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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Taximetrics Laboratory

12 September 1969

Armory 101

Dr. L. David ~~D~~winell
Forestry Sciences Laboratory
Carlton Street
Athens, Georgia 30601

Dear Dave:

Thanks for your letter of the 3rd. I hope the TAXIR demonstration was meaningful to those who saw it. I would like to know how the company (was it American Cyanamid?) got to "sponsor" that demonstration, because they sure didn't lay down any scratch, but ~~if~~ be happy if they would.

I hope that my team, which developed the TAXIR system, will still be around in November, but right now there is some doubt that we ~~will~~ be. The reason for this is that the University of Colorado does not pay for any of the team except me, and the mathematicians, programmers, systems analysts and economist are all paid from Federal grants. At the moment all of our grant money has dried up, and there doesn't seem to be anything coming in which will keep us going more than a couple of months. So I don't really know what is going to happen to our system.

I think you can find us still sitting here, but I can't promise anything right now. I'd like to see the system put to work, if possible, for Phytopath, but how it can be done still remains to be seen. As you are aware, the system for Phytopath will not spring into existence without considerable labor and money, even given a well-designed computer package. Even if interface with BioAbstracts (or BIOSIS) is available, there is still the in-depth description above what they produce which will be wanted by the individual pathologists. Where do you draw the line? I believe that our team's systems analysis, which operates on a cost/effectiveness basis, could be very useful in deciding where to draw the line, and even on how to manage the funding of the effort. But until we can get some sort of agreement by your committee, we can't even begin.

Let me know when you plan to visit us, and I'll see what can be arranged. Just give me accuple of week's notice.

Sincerely,

David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology

DJR:gm

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

SOUTHEASTERN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
Forestry Sciences Laboratory
Carlton Street
Athens, Georgia 30601

September 3, 1969



Dr. David J. Rogers
Taximetrics Laboratory
Armory 101
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Dr. Rogers:

On behalf of the Literature Storage and Retrieval Committee of the American Phytopathological Society, I wish to thank you and your group for setting up the demonstration of TAXON at our Spokane meeting. I would like to know more about the technical aspects of this retrieval system, and how it could be used for literature retrieval.

If I can work it out, I hope to visit with your group sometime in November to explore the possibilities we discussed in Spokane. Also, I'll send you a copy of a paper I'm presently working on that outlines the approach we're considering. Also, what information would you need to do a feasibility study?

Sincerely yours,

L. David Dwinell
Research Plant Pathologist

Ask Ashell about
phone for Henry -

Henry move to 16

Book display ~~module~~ descriptors.

Dietz call

Saw - OK to put on demo.
Need to have your descriptors and
sample here.

Demonstration facilities

Ideal would be a booth, plus
separate room for teletype -

Also please ask Walden if
he is ready.

We will be there 1-2 days ahead

-614

Hefting: Now seems possible to fund a demonstr.

Do you want to put on a demonstration of TAXIR
at A.P.S.

in a booth?

say 2 or 3 times a day -

Not a bibliographic data bank

Rather

A data bank of primary^{data}, not extracts from
the literature

Will have the following type of demonstration.

Teletype, on-line to computer in Pullman.

Questions asked + answered in Spokane -

A set of charts explaining the system

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

PULLMAN, WASHINGTON 99163

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

May 8, 1969

Dr. David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology
Taximetrics Laboratory
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Dave:

I had planned to answer your letter over a week ago, but a death in the family and a subsequent trip to New Mexico delayed things. I will proceed to try to answer your questions one at a time.

1. Do you think TAXIR will be ready some time in advance of August 20?

Except for a few rough spots, which will probably take a month or so to straighten out, the program appears to be working at the present time. Hence, there is no question in my mind that it will be working well by August 20.

2. Can you hook up a remote terminal I/O in Spokane, at the A.P.S. meeting place? How much?

Yes, we can hook up a remote terminal if you are referring to a teletype. As a matter of fact we are ordering a portable terminal shortly, to be used by the computing center for things such as this. There would be no charge for the use of the portable terminal. If it turns out that the portably terminal isn't available and we actually have to install a teletype in some location, then somehow the Telephone Company charges for installing and then removing it would have to be taken care of. For a 33ASR teletype with data set there is a \$75.00 installation charge and I assume that we would have to pay one month's rental of \$60.00. Since the Computing Center will be on a working capital arrangement by that time, it would be nice if funds were available to pay for the computing time used. However, if this were not possible I am sure that we can make arrangements here to provide for the computing time.

Dr. David J. Rogers
May 8, 1969
Page 2

3. Are you willing to put on such a demonstration?

We certainly are.

4. How much money do you need? Are funds forthcoming in your own budget?

Except for the funds required in #2 above, I don't think we would have need for other funds.

5. Have you sufficient personnel to put the system to work in Spokane?

If Sam Dietz and Cal Konzak continue to let Ron Dutton work on the project, and I see no reason why they shouldn't, we can certainly make the system work in Spokane.

6. If it were decided to ask A.P.S. members to come to Pullman for a demonstration, could we do it in shop? Do you have CRT hookup?

