

ASIDIC newsletter

No. 33, SPRING 1979

ASSOCIATION OF INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION CENTERS

IMPACT OF MINI AND MICRO COMPUTERS TOPIC OF OTTAWA SESSIONS: FIRST ASIDIC MEETING OUTSIDE U.S. HAS GOOD ATTENDANCE

More than ninety participants took part in the spring 1979 ASIDIC Meeting held at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa, June 3-5. The theme of the meeting was "The Impact of Mini and Micro Computers." Twelve session speakers and a luncheon address made up the official program. The ASIDIC business meeting and two social mixers for all attendees completed the meeting.

The five organizations that acted as hosts for the meeting were the National Library of Canada, Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI), Geological Survey of Canada, Agriculture Canada, and CANMET (Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology).

The local arrangements committee that performed so well in setting up and carrying out the meeting was made up of Jean-Yves Fortin, Helen Rogers, David Reade, Jim Brownridge, and Cyril Dixon. Jeanette Webb, of the ASIDIC Secretariat office at the University of Georgia, coordinated registration and financial details of the meeting with Daniel U. Wilde, ASIDIC Secretary/Treasurer.

The theme of the Monday morning session was "Minis and Micros in Perspective." Ron Wigington, of Chemical Abstracts Service, spoke on the "Trends and Impacts" of mini and micro computers. Brian Greenleaf, of Systemhouse, Ltd., talked about "An Alternative to Large Systems." The Monday luncheon speaker was John Chandiox, of Computational Linguistics Company. Mr. Chandiox' topic was "Automatic Translation with Microcomputers."

The first afternoon session on Monday covered Input and Processing on Minis. T. Allan Taylor, of Engineering Index, spoke on "Options and Decisions" regarding mini and micro computer-based systems. John Auliano and Bruce M. Foreman, of the American Institute of Physics, gave a case study of AIP experience with mini and micro systems entitled "Doing Your Own Thing."

Completing Monday afternoon's program was the session on "Retrieval Systems Using Minis." Ann Edwards and Kate Wild, of the International

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Development Research Centre, explained their new system, "MINISIS, A Minicomputer Based Bibliographic System." Viktor Hempel, of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California, talked about "An Integrated Information System" developed on minicomputers at Lawrence Livermore Labs for the U.S. Department of Energy. Alice Sizer Warner, of Warner-Eddison Associates, Inc., talked about the development and applications of the new W-E system, INMAGIC. Completing the Monday talks was Gratien Rousseau, of Informatech France-Quebec, with his presentation, "SABINE, a Mini-computer On-Line Retrieval System."

"New Applications of Mini and Micro Computers" was the theme of the Tuesday morning session. Pat Llewellyn, of IITRI in Chicago, Illinois, spoke on "Capturing Analog Data," a project that IITRI is carrying out using minicomputers and videodisc storage. Janet Conner, of EXXON's library in New York, spoke on "Minis in Networks," explaining EXXON's library information networking system using minis and large mainframe systems. Robert Rouleau, of Gestion Cadence, Inc., talked about "Packet Radio Networks" and their applicability to database

searching activities using satellite communications on a widely available and inexpensive basis. William C. Brown, recently retired from the National Research Council of Canada, closed the meeting with a detailed presentation and videotape demonstration of "Computer-Aided Learning Technology and its Application in Indexing and Retrieval Ssystems."

The meeting was closed with brief remarks by ASIDIC President J. Ron Smith at noon on Tuesday.

OTTAWA MEETING SPEAKERS REPORTED IN THIS AND NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER

Because of the extensive number of speakers during the June 3-5 ASIDIC Meeting held in Ottawa, the reports of the thirteen presentations will be divided between this and the next issue of the ASIDIC Newsletter. The next issue is scheduled for mailing the third week in August.

WIGINGTON TRACES HISTORY, PROJECTS TRENDS IN MINI/MICRO DEVELOPMENTS

"The guppies are beginning to act like gorillas," might have been the theme of the ASIDIC meeting on The Impact of Mini and Micro Computers according to the lead off speaker, Ron Wigington, of Chemical Abstracts Service.

The challenge for ASIDIC member organizations when looking at the developments in the field of mini and micro computers is to figure out what this technological revolution means and how to apply the resulting technology to our businesses. Wigington traced the development of LSI (large scale integration) circuit chips and led into the emerging VLSI (very large scale integration) technology which has gone beyond the use of visible light to form the necessary components. Memory circuits now cost about \$15,000 per megabyte, with densities four and sixteen times greater being experimented with and predicted for the market within very few years. "...a million bits per chip could produce about 100,000 logic gates on a chip," said Wigington.

