

Announcements

Second Office Automation Conference

The Albert Thomas Convention Center in Houston, Texas will be the site of the second annual AFIPS Office Automation Conference (OAC) March 23-25, 1981. "Investing in Productivity" is this year's conference theme, and over 200 speakers have been scheduled in more than 60 learning sessions. The focus of these sessions will be directed at the way in which automation technologies can be harnessed and integrated to increase productivity and effectiveness of office workers. Sessions will include such topics as Feasibility Studies, Organizational Impact, Systems Architecture, Electronic Mail, Teleconferencing, and State-of-the-Art in Word Processing.

For information and registration forms contact:

Ms. Carol Sturgeon
AFIPS - OAC - P.O. Box 9658
1815 North Lynn Street - Suite 800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
(703) 558-3613

ACL to sponsor two sessions at NCC '81

The 1981 National Computer Conference, sponsored by AFIPS, will be held at McCormick Place in Chicago, May 4-7, 1981. In addition to the technical program consisting of papers, panels, surveys and tutorials, there will be a series of one-day professional development seminars and the largest exhibit of computer products and services in the world.

The use of robots and artificial intelligence will be among the program sessions at the Personal Computing Festival which will be held during the Conference, and personal computing exhibits will appear in the main exhibit area for the first time.

ACL will sponsor two sessions at the NCC, organized by a committee consisting of Martha Evens, Jane Robinson, Norm Sondheimer and Don Walker. One is a paper session, chaired by Martha Evens, on the topic, "Communicating with Computers in Natural Language - Current Capabilities," which will have the following three talks:

Issues in the Development of Natural Language
Front-Ends

James Hendler, Thomas Kehler, Paul Michaelis,
Brian Phillips, Kenneth Ross and Harry Tennant,
Texas Instruments

Text-Critiquing with the EPISTLE System:
An Author's Aid to Better Syntax

Lance Miller, George Heidorn and Karen Jensen,
IBM T.J. Watson Research Center

Shifting to a Higher Gear in a Natural Language System

Bozena Thompson and Frederick Thompson,
California Institute of Technology

The other ACL session is a panel session, chaired by Norm Sondheimer, on the topic, "Communicating with Computers in Natural Language - Future Promises," with the following four participants:

Applications for the Handicapped

Madeleine Bates, *Bolt Beranek and Newman*

Business Applications

Larry Harris, *Artificial Intelligence Corp.*

Military Applications

Christine Montgomery, *Operating Systems, Inc.*

Medical Applications

Donald Walker, *SRI International*

The ACL will also hold a special one-day meeting in conjunction with the 1981 LSA Winter Meeting in New York City in December. More information about this will appear in later issues of the *AJCL*.

For further information about NCC '81 contact:

Mr. Gerard Chiffrieller
AFIPS - OAC - P.O. Box 9658
1815 North Lynn Street - Suite 800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
(703) 243-4100

Computers and Data Bases in the Humanities and Social Sciences

The Fifth International Conference on Computers in the Humanities is scheduled for May 17-20, 1981, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, sponsored by the University of Michigan, Association for Computers in the Humanities, and Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing in cooperation with ACM SIGLASH (Language Analysis and Studies in the Humanities). Contributions are invited that present the results of computer-assisted research and creation in the arts. Send inquiries and one-page abstracts before February 15, 1981, to:

Richard W. Bailey
Department of English
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109
(313) 764-6354

This will be followed immediately by the Third Conference on Data Bases in the Humanities and Social Sciences (Joint Conference on Easier and More Productive Use of Computing Systems), May 20-22, also in Ann Arbor, sponsored by the Association for Computers in the Humanities and the University of Michigan. This conference has two facets: the quality of the human interface and the characteristics of data

base applications. The conference is intended as integrating the insights of the social sciences, humanities, computer science, and human factors engineering. Abstracts for papers and panel discussions should be submitted by February 15, 1981, to:

Gregory A. Marks
4258 Institute for Social Research
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106
(313) 763-3482

Symposium on Text Manipulation

The ACM Special Interest Groups on Programming Languages and Office Automation will jointly sponsor a Symposium on Text Manipulation, June 8-10, 1981, in Portland, Oregon. This symposium will deal with the variety of tools, techniques and programs that have been developed for creating and manipulating text, whether natural language text or programming language text. The emphasis is to be on ideas that can be generalized beyond the context in which they were originally developed. The conference chairman is:

Paul Abrahams
ACM Symposium on Text Manipulation
P.O. Box 161
Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342

Seventh International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence

The Seventh International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, August 24-28, 1981. Topics of interest include natural language processing, knowledge representation, expert systems and cognitive science. Papers must be submitted to the program committee by March 1, 1981, in one of the following categories: papers (6,000 words max.), communications (1,200 words max.), and programs (500 words max.).

