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Identification

MSPM Publication Procedures  
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The MSPM is intended to be an "encyclopedia" for the Multics system. That is, it contains specification of the design and implementation of the entire system. Tutorial information on user-generated sub-systems and commands does not fall within the scope of the Manual, but when such sub-systems and commands become "part of the system" it is expected that design and implementation documentation for them will be placed into the Manual. Furthermore, by definition, all efforts of the system programming staffs (Project MAC, Bell Telephone Laboratories, and General Electric's Cambridge Information Systems Laboratory) do fall within the scope of the Manual. There are two major reasons for the heavy emphasis placed upon the MSPM: First, the Multics system is of considerable interest to both scholars and professional programmers. Second, the Multics system will not be unique to Cambridge and Murray Hill, but is intended to be used at various locations; therefore, in order to make on-site maintenance of the system feasible, it is necessary to furnish a thoroughgoing description of the system.

In light of the foregoing, it may be observed that the scope of the MSPM is, essentially, the Multics system. The procedure for submitting a document for publication is, in general, the following:

1. A programmer is assigned a task.
2. A design specification is written.
3. The document is circulated in draft form to interested parties.
4. The relevant Activity Leader, after approving the draft, submits it to the MSPM Editor. (Note that section numbers are assigned by the Editor, usually working in conjunction with the Activity Leader.)
5. The Editor submits the document for final publication approval to the Programming Manager or his designate.

6. The approved document is taken by the Editor to the Documentation Office, where a flexowriter tape is produced.
7. A copy of the flexowritten document is given to the author for proofreading.
8. After any typographical errors have been corrected, the author passes the final copy on to the relevant Activity Leader for final approval, indicated by initialling the Document Office routing form in the appropriate space.
9. The MSPM Editor then checks the final copy, indicating his final approval on the routing form.
10. The document is then reproduced, and copies are distributed to the MSPM mailing list.

Aside from the conventions discussed in BA.3.00, there are no rigid rules covering the writing of individual sections; newcomers to the project may, however, wish to consult with the Editor as to which already-published sections are considered to be reasonable models to follow.

#### Corrections to Already-Published MSPM Sections

There are two ways of making corrections to already-published MSPM sections. First, if the changes are extensive it is usually the case that the section in question should be reissued. In this case, the procedures are similar to those for the original submission of a document, as described above, except that circulation of a draft is not required other than for extensive re-designs and step 5 (and possibly step 8) is omitted. A corrected copy of the published version of the section is usually submitted, although in some instances a newly-typed version is necessary. A cover letter, briefly summarizing the changes, is required for re-issues.

The second way of making corrections to an already-published section is to produce an appendix to the section, specifying the desired changes. This is usually done when the changes are relatively minor, although an important but concise change may also be reflected in an appendix. Submission procedures are similar to those for re-issuing a section, but the Activity Leader's approval is not required for changes which are essentially corrections of typographical errors. An appendix is published separately, bearing the number of the section it applies to, followed by an "A"; e.g., an appendix to the current section would be

numbered "BA.5A". If further changes are required to a section which already has an appendix, a new appendix may be provided, consolidating the two sets of corrections, or the section may be reissued. An "appendix to an appendix" is not permitted, however.

### Abstracts

In order to furnish crucial information such as function and calling sequence for programs which cannot immediately be documented in full, abstracts may be published in the MSPM. They are published as "place holders", under the section number assigned to the full version of the documentation, and are labelled as abstracts.

The MSPM Editor has Abstract forms available. Those steps involving Activity Leaders are generally omitted in the submission procedures for abstracts.