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CRANFIELD RESEARCH PROJECT

MEASURES AND AVERAGING METHODS USED IN
PERFORMANCE TESTING OF INDEXING SYSTEMS

by

Michael Keen

ASLIB-CRANFIELD
RESEARCH PROJECT

[Measures and Averaging Methods used in Performance
Testing of Indexing Systems]

- by -

E. Michael Keen

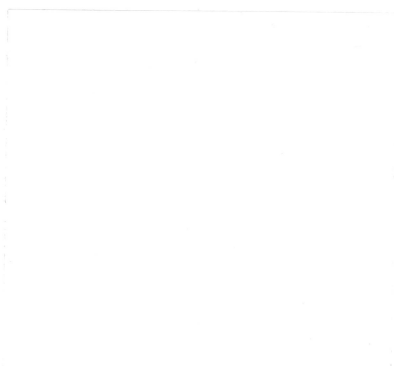
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Cranfield

February, 1966

The work on which this note is based has been carried out in the course of the investigation into index language devices, which has been supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

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The present Aslib-Cranfield investigation into index language devices has resulted in a large amount of experimental test data. The presentation of this data in a meaningful manner raised a number of problems, and it was clear that the simple measures of recall and precision on their own would not be satisfactory. Our work on these measures received a fresh impetus when Professor Salton presented the first results of the searches by the SMART programmes, for the close similarity of the work at the Harvard Computation Laboratory and at Cranfield made it most desirable that the results should be comparable.

Mr. Michael Keen has been mainly responsible for this work at Cranfield, and, with the benefit of spending a week with Professor Salton and his staff at Harvard and also continuing close co-operation with them, he has reached a stage where I feel that it is justifiable to issue a brief note. It is not suggested that the work has been completed, but it is hoped that this note will be of interest and of value to the few people who are concerned with testing experimental systems.

Cyril Cleverdon

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