

Oct. 1974

Programming Advising

The Computing Centre supports three full time and one half-time programming advisors. Kevin Worvill divides his time between advising and systems work. The work embarked on by users is diverse, and thus not every advisor can be expected to give meaningful advice on every problem. Some aspects of the work are covered by some advisors only, but this does not mean that complete knowledge of a system or understanding of a problem is claimed by the advisor concerned. Individual advisors may be contacted on the following topics:-

Keith Hood:	work on 370 at Cambridge, statistical and survey analysis packages, FORTRAN, Algol, PLAN.
Chris Higley:	work on CDC 7600 at Manchester, work on 370 at Cambridge, FORTRAN, Algol.
Kevin Worvill:	scientific programming, FORTRAN.
Ortwin Treutler:	scientific programming, FORTRAN, Algol, PLAN.

In addition to specialities all advisors cover the system, George 3, and general programming logic. Advisors may be seen when they are not on duty, but in the first instance should be contacted during their duty periods. Advising users in person is only part of the function of an advisor. In order to maintain the advisory service he must spend a considerable part of his time using the system, tracking obstinate errors and documenting for users, so users should always contact the duty advisor in the library first. The advisors' timetable is published in the Computing Centre.

Users in general should always make an attempt to understand and solve the problem themselves. Documents, in particular a number of Programming Notes have been prepared to help the user. An up to date list of documents may be found in the User's Handbook and is posted in the users' punch room in the Computing Centre. However, advisors will attempt to help a user on any computing problem, but users should always bring with them all evidence even if only considered to be remotely pertinent, such as data cards, paper tape, George 3 monitor file and printed output. Some advice may be of the "try this" type. In general if a user's problem persists he should come back until it is solved or until it is generally admitted that there is no solution.