

the amount of data other than the capabilities of the computer. It is sufficiently flexible to be used for individual collections, national or international data centers and can be adapted to processing data of other types of collections such as herbariums and museums. A special feature of this system is a dictionary that checks the spelling, authenticity and synonymy of each culture name with master lists before accepting and storing the data on a master tape.

Dr. Simpson, Dr. Quadling and Dr. Martin reported on various aspects of their work at the International Conference on Culture Collections in Tokyo in October, 1968. Delegates

expressed keen interest and a resolution was passed to the effect that a feasibility study be made on the use of such a scheme in the International Information Centre for Micro-organisms.

"I believe our system after some further development could be used by such a centre", Dr. Simpson says.

Discussions also are in progress on adapting the Saskatoon programs to produce a directory similar to the Canadian one for cultures maintained in the United Kingdom and also a World List of Species under the auspices of the Section on Culture Collections, International Association of Microbiological Societies.

"As yet, we do not know whether our methods or some others will eventually be most acceptable", says Dr. Simpson, "but the work has established that computer processing of information about cultures is both practicable and desirable. The computer gives the scientist a new dimension in speed and quantity. The latest computers with their auxiliary equipment of magnetic tape drives and direct-access disc storage are able to arrange, rearrange, correlate, and manipulate large amounts of information and numerical data. The scientist working alone could not hope to work so fast nor so accurately".