

NEWS RELEASE

CENTER FOR MACHINE-READABLE TEXTS IN THE HUMANITIES

Rutgers and Princeton Universities have received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (Program for Research Tools, \$30,000), the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (\$50,000), and the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities (\$10,000) to undertake jointly the planning for a Center for Machine-Readable Texts in the Humanities. Project staff include Marianne Gaunt (Director), J. Penny Small, Kathleen Ciociola (Rutgers); Robert Hollander, Judith Rowe (Princeton); Leslie Hume (Research Libraries Group). Members of the Advisory Board for the planning process are Nancy Ide, Vassar College; Robert Kraft, University of Pennsylvania; Michael Sperberg-McQueen, University of Illinois-Chicago; Donald Walker, Bellcore.

During the course of the planning period project staff will be investigating issues related to the establishment of a cooperative center which will act as a central source of information on humanities datafiles and a selective source of datafiles themselves. The initial goals of the Center as outlined in the project proposal are: the continuation of an on-going inventory of machine-readable texts; the cataloging and dissemination of inventory information to the broader scholarly community; the acquisition, preservation and servicing of textual datafiles which would otherwise become generally unavailable; the distribution of such datafiles in an appropriate manner; and the establishment of a resource center/referral point for information concerning other textual data. Organizational issues, technical issues, intellectual ownership, access and dissemination, and physical facilities are broad areas of investigation during the planning process.

The Center does not propose to duplicate the archives and repositories that already exist for the collection and dissemination of textual data, but rather to complement existing collections and to bring bibliographic control to existing datafiles. To that end project staff will be networking with existing projects/centers to establish appropriate means of collecting inventory data for the cataloging of archival holdings. Progress reports will be sent to publications of scholarly associations and announced on HUMANIST. A listserv has also been set up for communication among those interested in the project and invites inquiry and advice.

**Bitnet communications may be sent to:
Gaunt@Zodiac.Rutgers.edu or to BobH@Phoenix.Princeton.edu.**

**Mail addresses are:
Marianne Gaunt, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, College Ave., New Brunswick, N.J. 08903;
Prof. Robert Hollander, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Princeton
University, Princeton, N.J. 08544.**

11/11/89



The International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST) is an international association of individuals who are engaged in the acquisition, processing, maintenance, and distribution of machine readable text and /or numeric social science data. The membership includes information system specialists, data base librarians or administrators, archivists, researchers, programmers, and managers. Their range of interests encompasses hard copy as well as machine readable data.

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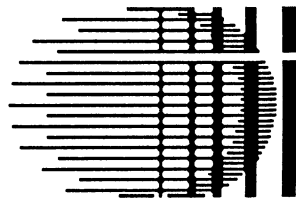
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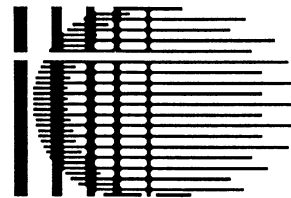
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CALL FOR PAPERS



IASSIST
16th Annual Conference
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The 1990 IASSIST conference has as its central theme "Numbers, Pictures, Words and Sounds: Priorities for the 1990's". This title reflects the ever-expanding universe of data types, as well as related hardware and software development. The program will consist of presentations on a wide variety of topics. The Program Committee is now soliciting contributions in the forms of papers, proposals for panel discussions, roundtables, poster sessions and workshops to be presented at the conference.

All papers or proposals concerned with the generation, transfer, retrieval, storage and use of machine-readable social science data will be considered. Papers which discuss issues and technologies related to non-numeric data are particularly encouraged.

For more information contact:

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Box 20 Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 USA
e-mail: COXBYRNE@VASSAR.BITNET

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The International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST) is an international association of individuals who are engaged in the acquisition, processing, maintenance, and distribution of machine readable text and/or numeric social science data.

Founded in 1974, the membership includes social scientists, data archivists, librarians, information specialists, researchers, programmers, planners and government agency administrators.

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