

EDITORIAL COMMENT

AN OVERVIEW

The spring issue, 1978, of the IASSIST Newsletter contains three articles drawn from the papers given at the meeting in Itasca in February. The three are related in that they each are directed to some of the problems and opportunities inherent in the archival enterprise. Beginning with a discussion of the need for cataloging standards, Sue Dodd (University of North Carolina) sets forth some of the criteria implicit in the need for a means of retrieving and using machine readable datasets in a meaningful manner. Viewing the archival problem from an organizational perspective, William Gammell (University of Connecticut) describes the goals and objectives of the new organizational structure of the Roper Center, Inc. One of the primary points emphasized by Gammell is the continued desire of the Roper Center staff to improve documentation standards so that the archive will have expanded usefulness. Many of the problems facing the Roper Center (and many of the opportunities as well), are characteristic of large, general purpose archives, such as Roper or the ICPSR. On a more restricted level, yet facing many of the same problems, are special purpose archives such as that maintained by NCRC at the University of Chicago. In his paper, Patrick Bova (NORC) seeks to delineate some of the problems and opportunities available to special purpose archives, and to describe the services the NORC Library can make available to the survey research community.

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

During the current year Ms. Kathleen Heim will continue to serve as book review editor for the Newsletter. Kathleen served ably during the editorship of Alice Robbin and has consented to continue in that capacity. Readers of the Newsletter should be aware that Ms. Heim's address has changed from the University of Wisconsin to:

Ms. Kathleen M. Heim
Graduate School of Library
Science
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
329 Main Library
Urbana, IL 61801

If you wish to make suggestions for review material, please notify Kathleen, or if you wish to write reviews, also let her know. For a variety of reasons no reviews appeared in Volume 2, Number 1, nor do any reviews appear in the present issue. We should be back on track by Number 3, however.

OUR MISTAKE

Alice Robbin informed us that a strange type of error occurred in the first paragraph of her article (Vol. 2, No. 1). It makes no sense to say, "Computer technology has made it possible for the traditional library to service the user more quickly and (many enthusiasts of on-line data bases would add) more complicated than when the reference librarian relied on manual methods for searching and retrieving information." The correct expression should be "more fully." One typo was, apparently, not sufficient, for in the final paragraph, instead of "... networking creates the potential for independence for computing centers..." it should read, "... networking creates the potential for independence from computing centers."

We might note that proofreading is a difficult and arduous task, and while we make every effort to provide clean copy, it is probably inevitable that some errors occur. While we will continue to try to improve our track record, I seriously doubt that this, or any other publication will achieve 100% accuracy. Please bear with us, however.

SOURCES OF PAPERS

In issues No. 1 and No. 2 of Volume 2, the papers published in the Newsletter were extracted from those given at the Itasca Conference in February. Because papers given at meetings are often not polished products, several of the completed articles have required occasional (and sometimes extensive) copy editing. Ordinarily we would have returned copy edited papers to the author(s) for review, but time exigencies for the first two issues have precluded that possibility. In doing the copy editing we have attempted to stay--as much as possible--with the author's original meaning and phraseology. I hope we have succeeded. To the present time, however, we have not

received any articles specifically assigned for the Newsletter. For the remaining two issues of the Newsletter in the current year, we can continue to publish selections of the papers from Itasca, and, after the Uppsala meeting, papers from either the North American or the European meetings care to revise their papers and submit them, we would invite them to do so.

FORTHCOMING DEADLINES

I call your attention to the fact that the deadlines for the summer and fall issues of the Newsletter are rapidly approaching. If you have any materials for the Newsletter please send them as early as possible. The deadlines for Nos. 3 and 4 are as follows:

Number 3: August 15, 1978
Number 4: November 15, 1978

If there are any substantial delays in publication, the timing of the Newsletter will be off, and, perhaps, the usefulness of the publication will be less.

NEWSLETTER FORMAT

During the period since the publication and distribution of Volume 2, Number 1 of the Newsletter we have received a number of comments concerning the format and style of the journal. Comments on general format seem to be positive, although few have been overwhelmed with enthusiasm concerning the number of lines per vertical inch (8). By printing eight lines to the inch the lines are compressed and may be a bit difficult, at times, to read. On the other hand, Number 1, which ran about thirty pages at eight lines to the inch, would have been forty-two pages long at six lines to the inch. Because of the cost of publication of the Newsletter we have one of two choices: less material with the vertical spacing spread out a bit, or more material with the lines compressed. Because of cost considerations, the publication, in its present form, should not average more than about thirty pages per issue. I will appreciate comment from readers on this matter.

T. W. M.