ice will assemble and organize research and development data on methods and equipment for the automatic processing of information expressed in words, diagrams, or other non-numerical forms. Continuing tasks, to be begun as rapidly as possible, will be as follows.

1. Explore known sources and locate undeveloped sources of information on current research and development activities.

2. Establish and maintain a central reference file of information on current projects, researchers, and publications in the field. Descriptive information on work in progress will continue to be published in the foundation's semiannual report on *Current Research and Development in Scientific Documentation.*

3. Follow developments closely, analyze collected information, and from time to time prepare and publish reviews of progress.

4. Test and compare various procedures and techniques for the manipulation or searching of information.

5. Provide federal agencies and cooperating private organizations with requested technical advice on information-processing problems and on proposed research in the field. The service will not undertake to evaluate research proposals, but will furnish advice on the relation of proposed programs of research to other activities in progress and will suggest specialists believed to be particularly well-qualified to evaluate proposed research.

Eventually, it is hoped the service will be able to provide cooperating private organizations and federal agencies with consulting services regarding the use of machines as aids in research on information processing, the availability of machine facilities for testing theories and techniques, and the availability for research purposes of texts and other source data in a form suitable for machine processing.

Organizations and individuals engaged in research and development activities or planning programs in these areas may request further information about the new service and the procedures to be followed in requesting advice or information by writing to the Research Information Center and Advisory Service on Information Processing, Program for Documentation Research, National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D.C.

Illinois Radio Telescope

A radio telescope with a larger receiving area than that of any similar existing instrument will be constructed by the University of Illinois. University trustees have recently approved purchase of a 220-acre site near Union Corner, Ill., 35 miles east of the Urbana–Champaign campus. In the area, on the northeast bluff of the Vermilion River, is a ravine in which the university will build a trough-shaped reflector that will be 600 feet long, north and south. The trough will be 400 feet wide and 65 feet deep. The facility is being financed by a $233,000 grant from the Navy.

The new instrument, which will be similar in design to the other large radio telescopes being considered in England, Australia, and the United States, will have 160,000 square feet of receiving area. This is from two to three times more receiving area than the radio telescope now in use at Manchester, England. However, unlike the British instrument, the Illinois telescope will not be steerable. Observers using it will have to wait until the object they want to examine is brought over the telescope once a day as the earth rotates on its axis. A fairly large area of the sky will be observable.

WHO Procedural Guide

A guide to procedures and practices of the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, will be compiled during the next 3 years with the aid of a $25,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The guide will cover both the internal administration of WHO and its political and program relationships with the member governments of the United Nations. In addition, the "repertory of practice" will include the historical aspects of the development of international health activities and of the establishment of WHO.

The repertory of practice is needed to preserve in factual form the current practices of WHO and to serve as a basis for operation and understanding. The document will be valuable not only to WHO and the UN but also to health agencies throughout the world in formulating programs and policies relating to WHO.

Planet Earth

A new teaching aid designed to help stimulate science interest in the schools was announced recently by the National Academy of Sciences. Known as "Planet Earth," the new aid covers the scientific fields studied during the International Geophysical Year. It has three major components. The first includes six large, full-color posters entitled "The Earth," "The Oceans," "The Poles,' "Sun and Earth," "Weather and Climate," and "Space."

The second component is a profusely illustrated 44-page student brochure that reproduces the posters and describes the work of scientists in a dozen or more fields. The third component is a teacher's kit containing suggestions for classroom experiments, background material on aspects of the IGY and the earth sciences, a description of teaching methods related to the IGY in the Baltimore County schools, a list of scholarships available to students in the field of science, and other materials.

"Planet Earth" was prepared under the direction of Hugh Odishaw, executive director of the United States National Committee for IGY. A ten-member advisory committee that included AAAS education director John R. Mayor assisted in shaping the project. Financial support was provided by the National Science Foundation and the Ford Foundation. The academy was also guided in the early stages of the project by advice and assistance from Ellsworth Obourn, U.S. Office of Education; Robert Carleton, executive secretary, National Science Teachers Association; and officials of the National Science Foundation. The final materials were reviewed by scientists engaged in the US-IGY program.

After a year in preparation, "Planet Earth" is now ready for distribution to the schools. The package and its components are priced at cost. A classroom package—6 posters, 30 student brochures, and a teacher's kit—is priced at $9.50. Distribution is through the National Academy of Sciences Publications Office, Washington, D.C.

Waste Disposal

The University of California at Berkeley will host the first International Conference on Waste Disposal in the Marine Environment during the summer of 1959. The 3-day meeting will provide a forum for the international exchange of knowledge among scientists and engineers of many disciplines, interests, and organizations who are concerned with marine pollution research throughout the world. A tentative agenda lists as discussion topics (i) Waste Disposal, (ii) Public Health, (iii) Nearshore Oceanography, (iv) Receiving Water Analysis, (v) Marine Biota, and (vi) Estuarine Hydrography.

The program is presented by the U.C. Sanitary Engineering Research Laboratory, the Institute of Marine Resources, and University Extension in cooperation with the California State Water Pollution Control Board. Conference chairman is Erman A. Pearson, associate professor of sanitary engineering at the university and chairman of the Research Consulting Board of the State Water Pollution Control Board.

This conference will provide the first opportunity for an international exchange of information on marine waste