Questions about the technical program should be addressed to:

Roger C. Schank
Program Chairman, IJCAI-81
Department of Computer Science
Box 2158 Yale Station
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
(203) 436-0606

General questions about the conference may be addressed to:

Pat Hayes
General Chairman, IJCAI-81
Department of Computer Science
Mathematical Sciences Building
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York 14627

British Society for the Philosophy of Science

The 1981 Annual Conference of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science will be held at Wivenhoe House, the Eighteenth Century Conference Centre of the University of Essex, September 18-20, 1981. The program will consist of four sessions with speakers, discussants and general discussion. One of these sessions will be

Consciousness and Machines
Yorick Wilks, *University of Essex*

Further details of the conference, registration information, etc., may be obtained from:

Liaison Officer
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester CO4 3SQ, Essex, ENGLAND

ACM 1981 Annual Conference

The 1981 ACM Annual Conference will be held at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, California, November 9-11, 1981, and will feature presentations on a wide variety of topics that are of interest to today's computer professional. The program committee is soliciting contributions in the form of tutorials, proposals for panel discussions, and short technical papers or surveys. Work that addresses areas of practical importance is especially welcome. Technical papers should focus on innovations or recent advances, and should stress the connection between theory and application. Suggested topics include artificial intelligence, office automation, data base systems, and personal computing.

Four copies of papers (maximum 12 double-spaced pages in length) should be submitted by March 7, 1981, to:

ACM '81 - Call for Papers
Village Station
P.O. Box 24059
Los Angeles, California 90024

Workshops on Semantics and Representation of Knowledge being held in New York

In February 1980, a series of monthly workshops on the semantics of natural language and issues of representing knowledge was started at the IBM Systems Research Institute in New York City. The workshops are open to research workers and graduate students in the fields of artificial intelligence, cognitive psychology, computational linguistics, data base semantics, linguistics, philosophy, psycholinguistics, and symbolic logic. Nine meetings were held in 1980 with 17 speakers and about 100 attendees, many of whom came to nearly every session.

In the spring of 1981, the following sessions have been scheduled:

February 20:

Some Psychology of Reasoning
Janet Krueger, *Department of Psychology,*
Vassar College

Homography in the Memory Lab
David Gorfein and Jeanne Viviani,
Department of Psychology, Adelphi University

March 20:

Arc-Pair Grammars
Paul Postal, *Mathematical Sciences Department,*
IBM T.J. Watson Research Center

Exact dates and topics for the rest of the year have not yet been confirmed, but the following speakers are planning to give talks at the April, May, and June meetings: David Shaw, *Computer Science Department, Columbia University*; Martin Ringle, *Cognitive Science Studies, Vassar College*; S. Jack Odell, *Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland*, on sabbatical at the *IBM Systems Research Institute*; and Lance Miller, *Computer Sciences Department, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center*. Anyone who is interested in speaking or participating in the workshops should send name, address, and a description of research interests to:

John F. Sowa
IBM Systems Research Institute
205 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017
(212) 983-7231

Other Conferences

The *Twenty-Second Computer Society International Conference (COMPCON Spring '81)*, sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society, will be held at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco, February 23-26, 1981. For further information contact:

Sidney Fernbach
COMPCON Spring Standing Committee
2020 Research Drive
Livermore, California 94550

The *1981 ACM Computer Science Conference* will be held at Stouffer's Riverfront Towers in St. Louis, Missouri, February 24-26, 1981. For information contact:

John W. Hamblen
Computer Science Department
University of Missouri - Rolla
Rolla, Missouri 65401
(314) 341-4492

The second *SYSTRAN International Conference* will be held at the Canyon Hotel in Palm Springs, California, April 12-15, 1981. The theme for this conference will be "Multilingual Communications for the 1980's - Business and Government Requirements." A demonstration of translation to voice will be included. Further information can be obtained from:

World Translation Company of Canada, Ltd.
220 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5Z9, CANADA
(613) 563-0137

The *Fourth Annual International SIGIR Conference* will be held at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, California, from May 31 to June 2, 1981, sponsored by ACM SIGIR in cooperation with ASIS and hosted by the School of Library and Information Studies of the University of California. The theme of the conference will be "Theoretical Issues in Information Retrieval." For further information contact:

Dr. Jessie Herr
Research Libraries Group
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

The *Third Annual Meeting of the Society for Scholarly Publishing* will be held at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn in San Francisco, California, June 1-3, 1981. Further information may be obtained from:

Elizabeth C. Fake
Society for Scholarly Publishing
2000 Florida Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202) 638-5970

The *Seventh Conference of the Canadian Man-Computer Communication Society*, sponsored by the Canadian Man-CCS and the Canadian Image Processing and Pattern Recognition Society, will be held in Waterloo, Ontario, June 10-12, 1981. For further information contact:

Dr. K. Booth
Department of Computer Science
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1, CANADA

The *Third Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* will be held in Berkeley, California, August 19-21, 1981. Information about the meeting can be obtained from:

Robert Wilensky
Computer Science Division
Department of EECS
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720