

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

On February 1977, a North American IASSIST meeting was held in Cocoa Beach, Florida. The primary objective of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the US and Canadian participants to assemble in AGs and debate the commonality and differences of the AG mandates. Alice Robbin of Wisconsin presented a most comprehensive outline for a Guide to Providing Social Science Data Services which served as a catalytic influence for the AGs as they reviewed their activities in terms of contributions to the Guide. Establishing technical standards or guidelines would also seem a legitimate contribution of IASSIST. The Workshop format was extremely successful and productive. The results are reported in detail by the US Secretariat, Judith Rowe, who handled the arrangements for the meeting, the Canadian Secretariat, Sharon Chapple Henry, and the chairpersons of the AG in the body of this issue of the Newsletter.

In late April or early May 1977, the European AGs will convene at a workshop to review their progress and activities. This workshop is being organized by Per Nielsen, the West European Secretariat.

During May 1977, the Canadian Secretariat is organizing a North American IASSIST meeting to be held in Toronto. This meeting will build on the achievements of the AGs at the February 1977 meeting.

An international IASSIST meeting was originally planned for August 1977. Due to the given schedule of workshops and conflicts in other conference dates during August, this meeting has been slated for February 1978, in Chicago. The theme will be "State of the Art: Perspectives." It will be a three day meeting, with one day devoted to symposia focusing on the AG activities and objectives. There will be three symposia during the morning and four during the afternoon. Each symposia will represent one AG and eight papers will be presented at each. Topics for papers should be sent to either Carolyn Geda of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research or Tony Falsetto of the Canadian Machine-readable Archives, Public Archives of Canada [see details in section, "Upcoming Meetings"]. The remainder of the conference will be devoted to AG workshops. The program committee is composed of Tony Falsetto, Public Archives of Canada, Richard Roistacher of the Center for Advanced Computation, University of Illinois, Sheldon Laube of C.M. Leinwond and Carolyn Geda of ICPSR.

A North American program committee has been established for the IASSIST program to be held in conjunction with the International Sociological Association in August 1978, in Uppsala, Sweden. The members of this committee are Elliot Avedon of University of Waterloo, Don Harrison of National Archives, and John DeVries of Carleton University. The proposed scheme is the international interchange of data. Details of this conference will be reported in the Newsletter as they are confirmed.

The treasurer of IASSIST is Ed Hanis of University of Western Ontario. IASSIST accounts have been opened in both US and Canadian currencies. Membership fees should be remitted in one of these currencies. If this is not possible, contact Ed Hanis. The treasurer will forward the names and addresses of IASSIST members to John Kolp of S S Data and members should be receiving S S Data in the very near future.

The Newsletter will again be distributed to the full mailing list. Subsequent issues will be circulated only to members. A French translation is being done by the Canadian secretariat, should anyone be interested in the French version of the Newsletter.

Kenneth Brewer of Australian National Universities has offered to act as the distributor of IASSIST information throughout Australia. Given the distances in Australia, AG groups will probably not be formed at this time. The distribution of IASSIST information however is perceived as most desirable.

The steering committee list has been reproduced again in this Newsletter. Please note the following revisions: Sharon Chapple now is Sharon Chapple Henry; Ed Hanis has been appointed treasurer; the address of the East European Secretariat has changed.

SECRETARIAT REPORTS

Canadian Secretariat Report

Sharon Chapple Henry
Data Clearing House for the Social Sciences

The Data Clearinghouse for the Social Sciences [DCHSS] is continuing to publicize IASSIST activities in the DCHSS Bulletin and other Canadian professional journals. The campaign for IASSIST members is continuing.

Ten Canadians actively participated in the conference of Canadian and American Action Groups in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Plans are underway for IASSIST [Canada] to host another working conference to be held in Toronto in May [See "Upcoming Meetings" in Newsletter]. All members of IASSIST including those in other countries are welcome to attend. Further details are available from Sharon C. Henry, Canadian Secretary for IASSIST.

West European Secretariat Report

Per Nielsen
Danish Data Archives

Per Nielsen has recommended that action groups organize a series of workshops in their respective areas of interest. Paul Müller, chairperson of the Process-Produced Data AG, has suggested that a conference devoted to the data law issue would be relevant at the present stage of development within his AG area. A call for papers concerning the data law issue will be made in advance of the conference and workshops.