

Classification.) Astronomical users of UDC are invited to send their suggestions for the revision of UDC 52 to Wilkins or to A. R. Macdonald at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, UK.

#### COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND COMMUNICATIONS (C. R. Benn)

The aims of the new Working Group on Computer Software and Communications are: the promotion of international cooperation in astronomy through the use of direct communications between computers; the representation of astronomers' needs to the developers of software; the encouragement of the adoption and use of software standards (but not the definition of new standards); and the facilitation of the exchange of software. The Group has a nucleus of 7 members and a mailing list of over 100 astronomers at over 90 institutions. The electronic-mail addresses of a much larger number of astronomers are given in a directory that is available from the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Cambridge, UK.

#### ASTRONOMICAL LIBRARIES (W. H. Warren Jr and H. Z. Knudsen)

The primary aim of the new Working Group on Astronomical Libraries is to encourage greater understanding and cooperation between astronomers and librarians in the libraries that the astronomers use; for example, many librarians would welcome more advice, support and feedback from astronomers about the wide range of services that are, or could be, provided. The Commission notes, with pleasure, the increase in the cooperation between astronomy librarians that has developed since IAU Colloquium 110. In addition to the Physics-Mathematics-Astronomy Section of the Special Libraries Association, which has primarily, but not exclusively, American members, there is now a European Group of Astronomy Librarians (EGAL). This Group was formed as a result of the initiative of S. Laloe (Paris) and A. Fishburn (MPI, Munich), and distributes the *EGAL Bulletin* and the *EGAL Directory* to its members.

One example of the cooperation between librarians is the preparation of the second edition of the *Union List of Astronomy Serials*; it will include the holdings of 39 libraries. It is being compiled and edited by J Bausch (Yerkes). In addition, Huang Bi-Kun of the Purple Mountain Observatory at Nanjing, China, is endeavouring to prepare a catalogue of the astronomy serials of the world, and she would be glad to receive information about serials that are not listed in *Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts*. Another example is the pairing (or twinning) programme organised by M. Cummins (Astronomical Library of the University of Toronto) to put librarians from institutions that have great difficulties in obtaining publications from other countries into contact with librarians from major institutions with greater resources. So far six such pairs have been set up, and worthwhile exchanges of information and publications have been reported.

#### A PERSONAL POSTSCRIPT .

My retirement from the Royal Greenwich Observatory in July 1989, the move of the RGO to Cambridge in April 1990, and the stagnation of the UK housing market, which has led to my splitting my life between Eastbourne and Sidmouth, have made it more difficult for me to respond quickly to incoming letters and to prepare and distribute circular letters in good time. It is, however, clear from the above reports that several members of the Commission have been very active and I hope that others will assist them to carry through to successful conclusions the tasks that were identified at Baltimore. Finally, I would like to thank all who have contributed to this report and to the activities of the Commission during this period.