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He emphasized that what constitutes micro, mini and maxi computer systems is not computing capacity but cost and physical size. "Most of the cost is in interconnections, power supply, peripherals, marketing, development amortization, and profit."

"As greater and greater complexity is put on a single chip, many things get better - speed, reliability, and cost per function. However, the devices are approaching physical limits - perhaps by the late 80's - and there is yet another limiting factor. The amount of design effort to specify and prepare for construction of a 100,000 gate chip is about 50 man years!"

Programming for mini and microcomputers can become very expensive in a hurry, according to Wigington. He says that programming for these systems should be carried out in higher level languages for reasons of economy. This holds true for direct programming or down-line-loading of programs from a larger system.

Chemical Abstracts uses 14 minicomputers and 83 microcomputers at the present time, with more slated for installation later in 1979. One of the oldest applications of minicomputers at CAS is for data entry. More and more of the editing functions are being carried out on the mini systems, making them true multifunction interactive systems, according to Wigington.

Photocomposition at CAS is controlled by a mini that receives directions for operations from their large 370 system. The mini handles graphics composition and font queuing. A minicomputer controlled nonimpact printer will soon be upgraded to a newer class of laser/xerographic "intelligent copiers" which have minicomputers as central components.

A minicomputer with microprocessor graphics consoles works as an intermediary system to advanced processes running on the 370/168.

Word processing systems at CAS not only

support all the administrative activities, but also provide a test bed for understanding and gaining experience with the electronic office environments into which ASIDIC member services will be sending information in the future.

A special purpose substructure search machine is being designed and built at CAS. "We are creating search processes that are impractical on the architecture of conventional search systems and which will employ several minicomputers in parallel to achieve high volume access to chemical structure files," according to Wigington.

System performance measurements are performed on CAS computers by another mini system. Yet another computer controls the heating and air conditioning systems in the CAS building and a mini optimizes the long distance phone system. Design staff support is being planned via the "Programmer's Work Bench" developed at Bell Laboratories.

Research on search aids provided by the intelligent terminal of the future at the information user location is starting at CAS. "These search aids will be aimed at enhancing the ability to use information we distribute, independent of whatever search vendor may be serving the consumer," said Wigington.

The future implications of the availability of this cheap, powerful computing power are contingent upon keeping software development and operations costs in line with the inexpensive computing hardware that is coming.

Many questions lie ahead, according to Wigington. Does distributing databases, at least in part, to the customer site for access by microcomputers make sense? How would updates be managed? Can intelligent terminal support to users enable them to make significantly better use of search services available via networks? What impact on systems and telecommunication loads will the increase in information data transmission rates, from the common 300 baud to the projected 9600 baud rate, make and what are the implications for database developers? How can use conditions and pricing principles be made compatible with the future trend toward retaining search results in customer mini and micro computers?

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What will be the impact of low cost advanced graphics terminals on the information service systems currently in use? Overall, will the new technology and its new economics cause a significant shift in the architecture of the service delivery system, now based on centralized files and search systems with character only dumb terminals?

Wigington closed by saying that, "... the possibilities are fascinating and exciting and we will be limited only by our imagination and initiative."

GREENLEAF ADVISES THAT MINIS, AND MICROS DO SOME, NOT ALL THINGS

Management must have the proper objective function, the right priorities and be willing to develop the best composite system available to get the best results from mini or micro computing systems, according to Brian Greenleaf, of System-House Ltd.

Speaking to the ASIDIC meeting attendees in Ottawa, Greenleaf clarified the state of development of mini and microcomputing systems and what they can and cannot accomplish. "Minis and micros seem to be missing a little bit of everything compared to large mainframe computing systems," said Greenleaf.

He pointed out that there are architectural differences that become important as systems are developed. Functional differences are also key points. One big difference between micros and larger mini and mainframe systems is in the vastly less complete data management systems on micros. A last difference pointed out by Mr. Greenleaf is the lack of transaction processing capability on the smaller computers.

Micro systems are just getting away from 8 bit processors and adopting 16 bit cpus. The LSI 11/23 and the new Motorola 68000 microprocessors will have 16 bit capability. Current mini systems are using 16 bit processors and can manage new 300 megabyte disks. The HP 3000, the larger PDP 11's,

and the Nova 4 systems are in this category. The most advanced systems are moving to the 32 bit DBMS packages and are just making their first appearance on the market with full virtual operating systems.

