

## Discipline History Center in the Sciences

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The history of modern science, little explored before the 1960s, has since then become one of the most rapidly growing fields of historical study. With the goal of preserving the original source materials needed for this research and making them available to scholars and others, a number of discipline history centers have been established in a wide range of scientific fields. The first of these centers to be founded was the Center for History of Physics.

I am convinced that you can get many times as much done if you stimulate activity all over the country as you can if you try solely to build up a central collection (Evans 1962:102).

With these words, Luther Evans — Librarian of Congress and Director General of UNESCO — articulated the basic principle of a discipline history center at the 1961 Conference on Science Manuscripts. None existed at the time, but some physicists in the group had already drafted plans for the first, full-program center — the Center for History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics. It would serve as a model for those that followed in the sciences and in engineering some ten to fifteen years later.

Problems facing the documentation of modern science have received increasing attention during the post-World War II era. The 1961 Conference on Science Manuscripts was a very modest assessment. A far more ambitious effort was conducted around 1980 by archivists and historians on the Joint Committee on Archives of Science and Technology (JCAST), which dealt with the more complex issue of documenting American science and technology in the postwar period. These assessments had no parallel in other disciplines; they were virtually forced upon historians and archivists in science and technology because traditional archival practices were so clearly inadequate for these fields. Because of the bulk of postwar records and new forms of evidence, continuing the practice of appraisal on a collection-by-collection basis would be ineffective and costly; what was called for was appropriate planning and analysis and a more thorough understanding of the nature and value of modern evidence.<sup>1</sup>

A natural base for coordinating these approaches to documentation is the discipline history center. Indeed, a number of the recommendations for action in the JCAST report (Elliott 1983) relate to standards that should be fostered by discipline history centers. JCAST recognized that

promoting research in the history and social studies of science and technology offers the surest guarantee that documentation will be adequately preserved. Scientists and engineers were urged to share with archivists their understanding of the processes of science and technology and to identify major developments. Directors of manuscript and archival repositories should recognize that the documentary needs of science and technology are best served when an institution's records and the personal and professional papers of its research staff stay together — at the institution's own archives whenever feasible, but if not, at other repositories that should welcome those records of historical importance. A corollary recommendation was that archival programs be initiated or upgraded at institutions in all sectors of science and technology.

JCAST also pointed more specifically to the importance of the role of discipline history centers in documenting modern science and technology. The report included the following statement (Elliott 1983:49-50):

The unique role of the discipline center is that it supplements the established (or idealized) pattern whereby institutions care for their own records. The perspective of the discipline centers is national, even international, and subject-oriented, and it is on those levels that they can operate most effectively, by transcending the institutional structure of science and technology. The best roles for the centers are in coordination and in promotional activities. In this regard, their part is particularly difficult but may be most crucial in relation to industrial and government science and technology...

In aiming toward an adequate national program for documenting the history of science and technology, JCAST envisions the discipline centers as having a special responsibility for:

1. The development of a professional and critical interest in the discipline's history.
2. The involvement of scientists, engineers, and administrators in a consideration of that history, and its need for a wide range of documentary sources. One means of accomplishing such involvement is through an oral history program.
3. Identifying the important scientists and engineers, research, engineering, and development projects, events, and institutions relating to the discipline's history, and a systematic program for locating the records (both personal and institutional) that document the many aspects of the discipline's history. Those locations of documentation not now in archival repositories is *at least* "in original" as important as union lists of materials now under such control.
4. An active role as intermediary between scientists and archivists, and a maximum effort to promote the establishment and efficient operation of archival programs in academia, industry, and government. Where local archives are not feasible, the centers should help to find suitable repositories or should be prepared themselves to become repositories of temporary or last resort. They should take

primary responsibility for preserving such materials as the records of professional societies within the discipline.

5. The centers, as part of their role as advisors to archivists on questions of appraisal of scientific and technological records, should undertake to identify and to define the universe of documentation in their disciplines. They should take an active part in establishing priorities and formulating national (even international) collecting strategies that will ensure the preservation of the relevant corpus of documents. The centers themselves should undertake or sponsor research into documentary questions. When usable results of such research are at hand, the centers should play a crucial role in its interpretation and dissemination to the archival and scientific and engineering communities.

