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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.

PEOPLE ATTENDING

Smithsonian Conf. 12/1, 2/66

From CSU

1. Dave Rogers -- taxonomist
 2. Henry Fleming -- taxonomist
 3. George Estabrook -- mathematician
 4. Robert Brill -- programmer
- } Taximetrics Lab.
5. Don Culbertson -- University Library
 6. Ken Medearis -- Computing Center

From University of Colorado (Boulder)

7. Askeell Löve -- Dept. Biology

From Smithsonian

8. Sid Galler -- Ass't. Secy. (Science)
9. Don Squires -- Ass't. Dir., Natural History Museum
10. Nicholas Suszynski -- Dir., Info. Systems Div.
11. Reginald Craghton -- Manager of Info. Storage & Retrieval Project

Bill Wheeler -- *Programmer in IR Div.*

Smithsonian conf

AGENDA

December 1, 2, 1966

Thursday, A.M.

- I. Introduction, including general historical development, our interests, and scope of the two-day sessions. Rogers.
- II. The structuring of data (information) for an IR system, including methods and models. Estabrook.

Thursday, P.M.

The development of the software for the IR system, including detailed description of XPOP and procedures for developing the BIRD and TAXIR compilers. Brill.

Thursday Evening

Dinner at Rogers.

Friday, A.M.

- I. Review of Thursday's session
- II. Question and answer session. Explanations to clarify the methods.

Friday, Noon

Dr. Galler, Sigma Xi luncheon and talk.

Friday, P.M.

- I. Discussions on methods of collaboration between Smithsonian and CSU.
- II. Conclusion 3:30 or 4 p.m. -- depending on needs.

*My introduction to Smithsonian
conference 12/1/66*

Introduction

1. Arrangements--coffee and breaks.
2. Agenda--only a guide, not constrictive
3. Historical aspects of this group.
Assembled first thru Sid's good offices and ONR
Need for several disciplines

- i) Math to keep us logical
- ii) High level of computer programming skills
- iii) Biologists to keep the two others honest.

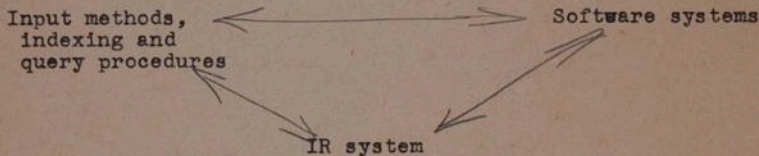
The two papers sent, and their role here today

4. Our view of taxonomy
Includes some very useful systems for all biology

	Taxonomy	
formal aspects	classification	identification
nomenclature	processes	
hierarchical treat- ments	(clustering methods)	
precise descriptions (language)		

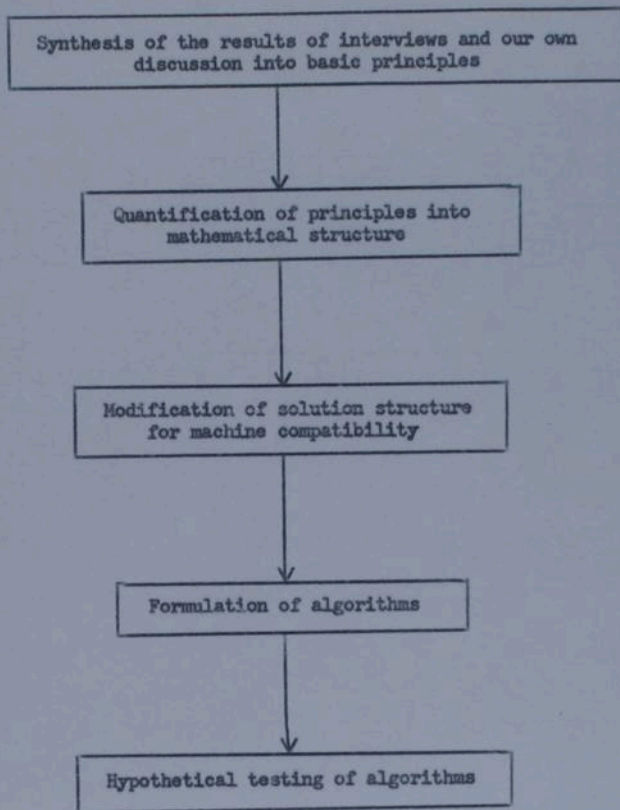
these can be viewed as an IR system
and are
underlain by an IR system (presently informal)

5. Our work on IR stems from the needs above,
and involves:

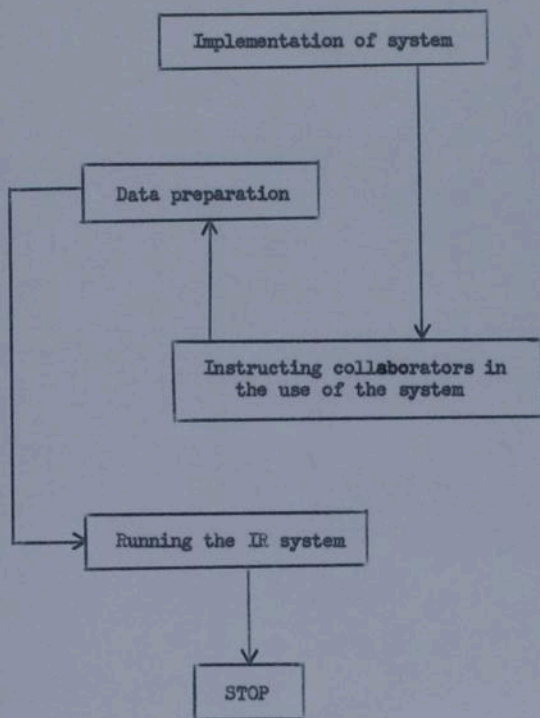


6. These methods help overcome two problems
 - A. An hierarchical structuring for names of organisms
 - B. The tyranny of FORTRAN, ALGOL, COBOL, or other compiler systems.
7. Both these problems have been brought home to us in various ways. The computer problem particularly, since we have spent a year reprogramming studies already completed on a CDC machine for IBM equipment.

EXPANSION 1



EXPANSION 2



Dept. of Smithsonian

listed by Don Squires as sources of
input -

Museum of Natural History -

Departments of Botany

" Invertebrate Zoology

" Vertebrate Zoology

" Entomology

" Paleobiology

" Mineral Sciences

Office of Anthropology

Radiation Biology Laboratory

Science Information Exchange

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

Office of Ecology

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

Office of Oceanography

Smithsonian Oceanographic Sorting Center

Division of Data Processing

PEOPLE ATTENDING

From CSU

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------|
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| 2. Henry Fleming -- taxonomist | | |
| 3. George Estabrook -- mathematician | | |
| 4. Robert Brill -- programmer | | |
| 5. Don Culbertson -- University Library | | |
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Wheeler

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This fellow
coming early '67

John Cottrell

(Office of Soc. & Tech. Info.)

England

Early in '67 in Washington

Seignwick (Cambridge)