EDINBURGH REGIONAL COMPUTING CENTRE

PRESENT:
Professor P. Vandome (in the Chair)
Mr. D.N. Allum
Mr. R.E. Day
Dr. J. Fulton
Dr. F.R. Himsworth
Mr. D. Kershaw
Mr. D.T. Muxworthy

1. MEMBERSHIP
Mr Allum was welcomed to membership of the Sub-Committee.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
There was no comment on the minutes of the previous meeting.

3, PROGRAMS FROM OUTSIDE EDINBURGH
It was felt that ideally the E.R.C.C. Library should hold information on all programs
generally available at other computing installations, particularly university ones. The
Centre should begin work to make an outside program available only when a specific
request had been made; in general it would be adapted for whatever computer available
to Edinburgh users involved least effort in conversion. The Centre library should
undertake to contact other organizations to seek out special programs and should keep
records of all such contacts, program requests etc.

Outside programs are regarded with suspicion and should always be validated by the
Centre or by an appropriate University department.

4. E.R.C.C. INFORMATION SERVICES ON LIBRARY PROGRAMS
Mr. Day presented a document giving details of the First Aid, Programming Diagnostic
and Program Information Services offered by the Centre. It was felt that the Centre
should give advice on programs and on techniques so far as it was able; the Centre
should act as a filter to the service side of the university departments. It was asked
whether the Centre would advise which was the best of 'equal' programs and much of the
discussion was on who should compare such programs. Dr. Fulton thought it a suitable
job for post graduate students as part of their course or during vacation. Mr Kershaw
disagreed. Mr. Kershaw offered to compare mathematical programs on an informal basis,
when pressure of work permitted, but emphasised that he would not undertake to write
programs.

5 ENCOURAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF NEW PROGRAM WRITING IN EDINBURGH
It was felt that the Sub-Committee should attempt to anticipate demand for programs. It
was decided that the Centre should prepare a document setting out the omissions and
duplications in the present program library for consideration, together with paper B
from the meeting of 12.12.67, at the next meeting. The Sub-Committee would then be in a
better position to discuss this topic.

6 PROGRAM ABSTRACTS
It decided that program abstracts should not be distributed until the corresponding
program specifications had been written and until a document describing the whole
system had appeared. Abstracts would be colour coded according to the program phase.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
No date was fixed for the next meeting. It was suggested that a period of at least 3
hours be allocated for it.