In general, the centers should take the broadest view of their role in regard to the total universe of archival sources. At the same time, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of efforts better left to institutional archives, historical societies, and the like. These general guidelines could be considered profitably by a number of the existing centers, insofar as they are able to redirect their efforts, and should apply generally to centers created in the future.

### **Center for History of Physics: Background**

The American Institute of Physics (AIP) is an umbrella organization for the leading professional societies in physics and allied sciences. In this sense, the history of the AIP goes back to the 1890s, when two of its Member Societies, the American Physical Society and the American Astronomical Society, were formed. Until the 1970s the size of the community grew about ten-fold every eleven years, and today the AIP serves the interests of some 80,000 scientists.

The AIP is most widely known to scientists and librarians as a publisher of scientific journals, conference proceedings and other publications. A description of the AIP by archivists and historians, on the other hand, would focus on the fact that one division of the AIP is a discipline history center devoted to working with physicists, archivists, historians and others to secure an adequate record of the history of modern physics. In 1985, the Center received the Distinguished Service Award of the Society of American Archivists for this work.

The need to take action to document the history of modern physics was not recognized until the late 1950s. The scientific results themselves were, of course, preserved in journals and textbooks, but details of the progress, the pitfalls, and the human story of how discoveries had been made were rapidly fading. In addition, physicists who had been through the Great Depression, World War II, the onset of the Cold War, and the rise of industrial research knew that social conditions had profoundly influenced their research — and vice-versa. They wanted these processes to be understood better. The first step was to preserve historical documentation.



The Niels Bohr Library & Archives and the Center for History of Physics are divisions of the American Institute of Physics that share a common mission: to help preserve and make known the history of modern physics and allied sciences. Photo courtesy Niels Bohr Library & Archives, American Institute of Physics.

AIP director Elmer Hutchisson set up an *ad hoc* committee to investigate the state of documentation and to recommend an appropriate role for the AIP. The committee's findings were bleak: there were virtually no physicists' papers in repositories; physicists thought their publications were sufficient historical evidence; archivists hesitated to approach scientists for their papers; and to complete the vicious circle, no individuals trained as historians were working on modern physics. After a review of these findings, the committee stated categorically that unless immediate and drastic steps were taken, the documentation needed for adequate understanding of modern physics would be lost. By the end of 1960, with the authorization of the AIP Governing Board, a plan for nation-wide action had been drafted.

### **Planning a Documentation Strategy<sup>2</sup>**

It is interesting to imagine what the programs of the AIP Center for History of Physics would look like if they had been designed by historians, archivists, and librarians rather than by physicists. In 1960 the small group of concerned physicists (some of whom were doing scholarly historical work) had no archival models to draw on. On the positive side, they brought with them some significant strengths, the most obvious being their close knowledge of the physics community. More subtle and perhaps more important, they brought from their own research in physics an international perspective on problem solving and

