MINUTES of meeting of the Program Library
Sub-committee held on Monday 10th February
1969 at 3.30 pm in the William Robertson
Building.

PRESENT
Prof. D.J. Finney (in the chair)
Prof. P. Vandome
Mr. D.N. Allum
Mr. R.E. Day
Dr. J. Fulton
Mr. D. Kershaw
Mr. D.T. Muxworthy

1. APOLOGIES
Dr. Himsworth sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
Mr. Kershaw pointed out the comment on program 155 in the appendix to the minutes
referred to the presence of the routine in a library and not to the use of this
technique within a program.

Matters arising from the minutes:

1. Professor Vandome asked whether any action had been taken on the suggestion that
ERCC should keep departmental libraries informed about computer manuals etc. It was
pointed out that an Atlas Autocode bibliography (Documentation 68/12) was circulated in
December. In general the Centre would prefer users with problems to make personal
contact and it was decided that no further action should be tken on this matter.

3. DEMAND FOR LIBRARY PROGRAMS
The librarian reported that the programs most frequently requested were: 1. sort/merge,
2. conversion of input media, 3. general statistical programs (BMD,SSP,nor,simplex), 4.
polynomial operations. Half the people who requested programs were not aware of the
program catalogue. The program to manipulate the catalogue was now available so that
there was scope for wider publicity.

The Centre should arrange to gather information on all program requests, whether or not
they could be met.

Mr. Day said that there were misgivings about some of the 360 SSP routines and the
Centre intended to rewrite some of them. The committee felt that rewriting should be
undertaken only after checking with other British and American 360 Universities. The
committee were reminded that a differential equation package is being written in
Computer Science.

It is proposed to hold a meeting of survey program users to assess their requirements;
the committee shall discuss this area after this general meeting. The Centre shall keep
in touch with the survey program working party at London University.

4. ICI PROCEDURE LIBRARY
The committee agreed to ask Dr. Thomas to inform ICI that, at this Centre, they did not
think the purchase of the ICI procedure library at a price in the region of £30,000 to
be in the Centre's interests, but that if the library could be broken down into smaller
packages the Centre may be interested in negotiating for about a quarter or a third of
it. Dr. Thomas was to be further asked to oommunicate this decision to the Computer
Board, either directly or via Professor Finney.

5. EFFECT OF 360/50 ON PROGRAM LIBRARY
It was decided to postpone discussion on this item until Mr. P.E. Williams could
attend. IBM 360 packages and the implications of joining SHARE would be considered at
the next meeting.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, April 17th 1969 at 3.30 pm.