Committee on the Kimber Genetics Award of the National Academy of Sciences
Tracy M. Sonneborn, Indiana University

Council of Old World Archaeology
Richard K. Beardsley, University of Michigan

Instrument Society of America Committee on Research and Development
Jesse W. Beams, University of Virginia

U.S. Committee on ISO Technical Committee 37—Terminology
Duane Roller, Harvey Mudd College

Scientific Manpower Commission
Wallace R. Brode (1965), 3900 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.
M. H. Trytten (1963), National Academy of Sciences

U.S. National Commission for UNESCO
S. S. Wilks, Princeton University

New Section on Communication

Phyllis V. Parkins

Communication of information between scientists and between scientists and interested laymen stems back to the earliest beginnings of scientific societies and organized teaching. From the time of the founding of the Association in 1848, with its emphasis on interdisciplinary contacts, there have been AAAS members and groups of scientists with a particular interest in communication. The problems of writing, editing, and citing scientific papers existed a century ago. As the sciences expanded and as scientific societies proliferated and split into increasingly specialized organizations, as journals increased, and as the flood of scientific contributions multiplied, the problems of communication, storage, and retrieval of data and of concepts became acute.

Articles on the subject in *Science* and papers at AAAS meetings are too numerous to cite, but a time is approaching when the situation will become critical. At the meeting of the AAAS in Philadelphia in 1951 there were two sessions on Soviet science, arranged by Conway Zirkle, and a general symposium of three sessions, "Operation knowledge," organized by William F. Hewitt, Jr. This latter program was cosponsored by seven AAAS sections, by the American Library Association and the Special Libraries Association, and by the chemical literature division of the American Chemical Society. At the St. Louis meeting of 1952 an informal conference on scientific editorial problems was organized by Marian Fineman, then chief of the editorial branch, Technical Operations, Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Six excellent papers were read and discussed. The conference became a recurrent event at the Association's annual meeting. Consistent with a broadening of the scope of the conference was the change of name to the Conference on Scientific Communication, after 1957, when George Seielstad became chairman of the steering committee. The 9th conference, in New York, in December 1960, was devoted to a four-session symposium, "The sciences in Communist China." This was a distinguished program, sponsored jointly with the AAAS as a whole and cosponsored by ten societies and institutes and by the National Science Foundation, which had made possible the associated large translation and microfilming project.

The intensifying interest in, and need for, scientific information and communication continued. At least ten of the AAAS affiliates were concerned in these areas, and there were other organizations in this field, it was thought, that might seek affiliation with the Association. In the spring of 1961 it was suggested to Chauncey Leake that perhaps the time was ripe for the founding of an AAAS section on information and communication. It was pointed out that the AAAS was an organization singularly fitted to bring together the diverse societies and interests in this rapidly growing and complex field. Dr. Leake received the suggestion with enthusiasm; it was considered by the AAAS Board of Directors, which unanimously voted to recommend approval of the new section to the Council of the Association.

Representatives of societies thought to be particularly interested and a few key people from federal agencies especially interested in information and communication were invited to participate in a planning and organizing session in Washington on 8 October 1961. Those present agreed that programs of the new section should be planned with the primary objective of interesting scientists and communication specialists in each other's problems, to their mutual advantage.

Dr. Leake offered his plan for an afternoon program at the AAAS meeting in Denver, at what probably would be the last session of the Conference on Scientific Communication and the inauguration of the new section.

The AAAS Council unanimously approved the recommendation of the Board of Directors to establish the Association's 19th section, on information and communication (Section T).

At a luncheon given on 30 December for those interested in communication, Dr. Leake informally outlined the background and goals of the new section. Later, to the larger group assembled for the afternoon session, he announced the Board's appointment of Phyllis V. Parkins (of *Biological Abstracts*) as section secretary. He presented the name of George L. Seielstad (Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins), who had been chairman of the former Conference on Scientific Communica-

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tion, for consideration as section chairman by the future Section Committee.

The papers presented at this first section session stressed the need to bring together the bench scientists, the information scientists, and the science writers. The pooling of ideas, the dissemination of information on the practical value of information tools and techniques, the gaining of fresh insights —these, the speakers said, are only a few of the benefits to be derived from bringing together individuals concerned with various aspects of information and communication. Seielstad felt that the section should institute and develop a listing of problems related to information and communication, identify the organizations or agencies engaged in work on these problems, and reflect progress being made. He stated that conventional techniques should be augmented and that advanced techniques should be explored. The usefulness of all media, he said, including publications, data processing, storage and retrieval systems, motion pictures, radio, and television, as well as systems proposed or under development, is related to the capability of the producer and the needs of the user.

Some areas which require study were outlined as follows.

1) Factors affecting administrative policies pertaining to information and communication. Underlying causes of common inequities in allocation of funds for research should be explored. In the research budget the scientist's requirements for space, equipment, and assistance are covered but his needs for intellectual tools are seldom recognized. A comparative study should be made of the policies of administrative officers in industrial research laboratories and in academic institutions as they pertain to information and communication procedures.

2) Problems of communication within the field of information and communication. Communication among workers in the numerous highly specialized information fields should be facilitated. The possible role of Section T in the establishment of a clearinghouse for information on new studies, methods, techniques, and systems should be investigated.

3) Interdisciplinary problems of communication. A multidisciplinary approach to information handling and processing should be considered.

4) The degree and extent of responsibility of the scientific society with respect to problems of information and communication. This responsibility should be evaluated by scientists in cooperation with information specialists.

5) Educational aspects. Qualification standards for science-information personnel should be established, and a study should be made to determine what curricula and types of institution are most suitable for educating and training such specialists.

6) Communication problems associated with the publication of scientific journals. The influence of the publication policies and practices of primary journals upon the rapid and free flow of science information should be studied.

7) Technical aspects of providing information sources and services. The problem-oriented versus the medium-oriented approach should be considered, and existing indexing techniques should be compared, with recognition of the different purposes served by each.

Section T provides a forum where all interested societies and individuals may discuss these and other important problems and work toward their solution.

New Section on Statistics

Morris B. Ullman

A new section, Statistics (Section U), was established by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its 1961 annual meeting in Denver. This action of the Council, which brings the number of sections up to 20, was the result of a proposal by the American Statistical Association, in which it was joined by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Biometric Society (ENAR), and the Psychometric Society.

Statisticians have long participated in the activities of the AAAS. For example, Carroll D. Wright, the eminent authority on labor statistics, was national president in 1903. Statistics, as a methodology, has long been presented in papers at annual meetings and in the various AAAS publications in combination with other topics. The 300 affiliated societies have included the major statistical organizations, which have associated themselves primarily with Section A (Mathematics) or Section K (Social and Economic Sciences). The new section will bring together groups primarily interested in statistics and will help sharpen the contributions of persons engaged in statistical work, in line with the major objective of the AAAS—to further the work of all scientists and facilitate cooperation among them.

In organizing the new section it will first be determined which associations wish to participate. The Section Committee, the principal administrative body, will consist of representatives of these organizations, together with four members chosen at large, a vice-president of the AAAS (who will also serve as chairman of the section), and a secretary chosen by the AAAS Board of Directors. Morris B. Ullman, of the Office of Statistical Standards, Bureau of the Budget, has been appointed secretary.

Current individual members of the AAAS who wish to be identified with Section U and nonmembers interested in joining the Association should write to the Membership Department, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington 5, D.C., indicating whether Section U is to be the primary or secondary sectional affiliation.

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