

## Announcements

### New ACL Officers Elected at 1979 Meeting

The following people were elected to office at the 1979 Annual Business Meeting of the ACL, which was held on August 11 in La Jolla, California:

President:

Bonnie Webber, University of Pennsylvania

Vice President:

Norm Sondheimer, Sperry Univac

Secretary-Treasurer:

Don Walker, SRI International

Executive Committee (1980-1982):

Wendy Lehnert, Yale University

Nominating Committee (1980-1982):

Ron Kaplan, Xerox PARC

These names had been placed into nomination by the 1979 Nominating Committee, which consisted of Stan Petrick, Paul Chapin, and Jon Allen.

### 1980 ACL Meeting Date Changed

The 18th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics will be held June 19-22, 1980, on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. This is a change from the previously announced date of June 18-21, and was brought about by a desire to minimize the overlap in time with the Cognitive Science Society meeting, which will be held in New Haven earlier the same week (see next item).

The ACL meeting will be divided into two parts. During the first two days (Thursday and Friday), refereed, contributed papers will be presented, and the Annual Business Meeting will be held. Gary Hendrix of SRI International is the Chairman of the Program Committee, and a Call for Papers (with a February 15 deadline) went out to all ACL members in December. The other members of the Program Committee are Charles Fillmore, University of California, Jane Robinson, SRI International, Ivan Sag, Stanford University, Henry Thompson, Xerox PARC, and Rober Wilensky, University of California.

During the second two days of the meeting (Saturday and Sunday), a parasession on "Topics in Interactive Discourse" with invited papers and panels will be held. This part of the meeting is being organized by Bonnie Webber of the University of Pennsylvania, and will consist of three panels, Front-end Design: Demands of Service Application, chaired by Barbara Grosz of SRI International, Front-end Design: Demands of Convention and Channel, chaired by Jerry Hobbs of SRI International, and Natural Language Interactive Systems: Looking to the Future, chaired by Bonnie Webber. Among the panelists will be John Carey (Alternate Media Center, NYU), Phil Hayes

(Carnegie-Mellon University), Howard Morgan (University of Pennsylvania), Emmanuel Schegloff (UCLA), and John C. Thomas (IBM Research).

The Annual Banquet will be held on Friday evening, amongst the Egyptian mummies in the Rotunda of the University Museum.

Local arrangements for the meeting are being handled by Kathleen McKeown of the University of Pennsylvania.

### Cognitive Science Conference at Yale

The Cognitive Science Society will hold its second annual conference at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, on June 16-19, 1980. There will be three major addresses, three panel discussions, and sessions of short papers sponsored by members of the Society. (A Call for Abstracts has already gone out to members, with a deadline of March 1.) There will also be computer demonstrations and a banquet. Dormitory space at the University is being reserved, and a room plan and meal plan will be available for attendees.

Arrangements will be made to minimize the impact of the one-day overlap with the schedule of the ACL meeting (see previous item).

For further information, contact

Professor Wendy G. Lehnert  
Department of Computer Science  
Box 2158 Yale Station  
Yale University  
New Haven, Connecticut 06520

### COLING 80 to be Held in Tokyo

The 1980 International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 80) will be held in Tokyo, September 29 - October 4. Both artificial intelligence and theoretical linguistics provide the underpinnings for studies to be reported at COLING 80, and applications including office automation will be presented together with pure scientific results. Voice recognition and the problem of Chinese character input-output are likely to have a large place in the final program, according to David G. Hays, program chairman.

Computational linguistics is the study of interactions between human language and the computer. On the linguistic side, papers on discourse structure, semantics, syntax, and phonology are usually included in conferences; papers on the history of language, lexicography, literary studies, and dialect variation are frequently offered. In artificial intelligence, natural-language input for programming, data-base access, and data input are topics of high current interest. Readers for the blind and other voice input-output applications have appeared.

Office automation, including word processing, is a rapidly growing application area that can use the results of 20 years' work in computational linguistics, Hays says, and machine translation is coming to the fore again.

The first conference in the COLING series was held in New York in 1965. Since then conferences have been held in Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Norway, and Sweden. The Tokyo conference will be held during the week preceding the IFIP conference on computing. COLING meetings are sponsored by the International Committee on Computational Linguistics, of which Bernard Vauquois, professor at Grenoble, France, is chairman. Professor Hiroshi Wada is honorary president of COLING 80. Professor Makoto Nagao is local arrangements chairman.

Information about COLING 80 can be obtained from:

David G. Hays  
Program Chairman  
5048 Lake Shore Road  
Hamburg, New York 14075

A dollar bill makes the inquirer a member of the U. S. Committee for COLING 80.

Sra. Nicoletta Calzolari, C.N.U.C.E., 36 via Santa Maria, 56100 Pisa, Italy, is European secretary. Professor Nagao's address is Department of Electrical Engineering, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan.