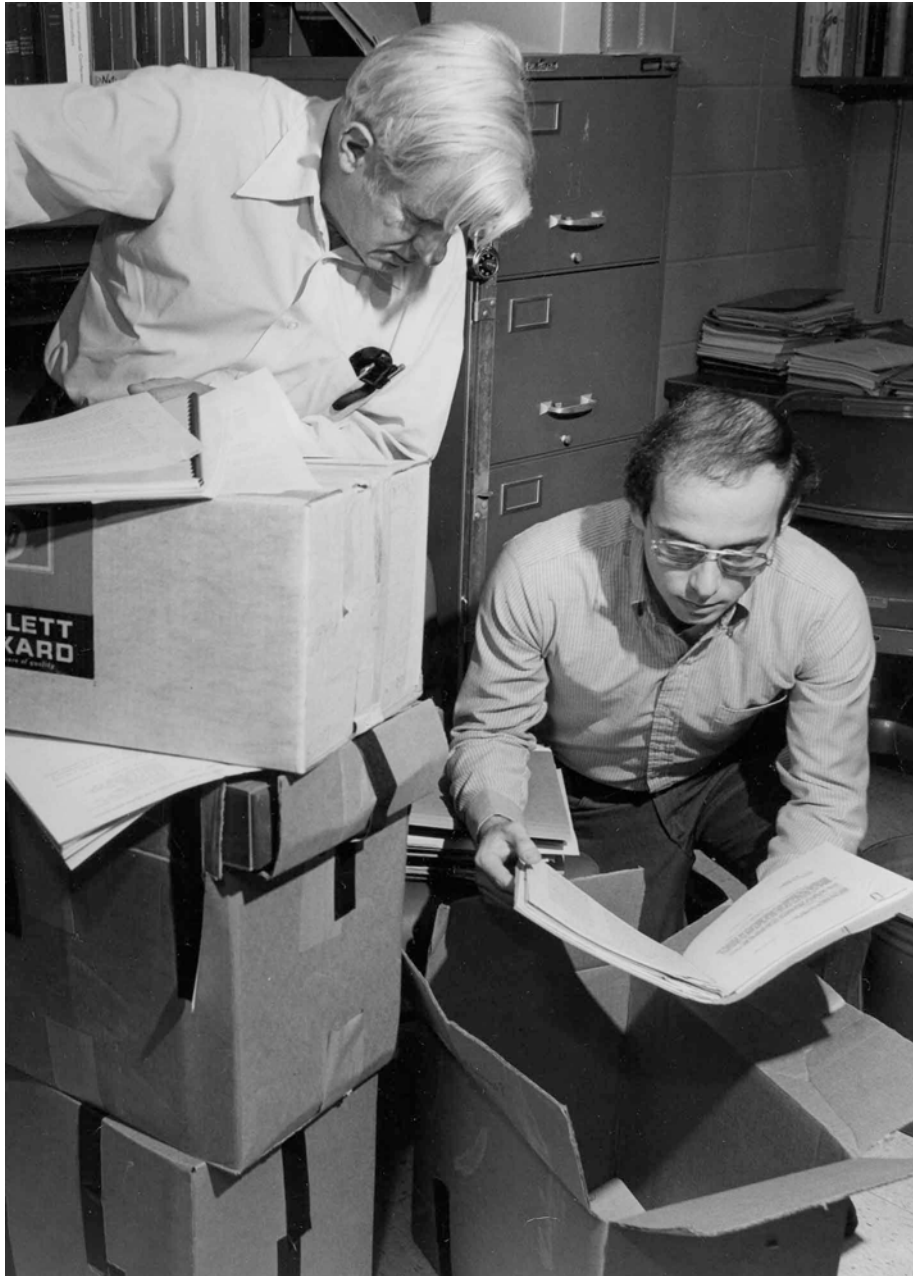
the realization that there are no grand final solutions but rather only evolving understandings of and approaches to basic problems.

The most striking feature of the initial plan was a policy that the AIP Center should limit its activities to those best done by one central organization; in other words, it should not do what others should, and could. For example, it should create documentation, such as oral history interviews, but not collect papers. This was an unprecedented policy for its time. Nevertheless, the committee's conclusion was that AIP would be most effective if it used its energies to play a leadership role, guiding the documentation of modern physics at appropriate institutions rather than collecting voluminous archives at the AIP. The committee members were aware from the beginning that to achieve their goal they would have to carry out an extensive educational effort and enlist the long-term cooperation of many institutions and individuals. The Center's tasks were, first, to ensure preservation of the documentation of the history of modern physics and allied sciences at appropriate repositories; second, to aid historians, other scholars, educators, and journalists who want to use such materials; and third, to help educate the public about the history of modern science.

The AIP accepted this documentation strategy and sought staff with appropriate professional credentials to help implement it. The AIP was able to find a historian, albeit of nineteenth-century science, and later they hired me, a humanities librarian; they sent us to meetings of the Society of American Archivists and elsewhere for professional retraining. But the strongest role was played by a standing advisory committee of physicists and scholars; this was especially true in the initial years, as they trained us in their concept of a national cooperative program.

It had been decided that the initial effort would cover American physics from about 1890 to World War II. From their knowledge of the community, the designers of the strategy knew that physics during this period was the product of individuals working on their own or, occasionally, with one or two colleagues. A list of stringent criteria was developed to identify those physicists who had made truly substantial contributions. Analysis of the resulting list revealed that almost all of these physicists were associated with academia. This was fortunate, because most college and university libraries had archival programs of some kind. Even if they were not collecting physics papers, they were something to work with. Academic physics was not the only target, but it was the main one.

