

United States Secretariat Report

Judith Rowe
Computing Center
Princeton University

The United States response to the first IASSIST Newsletter has been very gratifying. Fifty people are already on the list of paid members and 22 attended the February conference. Information about IASSIST is being sent to relevant journals, and library subscriptions to the Newsletter are being solicited.

The AGs are all in high gear and reports of their activity appear in the AG section of the Newsletter. All IASSIST members are encouraged to become involved in the activities of one of the AGs. Get in touch with me or the US coordinator of the AG. The Newsletter will continue to serve as a vehicle for keeping you apprised of all IASSIST activities, but the more action group participation, the more productive IASSIST will be.

Don Harrison of National Archives has replaced Michael Leavitt as coordinator of the US Process-Produced Data AG, leaving a vacancy in data acquisition which should be filled as soon as possible. If you are interested, please let me know. The position requires intelligence, commitment, hard work and an interest in studying an issue which heretofore has received little attention in data services.

**REPORT ON THE FIRST IASSIST NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 16-20, 1977**

IASSIST was organized to meet the needs of data information people to develop more professional services by working together on joint projects and by sharing problems and experiences. The informal exchange of ideas on data information services which conferences provide is as important as the formal sessions. Both of these needs were met at the First North American Action Group Conference by the enthusiastic and hardworking group of 32 data information professionals who met in Cocoa Beach, Florida from February 16th through 20th, 1977.

Four of the AGs held full sessions with both Canadian and United States coordinators present: Data Archive Development, Classification, Process-Produced Data, and Data Organization and Management. Proposed activities for the Data Archive Registry, Data Acquisition, and Documentation AGs were discussed in plenary sessions. In addition to the AG and plenary session discussions, two program committees were organized to plan for future meetings and announcement was made of the Toronto IASSIST [Canada] conference to be held in May. The group also discussed an omnibus questionnaire designed to incorporate questions from each of the AGs regarding data services organizations, personnel, policies, and planning activities. It is hoped that with proper screening IASSIST data collection efforts can be kept at a minimum and that we can avoid frequent repetitive questionnaires.