THE COMPUTER U F O NEWSLETTER

Volume 01 — Number 04

"The Computer UFO Newsletter" is an aperiodical indipendent newsletter published from four to six times per year, entirely devoted to presentation of works and discussions about the use of computer in ufology.

Contributions are open to all researchers with personal experience in the field.

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the Editor.

The newsletter is avaiable in computerized version on floppy disk / cassette for Commodore-64 microcomputer.

****

CUFON can be received by exchange with other UFO magazines or supplying a fee of 14,000 Italian lire or more (for six issues) to the Editor.

****

Editorial

I will use this editorial to present you some news, I think of interest
for all readers,

||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||

(1) Regarding last editorial where I proposed the employment of
"SUPERBASE" as the standard database program for C-64 and C-128 owners,
a first step has already been carried out. The whole ITACAT file is now
implemented on a Commodore 128, using "SUPERBASE 128". There are some
changes in comparison with the original structure of the record (see
CUFON 1) : twelve new fields have been added ! Particularly : one for
the hour of the event, one for the reference number used in the ITACAT
manuscript and ten for all sources of the case. Thanks to SUPERBASE
powerful options, one is able to process the whole casuistry in many
sophisticated ways. Through the "import" option the normal ITACAT file
(slightly changed to leave suitable blank spaces to allow new fields)
has been wholly inserted in the new SUPERBASE file structure. Then it
has been "only" necessary to add information regarding the new fields
(hour, reference number and sources). The whole new file is now avaible
for the 128 version : the 64 one will be ready just you will read these
lines. Both will be presented in the "Offer of software" section of the
next CUFON, but it is already possible to request information to the
Editor.

||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||

(2) CUFON needs new contributions as material to be published will end
since next issue. I know some documents are already available and
others could be written by many readers in a brief time, but,
unfortunately, nothing has been received in the last two/three months.
This is a great pity, as I think it is extremely important to present
to other researchers own works and suggestions. This is a classic
situation for ufology, where time is limited and, above all, the will
to develop something is always fairly scarce. I don't wish to change
this status (as it is impossible : ufology is only a hobby for all of
us), but I would like to see a major involvment of CUFON readers in the
Newsletter itself. There is the danger to close publications beyond
this current volume (first and unique ?) : my (and yours, probably)
hope is to avoid such an occurrence.

||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||

(3) Here is in Italy R.U.C. is trying to carry out a real exchange of
data between a C-64 and a Apple. Aims of this work are obvious : they
are the most common micro-computers and there would be great amounts of
information to carry from a Commodore to a Apple, to employ the
powerful resources of the latter. Even though the importance of such a
problem seems to be reduced due to the new Commodore 128, R.U.C. thinks
it is always important to resolve it. Two equal interfaces have already
been built, together with suitable software and experimental tests are
in course at moment.
Readers who wish to carry out file conversions from C-64 to Apple II
can contact my own address.

||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||

(4) After a period of no activity due to many problems, COMPUFON restarts its own service changing name and structure. Now it is COMPUFOMNET (COMPuter UFO Management NETwork) and members will be able to connect the system one or two evenings per week, at least in this initial phase. Mistakes made with COMPUFON and problems related to such a (new and really exciting) service have led Mr. Michael Hart, COMPUFOMNET director, to start this new project by a lot of prudence. I invite Mr. Hart, who is a reader of this Newsletter, to prepare a paper about his Network, aims and means : for example, it would be interesting to know what kind of material will be made available through the Network itself.
Will be CUFON able to establish a similar service in Europe ?

||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||

(5) As regards the activity of R.U.C. (the Italian Computer UFO Network, established inside C.I.S.U.), members are storing cases coming from local casuistries on C-64, employing a common database. It is probable that within three/four months we should have about 2,500-3,000 stored cases.

