

October 27, 1965

Dr. Henry W. Brosin
Associate Editor
American Journal of Psychiatry
1700 - 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Dr. Brosin:

I have read your editorial "Information Explosion - Information Retrieval" in the latest issue of the *American Journal of Psychiatry* with a great deal of interest. For many years, this problem has been an acute one and I was pleased to participate in a number of symposiums including one that made recommendations for the Clearing for Mental Health Information.

In establishing these laboratories at the Missouri Institute of Psychiatry, the development of a library facility became a central focus. We experimented with a number of computer devices for the retrieval of articles of interest to our staff and these efforts culminated in a decision to develop an information handling unit using coordinate indexing as the central method for the identification of documents. As an initial experiment, we trained two assistants in this technique and coded more than one-thousand articles in psychopharmacology, organic therapies and EEG. Much effort went into the development of programs for the retrieval of this data so that now our users can inquire for citation lists or author lists for articles containing any combination of descriptors. I am enclosing a copy of our library programs for your interest.

I am delighted that the APA is carrying out these studies and would be glad to cooperate in any way that is reasonable.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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