.C.H. (pronounced like reach) brings together humanists in the New York   metropolitan area who are interested in computer applications for research and instruction in the humanities. They meet once a month at the I.B.M. Building, 590 Madison Avenue (at 57th Street), New York.   The first half of the meeting is basically an informational exchange on groups, products, hardware, software, and the like.   A prepared lecture usually follows.   The lecture on November 13 was given by Robert Hollander, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Princeton University.   He spoke on the Dartmouth Dante Project, in which a line-by-line index of the works of Dante have been made available, along with many of the principal commentaries, in machine-readable form.   Access to these indexed files, as well as to full-text files, is available through BRS.   Plans to distribute the database to IBM PC owners through diskettes is underway.   What is also interesting about this project is that the Kurzweil optical scanning machines are being used for data entry.

The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, December 10.   The speaker will be Hans R(umlaut)utimann, Deputy Executive Director of the Modern Language Association, who will speak on the Role of the Professional Organization in the Development of Tools in the Humanities.

Future meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 8; Tuesday, February 11; Wednesday, March 12; Tuesday, April 8; and Wednesday, May 14.   For more details contact F. Woodbridge Wilson, Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 East 36 St., New York, NY   10016   (Elizabeth Davis)

You will be hearing more reports regarding the annual meeting and the two SIG/AH sessions which were held.   One paper in particular I found very interesting from the point of view of organization of material.   This was T.R. Girill's paper on the Problem of Online Text Structure in which he describes a hierarchical structure of organizing text as opposed to an autonomous or a narrative setting.   According to Girill, text organized hierarchically consists of discrete, overt blocks of information arranged in a tree structure of subordinate levels.

I have come to the conclusion that the music of J.S. Bach is organized in this fashion.   As Donald Tovey pointed out in his lucid essay on Bach's music, no measure seen by itself can reveal where in the piece it may come from; therefore, on the measure level, Bach's music is not autonomous.   On the other hand, as Tovey pointed out, not one measure can be removed without crumbling the immediate structure of measures around it and destroying   the integrity of the piece, so closely knit and intertwined is each measure with its adjacent measures.   Also, Bach's pieces do not unfold, as do Beethoven's, in a progressive, suspense-building style, or what Girill has termed the narrative

strategy.   Further studies might show the affinity of the organization of Baroque music in general with hierarchical text organization as described by Girill.

APA CREATES COMMITTEE ON COMPUTER USE IN PHILOSOPHY

by T. R. Girill

The American Philosophical Association (APA) is the largest and most influential professional organization for those with graduate degrees in philosophy (most of whom teach or pursue research at universities).   In October, 1985 David A. Hoekema, the APA's Executive Secretary, announced the creation of a new standing committee on Computer Use in Philosophy.   The committee's charge is to "examine the implications of computer use as broadly as possible and make recommendations [to the APA membership] regarding ways in which computers can more effectively serve the teaching, writing, and research needs of philosophers."

Charter members of the new committee and their affiliations are:

Preston Covey, Chair (Carnegie-Mellon University)
Ned Block (Stanford University)
David Boyer (St. Cloud State University)
T. R. Girill (National MFE Computer Center)
Deborah Johnson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
John Ladd (Brown University)
Ronald Layman (Ohio State University)
Richard Lineback (Bowling Green State University)
Bob Martin (Systems Development Corporation)
Janice Moulton (Smith College)
Patrick Suppes (Stanford University)
Jesse Yoder (Northeastern University)
Charles Young (Claremont Graduate School)

One of the prime functions of the committee, according to the APA Board, is "to collect and disseminate information about which computer hardware and software would be useful to philosophers in their teaching or research."   Heading the list is likely to be computer-assisted instruction, such as the use of programs to teach symbolic logic or verify student proofs.   And closely related to this is computer-managed instruction, in which machines handle grades and class assignments, etc.

From the perspective of information science, however, several other appropriate topics suggest themselves.   One involves the APA's role in finding or even commissioning full-text database programs to help individual philosophers keep track of their drafts, notes, and conjectures. Another key area is the impact of computers on philosophical publishing.   Since about 80% of journal publishers have switched to computerized phototypesetting in the last five years, any group that fostered cooperation between word-processing authors and their publishers would promote both speed and economy in the publishing cycle.   Educating philosophers about the generic coding

scheme recently developed by the American National Standards Institute and tested by the Association of American Publishers could be a good place to start.

A third plausible area for the committee to explore is "networking," the direct exchange of papers, commentary, references, and seminar notes using electronic mail and online bulletin boards.   The ARPANET's philosophy of science mailing list has gone dormant lately, for example, perhaps because so few philosophers of science know about it.   Finally, ther bibliographic impact of computers deserves attention too.   Although Philosopher's Index is now machine-searchable through DIALOG, this is only the beginning of the services the profession could support.