File structures for micros are still largely sequential. Minis, on the other hand, are adopting total DBMS features, multi-key ISAM, inverted files, and transaction processors, such as TAPS, that runs on mainframes, minis and now on Intel and DEC micros.

Mini computer systems offer a dedicated processing environment with a high processing/task effectiveness rating since they are usually closer to the user organizationally and operationally. Minis cannot replace large computers for all tasks. "You cannot replace large applications with small, inexpensive solutions," said Greenleaf in a warning note to those who would seek smaller, cheaper ways of doing large scale, complicated tasks.

MOTIVATION FOR MACHINE TRANSLATION HIGH IN BILINGUAL CANADA: MICROS PROVING WORTH IN VOLUME, QUALITY

John Chandiooux, of Computational Linguistics Company, spoke to the ASIDIC luncheon on Monday, June 4, about the work his firm is doing for the Canadian government in the complex area of automatic translation of English to French and vice versa.

Mr. Chandiooux revealed the laws of Canada that require bilingual documents in most operations are a high motivational factor to refine and make reliable computerized translation techniques. The micro based system employed by Computational Linguistics is able to translate about 10,000 words a day where human translators achieve about 1,000 words per day in the technical fields.

As the system reliability and experience become positive, the role that micro based translation systems may play in business and government communications will be impressive. The role in scientific and technical publishing and communication of literature may well become a major breakthrough in the manner and speeds at which information is made available to researchers in language foreign to the original work's authors.

INMAGIC DEVELOPED FOR IN-HOUSE USES SERVES LIBRARY, INFORMATION TASKS FOR WARNER-EDDISON CUSTOMERS TOO

"Information Magic", was the reaction of the Warner-Eddison staff to their in-house mini based information organizing and publishing system used to generate library card catalogs and bibliographies for W-E clients. It has become a commercially available general purpose information system called INMAGIC.

In speaking to the ASIDIC attendees in Ottawa, Elizabeth Warner, co-founder and president of Warner-Eddison of Cambridge, Mass., described how a tool that started modestly as an internal system had proven itself simple and reliable enough to become a commercially available system. "INMAGIC was designed for PDP-11 minis with the RT-11 operating system," Warner related.

"The program is written in FORTRAN IV and may be ported to other computers." She said that since the system was released to the public in April, many inquiries about placing INMAGIC on IBM mainframes have been received. "This has taken us by surprise," she has pleased the W-E management according to Warner.

INMAGIC lets the user define the fields for the information being placed into the system. There is no length to any of the defined fields in INMAGIC. Also, there is no limit on the number of subfields that can be defined. Using sort options far wider than the normal ASCII, information in any field or fields can be ordered in many different ways, with the option of bypassing leading articles or other defined words or character strings.

Warner reports that INMAGIC is inexpensive (about \$5,500) and runs on small computers. The W-E PDP-11 also handles word processing and other administrative chores to support the everyday functioning of Warner-Eddison.

INMAGIC was developed as part of the W-E philosophy that, "Unless you meet

people where they are, with their meaning, it will do no good - it won't work," according to Warner. INMAGIC is meant to be a research tool, answering questions, as well as acting as an information manager.

INTEGRATED INFORMATION SYSTEM AT LAWRENCE LIVERMORE SERVES DOE USERS WITH PDP-11/70 SYSTEM

Viktor E. Hampel, of the Data Management Group at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, described the mini based Integrated Information System (IIS) that supports databases for an Energy Storage Systems project for the Department of Energy.

Currently, the system utilizes a PDP-11/70 with appropriate tapes and disks and twenty-six terminals. The operating system is UNIX (from Bell Labs) and INGRES, a table based relationship or relational search systems is used. The purpose of the system is to support the DOE/STOR energy storage research and development efforts.

The files that make up the databases in the system are input indirectly or through type-setting tapes that have been formatted to set the data for the system. What becomes available to the users or the system are files on up-to-date, physical properties of materials, evaluated and organized by specialists in the field. These contain information on electric batteries, advanced flywheel designs, and hydrogen based systems, among others. The system organizes the data on the PDP-11/70 in Standard International Units of Measurement.

Remote access to the system is gained through ARPANET by dial-up terminals. Access to the files is by administrators and engineers who are not experts in computer operations. It forms a Technical Management Information System that is being developed to include, in addition, technology characterization data, system design efficiencies and costs, and appropriate models for uniform comparative evaluation and analysis.

