

Minutes of meeting of the  
Program Library Sub-Committee  
held on Friday 16th January  
1970 at 3.30 pm in the  
William Robertson Building.

PRESENT

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

Dr A.P.M. Coxon (for item 3 only)  
Mr W. Lutz (for item 3 only)  
Dr B. Woolf (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 December 16th 1969, were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was reported that new abstracts had been prepared for all IMP routines. Routine 75 has been corrected and issued; routine 279 has not yet been traced.

Messrs Rieger and Weinmann are not yet free to make a comparative study of differential equation library programs but they will proceed with this work when time becomes available.

Information on Statistics Department programs in the ERCC library has been updated; the majority of programs have been abandoned and the remainder converted to IMP.

A notice inviting users to indicate gaps in the library was read. It is to appear in the University Bulletin of February 3, 1970 and the committee agreed that it should also be printed in the next edition of the Centre's Newsletter.

It was decided to invite Drs. R.F. Cheeney, R.O. Gould, and G.M. Thomas to the next meeting as representatives of the physical science departments.

Discussion on the current Fortran library was held over to a future meeting.

3. FORMATION OF SURVEY ANALYSIS WORKING PARTY

It was agreed that the brief of any survey analysis working party that was formed would be to define the facilities which were needed here in Edinburgh and would not include evaluation of existing packages or specifying methods of implementation. The invited participants then joined the meeting and each made a short statement of their interest in and experience of survey analysis. Mr Lutz had used the MVC and DJR programs as well, as his own software, now on the 360. He thought that a general program should be easy to use and need not have particularly sophisticated facilities. Dr Coxon had found the BMD approach useful and had also used other large American packages. The SPSS program from Stanford, to which facilities could easily be added (or deleted) represented almost exactly what a social scientist needed. Messrs Coxon and Lutz both agreed with the aims of the proposed working party and agreed to serve on it. Dr Woolf felt that it was wrong to have a general program and that instead there should be a set of library routines which a user could combine into a program. The way to decide which routines were needed was to program about six surveys and note the requirements.

These points were finally agreed:

1. That Messrs Coxon and Lutz would each write a list of required facilities, possibly in consultation with colleagues with or without programming experience that they would meet in about, four weeks' time with a view to combining these lists and they would report back to this committee after two months.
2. That Dr Woolf would in the same period provide a number of basic routines and would work in close consultation with an ERCC programmer to be nominated by Mr Day.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th February 1970 at 3.30 pm.

(Signed D.J.Finney, 25 February 1970)