A letter was sent to every physicist on the target list urging them to recognize that their correspondence, notebooks, and other source materials might be of great value in documenting the history of modern physics. Similar letters were written to archivists at institutions where these physicists worked, seeking their cooperation. The Center's staff made site visits, not only to repositories but also to attics and barns, to help archivists and physicists appraise files. We conducted oral history interviews and collected manuscript autobiographies and institutional histories.



John Blewett, a Brookhaven National Laboratory physicist, and Allan Needell, an American Institute of Physics historian, examining Blewett's scientific records in his Brookhaven office for a documentation study of the Department of Energy Laboratories. Photo courtesy Niels Bohr Library & Archives, American Institute of Physics.

At the same time, a long-term educational and reporting component of the strategy, directed toward physicists, archivists, and historians and other users, was initiated. This effort is still in effect. The most essential educational tool is a newsletter, which includes reports on deposits of collections at repositories and on historical and archival projects dealing with modern science and technology. The Center also issues appraisal guidelines for physicists and archivists, and it maintains an International Catalog of Sources for History of Physics and Allied Sciences with information on the location and contents of collections. Reports on the Catalog are issued from time to time.

The first years of the Center were hectic and rewarding times. The most challenging part of the early work was persuading individual physicists to save unpublished source materials, archivists to preserve them in their repositories, and historians and other scholars to use such modern materials. The response was positive. We were even able to persuade two major academic institutions that had no archival programs to initiate them. With the AIP working as a broker and not competing for collections, cooperative ties with physicists and archivists were put firmly in place. Collections were deposited, and historians and others began to use the new resources.

Every year AIP officers and Center staff would meet with the AIP Advisory Committee on History of Physics. The staff would report on our progress and our experiences in working with physicists, institutions, archivists, and users. The Committee would assess these reports and consider possible new tactics.

### **Focused Studies and Documentation Research**

In the late 1960s it was determined that, along with routine work to document all of the discipline of physics, the Center would add a series of special projects focused on specific subfields. To date, these projects have dealt with quantum physics, nuclear physics, astronomy and astrophysics, solid state physics, laser science and technology, physicists in science policy, and — currently — geophysics. These focused projects all follow a basic formula: identifying key individuals, events, and institutions whose work should be documented; locating and selecting significant records and preserving them in appropriate repositories; and conducting oral history interviews with selected individuals to fill gaps in the documentation and enrich the record. Focused projects have introduced substantial efficiencies in oral history interviewing and in the selection of documentation. As each project is completed, the follow-up efforts — such as guiding collections to appropriate repositories — continue as part of the Center's overall program.

The Center's strategy evolved over the decades, primarily in response to changes in the physics community itself and, in particular, its style of conducting research. A major shift came in the early 1970s as the Center began to worry about documenting post-World War II physics. Career patterns and institutional bases for modern science became increasingly complex during this period, but the AIP Center had little information on research settings outside academia. In addition to the settings, much else had changed: the introduction of "Big Science," the growth in sheer bulk of the record, the increasing impact of computers and a variety of other new technologies on the kinds of records being produced. No one had confronted the problem of how to select and retain key documentation for this period. Accordingly, the Center staff carried out a series of site visits to major research laboratories. The investigation identified mountains of records, an absence of professional archivists, and few historians who might spur interest in saving the records. Leaders in the scholarly and archival communities confirmed the difficulties, suggesting that the problems might be insoluble.

In an effort to begin to understand how best to document the activities of these important nonacademic institutions, the AIP Center devised its first documentation research study. This study centered on the national laboratories of the Department of Energy (DoE).<sup>3</sup> Some unique characteristics of the project were the active role played by archivists, the participation of a wide range of scholars, and the extensive fieldwork carried out with scientists and other records creators. After more than eight person-years of fieldwork at both DoE and other nonacademic laboratories, the project succeeded in achieving the understanding needed to extend the Center's documentation strategy to cover postwar scientific laboratories. The first of its kind, the DoE study has provided a model for further documentation research projects by the AIP and others.<sup>4</sup>

