

Minutes of meeting of the
Program Library Sub-committee
held on Tuesday 25th November
1969 at 3.30 p.m. in the
William Robertson Building.

PRESENT

Professor D.J. Finney (in the chair)
Mr D. N. Allum
Mr R.E. Day
Dr J. Fulton
Mr D. Kershaw
Mr D.T. Muxworthy (secretary)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Professor P. Vandome
Dr F.R. Himsworth

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on April 17th 1969, were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Discussion on matters arising from the minutes was postponed to the next item on the agenda.

3. REPORT ON PROGRESS

It was reported that ICI have now quoted individual prices for the library routines in which this committee has expressed interest. The committee felt that it would be worth buying a routine only if it were required before E.R.C.C. could supply an alternative. Mr Day undertook to compare the ICI list with users' requirements as indicated in the recent survey (see below).

In the separate matter of the ICI stiff equation program, the Centre are continuing to compare this with a similar by Gear.

During the summer a questionnaire was sent to each E.R.C.C. user (about 400 in all) enquiring about usage of library programs. Eighty-one replies were received and the committee were shown a summary of the results and a list of programs now transferred to the 360/50. It was agreed that a list of proposed deletions from the library, with reasons, should be available for the next meeting.

It was agreed that (about 10) departmental libraries should be encouraged to hold IBM program catalogues, on the understanding that programs would be available only while the 360 was at ERCC and that all requests for programs should be channelled via the Program Librarian.

Mr Day outlined the plans for revising the Centre's documentation and its issue to users. The most important points were (1) that publication of documents is to be announced in the Newsletter and issue to users will in general be by request for each document, (2) that so far as possible system notes are to be regrouped into "users' guides" and (3) that all KDF9 documentation is to be withdrawn. Of program library material, program abstracts will be distributed to members of a circulation list but specifications will be available only on request. The Committee were of the opinion that departments should have the opportunity to receive all program specifications.

Mr Day warned the Committee that it may be subject to criticism at an open meeting of Centre users to be held on 11 December 1969. The Committee did not accept most of the grounds mentioned by Mr Day but agreed that it had not yet felt to be in a position to invite suggestions from departments. Users were free to set up a parallel, unofficial, committee but that could not replace this official committee. There was some discussion of the objectives of this committee but it was felt that this may be better postponed to the next meeting.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 16th December 1969 at 3.30 p.m.

(signed D.J. Finney 16 December 1969)