### **First International Workshop on Natural Communication with Computers to be Held in Warsaw**

The Institute of Informatics of Warsaw University is organizing the First International Workshop on Natural Communication with Computers, to take place September 9-12, 1980, in Warsaw, Poland. The aim of the Workshop is to present recent advances in man/computer natural communication, with three main topic areas: Man/computer Communication Systems in Natural Written Text (question answering systems, natural language data base access, etc.), Speech Communication with Computers (speech understanding systems, digital synthesis of speech, speaker recognition, etc.), and Digital Image Processing Systems.

There will be invited papers suitable for 60-minute presentation, regular papers suitable for 35-minute presentation (with acceptance based on a 3-page, detailed summary due February 15), and short communications suitable for 10-15 minute presentation (with acceptance based on a 1 or 2-page summary, possible in the course of the Workshop). All accepted papers will be published in the Proceedings. The official language of the Workshop is English.

Social events are being planned, as well, including a cocktail party, a farewell banquet, an opera performance, local excursions, and post-conference trips.

Further information can be obtained from the Workshop Secretariat:

Miss Ludmila Rózańska  
Institute of Informatics  
Warsaw University  
PKiN pok. 850  
00-950 Warsaw, POLAND

### **Sixth International ALLC Symposium to be Held in Cambridge**

The Sixth International ALLC Symposium on Computers in Literary and Linguistic Research will be held at the University of Cambridge, England, from March 28 to April 3, 1980, co-sponsored by the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers and the Humanities. Papers are anticipated in the following categories: authorship studies, concordances, data bases, education, input-output, language-oriented studies, lexicography, literary statistics, metrics, quantitative linguistics, software, stylistic analysis, and textual criticism. The program will include sight-seeing, an Elizabethan Feast, and demonstrations of text processing.

For further information contact:

Dr. J.L. Dawson  
Secretary, 1980 Symposium  
Literary and Linguistic Computing Centre  
Sidgwick Site  
Cambridge CB3 9DA, ENGLAND

### **Introduction to Computing in the Humanities**

The next ALLC Summer School, in the series organized by Mrs. Susan Hockey, has been scheduled to take place at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, April 14-19, 1980. The subject of the Summer School will be "Introduction to Computing in the Humanities." The major element in the course is programming in SNOBOL4, together with the use of concordance and information retrieval packages. Information may be obtained from:

Mr. G.V. Appleton  
Computer Unit  
Llandinam Building  
University College of Wales  
Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 2AX, Wales, UK

### **Third National Conference of Canadian Society for Computational Studies of Intelligence**

The Third National Conference of the Canadian Society for Computational Studies of Intelligence will

be held in Victoria, British Columbia, on May 14-16, 1980, in cooperation with the Canadian Man-Computer Communications Society, the Canadian Image Processing and Recognition Society, the Canadian Information Processing Society, and the University of Victoria.

Topics of interest include natural language understanding, heuristic problem solving and game-playing, automatic programming and debugging, computer perception, computer vision, psychological aspects of AI, automatic theorem proving, representation of knowledge, applications of AI, and social consequences of AI. Proceedings will be distributed at the conference, and will be subsequently available for purchase from CIPS.

The address for correspondence is:

CSCSI Conference  
Dept. of Computing Science  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1, CANADA

#### **AISB-80 Conference to be Held in Amsterdam**

AISB-80, the fourth conference to be organized by the Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behaviour, will be held in Amsterdam, July 2-5, 1980. The topics and the Programme Committee members include Natural Language Understanding, Karen Sparck-Jones (Cambridge), Automatic Deduction, Joerg Seikman (Karlsruhe), AI Methods and Problem Solving, Bob Wielinga (Amsterdam), Automatic Programming and Languages for AI, Steven Hardy (Sussex), Vision and Image Understanding, Mike Brady (Essex), and Psychological Models, Richard Young (Cambridge). Both long and short papers will be presented, and a conference proceedings will be published.

Questions about the conference should be addressed to:

Dr. Bob Wielinga  
Psychology Laboratory  
Weerperplein 8,  
Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS

#### **Logic Programming Workshop in Budapest**

A workshop on Logic Programming and closely related topics will be held July 14-16 in Budapest, sponsored by the von Neumann computer science society. Although the primary interest will be the theory, implementation and applications of logic programming, similar papers on other applicative programming languages, on data base inference, and on program verification and synthesis are welcome. Extended abstracts, of at most five single-spaced pages, or complete papers should be sent to:

Sten-Ake Tärnlund  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Stockholm  
106 91 Stockholm, SWEDEN

before April 1, 1980. Accepted authors will be notified by May 1. Full papers will also be separately considered for inclusion in a book on logic programming based on the conference.

