

REVIEW

COMPUTERS AND GEOSCIENCES. Vol. 4, No. 3, 1978 (*Editor-in-chief: D. F. Merriam*) Pergamon Press, New York, Annual Subscription: 85 dollars

Each year since 1972, the Department of Geology at Syracuse University and the International Association for Mathematical Geology have been conducting a Geochautauqua. The present volume of the Computers and Geosciences under review contains the proceedings of the 6th Geochautauqua held at Syracuse University on 28th October, 77. With Professor J. M. Cubitt as the Director, International Geological Correlation Project 148 dealing with biostratigraphic correlation was combined with lithostratigraphic correlation. The 6th Geochautauqua represented the first international meeting of this project.

In the introduction, Professor Cubitt stated that the subsequent Geochautauqua in 1979 and 1980 would discuss the results of the implementation of the new concepts and techniques presented in 1977. Unfortunately, the proceedings of these latter seminars are not available to the reviewer. Therefore, comment on the individual papers is not made in this review.

A total number of 14 papers were presented in the 6th Geochautauqua. 8 papers on Quantitative biostratigraphic correlation and 4 papers on Quantitative lithostratigraphic correlation appear in the volume under review. Two papers: one on quantitative palynological correlation and another on an algorithm for the stratigraphic correlation of well logs, could not be published in the journal. The former paper was published elsewhere and the latter is not released by Amoco. The present volume also contains two FORTRAN Programmes for calculating binary similarity co-efficients and for lateral tracing of time stratigraphic units based on faunal assemblage zones. Both these programmes were from the Department of Geology at Syracuse University. The papers presented in the 1977 meeting range from USA, Sweden, USSR, Canada, Israel, Hungary and many other countries and give a very good cross section of research work. Almost all the papers are highly interesting and the results of research applying these ideas are worth watching.

This is a highly sophisticated method of analysing quantitative information where it is available. Reliable data-base does not exist in developing countries to apply rigorous statistical methods using computers. Though computers are available in many institutions in India, it still remains an open question whether it is cost-effective to use them with often unreliable data having many times missing links within it by service departments other than universities.

The Journal is printed in excellent standards of Pergamon Press and it is recommended for all Universities as it can incite a challenging thought process in the minds of the young geologists in arriving at an unbiased numerical estimate of what they are looking for. Only we wish for a more rapid publication and dissemination of the various proceedings of the Geochautauqua.

V. RAMESAM