We could certainly do it in shop on the terminal. We do not have CRT capability.

7. Is Sam Dietz willing to provide some input? Is he willing to do anything for such a demonstration?

I will let Sam write you a separate letter about this. I have not had an opportunity to discuss it with him.

I think I should make a couple of points clear relative to the subject of a demonstration. First, I want to make sure that you understand what would be available via remote terminal. We cannot have conversational capability with TAXIR. We would simply be using remote job entry. This means that a user would put in a simple job control statement, put in his query and then receive his output on the teletype. This would complete that run. Then if another individual wanted to present a query to the system he would again put in a simple job control statement, his query and get his output on the terminal. Each of these would be run as separate batch mobs on the 360/67 just as if they had been submitted through the window, except that they would have a very high priority so as to give good turn around. I want to make sure that you understand that it would not be possible, at that time, to continuously communicate with the program. That is, one could not make a query, get his result, then immediately make another query in a conversational mode. What it amounts to is that the individual would be submitting batch jobs via a teletype terminal. The program, of course, would be stored on disk so that the only

Dr. David J. Rogers
May 8, 1969
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input would be the simple job control statement and the query.

The other point I should bring up is that I am not going to be in Pullman on August 20. For some time I have had a trip planned during that period of August. I could get everything ready to go, with a terminal installed, and make sure that everything worked before I leave. Also one of my managers presumably could work with Ron Dutton during the demonstration itself to make sure that everything went smoothly. After thinking about my remarks in this letter perhaps we could talk on the phone and I can clarify anything you would like to before you make a decision. We are certainly pleased to have the opportunity to participate in such a demonstration and would make sure that it went properly. I do want to make sure that you and the Society understand what it is we are going to be able to provide, however.

Sorry I missed you on my last trip to Boulder. The data I picked up has been very useful in checking the program.

Sincerely yours,



W. E. Walden
Director, Computing Center

WEW:gb
cc: Sam Dietz
Shirl Graham
Cal Konzak

A last minute note: Mary Massera and Ron Dutton had the program working thru a terminal last night (with your data).

Sam Dietz:

Aug. 20 -
1:30

1. What is your idea for a *Limonostictis*.

2. We'd like to look at your list of descriptors, descriptor states, and for a test here, try about 200 of your accessions which are already punched.

3. Does the fig., \$135 include rental for more than one day of the Phytograph meeting?

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

REGIONAL PLANT INTRODUCTION STATION
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
JOHNSON HALL 59
PULLMAN, WASHINGTON 99163

May 15, 1969

Dr. David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology
Taximetrics Laboratory
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Dave:

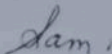
I believe that Bill Walden did an excellent job of answering most of your questions in his May 8 letter to you. Item 7 concerned our willingness to provide some input. At the present time we have punched in the information for approximately 1,000 accessions of our Plant Introduction beans. These have also now been verified and the print-out will be made this afternoon. With a little debugging, if needed, we should have our first demonstration by Friday, May 16.

One of the things that we also wish to test on your system is to bring in data from other sources. To do this, I have written to Dr. Dolan and requested that he send us copies of his bean cards from which their information is punched on IBM cards. They will also provide the key for the codes used and the program. Working with Ron and Mary we hope to see how this will work out with your TAXIR program.

The demonstration for the Phytopath Meetings in Spokane in August is definitely on. I'm sure that we could use Regional Station funds to help defray the installation and rental cost of \$135.00. I attempted to contact Shirl Graham today but he was in Spokane, so I let his secretary know that we will need space for the demonstration.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely yours,



S. M. Dietz
Coordinator

cc. Bill Walden
C. F. Konzak
Shirl Graham

704 - 254-0961

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

SOUTHEASTERN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

PO box 2570

Asheville - N.C.

1550

March 26, 1969

┌
Dr. David J. Rogers
Department of Biology
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302



└
Dear Dr. Rogers:

I just visited N. C. State University and Drs. Wellman and Lucas told me that you might be willing to sit in with our 5-man committee meeting on Literature Retrieval at the A.P.S. Spokane meeting, on Wednesday, August 20 at 1:30 p.m. They also said that you have a demonstration that might be helpful to attendees of the meeting. If you think that the demonstration would lend itself to this sort of meeting, you might present the matter to Dr. Shirl O. Graham, Department of Plant Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99163, as soon as possible so he can arrange for it.

I would like to invite you to join our meeting on Wednesday and give us the benefit of your experience with computer use in botany or plant pathology.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. Hepting
GEORGE H. HEPTING
Chief Research Scientist

April 1, 1969

Dr. George Hepting
Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Southeastern Forest Experiment Station
P. O. Box 2570
Asheville, North Carolina 28802

Dear Dr. Hepting:

I will be pleased to join with you at the A.P.S. Literature Retrieval committee, provided we can find some way to meet the costs of transportation, etc. I do not now have in my budget any funds for this trip, but hope that you can suggest some means by which these can be achieved.