****

Census of computer & ufologists

- An up-to-date -

As we stated in CUFON 2, the list of ufologists or simple UFO amateurs (but they are only a minority) owning a personal/micro computer is continously increasing. So here is the new names we know at moment (March 1986) :

Name	Country	Computer
Umberto Cordier	Italy	Apple IIe
Marc Leduc	Canada	Apple IIe
Victor Lourenco	Canada	Apple IIe
Giorgio Russolillo	Italy	Apple IIe
Arcangelo Cassano	Italy	C-64
PierGiovanni D'Orazio	Italy	C-64
Massimo Ferrante	Italy	C-64
Hole Henningsen	Denmark	C-64
Michael Landwehr	U.S.A.	C-64
Moira McGhee	Australia	C-64
Camillo Michieletto	Italy	C-64
Michele Rago	Italy	C-64
Mauro Spano'	Italy	NCR ?
Claudio Zacchia	Italy	QL Sinclair
Sebastiano Allegra	Italy	Spectrum
Gian Paolo Gentili	Italy	Spectrum
Francesco Fasolo	Italy	Spectrum
Raymond Keller	U.S.A.	Tandy 1000
Lindy Whitehurst	U.S.A.	????

— Checkpoint number two —

As the short term aims about which I spoke in Checkpoint one have been nearly completed, I think necessary to present a new point on the current work.

1. WHAT HAS BEEN MADE -

    # Coding booklet completed : I'll give some details about it.
    # Except for software related to statistical analyses (there isn't much hurry !), all the programs necessary to exploit Becassine have already been developed. Today is possible :

        A) to code a case (the coding booklet can be sticked up the screen, if it is necessary) and store it in a disk file.
        B) to draw a coded list of cases.
        C) to modify fields of a record, giving more or different data.
        D) to select a group of cases within the file, in order to list them or develop a special analysis. Such a selection may be carried out using any criterion employed for coding cases. For istance, it is possible to select the cases "....with two or more witnesses, occurring between 8 and 12 p.m. in France, where a little man leaving footprints have been reported".

    # Hand coding goes on, it reaches currently about little more than 1,200 cases. Such a number will increase only if my sources will be larger. Obviously every contribution is welcomed. Computer coding will begin soon (- it should be in a remarkable stage at moment, February 1986. Editor -)

2. CODING -

    The coding booklet is avaiable for everybody : you only have to ask for !
    Without going into the details of coding I will simply give the general rules.

    * The single case is coded in 128 characters, whose the first eight ones are used for its own storage and for characteristics items (see later). None compatibility has been assured with existing codings : they appear insufficient to me in many points and too much detailed in others, if we think to the aims looked for here.
    * Two chief criteria rule the arbitrary choices :

        - to limit at a maximum value the loss of information which seem USEFUL to us.
        Thus none morphological character of humanoid beings is coded, except the height. Past

experiments seem to have showed that the number of
eyes, the skin colour or the nose shape aren't an
important and discriminant variable. Otherwise, the
quantity of information supplied by these variables
is generally very low, but it is potentially very
large (and so it will need a wide space into
computer memory).
- to allow easy coding and make easy automatic
exploitation.
Being the aim an automatic analysis of the
characteristics, the coding has to be suitable and
avoid every external future intervention (choice
among different options, sorting, recognition of
the meaning of a given information, etc.......).

Of course these two criteria lead to opposite options and EVERY
choice have been made for the sake of searching a compromise as
best as possible. I hope that the arbitrary settlements which have
been done will not completely harm to the data processing.
* 47 headings have been coded (in one to ten characters for each
one), of which eleven deal with the UFO, nine with the entities and
fourteen with other details of the experience (effects, witness'
behaviour, looking circumstances, etc......).
* The problem of the bias related to coding is fundamental.
Everything has been done here to limit it. Beyond the fact that
there will be only one "coder", the modalities (sub-headings) of
each heading have been conceived in order to avoid as much as
possible such a problem. But it remains for a few headings, as UFO
shape, the sound perceived by the witness or the "deepness of the
interaction with the witness" which can present some subjective
patterns or some difficulties of translation from English words. It
will be necessary during the coding process to develop tests of
stability within time it takes (for instance, coding the same group
of cases within few weeks or few months).
Another interesting point is that about possible (and frequent)
contradictions among different references. Let's say that in
Becassine, an ENTRY of the file is related to a CASE, eventually
related by different sources. When we know that - according to
sources - variables as primordial as date or location may be
different, we may really ask ourselves about the interest and the
reliability of coding. Our own answer is double : on one hand, we
will code the case according the source seeming to us the most
reliable one (for example the older one or those which will speak
about the differences, giving some explanations) and, on the other
hand, the different versions will remain avaiable on the hand slip
kept for each case.
* Three indexes are built for each coded case. The first one marks
if the case remains UNEXPLAINED or if it has been SURELY or LIKELY
EXPLAINED (for instance, a cheating recognized by the witness
itself). For the last two possibilities, the second index provides
the most reliable explanation. The first index is a function of the
coded quantity of information (and it ranges from 0 to 9 as a
function of the number and quality of coded characteristics). It
will allow (as an example) to select groups of cases "more or less
detailed".

