

Minutes of meeting of the
Program Library Sub-Committee
held on Friday, 24th April
1970 at 3.30 p.m. in the
William Robertson Building.

PRESENT

Professor D.J. Finney, (in the Chair)
Professor P. Vandome
Mr R. E. Day
Dr J. Fulton
Mr D. Kershaw

Dr A.P.M. Coxon (for item 3 only)
Mr C.L. Jones (for item 3 only)

Mr D.T. Muxworthy (secretary)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dr F.R. Himsworth

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on, February 25th 1970, were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

In reply to points referred to him at the last meeting Dr Thomas had replied (in summary) thus:

1. The Centre can undertake to rerun a user program at the user's expense whenever the operating system is changed and, to notify the user of the outcome; it cannot undertake to amend the program if the results are different from those expected.

2. The Centre can undertake to rewrite user's programs only if they are seen to be seriously interfering with the general flow of work through its computers.

3. The program purchase fund was set up as a contingency measure and demand has been so small that the question of control has not arisen. Comment from the committee was. invited.

The Chairman asked that the replies to points 1 & 2 be conveyed to Drs Cheeney, Fluendy and Thomas. On the third point the Committee felt that the fund should be used for providing programs of general interest and that more specialized programs should be acquired by other means, possibly through the Computer Board. It was thought that the committee should advise on use of the fund rather than control it but for the present it was decided simply that a report on the state of and purchases from the fund should be made at each meeting.

It was suggested that programs to find the zeros of an equation and to solve a limited form of the eigenvalue problem should be added to the list in the Appendix and that there may be little demand for a continued fraction evaluation program.

3. REPORT FROM SURVEY ANALYSIS WORKING PARTY

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr W. Lutz Dr B. Woolf
Dr Coxon reported that he had met Messrs. Jones and Lutz several times since the working party was set up and that Mr Lutz's notes, circulated to Members of the Committee, incorporated some suggestions from, the other two. There had been broad agreement between them and they had differed only on details. Messrs Coxon and Jones had tended to think in terms of SPSS possibly augmented and with a preprocessor for binary-punched data as the best solution.

It was reported that the Centre had bought a copy of the SPSS program and were very pleased with it. The manual however was unsuitable for general use.

The Committee noted Dr Woolf's proposed open meeting of survey analysis users and decided that Dr Woolf should be requested to make documentation available before the meeting. Dr Woolf's Mark I survey program should be generally available in October.

The Committee thanked the working party: they had contributed to a major advance in survey program facilities at the Centre. It remained for the Centre to prepare a simpler manual and to consider transferability to the System 4 and for all users to obtain working experience of SPSS. Requests for extra facilities should be referred to Mr Muxworthy.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee decided to coopt as a member Dr D.B. Taylor of the Regional Centre.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday the 11th of June 1970 at, 3.30 p.m. It will pay special attention to problems of the engineering science departments and Messrs. I.F. Christie, G.T.S. Done, D.M. Glass and J. Murray are invited to attend.

(signed P. Vandome)