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Information seminars will be held monthly and will touch on all phases of the information problem. The seminars will include persons from the New York area who will exchange ideas with members of the AIP staff.

The second grant, for \$159 320, covers salaries and expenses for two years effective 1 July 1967. Two new offices have been established in connection with the information program: the associate director of the publishing and information branch (currently under the temporary administration of H. William Koch) and the director of the computer applications division (recently filled by Franz L. Alt).

The third grant is for funding five important tasks that are presently not funded and that are necessary for the successful implementation of tasks enumerated in the AIP proposal for a national physics information system. The grant is for \$99 200 and lasts until the major program is initiated in January 1968. These prerequisite tasks are as follows: (1) production of a journal index prototype, (2) determination of relative efficiency of AIP vocabularies searching, (3) development of a structure of standard data elements that can unify and order data about physics and physicists, (4) inventorying available sources of information about physics and physicists, (5) elaboration of a two-year step-by-step plan to be used as a guide in the systems analysis and development effort. Arthur Herschman, director of the information retrieval division, will be the principal investigator for the first two tasks. A prototype for a journal index will be developed by Herschman and his staff between 1 Oct. and 31 Dec. Testing of the vocabularies developed as computer retrieval tools will be undertaken during this same period. The other three tasks will be done by Miles Libbey, director of the systems development division.

The final grant is for the computerized composition program. This grant, for \$94 600, is for approximately 18 months. The chief investigator is Hugh Wolfe, director of publications; Alt will also participate in the study. At the present time, coding

schemes are being determined and computer programs are being developed by Vance Weaver Compositions, Inc. and Inforonics, Inc. One of the important features of this program is that it will attempt to develop a system in which the machine-readable record made for primary publications will contribute directly to secondary publication and to information storage and retrieval services.

### **Study Offers Data on Current-Awareness Aids**

A recent report on current-awareness habits of American and British physicists indicates that journal scanning, colleague contact and meeting lectures are in that order the most widely used methods. The study, prepared by Stella Keenan of the American Institute of Physics and Margaret Slater of the Aslib Research Department, working for the British Institution of Electrical Engineers, analyzes current-awareness preferences employed by 682 US and 268 UK physicists before *Current Papers in Physics* commenced publication in January 1966 (PHYSICS TODAY, Nov. 1966, page 11). Recommendations by the two sample groups on attributes of a good current-awareness journal were also studied as well as information on use of published abstract journals such as *Physics Abstracts* and use of current-awareness journals from other disciplines. The project is part of an overall investigation to determine the need for CPP and its usefulness to the physics community. Two later questionnaires cover the reactions of physicists to CPP as well as actual use made of the publication and the order in which sections were scanned.

Current-awareness preferences of the US and UK groups are as follows: current-journal scanning (US 91%, UK 94%), personal contacts (US 83%, UK 78%), papers at meetings (US 84%, UK 74%), abstract journal scanning (US 55%, UK 67%), preprints (US 61%, UK 50%), in-house abstract journals (US 21%, UK 36%), current-awareness journals (US 22%, UK 22%), others (US 22%, UK 13%).

Physicists in the US sample were chosen in the same relative proportions with respect to specialty, employer and work activity as the total

population of physicists in the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel. Physicists in the UK sample were chosen randomly from the membership list of the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society and the *Directory of British Scientists*. Copies of the report are available from the AIP information program.

### **AAS Elects Albert Whitford President for Two-Year Term**

Albert E. Whitford was recently elected president of the American Astronomical Society. Whitford is currently serving as acting president of the society and will continue in that capacity until the summer of 1968, when he begins a two-year term as president. Whitford received a PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1932 and is presently director of the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, Calif. His interests include photoelectric photometry of stars and nebulae, development of instruments and atomic spectra.

Bengt Strömgren, former president, has departed for Denmark, where he will reside in the House of Honors in Copenhagen, a house previously occupied by Niels Bohr. Strömgren will teach astrophysics at Copenhagen U.

Martin Schwarzschild, professor of astrophysics at Princeton, is newly elected vice president of the society. Sidney W. McCuskey will continue to serve as the other vice president. G. C. McVittie and Frank K. Edmondson will also remain as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

New councilors elected by the society are John W. Evans (Sacramento Peak Observatory, Sunspot, N.M.), Elizabeth Roemer (US Naval Observatory, Flagstaff, Ariz.) and Edwin E. Salpeter (Neuman Laboratory of Nuclear Studies, Cornell). The new councilors will replace retiring councilors Armin J. Deutsch, Arne Slettebak and Marshal H. Wrubel. Those continuing in the councilor office are Helmut A. Abt, Helen S. Hogg, Thomas A. Matthews, Herbert Friedman, Arthur A. Hoag and Maarten Schmidt. Bart J. Bok (Stewart Observatory, U. of Arizona) and Harlan J. Smith (U. of Texas) were elected to the national committee to the International Union of Astronomy. □