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Terminal Talk - The Wofford Connection - November 1968

Wofford College Computer Center

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TERMINAL

LINK

November 1968

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- THE WOFFORD CONNECTION -

Wofford College Computer Center

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Computer Experiment Meets Again

On November 1 and 2 Dr. Olds again met with the SREB group in Atlanta and reported on the status of the Wofford College Computer Center. One topic of discussion was the development of a library of programs and computer problems for various levels and fields of academic endeavor. The intent is to make it easier for faculty members to introduce computer work into their courses. Wofford students and faculty are urged to share in this development.

This group will continue to meet at approximately quarterly intervals for further discussion of the program and problems of our grant. If you have any ideas on how the group might help make more effective use of computers at Wofford, please let Dr. Olds know.

Type of Terminal Use

Most users have, thus far, been from the departments of biology, chemistry, government, mathematics, physics, and psychology. Some examples of what is being done are:

1. simulation of subject behaviour--stimulus sampling theory model.
2. study of ecological systems by simulation.
3. simulation of International relations (in preparation).
4. numerical integration of differential equations in physics problems.
5. analysis of grade point ratio vs. student response to individual test items.
6. analysis of data from a faculty research project on S. C. shrubs.
7. experimentation with computer assisted instruction material.
8. evaluation, by students, of their laboratory data.
9. flight navigation calculations, needed by private pilots.
10. and (of course) programming practice.

Documentation

Roughly defined as the records one must keep about a program to identify it and provide a reference source about its use and methods, documentation is frequently the most neglected part of programming. Nevertheless, documentation is a necessary means of transmitting information about a program to future users (even if this future user is oneself). A suggested outline for documentation is printed in this issue.

The Center encourages the development of programs that may have more than a one-shot application and a file of such programs is maintained. To enter programs in this "library", just submit the required documentation and a tape copy to David Moore for filing.

Some programs from other sources are included in this file although many of these are not adequately documented. The file even contains several good programs prepared by high school students.

WOFFORD COLLEGE

COMPUTER CENTER

SUGGESTED PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION

1. Program Identification
 - a. Program name
 - b. Program language
 - c. Author
 - d. Date of last revision
2. Program Description
 - a. Tell, in non-technical terms, what the program does
 - b. What input is required
 - c. What output is given
3. How to Use
 - a. How to call--or obtain tape copy
 - b. What files are required, if any
 - c. Specific data format and when to enter it
 - d. Any peripheral equipment needed (such as plotter)
4. Method of Solution
 - a. State in condensed form the approach taken to solution of problem. This may be by simply naming a standard mathematical technique or may require considerable description of the method and decision logic.
5. Flow Chart
 - a. In determining complexity, consider that the user may only barely understand programming. He can be overwhelmed by detail or lost when required to assume too much.
 - b. Key diagram to variables and line numbers in program.
6. Explanation of Symbols
 - a. May range up to a complete index of variables in the program
7. Sample Run
 - a. Calling procedure
 - b. Setting up data or files
 - c. Include all output
8. Listing
 - a. Supply a copy of program in final form
 - b. Comments added directly on the listing can be very helpful