The program committee consists of Keith Clark (Imperial College, London), Alain Colmerauer (University of Marseille), Maarten van Emden (University of Waterloo), Robert Kowalski (Imperial College, London), Sharon Sickel (University of California, Santa Cruz), Peter Szeredi (SZKI, Institute for Coordination of Computer Techniques, Budapest), Sten-Ake Tärnlund (University of Stockholm), and David Warren (University of Edinburgh).

#### **New American AI Society Formed**

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) is a new scientific society whose purpose is to further the dissemination of information on artificial intelligence in the United States. Its primary activities will be to hold an annual conference (see next item), except in those years when IJCAI is held in North America, and to issue a quarterly publication. The AAAI will focus on new work in AI in the United States, and hopes to work in cooperation with other related groups.

The Initial Organizing Committee has elected Allen Newell of Carnegie-Mellon University as the first President, Ed Feigenbaum of Stanford University as President-elect, and Don Walker of SRI International as the first Secretary-Treasurer. A general election, in which all members may vote, will be held this winter.

The AAAI is open to all active researchers in AI interested in developing the science of Artificial Intelligence. To obtain a membership application, contact:

B.G. Buchanan  
Computer Science Department  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California 94305

#### **First Annual National Artificial Intelligence Conference to be Held at Stanford**

The First Annual National Artificial Intelligence Conference, sponsored by the newly-formed American Association for Artificial Intelligence (see above item), will be held at Stanford University, in Palo Alto, California, on August 19-21, 1980. Topics will include knowledge representation, knowledge acquisition, problem solving and search, natural language, program synthesis and understanding, AI languages and software, mathematical and theoretical foundations, psy-

chological aspects, vision, robotics, theorem proving, applications, specialized systems, and game playing.

The deadline for submitting papers is May 1, 1980. Additional information can be obtained from:

Robert Balzer  
AAAI Program Chairman  
USC/Information Sciences Institute  
4676 Admiralty Way  
Marina del Rey, California 90291

### Workshops on Semantics And Representation of Knowledge Being Held in New York

Semantics of natural language and methods for representing knowledge are the topics of a series of informal workshops held at the IBM Systems Research Institute in New York City. The workshops are open to anyone who is actively doing research on these topics in the fields of artificial intelligence, cognitive psychology, computational linguistics, data base design, linguistics, philosophy, psycholinguistics, and symbolic logic. The purpose of the workshops is to provide a forum for people who are working on these and related topics at universities and research institutions in New York and surrounding areas. Visitors from other locations are welcome to come, but we would like to establish a nucleus of participants who can attend regularly.

The format for the workshops is a meeting about once a month, normally on Friday mornings. The first meeting is scheduled for February 1, 1980 with a lecture, "Inferring Conceptual Meaning Structures," by Professor Sharon Salveter from SUNY at Stony Brook.

The IBM Systems Research Institute is providing a classroom and maintaining a computerized mailing list for the workshops. Anyone who is interested in attending and/or speaking at 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 *National Computer Conference*, sponsored by AFIPS, will be held in Anaheim, California, May 19-22, 1980. For further information, contact

Mr. Gerard Chiffrieller  
AFIPS  
1815 North Lynn St., Suite 800  
Arlington, Virginia 22209

The *1980 LISP Conference*, sponsored by Stanford University, will be held at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, August 24-27, 1980. For further information, contact

John R. Allen  
Artificial Intelligence Laboratory  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California 94305

*IFIP Congress '80*, sponsored by IFIP, will be held in Kyoto, Japan, and Melbourne, Australia, October 6-17, 1980. For further information, contact

IFIP Congress '80  
G.P.O. Box 880G  
Melbourne, Victoria  
AUSTRALIA 3001

*ACM 80*, this year's annual conference of the Association for Computing Machinery, will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, October 27-29, 1980. For further information, contact

Mr. Louis J. Fiora  
ACM  
1133 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036

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## Abstracts of Current\* Literature

### On the Difference Between Natural Language and High Level Query Languages

S. Jerrold Kaplan

Department of Computer and Information Science  
Moore School of Electrical Engineering  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

*ACM78, Proc. 1978 Annual Conf., Dec. 1978, 27-38.*

Natural Language questions differ from most existing formal query languages in that they tend to admit a wider range of responses than their formal counterparts, and provide cues for selecting among the variety of appropriate responses. These differences reflect the fact that in Natural Language conversation, a respondent is expected to take an active role in the process of selecting and organizing responses, in contrast to formal query systems, where control of the interaction typically resides with the user or applications programmer. This paper explores some specific ways in which Natural Language questions are particularly well suited for their environment, and discusses the potential role of similar capabilities in formal query systems, particularly with respect to Natural Language Data Base query systems.

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\* Editor's note: The abstracts in this first issue are not as "current" as I would like, but, because we did not publish the *Journal* in 1979, there is a lot of material to get caught up on.