The AIP Center's current documentation project is a long-term study of the complex issues facing the historical documentation of multi-institutional collaborations in physics and allied sciences. Despite the significance of these transitory "mini-institutions," records of such teams have not yet been made secure for the use of historians, sociologists, and others studying the research process.<sup>5</sup> Multi-institutional collaborations — for instance, an experiment run at a national laboratory by a team from a number of universities — have become increasingly important to advances in modern science and technology. The overall purpose of the documentation research project is to put the AIP — and the archival community as a whole — in a position to provide guidance on the documentation of collaborations. The AIP project identifies patterns of collaboration, defines the scope of the documentation problems, field-tests possible solutions, and recommends future actions. In addition to its traditional historical and documentation field research, the Center's study makes considerable use of sociological techniques and draws upon existing scientific databases to compile a profile of collaborations in the discipline under study. The Center staff is joined in the work by archivists, historians of science and technology, and sociologists.

During its first phase, the project spent two years studying the field of high-energy physics, concentrating on experiments conducted since the early 1970s at the most important accelerator laboratories. Since October 1991, the project has been conducting a similar effort in the fields of space science and geophysics. During the final phase of the project, scheduled to begin in 1994, we will conduct brief investigations into some other fields to determine patterns in the collaborative research process as well as in records creation and their preservation. Our main focus will be on work with policy makers in the scientific and archival communities to develop procedures to improve documentation of multi-institutional collaborations in the future.

### **The Niels Bohr Library**

While the Center's national strategy is to save documentation at the institution where it was created, the Center has also established the Niels Bohr Library as a resource for the history of physics and allied sources. The library serves as the repository for the records of the AIP and its Member Societies. In addition, although the Center does not normally



collect papers of individuals, it does take some, in instances where the appropriate institution lacks an archival program. Whenever such an institution does initiate an archival program, the Center returns the collections to it. This practice not only preserves papers that would otherwise be lost, but it also stimulates the creation of archives at scientific institutions. Scholars planning research projects may also contact the library for access to the Center's International Catalog for History of Physics and Allied Sciences. As a further aid to researchers, the library collects copies of any available finding aids to collections.

While not working actively to collect original materials, the library strives to acquire collections on microfilm. Its microfilm holdings include the Archives for the History of Quantum Physics, which contain papers of Niels Bohr, Ernest Rutherford and many others; the Sources for History of Modern Astrophysics, including papers of Edwin Hubble, Karl Schwarzschild, and others; and other individual collections on microfilm, such as the papers of James Clerk Maxwell, Robert A. Millikan, and other outstanding physicists. In a number of cases the AIP has initiated the microfilming, not only for conservation purposes but as a stimulus to research.

The library also has an active program to collect certain other types of materials, such as copies of historical photographs and tape-recorded eyewitness accounts by physicists, in the belief that it can assemble such international collections more effectively and make them more accessible to users than can any individual repository. The collection of historical photographs, primarily of individuals and groups but also including laboratories and apparatus, is the most heavily used of the library's resources.

The library's printed materials, primarily books and journals, cover biography, history, philosophy, and sociology of science. The collection is particularly rich in historical technical publications. Rather than trying to compete with other institutions' holdings of original editions of rare old books or current technical works, the Center seeks items typically discarded by technical libraries: out-of-date nineteenth- and twentieth-century texts and monographs, laboratory manuals, apparatus catalogues, and the like.

Supplementary resources needed to fully document modern physics have been developed by the Center and are available in its library. It fosters the writing of physics departments' histories and of autobiographies of selected physicists. The most heavily used category of documentation created by the Center is its oral history interviews of physicists, an expensive but vital supplement to the written record. In addition to its own program, the Center helps support relevant oral-history projects and interviewing by outside individuals. In general, the oral history program follows the Center's basic tenet of encouraging others to do what they can do best while taking on itself those activities best done by a discipline center.

## **International Catalog of Sources for History of Physics and Allied Sciences (ICOS)**

Preservation is but the first step toward making primary sources available to historians and other scholars. Catalogs and other guides are needed to make materials widely known, to foster research, and to provide intellectual access.

The AIP Center's goals of preserving materials and of aiding users of the records are closely joined. Work to secure the documentation of modern physics and allied sciences in appropriate repositories around the world has led to detailed knowledge of the location and contents of archival resources, and this in turn has allowed the Center to guide people to the resources they need. Gathering and disseminating archival information has thus been the linchpin of the Center's work from the outset.

