

## Turing Topics

This column is intended to be a permanent feature of the Proceedings of the Institute. It has been started because the emergence of reliable 3.5" magnetic discs, capable of recording >10<sup>6</sup> characters is having a great effect on all aspects of publishing by scientific societies. This format is not only cheaper to produce than traditional printed journals, it is in many ways more useful to the working scientist because of its greater flexibility. Users can add, delete, modify and search for information on these discs very easily, the discs can be copied and stored in a minimum space.

The Institute proposes to publish work on this medium in three fields:

**A** Each issue of the Proceedings will be available on these discs from Volume 40 Part 1 (this issue) onwards. Members of the Institute will be able to decide whether they wish to receive their copies of the Proceedings in the normal printed form or on 3.5" or 5.25" floppy discs as part of their membership dues. (They will be able, of course, to purchase the other format.) Authors who wish to publish data that normally would be deposited in a databank e.g. crystallographic data, field observations etc. are encouraged to incorporate such extensive data with their typescripts. It will be published by the Institute and deposited in the Institute's library in the magnetic disc format - only the typescript part will be printed.

**B** In the past the Institute has published encyclopaedic lists of plants and animals characteristically found in the Maritime Provinces. In future this sort of material will also be published in the floppy disc format. At the moment the following discs are available:

1. The cumulative indices (volumes 1-39), Author & Subject, of the Proceedings (see *Proc. N.S. Inst. Sci.*, 39: 149). The disc includes a utility that searches the author index for all a given author's publications in the Proceedings, giving titles and references.

2. Indices of available fungal cultures. These indices are lists of cultures available from culture collections and include the following details of each culture: binominal name, accession number, the substrate and place of origin of the fungus, details of its maintenance and its toxicity (see *Proc. N.S. Inst. Sci.*, 39: 79). The following collections are available:

- a. Agriculture Canada (DAOM Collection ≈7500 cultures)
- b. Forintek Ltd., Canadian Forestry Service, in Fredericton, and in Edmonton (Northern Forest Research Center) and Centre de Recherche en Biologie Forestière, Laval University (≈4000 cultures)
- c. Cultures available from the National Research Council (some are being transferred to Agriculture Canada; ≈2000 cultures)
- d. Yeast cultures from Labatt's Ltd and a few other sources (≈600 cultures)
- e. Cultures available from the International Mycological Institute, United Kingdom (≈9200 cultures).

All of these are sold with instructions for their use and a programme for searching the data.

3. A list of culture collections; their curators, holdings (bacteria, fungi, algae, virus etc.) and addresses

All of this material is available from the Institute's Librarian, Science Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4J3 at a cost per disc of \$25.00 for individual scientists and \$CAN 50.00 for institutions. In ordering please state the data format (IBM or Macintosh, 3.5" (0.8 or 1.44 Mbytes), 5.25" (.6 or 1.2 Mbytes) required).

**C** Inevitably the first occurrences of this column will be dominated by news like that given in the preceding parts, but we hope that this will be a temporary phenomenon, because this column is intended for the use of members of the Institute. As more members use and design computer software its utility, accuracy and value will become apparent to them. It will benefit all of their colleagues if they publish these experiences, good and bad, in this column. Such publications should be succinct, and they will be reviewed. They will be published under their author's name and will be restricted to 500 words.

The information in this and succeeding columns will be accumulated on a floppy disc which will be available to members. We hope that a mechanism will evolve whereby members can keep their records of the column current at minimum expense to themselves.