

July 25, 1970

Memorandum To: Paul Armer, Director Stanford Computer Center

From: R. L. Patrick

Subject: Operations Audit of ACME Facility  
(7/13/70 - 7/16/70)

CC: Ron Jamtgaard, Director ACME Facility  
Dr. William Miller, Deputy Provost for Computing

Introduction

During my visit to the ACME Facility, I reviewed almost all aspects of operation and support for the facility. I enjoyed the full cooperation of Mr. Jamtgaard and found all of his people pleasant, cooperative, and willing to answer my questions. I encountered no lack of cooperation nor any administrative details which detracted from my studies. During my visit, I worked some of all three shifts, and conferred extensively with the following people:

Charles Class

Linda Crouse

Dave Cummins

Regina Frey

Serge Girardi

Lee Hundley

Ron Jamtgaard

Joshua Lederberg

Stu Miller

Gio Wiederhold

Operations Crew

IBM Installations Planners

In addition to the conversations with those listed above, I enjoyed several visits to the three laboratories within the Med Center who were running on-line to ACME with experiments or data reduction.

Prior to visiting ACME, I reviewed the original grant request to determine the goals of the facility. In the broadest terms, I found six goals:

- A. Real-time data acquisition
- B. Real-time control of experiments
- C. On-line deferred data reduction
- D. Development of interactive programs
- E. Training of users on the system
- F. Access to the Campus Facility for heavy production.

In my visits I found that the project has successfully accomplished all goals except F. There is as yet no useful bridge between ACME and the Campus Facility. I also found that the project has been more successful in accomplishing Goals C, D, and E than they have in supporting the real-time user. There is a risk, if this trend is allowed to continue, that ACME will become *just another time-sharing system*. If the real-time portion of ACME is allowed to wither and die, ACME will find it difficult to compete in terms of cost and service with other time-sharing systems available commercially and more highly tuned to efficiency.

The ACME Project has survived its adolescence and must now reorganize for maturity, set objectives and schedules, measure progress against plans, and apply precious resources against proven needs.