The ICOS today is a constantly growing system based on long-standing cooperative ties. The overall purpose of these links with archivists, physicists, historians, and others is to help locate, appraise, preserve and make known manuscript and archival collections documenting modern physics. The AIP may initiate correspondence upon the death or retirement of a distinguished scientist or other circumstance that may endanger records. The Center also carries out occasional surveys of selected physicists and twice a year writes to a number of repositories with active science collecting programs, seeking information on their new deposits. Finally, staff members of the Center are in frequent contact with historians and physicists among whom news of collections is regularly exchanged. Much of the information in the ICOS comes from the series of projects the Center has conducted aimed at documenting significant areas of physics and allied sciences. In addition, since 1984 the Center has supported a small Grants-in-Aid program for scholars, which frequently brings information on new resources to the ICOS.

The AIP Center's Catalog also has benefitted from outside projects. The Center adds to its database records relating to physics and allied sciences that have been located or created by its colleague discipline history centers: the IEEE Center for the History of Electrical Engineering, the Charles Babbage Institute Center for the History of Information Processing, and the Beckman Center for History of Chemistry. The Center regularly reviews the literature for announcements of new deposits of manuscripts and archives collections; newsletters are particularly valuable. In a similar way, index entries for pre-1988 volumes of the Library of Congress's *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* have been scanned to capture information on collections in repositories reporting to NUCMC.

The ICOS covers records (including manuscript collections) in the Center's Niels Bohr Library, in other repositories, in research institutions, and in private hands; it also notes plans for future deposits and information on destroyed records. At present, it contains summary information on over 4,000 collections. In addition to archival records and collections of physicists' papers, there is an increasing number of entries for oral history interviews, audio-visual materials (e.g., motion picture film footage), and manuscripts (e.g., institutional histories and

autobiographies). The ICOS is supplemented by over 700 finding aids to collections in repositories around the world.

The Center has published information on the location and contents of manuscript collections and archives through its Newsletter and hardcopy catalogs. While these publications are familiar to historians of modern science and technology, many of the collections covered in the ICOS are of great potential value beyond history of science. To give but two examples: diplomatic historians need access to the papers of atomic scientists who were closely involved in foreign policy advice relating to nuclear weapons and reactors, and economic historians may seek the records of physicist-entrepreneurs who moved into business from academic solid state physics.

The staff at the AIP Center, like other archivists and historians, watched with great interest the events of the early 1980s that led to the introduction of the MARC-AMC data format to record and exchange archival information. MARC had originally been developed by the Library of Congress to set standards for book cataloguing; the AMC format (Archives and Manuscript Control) is tailored specifically to accommodate cataloguing of archives and manuscript materials. It has vastly improved exchange of machine-readable information and has revolutionized the archival community. By now hundreds of archivists have been trained in these standards, often for purposes of upgrading in-house catalogs. Online databases of interest to historians and other scholars are now almost commonplace; the most significant for manuscripts and archives is the Research Libraries Information Network of the Research Libraries Group (RLIN-AMC).<sup>6</sup>

Even while the RLIN-AMC system was in the development and testing stages, it seemed clear to the AIP Center that the new file offered the best means of achieving its mission to foster and facilitate the study of the history of physics within an interdisciplinary context. The multidisciplinary database, shared by major research institutions, affords opportunities for researchers in other fields to become aware of the history of physics, and, specifically, of the programs of the AIP Center. The AMC is one of eight files in RLIN providing access to a broad spectrum of materials both published and unpublished. By September 1991 RLIN-AMC contained close to 350,000 records covering manuscript and archival collections. The institutions sharing this information include college and university libraries, historical societies, state archives, and the National Archives and Records Administration. In 1988 the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* at the Library of Congress began to enter its reports of collections from repositories. Some discipline history centers are also participating.