3. A FEW IDEAS ABOUT THE EXPLOITATION -

Maurizio Verga wrote me recently that he isn't much confident into
"...statistical works about coded UFO tales". First of all we must
recognize that the list of old works makes his statement right.
However, we can find some some reasons to hope something different and
we'll simply present some ideas of research :

   * a search for associations among variables allowing to build
   morphological schemes. Is the frequency of some couples of values
   for given headings upper (or lower) in a significant proportion to
   mean values ? It is the basis of the methods of factorial analysis,
   which wish to establish the existence - or inexistence - of such
   associations.
   * if such associations (combinations) exist,it would be possible :

      - to study their existence or their variation as a
      function of selected samples (for a given country,
      a given group of witnesses, for different periods,
      for explained cases only, etc.......).
      - to try in building morphological schemes more
      complex, synthetizing elementary associations. We
      know NOTHING (and we wish to know nothing) about
      the shape of such schemes, the sole hypothesis
      being their existence (it would depend only on the
      existence of UFO-E.T. stereotypes in our society)
      and it will be here the very first hypothesis to
      test.

This explains the choiced coding in parallel with a coding with
"more simple patterns", which would have been more useful in a
first step (and overall more easy, decreasing for instance the bias
risks) but which would have verified the hypothesis about the
existence and the shape of the elementary associations-patterns,
preventing any future increase. If these associations do really
exist maybe THEN - and only in that time - we will think to a new
coding based on these BUILT patterns.
   * to study samples of peculiar cases and their internal coherence
   (following the same ideas), in order to answer to the following
   question :
   "Has this sample different characteristics, different schemes or
   patterns ?".
   Here is some possible samples : very little beings, "bigfoot"-like
   beings, explained cases, abductions, etc.......

Of course any remark, suggestion or idea will be welcome, also on
the page of this Newsletter. And if you can help me giving
different sources for cases ....

                        Denys Breysse

Please note ....

If a few readers currently read many computer books and magazines they
are invited to point out articles (about both hardware and software)
and routines/programs having a potential interest in ufology or
software developed for it.

-

— MAGAZINES —

Here is a first brief list of UFO magazines exchanging currently with
"The Computer UFO Newsletter" :

IL GOLLUM, via Misa 4/a, 60020 Ancona ,Italy (nice Italian magazine
dealing with ufology. and other occult matters)
S.V.L.T., Oever 28, B-2000 Antwerpen, Belgium (in Flemish with large
English abstracts).
AERIAL/SPACE PHENOMENA REVIEW 11 Richardson St., Leominster, MA 01453,
U.S.A.(monthly mimeographed newsletter).
UFO, Postbox 1155, N-5001 Bergen, Norway (in Norvegian).
NORDIC UFO NEWSLETTER, Strandgt. 221, N-5000 Bergen, Norway (edited by
Mentz Kaarbo, it is full of English abstracts of articles published on
Scandinavian UFO magazines).
INFORESPACE, Avenue Paul Janson 74, B-1070 Bruxelles, Belgium (in
French, with valuable articles about the "new ufology").
JOURNAL fur UFO-FORSCHUNG, Postfach 2361, D-5880 Ludenscheid 1, West
Germany (bimonthly, in German).

