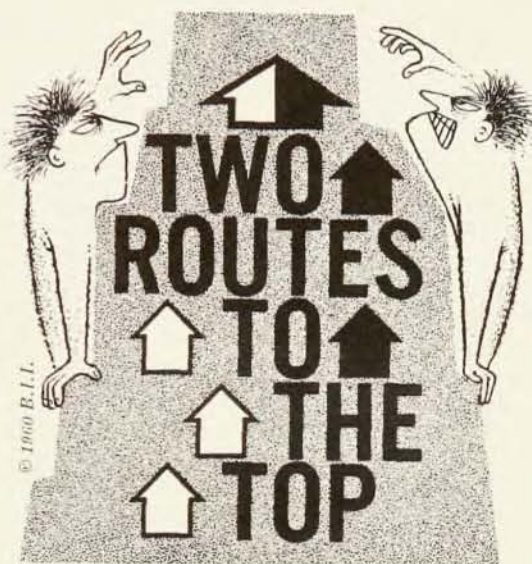




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The Institute

Physics Documentation Symposium

PROGRESS made during the past decade in providing more support for research, in encouraging the free international exchange of scientific information, and in fostering full dissemination of the results of research has been a factor in the flooding of existing channels of scientific communication with more new knowledge than can generally be assimilated. In physics, the mounting accumulation of published material and otherwise available data is creating new difficulties for those who must search the world's physics literature for the specific information they need. As a major publisher of physics research journals, the American Institute of Physics is interested in finding solutions for these problems and has initiated action to explore the use of information retrieval methods and to assist in developing improved indexing and abstracting techniques.

To stimulate discussion of the problem, the Institute has arranged for the holding of a Physics Documentation Symposium in New York City immediately prior to the annual joint meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers later this month. The symposium will be held at 7:30 p.m. on January 26 in the Empire Suite of the Hotel New Yorker, and all persons interested in the subject are invited to attend. Emphasis will be on indexing and information retrieval problems in physics, and the speakers will include M. M. Kessler of the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, W. A. Wildhack of the National Bureau of Standards, and Allen Kent of Western Reserve University. E. U. Condon of Washington University in St. Louis will introduce the topic and will serve as moderator.

The symposium is one outgrowth of a project which the Institute established to carry out necessary studies in physics documentation and provide staff assistance in the work of the AIP Committee to Study Publishing Problems, which is headed by Dr. Condon. The Institute's Documentation Research Project, which was started in November 1958 with support from the National Science Foundation and the Atomic Energy Commission, is under the direction of R. E. Maizell. Brief discussions of progress made in documentation research and reports on the work of the AIP project are contained in the Institute's recently established *Documentation Newsletter*, which can be obtained by writing to Dr. Maizell at the American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York 17, N. Y.