The AIP Center has been automating its old cardfile and updating and enlarging the ICOS; the results will be shared with RLIN-AMC. The AIP has concentrated major efforts on strengthening the international component of the ICOS, developing ties with foreign institutions that will then track down information on collections of documentary source materials outside the United States.<sup>7</sup>

In summary, the ICOS has been a product of the cooperative ties established with archivists, scientists, and historians as well as with colleague discipline history centers and institutional projects. Like the documentation strategy as a whole, the ICOS has evolved over the past decades in response to a variety of opportunities, for example, the technological advances made by others for on-line exchange of archival information. The AIP Center's current project to upgrade, automate, and share its ICOS with the Research Libraries Group's RLIN-AMC will make a major contribution toward filling gaps in its coverage and promote broader use of the manuscript source materials documenting modern science and technology in repositories around the world.

### **Support for the Center for History of Physics**

The American Institute of Physics has taken the position that it needs to support a core staff of the Center in order for its basic programs to remain viable. At its smallest, the staff has consisted of a professional historian and a professional librarian/archivist plus a secretary. Over the decades support for the Center has grown — as have its activities and core staff supported by AIP. The AIP is a major publisher in physics; as a not-for-profit institute, it uses its income to support the history program and other efforts best carried out by a national institute.

A second source of support for the AIP Center is a Friends program to which individuals, primarily physicists, make voluntary contributions. These funds — totaling some \$20,000 annually — support supplementary staff, special publications, and emergency actions that might be needed to preserve or microfilm a valuable collection of papers.

All of the Center's special projects — for example, the focused studies of subfields of physics, the documentation research projects, and the automation of the Center's ICOS — have been supported by grant funds. Sources of support for these projects have included the National Science Foundation, industrial corporations, the National Historical Publication and Records Commission (of the National Archives), the Department of Energy, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Discipline history centers are permanent institutions with a variety of approaches to documenting a particular discipline. They undertake a wide range of activities, but few if any meet the standards for the full program discipline history center envisioned by JCAST. While most have some involvement with their discipline's professional societies, few have policies to preserve papers at appropriate repositories (wherever possible at the scientist's home institution); fewer still conduct research on appraisal and other documentation problems. All too many try to collect everything in their discipline, rather than seeking more appropriate repositories for materials. Some centers have programs limited to historical research or serve only as the official repository for a scientific society's records. As a minimum, discipline history centers must have some kind of program to encourage the preservation of documentation in their fields beyond collecting for their own repository,

and they must provide advice to scientists who request information on where best to place their papers. Several of the centers now in existence in the United States have programs that far exceed this minimum, and it is hoped that these will serve as models for other disciplines.

### **Summary**

- Documentation strategies for the history of science since the 1960s have included the establishment of discipline history centers in a number of fields.
- The discipline history center is most effective in performing coordinating, communicational, promotional, and advisory functions for a discipline and is not intended to duplicate or replace other repositories.
- The Center for History of Physics offers a model, aspects of which could usefully be emulated by anthropology.

### **Notes**

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1. The JCAST report has had a significant impact beyond science and technology. By now, most archivists have come to agree that the traditional assumptions of how we collect and select evidence do not hold for modern records.

2. Documentation strategy is a relatively new term to the archival community. It was not in place when the AIP started its Center; nevertheless, the physicists had initiated the basic elements of such an approach. A definition of documentation strategy would underline the importance of structured planning on the part of creators of the records, records administrators, potential users, and others to assure adequate documentation of an ongoing activity or subject. A documentation strategy is carried out through the mutual efforts of many institutions and individuals and is regularly refined in response to changing conditions. Strategies may be developed at levels ranging from worldwide and nationwide to statewide and communitywide (Hackman and Warnow-Blewett 1987:12-47).

3. The project was funded by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. Fieldwork began in late 1977 and was completed in 1981. Project publications (1980-1985) include interim reports, a final project report, appraisal guidelines, and a handbook for secretaries (Warnow et al. 1982).

4. One significant example is the documentation research project of the Charles Babbage Institute aimed at improving the selection and appraisal of historically valuable business records in high-technology industries (Bruemmer and Hochheiser 1989).

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5. The project has been funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and the Department of Energy.

6. Another database used for manuscripts and archives is the OCLC (Online Computer Library Center). A review of early developments in the archives community, especially the RLIN-AMC, is available (Hickerson 1988).

7. The information on new collections is catalogued at the AIP and then shared with RLIN-AMC and each foreign participating institution.