



# American Journal of Computational Linguistics

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# AJCL

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# ACL

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**Annual membership dues** are \$15 for individuals and \$30 for institutions. Joint memberships for couples are available for \$20, but provide only one subscription.

**Postage:** The *AJCL* is normally mailed bulk-rate. First class mailing is available in North America for an additional annual charge of \$2. Air delivery is available overseas for an additional annual charge of \$4.

**Back issues** of the *AJCL* for the years 1974-1978 are available *on microfiche only*. The rates per annual volume for the years 1974-1976 are \$10 for individuals and \$25 for institutions. The rates per annual volume for the years 1977-1978 are \$15 for individuals and \$30 for institutions. First class or air delivery of back issues is available for an additional charge of \$2 or \$4, as described above. There were no issues in 1979.

**Payments** for dues or back issues should be sent to the *ACL Secretary-Treasurer* at the address given above. Checks should be made out to the Association for Computational Linguistics (or to ACL) and should be payable in U.S. dollars. There is an additional \$1 charge for bank processing costs for checks that are not drawn on U.S. banks.

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### *A Note from the Editor:*

With this January-March, 1980, issue, the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) begins publication of the new, phototypeset, printed version of the *American Journal of Computational Linguistics (AJCL)*. This is a continuation of the *AJCL* which was published exclusively in a microfiche format under the editorship of David G. Hays from 1974 through 1978. The decision to switch to a primarily hard-copy form, with a microfiche supplement, was made by the ACL Executive Committee at the Annual Meeting in July 1978, after a survey of the membership showed overwhelming support for the idea. (The results of this survey are presented in an article on page 49.)

The first issue in this new form was originally scheduled for the first quarter of 1979, but difficulties associated with the conversion caused several delays, eventually totaling a whole year's time. By then it seemed like a good idea to give this first issue a date of 1980 and consider 1979 to be a year lost to experience. (As a consolation, members who paid their dues in 1979 will not have to pay dues in 1980.)

Consequently, *there will be no issues of the AJCL dated 1979, in either hard-copy or microfiche form.* In 1980 the *AJCL* is continuing where it left off in 1978: the 1978 issues were Volume 5, so the 1980 issues are Volume 6; similarly, the last microfiche of 1978 was Mf. 83, so the one included with this issue is Mf. 84. (With this new form of publication, each microfiche contains all of the material that is in the printed version, plus some supplementary material.) On a related matter, the FINITE STRING Newsletter, which has been published by the ACL since 1964, will continue to be a part of the *AJCL*, but it will no longer have its own Volume and Number as it did in the microfiche format. Any reference to material found there should simply be in terms of the *AJCL* issue in which it appears.

The information about the *AJCL* Editorial Board and the ACL officers given on the inside front cover of this issue is for 1979 rather than 1980. I felt that because these are the people who were actually involved in the creation of this first issue, it would be more appropriate to list them there this time than to list the current slate. An announcement about the new officers appears on page 51.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people who played important roles in bringing this venture to this point: Jon Allen, who, as ACL President in 1978, lent his full support and encouragement to my proposal for converting the *AJCL* to a phototypeset, printed journal; Ron Kaplan, who, as ACL President in 1979, provided encouragement and exhibited great patience in "letting me do it my way"; Dave Hays, who, as previous Editor of the *AJCL*, provided counsel and helped to smoothen the transition; members of the Editorial Board, who provided prompt and thoughtful reviews of manuscripts; authors of technical articles and book reviews, who were willing to submit their material to an unproven publication; Lance Miller, my manager, and the IBM Corporation, who provided me with encouragement, time, and excellent facilities; and last, but certainly not least, Don Walker, the *AJCL* Managing Editor and ACL Secretary-Treasurer, who has been in this with me from the start, helping with the survey, providing advice on materials and formats for the Journal, gathering information on a variety of topics, and, in general, competently handling the whole business side of the operation.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to those people who have been inconvenienced in any way by the delays associated with getting this first issue out, especially authors who have been waiting to hear about the status of their papers. Now that we have gotten over the hurdles of getting started, future issues should appear at fairly regular three-month intervals, and correspondence should be handled more promptly. Submissions of technical articles and other material for inclusion in coming issues, according to the guidelines given on the inside back cover, will continue to be welcome.

*George E. Heidorn, Editor*

