

Minutes of the meeting of the  
Program Library Sub-Committee  
held on Friday, 12th February,  
1971 at 4.00 p.m. in the  
Mathematics Institute,  
Chambers Street.

PRESENT

Dr. J. Fulton (Convenor)  
Professor A. Balfour  
Mrs M.M. Barritt  
Dr A.P.M. Coxon  
Dr D.R. Gifford  
Mr R.L. Hodgart  
Dr D.B. Taylor  
Mr D.T. Muxworthy (Secretary)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr P.D.A. Schofield

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 21st December, 1970 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mrs Barritt distributed copies of "Software Packages and their Documentation", 22nd January, 1971 (Internal Software Note 19) and blank copies of program library document types A, B, and X (i.e. Software Accession Sheet, Library Item Description, Software Release Profile). Since the previous meeting the terms "user sponsored library" and "centrally sponsored library" had been introduced. The latter would be maintained by a partnership of four universities and there would not necessarily be any attempt to agree on 'best' programs. The Committee asked that jargon be avoided as far as possible in Centre documentation. This sub-committee would be concerned with the Edinburgh environment only.

Dr Taylor distributed copies of "Software Library Guide 1, February, 1971", section 5 of which was missing and was to be available before the next meeting. It had been found impracticable to produce library item descriptions in the form indicated at the previous meeting and they would now be printed by a computer. The Committee urged that a printer lower case characters be used. The Committee also thought that there should be a document which catalogued all programs together, topic by topic, and that the library item descriptions should generally be available in loose leaf form rather than forming a single catalogue. The Committee welcomed the guide and the general approach to program documentation and asked that detailed comments on the guide be sent to Dr Taylor.

Mrs Barritt agreed to prepare for discussion at the next meeting a short notice for the University Bulletin publicizing the activities of the sub-committee.

Dr Coxon reported on the course organized within the Social Science Faculty on the use of the SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) program. About 40-50 people, including staff, from six departments had attended the four evening sessions and the course was a success.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, 12th March, 1971 at 4.00 p.m. in the Mathematics Institute.