TONI BEARMAN LEAVING NFAIS FOR INSPEC PLANNING ROLE - NEW NFAIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH HEADED BY LOIS GRANICK

Toni Carbo Bearman, for the last five years the Executive Director of the National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services (NFAIS), and a member of the ASIDIC Executive Committee, is leaving her post and will take up a planning a product development position with INSPEC in London, England in the early fall of this year.

In her new job, Toni will work closely with Derek Barlow, Director of INSPEC, in the Savoy Place offices of INSPEC and the Institution of Electrical Engineers. Her duties will include strategic and long range planning for INSPEC and a broad range of responsibilities for new product development.

"I have mixed emotions about leaving NFAIS," said Bearman, "but I know this is right for me and for my family." She went on to say that her duties with INSPEC will bring her back to the U.S. frequently and that she most likely will attend the major information meetings here on a regular basis.

Lois Granick, Director of PsycINFO (Psychological Abstracts), NFAIS President-Elect, and head of the search committee seeking a replacement for Toni, reports that, "many outstanding and highly qualified candidates have applied for consideration for this important position." Granick says that a new Executive Director should be named by late June.

(editor's note: following the deadline for this story, Lynn Neufeld, formerly with Calculon - Auerbach Publishers, was named as the new NFAIS Executive Director. A story about Ms. Neufeld will be carried in the next issue of the newsletter.)

The views, reports, and opinions published in this or in any issue of the ASIDIC Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the ASIDIC Executive Committee or the full membership of ASIDIC.

FOUR CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS JOIN ASIDIC AS FULL MEMBERS: QL SYSTEMS, SPORT INFORMATION, U. OF WATERLOO, MICROMEDIA LTD. ARE NEW MEMBERS

The four new member organizations of ASIDIC announced by Secretary/Treasurer Dan Wilde during the business meeting in Ottawa are all from Canada. Wilde commented that there was no plan to having the Canadians join during the only ASIDIC meeting held in Canada to date. The organizations are: QL Systems Limited, of Kingston, Ontario, Sport Information Resource Centre, of Ottawa, the University of Waterloo, and Micromedia Limited, of Toronto.

The QL Systems representative is Hugh Lawford, the firm's president. QL Systems offers online search services on Canada Water and Revised Statutes of Canada through its own QL system. The search software is licensed to other organizations for mounting search services as well, with one notable example being the West Quick Law online service in the U.S.

Gilles Chiasson is the representative from Sport Information Resource Centre in Ottawa. Sport and Recreation Index is the main product of this new member firm. Growing at a rate of 12,000 items a year, the database is being mounted by the SDC Search Service for commercial access.

The University of Waterloo processes databases in information and search center. No official representative was named by the University at the time of membership application.

Bob Gibson, well known in Canadian information circles, heads Micromedia Ltd. based in Toronto. Micromedia Ltd. produces two databases at present. The Canadian Newspaper Index and the Canadian Business Periodicals Index are online and Micromedia is the new Lockheed representative in Canada.

OCTOBER '78 MEETING ON STANDARDS PRODUCES THREE ASIDIC RESOLUTIONS

At the end of the technical sessions during the October, 1978 ASIDIC Meeting held in Chicago, the following three resolutions were passed by ASIDIC:

1. Resolved, that ASIDIC formally adopts the RIS (Recommended Interchange Specifications) report on the understanding that modifications will be made to take into account appropriate recommendations put forth at this meeting or to be submitted within ten days.

2. Resolved, that ASIDIC urge UNIBID to proceed with the publication of a revised Reference Manual, at the earliest possible date. ASIDIC further urges UNIBID to incorporate the RIS into the revised manual.

3. Resolved, that ASIDIC encourages UNIBID to examine the feasibility of producing an Implementation Manual that will assist users in their application of the Revised Reference Manual.

The entire meeting was devoted to examining standards for bibliographic databases and their impact on producers and users of databases. Besides formal technical presentations, much of the time was devoted to panel and open discussions. Many attendees felt that the meeting provided a real open forum for discussion and welcomed the opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss issues before the entire ASIDIC membership. In the future, more of these open meetings will be planned as suitable topics are selected as meeting themes.

PARK RECEIVES THANKS, WALL PLAQUE FROM ASIDIC EXEC COMMITTEE, MEMBERS

During the ASIDIC meeting held in Chicago last October, the ASIDIC Executive Committee, on behalf of the entire membership of the organization, presented Margaret Park, ASIDIC Standards Committee chairman from the University of Georgia Office of Computing Activities, an inscribed wall plaque.