With respect to the possibility of a demonstration of our TAXIS system, I want to check out the possibilities of a "live" demonstration through the facilities of the Computing Center at Washington State University, where we have already been doing some collaborative work to support the USDA's Plant Introduction Station, under the direction of Dr. Sam Dietz. What I have to do is to find out if the computing center there is willing to join with us in putting on the demonstration and, if so, what costs will be involved.

In connection with this demonstration, it may be difficult (if not impossible) to set up a remote terminal in Spokane, where the meetings are to be held. If we cannot get a remote terminal setup in Spokane, do you think it would be possible to put on the demonstration in Pullman, at the WSC Computing Center? What would be the problems, if any, from the standpoint of A.P.S.? I must check with Dr. William Walden, Director of WSU Computing Center, to discover his willingness to cooperate, and what arrangements for programs, personnel, etc. will be required.

With respect to the retrieval problem itself, I would like to tell you that we have not yet addressed ourselves to the literature problem, but intend to work on it. Our system so far developed is most capable of retrieving primary biological data, but we have designed the system in packages, or modules, with the idea that expansion to cover other interesting facets of the "total" problem of information retrieval be made possible. I do believe, after some conversations with Fred Wellman, that there is a need for our type of retrieval package, as

April 1, 1969

Page 2

well as for the literature capacity. Our philosophy has been to work on areas different from the ones that others, like yourself, have been working very hard in.

At your suggestion, I am writing to Dr. Graham, and am enclosing a copy of my letter to him, so that you will be aware of what is going on.

Thanks for your letter. I hope that we can work out something.

Sincerely,

David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology

Enclosure 1

cc: Dr. Graham
Dr. Walden

arh

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHEASTERN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

1550

April 23, 1969

Dr. David J. Rogers
Taximetrics Laboratory
Armory 101
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302



Dear Dr. Rogers:

The APS will not be in a position to finance the demonstration of TAXIR, as outlined in the recent letters from you to Dr. Graham and to me. Drs. Wellman and Lucas were not aware of the size and complications of the project or that the Society would have to meet the necessary costs, when they suggested that I write you about putting on a demonstration.

Dr. D. E. Ellis, Chairman of the APS program committee, just told me that all program funds have been committed and so there are none for the TAXIR demonstration, or for travel expenses incident to it.

I hope that we have not already put you to a lot of trouble over this matter.

If you can come to our Spokane meeting, anyway, we would like to have you sit in on the deliberations of our Literature Retrieval Committee.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE H. HEPTING
Chief Research Scientist

cc: Dr. Ellis
Dr. Lucas
Dr. Wellman
Dr. Graham
Dr. Shaw

APR 10 1969

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHEASTERN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

1550

April 8, 1969

Dr. David J. Rogers
Taximetrics Laboratory
Armory 101
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302



Dear Dr. Rogers:

I have your letter of April 1, and enclosures. I also received from Dr. Dwinell, who is on our APS Literature Retrieval Committee and is associated with me in INTREDIS, a copy of the material you sent him on TAXIR.

When Drs. Wellman and Lucas suggested I write you about participation in our LR Committee's deliberations and perhaps give a demonstration, I did not realize that you would not be going to Spokane anyway, and also that the demonstration would be of the magnitude indicated in your letters to Dr. Graham and me.

I gather that detailed plans of our APS Spokane meeting are quite far along, and I do not know whether we have time to apply for APS funds for your travel and for the demonstration. Then, too, I really don't know enough about the demonstration to plead the case. For example, is it something that would be staged, or run at intervals, in a special room, all during the meeting? How applicable is it to an APS annual meeting - and the like?

While you are awaiting replies from Graham and Walden, I will look into the financial angle, and will write you again soon. I will see some "principals" of APS in Raleigh next week and will find out if there is any likelihood of funds and programing for the TAXIR venture at the APS meeting this year.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE H. HEPTING
Chief Research Scientist
Chairman APS Literature Retrieval Committee

cc: C. Garner Shaw
Don Ellis
Frederick Wellman
G. B. Lucas
L. D. Dwinell

11 March 1969

Dr. L. David Dwinell
USDA Forest Service
Forestry Sciences Laboratory
Carlton Street
Athens, Georgia 30601

Dear Dr. Dwinell:

Thank you for your inquiry of March 7, concerning our information retrieval system. I am sending along under separate cover some documents which describe rather generally the I.R. systems capacity and power. Our system is called TAXIR, an acronym for taxonomic information retrieval. The intent of our system is to be a set of computer instructions available to the user whatever the particular needs are. The system does not, of course, contain the data bank, but is receptive to many different data banks.

We have designed the system in such a way that it is under the control of the group which it serves and not under some auspices of a centralized computer. If, for example, the American Phytopathological Society desired to use TAXIR, TAXIR would be under the control of your committee. Many other users are at present examining the capacity of TAXIR for their own use; among these are the American Horticulture Society's Plant Record Center, the USDA Regional Plant Introduction Station in Pullman, Washington, several of the operating groups of the International Biological Project, the Amphibian Facility of the University of Michigan, the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History.

If, after reading the documents which I am sending, you care to examine our capacity, potentials, and methods, and the assistance provided in the use of TAXIR, we might consider what route we might follow to work together.

Sincerely,

David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology

DJR:gm