++

A preliminary bibliography

about applications of computer

in ufology

Dealing exclusively with the use of (personal, especially) computer in
ufology, CUFON cannot avoids to present a bibliography of what has
already been written on the subject.
Bibliographical references are really few : they are disseminated in
many different sources and it isn't much easy to find them. As a
consequence, our preliminary list about "ufology & computer" is fairly
limited : so we would like to receive corrections or new items from
readers. An updated list will be published in a next issue of the News-
letter.
Please note bibliographic references about the matter come from books
and magazines, as well as from unpublished papers and personal
communications.

██

AA.VV.
1985
COSIPLAN II - COmputer SImuliertes PLANitarium
Journal fur UFO-Forschung 6, 3, 74-82

AA.VV.
1983
Projekt URD - Backgrund och arbetssatt
UFO Sverige Aktuellt 4, 1, 27-29

AA.VV.
1982
Project U.R.D.
UFO Research Australia Newsletter 2, 4, 16-20

AA.VV.
1979
Project U.R.D. Report 1 - Characteristics of a UFO report
100 pages printout

Andersen, Per
1979
Project UFODATA
Proceedings of 1979 BUFORA Conference, 13-29

Digby, R.
1980
The application of low cost computing and data processing to UFO reports
J.T.A.P. 1, 2, 47-48

Kuhlemann, B.H.L.
1981
Project U.R.D. - Background, development and perspective
UFO International 1, 2, 6-9

Leuba, S.
1982
Informatique & ufologie
OVNI PRESENCE 7, 22, 19-20

Liljegren, A.
1982
Further notes on U.R.D.
UFO Research Australia Newsletter 2, 4, 20-21

Mavrakis, M. & Olivier, P.
1985
Determination informatique de l'aspect de la voute celeste
INFORESPACE 14, 68, 26-29

Mosbleck, G.
1985
Sonne, mond & sterne - Astronomie in der UFO-forschung
Journal fur UFO-Forschung 6, 4, 107-111

Pittella, M.
1980
Sulla codifica meccanografica
UFOLOGIA 9, 22-29

Spaulding, W.H.
1980
Datos observables de un fenomeno aereo anomalo
STENDEK 11, 40, 21-27

Spaulding, W.H.
1978
Ufology and the digital computer
Quality Magazine 17, 1, 12-18

Spaulding, W.H.
1977
Photographic analysis utilizing computer image processing
The Apro Bulletin

Spaulding, W.H.
1976
Observational data on an anomalistic aerial phenomena
FSR 22, 1, 12-17

Spaulding, W.H.
1976
Ufology and the digital computer
1976 MUFON Symposium Proceedings, 42-52

Spaulding, W.H.
1976
Ufology and the digital computer
Proceedings of the 1976 CUFOS Conference, 234-250

Spaulding, W.H. & Adrian F.
1982
Usage of computer photographic evaluation techniques
U.R.I.P. 1, 1, 11-24

Spaulding, W.H. & Adrian F.
1982
Analisi computerizzata delle foto
UFOLOGIA 14, 3-10

Spaulding, W.H. & Adrian, F.
1984
Analisis computarizado de fotos OVNI
Cuadernos de Ufologia 2, 6, 27-34

CUFON 4

Strand, E.
1984
Statistikk, fra U.R.D.
UFO 3, 1, 20-22

Project of annotated bibliography

by Paolo Toselli

> The annotated bibliograpy proposed by Toselli,
> well-known Italian researcher particularly devoted
> to the problem of human perception and the UFO/IFO
> question, includes articles drawm from
> technical-scientific books and magazines. They and
> others from the literature about scientific popula-
> rization are of potential interest for the study of
> the UFO phenomenon. Readers are invited to consider
> carefully this project. Mr. Toselli's address is :
> via J. dal Verme 7 15100 Alessandria ITALY.

The project has been established employing an Apple II/c personal
computer. For the storing and processing of data I used the program
"Data Base", while "Word Processor" has been employed to format the
text and print the whole file. Both programs come from the integrated
software "Apple Works".
Every record has been established by the following fields (each field
has a maximum lenght of 75 characters) :

- COD.   : subjects developed in the paper are inserted in this
field under abbreviated form. Details aren't available at moment.

- AUTHOR   : author(s)'s whole name.

- TITLE   : title of the article or book or chapter of book (this
is a double field, as the title could be very long).

