

APPENDIX 6A  
LETTER TO THOSE ASSISTING IN COMPILATION  
OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES

We have recently sent to you a copy of the interim report on the test programme of the investigation into the comparative efficiency of indexing systems. As is discussed in Section 5 of this report, we wish to test the basic test programme. The purpose of doing this is to attempt to discover whether the methods used in the basic test programme have any factors which unduly influence the results that have been obtained.

The supplementary test procedure which has been devised to do this is of a kind for which we are again seeking co-operation of those interested in the project. One hundred questions have been selected from those which were originally prepared for the basic test programme. We are sending to you and to all those whom we hope might be willing to help, five of these questions, and would ask you to prepare lists of references to all documents that might conceivably be of use to anyone requiring information on these questions.

When these lists are returned to us, we will check them against the documents that have been indexed during the project, and hope that we shall have for each question one or more references to documents which have been indexed. Such documents will be submitted to a subject specialist, who will be asked to review them and decide which are relevant to the question, at the same time denoting the degree of relevance in a scale from 0 to 4. We shall then search in the catalogues with these questions and the objects of the search will be those documents which the subject specialist considers to have some relevance. This method of testing will differ from our original method in that the language of the document will not be tied in to the language of the question, and in that we shall not know how many references should be retrieved. It may be that there will be no other relevant documents or possibly, for a general question, there may be one hundred or more.

It will not only be a measure of the success of each search as to the retrieval of relevant documents but also the non-retrieval of documents which have been adjudged irrelevant. Therefore we ask those compiling the original lists not to be too selective; in other words we do not ask you to ensure that every document included in the list is definitely relevant to the question. It is sufficient if, from the title, it appears to deal with the subject.

If you are willing to help, I would add the following points:-

1. Do not include in your lists any documents published prior to 1952 or after February, 1960.
2. Do not include any documents that have any security restriction.
3. Do not include any documents that are not written in English.
4. Please do include in the list all reference (with the exceptions given above) that you can locate by any means; in other words, they shall not

only include entries from the index which you yourself might compile, but also from any published abstracts, annual indexes, other bibliographies, etc.

5. It is unnecessary to quote in the lists anything more than the source references and the author, e.g.

NACA TN. 3765 by Wong  
Jnl. Aero/Space Sciences, 1956,  
pp 16-22 by Griffith.

We have an index filed according to sources and authors, and can therefore easily find by this method whether any documents have been included in the project indexes.

I can assure you that the assistance which you have already given to us has proved of value; if you are able to undertake this additional task, we shall be equally grateful. If you do not think that you can spare the time, please could you let me know as soon as possible so that the questions may be redirected to somebody else. If, however, you are able to help, I should be grateful if you could return the lists to me by the end of January, 1961.

PQ 71 Panel flutter analysis.

PQ 72 Comparison of alclad and unclad aluminium sheets riveted together and subjected to fatigue loading.

PQ 73 Effect of shear lag on transverse oscillations of thin-walled cylindrical beams.

PQ 74 Vibrations in  $45^{\circ}$  delta wings - deflectional behaviour under static tests.

PQ 75 Types of failures of pressure cabins.