

## ICPSR

### Welcome

Welcome to Ann Arbor and the U of M  
And congratulations on the Silver  
Anniversary of the Consortium

### Weather

Hit Ann Arbor on an "off-football  
weekend...but this has been an  
"off-football" season...

Next week is Michigan-Ohio State game...  
yet the trip to the Roses will be decided  
today over in East Lansing...between  
MSU and Indiana...

In looking through the topics in your  
program today, I noticed two of  
particular interest...

- i) Networking, remote access,  
and data storage and transmission
- ii) Collaborative research

Let me switch hats for a moment to make  
a few comments about these, since, as  
some of you know, I also serve as a  
member of the National Science Board,  
the Board of Directors of the NSF...

### Networking

NSF supercomputer program got all of the  
attention...

But many of us believe that the real impact  
will be in building robust electronic links  
among our institutions...

Preliminary efforts:

- i) Bitnet
- ii) CS net
- iii) ARPAnet

Next major push: NSFnet...

Goal: Interstate highway system of information  
exchange...

Expres: To develop the technology to support  
such networks...

### Collaborative Research

Centers: Big theme of NSF...and all federal  
agencies these days...

Major facilities

### Major facilities

NSF Supercomputer Centers

SSC

### Research Centers

In the past...

MRLs

ISR...

New efforts

ERCs

STCs...

Note: Entire NSF strategy of doubling  
support over 5 years is based on the  
center effort.

### Concerns:

Appropriate balance between support of such  
centers and SRPs...single investigators

National Academy report

NSB report...

Belief: The cornerstone of academic science is the single investigator, and the NSF is the last bastion of support for this mode of research...(since most mission agencies prefer the very large projects)

Questions:

- i) What fraction of NSF budget should be protected for single investigators?
- ii) Should centers be funded only out of new monies?
- iii) Should all center be funded with sunset constraints...

Collaboration and Networking

Pull both of these together a moment...

Expres, NSFnet,...

Fascinating new technology developing...

Capture laboratory...

Theme: Computer shifts from a tool for information processing to a medium of communication and collaboration

Removes the barriers of space and time...

What a magnificent tool for the social sciences.

And what a central role the social sciences will play as the technology to link people together becomes more and more pervasive.

Enough rambling...

Let me end with welcoming you once again to Ann Arbor

And wishing you the best for your meeting this weekend.