Minutes of meeting of the
Program Library Sub-committee
held on Thursday 17th April
1969 at 3.30 pm in the
William Robertson Building.

PRESENT
Prof. D.J. Finney (in the chair)
Mr. D.N. Allum
Mr. D. Kershaw
Mr. D.T. Muxworthy
Mr. P.E. Williams

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Prof. P. Vandome
Mr. R.E. Day
Dr. J. Fulton
Dr. F.R. Himsworth

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.
There were no comments on the minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 10th
February 1969.

Matters arising from the minutes:

1. It was reported that no member of the committee had wished to change the proposed
list of ICI procedures for which quotations were to be obtained (ref. memorandum of 7th
March 1969 from the secretary to committee members). The list has been communicated to
ICI.

2. The Centre has not yet questioned users about which current AA library routines will
be required in IMP versions.

2. EFFECT OF 360/50 ON PROGRAM LIBRARY.
Mr. Williams explained that programs available from IBM fall into two main classes: a.
programs written, distributed and supported by IBM, and b. programs not written by IBM
but for which IBM act as distributors. Class a divides into Type I (operating systems,
compilers etc) and Type II (applications packages, e.g. Scientific Subroutines
Package). Class b is split into Type III (written by an IBM employee) and Type IV
(written by another user). The HASP input/output system used by the Centre is Type III.
The Centre's main access to Type III and IV programs is via the IBM European Program
Library; one must expect a month's delay in obtaining any program from the EPL.

Two other main sources of programs are SHARE and SEAS (the European equivalent of
SHARE). The Centre intend to join both; there is no subscription but a condition of
membership is that members attend one meeting per year. Some difficulty has been
encountered in communicating with the secretary of SHARE but this has now been
overcome. SEAS maintains no program library but it has user groups and programs may be
acquired from contacts in these groups.

No charge is made for programs from EPL or SHARE and any E.R.C.C. user is welcome to
request any program from these sources. They should be aware that the 360/50 will be
available for two years only and that it cannot be guaranteed that a program, even if
written in Fortran, will be transferable to the System 4/75. (DOS - Disk Operating
System - programs cannot be run on the 360/50). The Centre is preparing a list of OS
(360 operating system) features which will be supported across machines.

The Chairman said that it would be a gamble to assume that the 360/50 would be here for
more than two years. It would be of benefit to users if the Centre would identify
programs as being transferrable to the 4/75 with or without effort or in a "don't know"
category.

Mr. Williams said that some program have already been obtained. A note would be issued
on whether they would run on the 4/75.

The committee felt that its recommendation should be obtained if there were any
question of withdrawal from the SHARE or SEAS organizations.

Mr. Williams was invited to attend meetings of this Sub-committee whenever possible; he
withdrew from the meeting at this point.

3. REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DOCUMENTATION
Mr. Allum reported that the program for updating and printing the library program

catalogue is now working. He distributed examples of the output (KDF9 programs only, ordered 1. by classification, 2. alphabetically). There are 491 routines in the catalogue, of which about 300 are KDF9 routines. The full catalogue will occupy about 50 pages and it is proposed to have a circulation of about 300 and to issue it once a month.

The catalogue was welcomed by the committee. Small changes in layout were suggested; the most important of these was the omission of the program descriptions from the alphabetic lists. The frequency of issue was queried but it was stated that once a month was the most convenient for E.R.C.C.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
It was decided to ask committee members to suggest a date for the next meeting.

(signed D.J. Finney 25 November 1969)