The inscription on the plaque reads, "To Margaret Park, In Recognition of Her Leadership and Contribution to the Field of Bibliographic Databases." The plaque reflects the appreciation of all the members of ASIDIC whom Margaret has represented and carried out untiring communications with regarding standards and conventions in the field of bibliographic databases.

"The whole thing surprised and pleased me," said Park. "I have the plaque on my office wall here in Athens (Georgia)." She went on to say that the entire meeting on standards, especially the format for the meeting that gave so many ASIDIC members and attendees the opportunity to participate in the discussions, was very successful. "I hope we take that format whenever such applicable topics are brought up," she said.

ASIDIC STANDARDS BALLOTS CAST, REAFFIRMED - NO Z39 BALLOTS OR DRAFT STANDARDS OUTSTANDING

Margaret Park filed the report of the ASIDIC Standards Committee at the recent ASIDIC Meeting in Ottawa. Three ANSC Z39 Ballots were cast by ASIDIC since the last meeting.

ASIDIC abstained on voting on Book Spine Formats (Z39.41-197) on the basis that it was outside the scope of the organization.

ASIDIC cast a negative vote on Book Numbering (Z39.21-1973). This ballot was for reaffirmation of the existing Z39 standard for ISBN but incorporating two changes (a change in the title of the standard and the addition of a provision for printing the ISBN in OCR-A font on the title page). ASIDIC cast a negative ballot because of the two changes. The statement that accompanied the ballot reaffirmed ASIDIC's positive position with respect to ISBN per se, but described in detail the disagreements with the revisions to the standard. This ballot was cast on March 20, 1979.

To date, no communication from the Z39 office or any subcommittee regarding the negative ballot has been received.

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ASIDIC cast a YES vote on the rebal-
loting of the standard for Serial Holdings
Statements at the Summary Level (BSR
Z39.42) on May 24, 1979. There was one
change which resulted from resolution of a
negative note on the original ballot.
(ASIDIC's vote on the original ballot was
also YES.)

ASIDIC submitted editorial comments on
the draft bylaws for Z39 in December, 1978.
On April 12, 1979, ASIDIC cast a YES vote
on the subsequent ballot.

FIRST EVER ASIDIC/NFAIS JOINT SESSIONS SET FOR SPRING 1980 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Spring 1980 ASIDIC meeting has been
set for March 4-6 in Washington. The
meeting will overlap with the annual meet-
ing of NFAIS, taking place March 3-5. Both
meetings will be held at the Sheraton
National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.
The location is close to the District and
very close to National Airport and subway
lines.

Joint sessions, organized by the leaders
and program committees of the two organi-
zations, are being scheduled. These will
be the first cooperative and overlapping
sessions of this type between the two
groups.

FALL '80, SPRING '81 MEETINGS SET FOR ATLANTA, NEW ORLEANS: THEMES TO BE DETERMINED IN THE FUTURE

The meeting sites and dates for the
ASIDIC meetings in the fall of 1980 and
the spring of 1981 have been approved by
the Executive Committee and the membership
of ASIDIC.

The Marriott Hotel in downtown Atlanta,
Georgia will be the site of the fall 1980
meeting September 21-23. The next spring
ASIDIC will convene in New Orleans at the
Monteleone Hotel March 29-31. Themes for
the two meetings will be announced in the

future at ASIDIC meetings and through this
newsletter.

BOSTON MEETING SET FOR NONBIBLIOGRAPHIC SPEAKERS, STEAMED LOBSTERS, BAKED BEANS: REGISTRATIONS DUE AUG. 15

The Fall 1979 ASIDIC Meeting will take
place at the Parker House Hotel in Boston,
September 15-18. The host organization for
the meeting will be the New England Research
Applications Center (NERAC) in Storrs, Conn-
ecticut. Dan Wilde, ASIDIC Secretary/Treasurer,
heads NERAC.

According to Jean Carter of the NERAC
staff, it is important for registrants to
get hotel and conference registration forms
returned by Aug. 15 to save late fees. The
meeting registration fee is \$60. Special
rates at the Parker House are in effect for
meeting registrants. Singlerooms are \$46
per night. Double rooms are \$54 per night.
For anyone wishing to make a hotel reser-
vation directly with the Parker House, the
phone number is (617)227-8600. Mail reser-
vations will be accepted at: The Parker
House, Tremont & School St., Boston, MA
02102.

