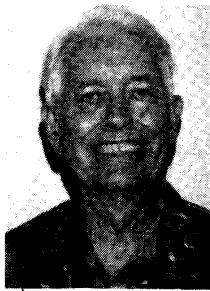


Putting Communications Technology to Work



IN recent months a number of enhanced means of communicating has become commonplace. In addition to the various overnight mail carriers we find in many offices and laboratories the ubiquitous computer mail terminal and FAX machine. Where will it all end? A news commentator recently reported that it was more reliable to send memos to the other end of the building by FAX than by interoffice runner; the FAX machine did not stop on the way for a cup of coffee. Be that as it may, faster means of transmitting information are definitely here.

As members of the nuclear science community, how can these technologies help us? What is the reliability of delivery? Are they cost effective? The need and the marketplace will undoubtedly provide the answer.

The urgency to publish new concepts and developments as rapidly as possible goes without saying. President John F. Kennedy illustrated the point with the story of a gardener who was lamenting the time it took for a seedling to grow into an oak tree. We all know it takes many years. But Kennedy replied, "In that case, plant it this afternoon!"

Let us explore some of the means to cut down on delays in the paper review process. Within the North American continent the post office delivery of an original manuscript is still the preferred method. If your budget will allow, overnight mail often speeds the delivery by as much as one week. For our overseas authors it is imperative that manuscripts come at least via airmail; overnight mail, however, is much faster. Most manuscripts are too lengthy to transmit via computer mail or FAX.

Communications acknowledging the arrival of a paper or comments to and from the reviewers can be expedited using either computer mail or FAX. My address on Internet (the old ARPANET) is MACK@ucscd.ucsc.edu. For BITNET use MACK@ucscd.BITNET. My FAX number is (408) 438-7018.

Authors and potential reviewers can inform me of similar addresses at their institutions; I will be happy to reply by the most expeditious carrier. I cannot promise that the manuscript I receive today will be reviewed and published tomorrow, but if each of us will reply promptly, unnecessary delays will be eliminated.

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EDITOR