- JOURNAL NAME : if the source is a book, the publisher's name will be
inserted in this field.

- YEAR/VOL/PAGE : year of publication, year number, starting and last
page (if the source is a book, the place of publication will be
inserted instead of the volume).

- COD. LTS.   : there are three different information, as follows :

LANGUAGE	#	SOURCE	#	KIND
ITA	A	= Article		1
FRE	B	= Book		0
ENG	L	= Letter		-
SPA	R	= Review		-
GER	G	= "Grey" literature		-

As regards the kind :

1 # "UFO" is directly mentioned.
2 # "UFO" isn't mentioned at all.

- ABS.   : there are six fields of this kind (six rows), where
you have to insert the book or paper's abstract. Maximum lenght is 450
characters.

Up to now, about 200 entries have already been stored in the database :
they are all bibliographical references owned directly by myself. In
the near future the "COD. LTS." field will be enlarged to store the
owner of the reference and other information.

January 25, 1986

(Translation from Italian by M.V.)

▓▓

The structure of a database

for UFO events

by Renzo Cabassi

Data banks are systems able to provide   synthetic   information.
Fundamental criteria of a data bank (here meant as a database program -
Ed.) are three :

(1) completeness
(2) not-redundance
(3) structure

Completeness implicates the presence of all information about the
subject inside the complex of the database.
Not-redundance implicates the presence of a specific information only
once in the database (generally, it is not available : see the example
of case code with pointer).
Structure is the adaption of the method of storing information to the
processing techniques using and updating such information.
A collection of UFO data appears complicate and monumental. Data to
take into consideration are many in any single event. All proposals
advanced up to now present from a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 100/150
fields for each records. It is obvious that it is impossible to manage
such a database with a micro or personal computer. Telling of a
database completeness it is necessary to examine the possibility to use
more files on line. Moreover, it needs to consider the possibility (in
our case it is a real necessity) to have pre-elaborated fields. For
example, the geographical coordinates, often eluded in past proposals
of databases, composed by three information (degrees, minutes, seconds)
for longitude and latitude (and another for direction) have to be
reduce to two elements for the sake of a quick processing. At the same
way, date and hour in their form of five single information (year,
month, day, hour and minutes) can be reduced to an unique

pre-elaborated field (Julian day and fraction of hour). During the
"input phase" these pre-elaborated information take a smaller space in
memory and ask only for the application of sub-routines in the data
processing programs . Such sub-routines are justified by smaller
difficulties during the use of sort options. Together with the use of
pre-established codes, all this can lead to a bigger economicity of
hardware resources (memory storage) and to a better use of software.
The employment of pre-established codes is often cause of many
complications. Usually, one is inclined to prepare a "complete" coding,
able to forecast "everything". On the contrary, every coding based on a
decimal system expect a natural extension, i.e. the availability of
further codes. For example, we can develop a hypothesis about one of
the most important problems : the coding of CE 3 cases.
At moment, CE 3 events are only verbal reports of presumed experiences,
even though sometimes there are apparently objective evidences
(traces, indipendent witnesses, etc......). Even if they are
investigated by people having scarce preparation, these verbal reports
have a more or less clear structure. Often there is the so-called
"hypotheses escalation" remarked by Hynek or the impropriety of
terminology in relating events beyond the understanding of a CE III
witness. So there is a structure of the UFO report, on which it is
possible to carry out a research.
Reports undoubtely have an eterogenous aspect and -apparently- they
cannot be examined at once. They have to be put in order inside wide
categories. At first, it is necessary to establish general categories
and then sub-categories as many as necessary.
Here is a look at some possible categories :

```
1.01         one witness experience
1.02         collective experience
1.03         experience with indipendent witnesses
 .99         without specification
1.0x.01      experience in the morning
1.0x.02      experience in the afternoon
1.0x.03      experience in the evening
1.0x.04      experience in the night
   .99       without specification
1.0x.0x.01 experience in a town
1.0x.0x.02 experience outside a town
1.0x.0x.03 experience in the country
1.0x.0x.04 experience on a mountain
1.0x.0x.05 experience near the sea
1.0x.0x.06 experience in a lonely place
       .99 without specification
```