The committee's first three-year term officially begins in July, 1986.   But preliminary planning has already started.   As the only ASIS member on the committee, I invite comments from others active in ASIS (especially those with philosophical backgrounds) on the needs and issues they feel the new APA committee should address.   Cooperative projects with appropriate ASIS special interest groups, such as SIG/AH, are certainly one possibility.   Send your suggestions and ideas to me at the National Magnetic Fusion Energy Computer Center, P.O. Box 5509, L-560, Livermore, CA 94550, or on Internet (ARPANET) use GIRILL%MFE@LLL-MFE.ARPA for electronic mail.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS DEVOTED TO LIBRARIANSHIP AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN CONJUNCTION WITH HUMANITIES DISCIPLINES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTERS AND THE HUMANITIES (ACH)
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 subsciption 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.

Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing

SCCAC: Society for Conceptual and Content Analysis by Computer.
Contact: Klaus M. Schmidt, Bowling Green State University
[see ACH Newsletter, summer 1984, p. 8]

New York City group involved in Computers & the humanities

ACM - no SIG, but may be references

American Philosophical Association.   Committee on Computer Use in

Philosophy

American Theological Library Association

Art Lib Association   (ARLIS?)

Society for Literature and Science

International Association for Philosophy and Literature

National Information Management Project?

NEWSLETTERS

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 [1984], *SCOPE* reports on software, hardware, networking, data bases, meetings, workshops,
publications, legislation and grants pertaining to the humanities.

Scholarly Communication, 1st issue June 1985, Office of Scholarly Communication, affiliated with American Council of Learned Societies. Librarians interested in publishing, research, new technology, library policy may request a sample copy.

Research in Word Processing Newsletter

Education Computer News

IRIS

Philosophers' Computer Network.   compiled, published semiannually. Annual subscription $3 per year. Consists of directory with members' interests (keywords) + brief news of interest.

Newsletter of the Program on Electronic Text for Higher Education

Humanities Communication Newsletter

Newsletter on Newsletters

JOURNALS

Computers and the Humanities [Paradigm Press]

Computers and the Social Sciences [Paradigm Press]

Book Research Quarterly

CIRPHO [computers in philosophy, defunct]

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS

Humanities Forum, public electronic bulletin board, via modem (919) 286-3573.   General discussion board, medical ethics discussion board, other boards may be added on request.   Contact: Dr. Gary Smith, 707 Ninth St. #13, Durham, NC 27705; (919) 286-7055

CHECK:

Encyclopedia of Associations

Newsletter Yearbook Directory

Oxbridge Directory of Newsletters

SOFTWARE

PHILOSOPHY SOFTWARE

Academic CAI software packages are listed in a special column of each issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.   I may have seen a CAI package on logic listed in some issue.   Another avenue is to put a notice in the newsletter of the Association for Computers and the Humanities, *Education Computer News*, or in a related newsletter.   The newly formed Committee on Computer use in Philosophy of the American Philosophical Association may be keeping tabs on CAI.   Finally, try searching one or more of the online databases devoted to computer software and perusing printed educational software directories.

The only software for philosophers that I know anything about is PHILDICT, a spelling checker (see description in the enclosed summer 1984 SIG/AH Newsletter.   I have the impression that CAI packages for logic are most in demand.   I haven't heard about any CAI packages for teaching the actual content of philosophy, ie. metaphysics, Aristotle, etc.   I would appreciate being informed of any.

Dorsett Educational Systems, Inc., who offers a computer cassette course on philosophy.

Also, see Lockwood, R., *Philosopher's Dilemma A+*, vol. 3, no. 8, p. 105, August, 1985, for a review of *Plato's Cave* from Krell Software.   It costs $49.95 and runs on the Apple II+, IIe, or IIc with 48K RAM.   *Plato's Cave* is an educational game which tests Plato's famous thesis that people perceive shadows rather than realities.

[merge bibliography on philosophy software]

[MERGE BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON ONLINE ORGANIZATION OF TEXT, PERSONAL

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[file SIGAH4BI]

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Micro Musician. Monthly; introductory copy $1, annual subscription $25   Contact: Ronald A. Wallace, president, Association of Independent Microdealers, 3010 N. Sterling Avenue, Peoria, IL 61604; (309) 685-4843

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Freidson, Eliot.
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SN/G: Report on Data Processing Projects in Art is available in online and printed form.   To list a project or for further information write: Marilyn Schmitt, Getty Art History Information Program, 401 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90401 or Laura Corti, Scuola Normale Superiore, Piazza dei Cavalieri 7, 56100   Pisa, Italy.

[MORE BULLETIN BOARDS]

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