

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMPUTING NEWSLETTER FOR SCHOOLS OF BUSINESS

This newsletter is published nine times per year by the College of Business Administration, University of Colorado. Subscription fee is \$20 per year. The newsletter contains short reports, abstracts, and announcements on a number of items. The March 1974 issue had notes on interactive computing, APL and the Strategy of Teaching, Coding Accounting Transactions through Interactive Computing, Learning Statistical Analysis Via APL Terminal, Production Management Game, and the Microsimulation of Consumer Behavior.

For further information, contact:

Computing Newsletter
Cragmor Road
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

CONFERENCE ON THE ANALYSIS OF CONSUMER EXPENDITURE DATA

The above conference, in the NBER Conference series on the Computer in Economic and Social Research, will be held in Palo Alto, California on May 2-3, 1974, and will inaugurate the West Coast center of the NBER. Papers are scheduled to be given by Kelvin Lancaster, Robert Gillingham, R. Robert Russell, Richard Boyce, Laurits Christensen, Dale W. Jorgenson and Lawrence Lau, Robert Pollak, Martin David, and Sidney Afriat. Persons interested in further information should contact:

Ms. Anna Tremblay,
National Bureau of Economic Research,
575 Technology Square,
Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

REPORT ON WORKSHOP ON MACROECONOMIC SIMULATION TEACHING GAMES

Fourteen economists from 11 colleges and universities attended a one-day Workshop on Macroeconomic Simulation Teaching Games at the National Bureau of Economic Research in New York on October 26, 1973. No formal papers were presented: instead the Workshop provided an opportunity for an informal exchange of experiences and a discussion of pedagogical problems.

A wide variety of simulation models were presented, ranging from a simple display of textbook lessons to complex structures involving neoclassical growth, stochastic features, and economies tied together through international trade. The main purpose of the conference was to bring together a number of users of classroom macroeconomic simulations to discuss problems and prospects for computer simulation teaching techniques. All the participants were optimistic about the pedagogical value of such games. The discussions ranged over a number of issues and generally a variety of views were expressed. However, on one point there seemed to be general agreement: there is a great temptation—which should be resisted—to make the simulations excessively elaborate. Students become hopelessly confused, with the result that the intended lessons are lost. The consensus was that the solution to this problem lies in the use of simpler models or a more careful development of tools necessary to analyze the more complex models.

A subsidiary goal was to generate a catalogue of computer games which would be available for distribution. However, a general pessimism was expressed about the feasibility of exporting computer programs and game exercises to other universities and other computers. Those who described their experiences reported many long letters and long telephone conversations had been required to answer questions and help debug the programs. Most said they were unwilling to spend large amounts of time as personal consultant to a variety of users. However, several conference participants were optimistic about producing a package for export and planned to have versions of their simulations available (perhaps commercially) for general use sometime in the future.

FORTHCOMING

ANNALS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASUREMENT

Volume 3. Number 3 July 1974

- | | |
|---|---|
| Malcolm S. Cohen and
Frank P. Stafford
John Conlisk | "A Life Cycle Model of the Household's Time Allocation"
"Optimal Response Surface Design in Monte Carlo Sampling Experiments" |
| Barbara R. Bergmann | "A Microsimulation of the Macroeconomy with Explicitly Represented Money Flows" |
| Hatanka Michio | "A Simple Suggestion to Improve the Mincer-Zarnowitz Criterion for the Evaluation of Forecasts" |
| T. Muench. A. Rolnick.
N. Wallace and W. Weiler | "Tests for Structural Change and Prediction Intervals for the Reduced Form of Two Structural Models of the U.S.: The FRB-MIT and Michigan Quarterly Models" |
| <i>Research Methodology Notes</i>
James Stewart | "Generating Submodels of a Simultaneous Equation Model: An Algorithm Using Fisher's Correspondence Principle" |
| <i>Computer Center Notes</i>
Joe B. Wyatt | "Toward Computer Networking: the Harvard Experience" |