After having inserted the cases in suitable categories we can divide
categories in "subjects" about the kind of action happened during the
experience. Perhaps this is the longest job. It could be possible to
draw repeating situations from UFO tales, providing them with a code :
this allows to codify more or less complex actions and establish some
typologies.
Here is an example :

```
02.001       there is an object in the sky
02.002       the object is landed
02.003       there is an entity without any perception of an object
02.004       the object is seen after the entity
```

```
     .999      not specified
   03.001      the entity goes out the object
   03.002      the entity goes into the object
   03.003      the entity goes out and into the object
   03.004      the entity remains inside the object
     .999      not specified
   04.001      the entity walks normally
   04.002      the entity walks employing a mean
   04.003      the entity is in a situation different from .001 and .002
     .999      not specified
   05.001      the entity speaks
   05.002      the entity doesn't speak
   05.003      the entity communicates by gestures
   05.004      the entity shows some objects
   05.005      the entity doesn't communicate at all
     .999      not specified
```

Then there quill be the old problem of codes and definitions. It is auspicable a great researcher's effort in solving it : I would propose to establish a sort of group devoted to standardization. It should be able to receive researchers and groups' suggestions, evaluating them and developing the suitable items for their employment. Such a griup could be the promoter of new codes, offering technical aid to their achievement. An use of data banks and decimal codes can be found in the management of documents or bibliographies.

Thirty years ago the UFO bibliography was just as large as a booklet. Today, taking into consideration related subjects too, a comprehensive UFO bibliography is so large to be filed without problems only in a big magnetic memory.

Moreover, a bibliography must be dynamic, not only due to the necessity to add new titles continously, but for establishing new categories too. Twenty years ago the item "percepetive processes" in relation to the UFO phenomenon was an unthinkable thing : now the situation is different.

My proposed bibliography has been divided in ten classes here :

```
          01.    Characteristics of the phenomenon.
          02.    hypotheses about the phenomenon.
          03.    research methodology.
          04.    reports.
          05.    books.
          06.    bibliographies.
          07.    catalogues.
          08.    miscellanea.
          09.    other literature.
          10.    informatics.
```

Every category can be divided into 99 sub-categories (not all of them can be used necessarily and at once).

01. Characteristics of the phenomenon -

```
          01.01 physical characteristics.
          01.02 natural characteristics.
          01.03 psychological and perceptive characteristics.
          01.04 technological characteristics.
```

01.05 sociological characteristics.

02. Hypotheses about the phenomenon -

02.01 natural hypothesis.
02.02 extraterrestrial hypothesis.
02.03 terrestrial hypothesis.
02.04 psychological hypothesis.
02.05 sociological hypothesis.

03. Research methodology -

03.01 epistemology.
03.02 methodology of investigation.

04. Reports -

04.01 NL
04.02 DD
04.03 CE I
04.04 CE II
04.05 CE III
04.06 CE IV
04.07 RV

05. Books -

05.-- general books not devoted to a subject
included in this classification.

06. Bibliographies -

06.-- Bibliographies of various kind about the
matter.

07. Catalogues -

07.01 general chronological catalogues.
07.02 general geographic catalogues.
07.03 special chronological catalogues.
07.04 special geographic catalogues.

08. Miscellanea -

08.-- Everything out of the other categories.

09. Other literature -

09.-- In such a category there are conference
proceedings (also unpublished ones), as well as
works published (or not) directly by authors.

10. Informatics -

10.01 collection and processing of data.
10.02 analyses of images.
10.03 data banks.

10.04 various computer applications.
10.05 the information.
10.06 software.

This classification allows a quick research for single combinations, as one is able to use some key field having special lists at once. Let's look at a simple example.
When preparing the bibliography of an article, it is necessary both to establish a category and a sub-category. Such an article could be : "Survey of the Rossi case : presumed landings with entities" by Giorgio Bianchi. It will be inserted in category 04.05 [04. ("reports" class) .05 (sub-class "CE III")]. As a consequence, the article will have a precise position inside a list alphabetically ordered by author's surname. According to this position, it will assume a further number in progressive order inside the list (e.g. 00095 : that is the 95th item of the list put in order by author).
At the end the item will have a code number of this kind :

                        04.05.00095

After this classification number there will be the author's name, the title of the work, the source (volume and issue, if a magazine), the year of edition and the page number. According ot our example :

04.05.00095 * Bianchi G., "Analysis of the Rossi case : presumed landing with entities", Bulletin N.O.C., Vol. 4, n. 2, 1984, 178-198.

