



DATA BASE

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Special Interest Group on Business Data Processing
of the Association for Computing Machinery

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Roy Cottrell

Members, how about a challenge? What would you recommend and then support to make SIGBDP better? We are in a good financial position. *DATA BASE* is known as one of, if not the best, SIG publication. The current *DATA BASE* staff has agreed to continue that outstanding work.

Your new officers that you elected are ready and willing to respond to appropriate recommendations to improve SIG activities and publications. We will need your active support and participation to continue to improve SIGBDP. Jim, Barbara and I are looking forward to the next two years with SIGBDP.

In accordance with ACM guidelines, the following budget summary was submitted by Eric Carlson and approved by ACM National on June 10, 1981. It is provided for your information:

INCOME

SIG member dues	40,720
Newsletter Back Issue Sales	360
Proceedings Sales	2,000
Conference Net Income	500

The new officers of SIGBDP are Roy Cottrell, Missouri Pacific Railroad, chairman; Jim Sutton, Hewlett Packard, vice chairman, and Barbara McNurlin, Canning Publications, Inc., secretary-treasurer.

Other (includes interest)	1,700
Total Income (A)	45,280

EXPENSES

Travel and Subsistence	2,000
Temporary Help	2,400
Telephone	0
Office Mailing and Handling	0
Stationery/Supplies	300
Forms, Announcements & Brochures	1,500
Copying and Duplicating	40
Pub. Printing (production)	15,800
Wrapping, Mailing, Handling	2,520
Shipping and Freight	2,130
Publication Postage	4,620
Data Processing	2,900
Advertising & Promotion	0
Local Chapter Subsidies	0
Meeting Expenses	1,200
Other Misc. Expenses	575
HDQTRS Direct Allocation	8,080
Contingency Funds	3,300
Total Expenses (B)	47,365
Net FY'82 (A-B) (C)	(2,085)
Outside Funds to be Spent (D)	0
True Net FY'82 (C-\$) (E)	(2,085)
Accrual Retained Earnings	
From FY'81 (Note 26) (F)	40,868
Accrual Retained Earnings	
FY'82 (F + E) (Note 27)	38,783

DATA BASE DIRECTIONS II: THE CONVERSION PROBLEM

John L. Berg, Editor

This joint issue of *DATA BASE* and *SIGMOD RECORD* is an edited report on the second Data Base Directions Workshop held at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, November 1-3, 1977. Although four years have since passed, the conclusions reached by the participants address problems which are still of major import to data base users.

The Data Base Directions Workshops (there have now been three) are among the few forums at which people from academia and people from industry, as well as everyone in between, actually sit down and work together. Whatever this report may lack in state-of-the-art insight, it can be viewed as a valuable attempt at standardizing the language of data base problems.

ROY COTTRELL
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DATA BASE

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TOM COOK
Editor
SIGMOD RECORD

The proceedings of *Data Base Directions—The Conversion Problem*, edited by John L. Berg,* who was then with the National Bureau of Standards, were issued in September 1980 as NBS Special Publication 500-64. Its Library of Congress catalog card number is 80-600129. The original version, with headings and table-of-contents reference numbers, can be purchased for \$5.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

The introduction which follows was compiled from a preface to the original by Seymour Jeffery, director of the

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Center for Programming Science and Technology in the NBS Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, and from an introduction written by Daniel B. Magraw, assistant commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Administration who was the keynote speaker at the first Data Base Directions Workshop and general chairman of the second one.

Jointly sponsored by the NBS and ACM, the first Data Base Directions Workshop, billed as "The Next Steps," was held in late October 1975 at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It resulted from a proposal made to Seymour Jeffery at the NBS by Richard-G. Canning, president of Canning Publications, Inc., and Jack Minker, chairman of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Maryland.

The proceedings were issued in 1976 as NBS Special Publication 451. They were also published jointly by *DATA BASE* and *SIGMOD RECORD* and by the British Computer Society in Europe. Excerpts were published by IEEE and Auerbach.

Responding to suggestions made as early as December 1975, NBS and ACM decided to hold a second workshop. In February 1977, Mr. Magraw was asked to serve as general chairman. He served on the planning group, along with Mr. Canning and Mr. Minker as representatives of ACM and Mr. Berg as the representative of the NBS.

Four panel subjects were selected: establishing management objectives, actual conversion experiences, standards and conversion technology, an assessment. After their recruitment, the panel chairmen became members of the planning group and selected the participants. As for the 1975 workshop, attendance was by invitation, and each panel did advance work.

The mix of participants with their differing perspectives, experiences and technical expertise provides a base of knowledge in data base systems that may be unparalleled. The output should be of material value, especially to those decision-makers across the country carrying responsibility for data base futures.