

transmitted to *Physics Abstracts*. It is anticipated that this voluntary obligation will be accepted by a very high percentage of the institutions supporting research, corresponding to our experience with page charges.

Compilations

The 1950-54 cumulative subject index for Section A (Physics) of *Science Abstracts*, containing more than 100 000 entries under nearly 1200 subject headings, has recently been published in England. An author index covering the same period was issued in the fall of 1956. Author and subject indexes for Section B (Electrical Engineering) were published in 1956 and in 1959, respectively. Copies of the Section A subject index, priced at \$4.90 each, can be ordered from the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, W. C. 2, England.

Superconductivity is the subject of an Air Force study and a bibliography which are now available from the Office of Technical Services, US Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.

Superconductivity In Metals and Alloys (AD 268 781; \$1.75), by W. H. Cherry and others at RCA Laboratories, presents the results of a search for new superconductors and the study of the factors affecting the transition between the normal and superconducting states of metals, alloys, and intermetallic compounds. The report includes a method for the measurement of interphase energy in superconductors.

Superconductivity, 1959-1961—An Annotated Bibliography (PB 181 088; \$3) lists 355 items of published material covering the theory, properties, and applications of superconductors.

Information Handling

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has contracted with Documentation Inc. for the first year's operation of NASA's new Scientific and Technical Information Facility in Bethesda, Md. Operated under the technical direction of NASA's Office of Scientific and Technical Information, it will supply information concerning the space sciences to NASA, its prime contractors, and other designated organizations. The data gathered will be processed on magnetic tape, copies of which will be distributed to each of the nine NASA centers in different parts of the country.

It is expected that approximately 20 000 titles from non-NASA sources (exclusive of journals) will be entered into the system annually and that some 500 information-exchange agreements will be established with other groups during the first year of operation. Items considered relevant will be abstracted, indexed, and entered into the system within ten days of receipt, and the facility plans to issue completely indexed abstract journals on a semimonthly basis. NASA is prepared to distribute about one million microfilm copies and 100 000 full-size copies of NASA-published documents each year.

A two-phase plan to improve the efficiency of engineering information retrieval has been inaugurated by the Engineers Joint Council. The basis of the plan is to abstract and index the literature at the time of its original publication. The two phases involved are a training program for source indexers and a study of engineering terminology, looking toward the development of an engineering thesaurus to aid the indexing programs.

Abstracting and indexing training is being offered free of charge by the EJC to the editorial staff of any technical publication. The program consists of two days of classroom instruction on concept-coordination indexing and the preparation of indicative abstracts, followed by a week of actual work sessions with each participant using material from his own publication. Additional information concerning the program can be obtained by writing to L. K. Wheelock, Engineers Joint Council, 345 E. 47th St., New York 17, N. Y.

In the second phase of the program, engineering societies are in the process of collecting material from various sources: annual title indexes of their technical journals, terms used in their subject indexes and abstracts, existing glossaries and word lists, etc. A group of working panels is being set up under EJC chairmanship to screen the lists so as to insure the inclusion of all important words in the engineering vocabulary. Later, the EJC plans to publish the selected lists in thesaurus format.

Proceedings

The *Proceedings of the International Conference on High Energy Accelerators* have been published by the Atomic Energy Commission as a 490-page report containing the papers presented at the meeting, together with a transcript of the discussions. The biennial conference which took place at Brookhaven National Laboratory and in New York City in September 1961, was sponsored by the AEC, the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, and Associated Universities, Inc., with the Brookhaven Laboratory acting as the host organization. The volume also includes several relevant papers not presented at the conference. Copies, at \$4 each, can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

The AEC has also published the *Proceedings of the Symposium on Sodium Reactors Technology* (TID-7623), a collection of papers presented at a meeting which took place during May 1961 in Lincoln, Neb. The publication includes papers on the status of reactor projects, development work and studies, and the French Rhapsodie Project, together with the transcript of a panel discussion on present and future reactors and postmeeting questions and answers. The 201-page volume is available from the Office of Technical Services, US Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. for \$3.