Terminal Talk   Information Technology

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Terminal Talk - The Wofford Connection - March 1969

Wofford College Computer Center

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- THE WOFFORD CONNECTION -

Wofford College Computer Center   Spartanburg, South Carolina

Notice

Effective 28 Feb., Call-A-Computer service will be supplied from the Atlanta center. The terminal user now calls a local 'phone number (585-9306) to connect to an FD line through a multiplexer. This arrangement allows a single voice-grade line to be simultaneously used by many customers. The arrangement is cheaper for C-A-C and will eliminate the problem of busy signals. As the work load of the Raleigh center increased, users here were more frequently forced to wait for an idle telephone line. The new arrangement provides guaranteed access to the system. Please notify Dr. Olds of any difficulties you encounter.

New Language

LISP is now available on the terminal. This is a list processing type of language. Call-A-Computer has not yet "finalized" a manual on this part of their service. Recommended sources are:

LISP 1.5 Primer, by Clark Weissman
    (Dickenson Publishing Co., Inc.) Belmont, Cal.

LISP 1.5 Programmer's Manual
    The M.I.T. Press
    Massachusetts Institute of Technology
    Cambridge, Massachusetts

These manuals are not available on campus, although the Computer Center does have some material on the language. It is definitely inadequate, but the interested user is invited to experiment.

Shared Library

Wofford, Maryville, and Loyola (Baltimore) are the three colleges in the SREB group which are using Call-A-Computer service. These three schools are now using the Atlanta center and C-A-C has arranged for them to share programs of interest through the disk file. Certain programs can be made available to the group even when stored in the user library of only one member. Wofford users may wish to submit programs for this common library. See Dr. Olds for further information.

New TTY

In the evening of 27 March, "Old No. 1" gave up the ghost and we retired our first teletype unit. It had logged 1216 hours and was beyond easy repair. Southern Bell quickly installed a new unit (showing only 6 hours on the clock) since service was required quickly in connection with the Science Fair.

Science Fair Use

Wofford College again hosted the Piedmont Science Fair under the direction of Dr. Loftin. The computer terminal was used this year to arrange and print lists of exhibitors, analyze judging results and prepare lists of winners. Since the terminal broke down during the process, there is still considerable question about the benefits achieved by the new system.

Chemistry Quiz

Many of the 25 students in Dr. Moore's Chemistry 24 class had their first introduction to the terminal this month in the form of a chemistry quiz and review session which Dr. Moore had written so that the questions and hints were revealed sequentially under computer control. Students received immediate grades, printed at the bottom of each test paper. This form of testing created considerable student interest and some students could hardly wait until Dr. Moore finished debugging the program.