

the physics community

Ovadia succeeds Krohmer as AAPM president-elect

President-elect of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine is Jacques Ovadia. He succeeds Jack S. Krohmer, who is beginning his term as president. Ovadia is chairman of the department of medical physics at the Michael Reese Hospital, professor of radiology at the University of Chicago, and adjunct professor of physics at the Illinois Institute of Technology.



OVADIA

Ovadia's research interests include the therapeutic use of high energy electrons and x rays, short-lived isotope tracers, the mechanism of radiation action and pulse radiolysis. He earned his doctorate in nuclear physics in 1951 at the University of Illinois.

Koch discusses copyright problems with abstracts

"Copyright provides the principal legal, scientific and economic protection for authors and publishers. It is also a key vehicle for defining property rights so as to insure the most accurate, economical and wide dissemination of primary-journal articles." This was the dual theme of a talk given by H. William Koch, director of the American Institute of Physics, to a 10 July meeting of the International Council of Scientific Unions Abstracting Board in Berlin. The problems of copyright violations by unauthorized cover-to-cover reproduction of journals have been much discussed (for example, *PHYSICS TODAY*, February, page 23). In his Berlin paper

Koch paid particular attention to abstracts, their use and misuse by abstracting and indexing services that are increasingly becoming computerized.

Computer tapes of abstracts. The INSPEC division of IEE is the principal abstracting and indexing service for physics. Since 1970, it has been photo-composing *Physics Abstracts* from a computer tape—making it the first major international abstracting and indexing service in physics to be completely computerized. AIP has provided similar abstracting and indexing services (Searchable Physics Information Notices, or SPIN) for its primary journals and other important physics journals—an outgrowth of an NSF-funded program intended to stimulate sharing of computer tapes by major abstracting and indexing services as they become computerized. The computerization of both AIP and IEE and the fact that over 25% of the entries in *Physics Abstracts* are from AIP journals are strong reasons, Koch said, for close cooperation between the two institutions.

Some of the AIP-IEE negotiations have borne fruit including the joint use of AIP's Physics and Astronomy Classification Scheme (PACS). The problem remains, however, that since January 1974 IEE has been sidestepping the issue of copyright of abstracts by rewriting AIP journal abstracts, which potentially leads to more serious difficulties. It is possible for a given primary-journal article to have both its original abstract and one or more rewritten versions on various computer tapes, and, Koch noted, errors are being introduced into the rewritten versions. Partly because of these errors as well as the existence of several versions, confusion will result when tapes are merged for subject-limited compilations, such as for energy or environment. For example, Chemical Abstracts Service tapes, INSPEC tapes and SPIN have three different versions of abstracts for an AIP-produced journal article, only one of which (SPIN) has been checked by the author in the review of his article's page proofs. When all three tapes are merged to produce a printed set of abstracts, which abstract is to be used? The original abstract written by the author would serve best and should be used verbatim in tape form by secondary publishers. Another serious problem that arises from errors in computer tapes is the inability to locate an author and hence his paper by a computer search if even a minor error in the spelling of his name exists on the computer tape.

Cost Sharing. The economic problem pointed out by Koch is the elimina-

tion of resource sharing of costly computer tapes. This happens when secondary publishers rewrite to avoid honoring the copyright of abstracts of the primary journals. Related to elimination of this cooperation is the development of competitive information services based on the abstracts and articles originating in primary journals. Koch urged cooperation between publishers of primary journals and secondary services by the honoring of copyrights. Further, he urged the verbatim use of abstracts in computerized form as a means of insuring accuracy and sharing the costs now assumed by the author and the publisher.

Chapman wins AIP-US Steel science-writing prize

Robert D. Chapman has won the 1974 AIP-United States Steel Foundation Science Writing Award in physics and astronomy for his pamphlet, "Comet Kohoutek." Chapman is supervisory astrophysicist and head of the computations section in the laboratory for solar physics at the Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland. "Comet Kohoutek" was published by the Educational Programs Branch of the GSFC Office of Public Affairs.

H. William Koch, director of the American Institute of Physics, will present the award to Chapman at the annual meeting of Corporate Associates to be



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held in Washington, D.C. on 15 November. The prize consists of \$1500, a citation and a Moebius strip trophy.