Please note or tell the hotel that
reservations are being made for the ASIDIC
meeting. This will ensure that the special
room rate is extended to both the regis-
trant and to ASIDIC for credit toward the
meeting rooms.

Nonbibliographic Databases Meeting Theme

Following regular committee meetings,
sessions of the ASIDIC Executive Committee,
and social mixers on Saturday and Sunday,
September 15 and 16, the general meeting
program will take place on Monday and
Tuesday.

The regular ASIDIC business meeting will
be held on Monday morning from 8:30 to
10:00. Besides routine business and commit-
tee reports, nominations for ASIDIC officers
for 1979-1980 will be made. The election
will then be conducted by secret ballot
later that day.

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The Monday morning general session will be devoted to an Overview of Nonbibliographic Databases. Speakers during the morning will include Judith Wanger, of Cuadra Associates, who will present a "Comparison of Bibliographic and Non-bibliographic Databases."

Sarah T. Kadec, from the Executive Office of the President, will make a presentation on "Nonbibliographic Databases in the White House." She will be followed by Donald T. Hawkins, of Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, speaking on "Using Databases in an Information Center."

A staff member from A.C. Nielsen Company will talk about quality control and organizational problems of non-bibliographic databases. Carol Herrick, of General Electric Information Company in Rockville, Maryland, will discuss, "Online with G.E."

Rich Decico, of Technology Catalysts Inc. of Arlington, Virginia, will treat the topic, "Matching Technologies."

Concluding the morning session will be Edwin Richards, of the Naval Fleet Analysis Center in Corona, California. He will talk on, "Government/Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP)."

Following the ASIDIC luncheon, included in the registration fee, the entire afternoon session will be conducted by John Beresford, of Dualab in Arlington, Virginia. The theme of the presentation will be Social Sciences Databases. Mr. Beresford and his staff will cover six topics during the afternoon. These are: 1) Identification problems of numeric databases, including physical and transaction problems. 2) An overview of principal public policy research and data file resources. 3) Problems in the use of statistical or numeric data files, including the reference problem, the documentation problem, and the large scale data file tabulation problem. 4) Illustrations of a solution to the tabulation problem. 5) World-wide similarities in numerical and statistical data file use. 6) U.S. policy pertaining to numerical machine-

readable data files.

Lobster Bake Set For Famous Sea Aquarium

In a rare Monday evening planned activity, all registrants for the ASIDIC meeting will be treated to an authentic New England Lobster and Clam Bake at the unique New England Sea Aquarium on the Central Warf of the Boston Harbor.

According to Jean Carter, of the NERAC staff, the evening will feature the best in freshly steamed lobster and clams as the heart of a dinner that will be specially catered at the site. Other foods will be available along with an assortment of salads and both soft and other types of drinks from the bar.

"We are sure that this will be a special experience for all the attendees. We have secured a very fine caterer, planned a great menu, and we will have a site unlike any other. People will be able to see a dolphin show near where we will eat and a huge three story sea tank with sharks and a myriad of other living seas delights will be right next to the gathering place."

Persons with special diet requirements should contact Jean Carter at NERAC (203/486-4533) as soon as possible.

Tuesday Sessions on Scientific and Technical Databases

Tuesday morning will be devoted to nonbibliographic database activities in the scientific and technical areas. A representative of the U.S. Geological Survey will speak on "Categorical Information." Gesina Carter, of the National Academy of Sciences will talk about, "Physical and Chemical Data." "Copyrighting Numerical Data" will be the topic for Viktor Hampel, repeating as a speaker for the second successive ASIDIC meeting.

David Weiserberger, of Chemical Abstracts, will present, "Chemical Registry and Structure Files."

Rita Lerner heads up the program committee for ASIDIC. She reports that this meeting will be fast moving and carries many speakers on a broad range of interesting areas of nonbibliographic databases. "We expect another good turnout of ASIDIC members and interested people for this important and timely meeting," Lerner said.

July, 1979

The ASIDIC Publications Committee and Newsletter Editor need to know how you feel about our newsletter. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions, sending the completed form to:

Arnold P. Lurie
Eastman Kodak Company
Department of Information Services
Research Laboratories Bldg. 83
Rochester, NY 14650

1. The Role of the ASIDIC Newsletter should be _____

2. The main strength of the newsletter now is _____

3. The main weakness of the newsletter now is _____

4. I think that the newsletter could be improved by _____

5. I rate the ASIDIC Newsletter (circle one): very good good OK not good

6. Other comments: _____

PLEASE USE THE BACK FOR MORE COMMENTS