

CERN Courier Archive: 1969

A LOOK BACK TO CERN COURIER VOL. 8, JULY/AUGUST 1969, COMPILED BY PEGGIE RIMMER

CERN

Do-it-yourself CERN Courier writing kit

At certain times of the year, such as when everyone is on holiday, the volume of material which is covered in *CERN Courier* is likely to fall. However, to compensate our more eager readers for the sparser issue this month [July 1969], we present a 'writing kit' from which the reader himself [sic] may construct a large variety of penetrating statements, such as he [sic] is accustomed to draw from our pages. It is based on the SIMP (Simplified Modular Prose) system developed in the Honeywell computer's jargon kit.

Take any four-digit number – try 1969, for example – and compose your statement by selecting the corresponding phrases from the following tables (1 from TABLE A, 9 from TABLE B, etc ...).

Compiler's Note

This jargon-juggling game can generate some quite amusing assertions. Despite the blatant bias in the introduction, readers of any gender are invited to submit a 2012 version of the writing kit. To help, the original 1969 text can be copied from the *CERN Courier* website: <http://cern.ch/go/couriercompetition>.

Your offering should be sent to the editor: cern.courier@cern.ch before 30 September 2012. She (yes!) will choose a winner, based on a random 4-digit number; her decision will be completely subjective and final. The prize will be to see your name in print (sorry no lights) in the December 2012 issue of *CERN Courier*.

● The August 1969 cover featured an Aeroflot plane, seen at Geneva airport for the first time in July, chartered by CERN to carry equipment to and from the CERN-Serpukhov experiments in the then Soviet Union. The *CERN Courier* was exactly 10 years old that month and had 10 laboratory correspondents. Now there are 26, reflecting the

impressive growth in the number of CERN users, from below 1000 in the late 1960s to more than 10,000 today.



Table A

1	It has to be admitted that
2	As a consequence of inter-related factors,
3	Despite appearances to the contrary,
4	Until such time as fresh insight reverses the present trend,
5	Using the principle of cause and effect,
6	Presuming the validity of the present extrapolation,
7	Without wishing to open Pandora's box,
8	It is now proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that,
9	Worrying though the present situation may be,

Table B

1	willy-nilly determination to achieve success
2	construction of a high-energy accelerator
3	access to greater financial resources
4	pursuit of a Nobel prize
5	bubble chamber physics
6	a recent computation involving non semi-simple algebra
7	over-concern with the problems of administration
8	new measurements of eta zero zero
9	information presented in CERN COURIER

Table C

1	should only serve to add weight to
2	will inevitably lead to a refutation of
3	can yield conclusive information on
4	might usefully take issue with
5	must take into consideration
6	will sadly mean the end of
7	ought to stir up enthusiasm for
8	could result in a confirmation of
9	deflates the current thinking regarding

Table D

1	the need to acquire further computing capacity.
2	humanitarian concern with the personnel ceiling.
3	the Veneziano model.
4	a design which produces collisions at a later stage.
5	Macbeth's instruction 'Throw physic to the dogs'.
6	divergencies in weak interaction theory.
7	the desire to ensure that certain scientists go far.
8	bootstraps, conspiracies, poles and dips.
9	the future of physics in Europe.