At this point we will have an arranged bibliography classified on a standardized method. As a consequence, it is possible to have or to carry out :

(1) lists put in order by class and/or sub-class
(2) indexes by authors with codes of their own works
(3) sort by author
(4) sort by class
(5) sort by sub-class

If we will wish to look for our work among the other possible 99,999 ones of the class "UFO reports", sub-class CE III, this will be the way :

                [class by CE III reports =]
                        04.05

The result will be the whole list of all the works of the requested class. Then we will look for the "Author" key ("Bianchi G."), so that we will find our source through two simple operations.

                        Renzo Cabassi

                    (translation by M.Verga)

****

— SKY TRAVEL —

How to identify astronomical IFOs

by Maurizio Verga

Owners of the Commodore 64 are lucky. They can use a very powerful tool
for finding sure explanations for astronomical IFOs : it is "Sky
Travel", a disk-based program written by Deltron Software and released
by Commodore itself.
"A window on our galaxy" is the subtitle of such a software and this is
real : it can locate - supplying information - more than 1,200 stars,
88 constellations, 300 nebulae or galaxies, sun, moon, all planets,
comets and, particularly, the Halley one. They are perfectly drawn on
your screen in high-resolution.
It is useless to present here the structure of this software and its
commands : they are presented thoroughly in Sky Travel's large manual.
Moreover, an in-depth review of the program has been published in 1985
by a German UFO magazine by Gerald Mosbleck (1). I would like to
develop a brief review of some possible applications of the program to
ufology.
All of us know that most IFOs has an astronomical explanation : unfor-
tunately, researchers have to consider it only at possible/probable
level, due to the difficulties in using a celestial atlas. Practi-
cally, if a reported sighting presents details as "stellar size" and
"long observation time" the most reliable explanation is a planet
(Venus or Jupiter, usually) or a bright star. But at such a stage, it
is only a hypothesis : to validate it a check in ephemerides of that
place and time is necessary. Now through Sky Travel this operation is
extremely simple and quick. Using the suitable options, it is enough to
set latitude, longitude and time of the event, then there are two ways
:

[1] to check positions of moon and planets.
[2] to display sky directly in the direction where witnesses reported
their sightings, checking the presence of particularly bright sky
objects.

Such a control can be very accurate, as it is possible to read on the
screen other important information, such as angular elevation,
comparing them with witness' claims. The program has many useful
options : here I mention printing of the screen display on paper (but
MPS-802 owners -like me- are still unfortunate !) by a hardcopy routine
and the possibility to show a quick diplay of the sky (in the fastest
mode, a minute of simulation is equal to a hour of real time). This is
especially useful when the exact hour of the sighting isn't known.
The software has few "limitations", as a 20,000 years range of time
(from 10,000 B.C. to 10,000 A.D.), but they don't affect ufologists'
aims at all.
In my own personal experience I have reached some interesting results.
reviewing ITACAT (my catalogue of Italian Type-1 events) I found
several cases with possible or probable astronomical explanations. This
was only an evaluation based on my own knowledges and conjectures :
dawn and sunset were practically the sole sure information I had. Then
Sky Travel appeared suddenly in my life and .... such problems vanished

at once ! I succeeded in explaining many astronomical IFOs (but some cases still remained unsolved) by valid verifiable data. Among the most interesting cases I solved (this term isn't right !) there were two landings with traces respectively involving Venus and the sun. Sometimes planets and stars are very odd ! This process of identification was relatively restricted, due to the special cases I checked (close encounters), but I was much more large in the general casuistry of my own province.

The Sky Travel disk based program is really a valuable tool for any serious researcher having a C-64 or C-128 microcomputer. First of all astronomical objects are the sole original stimuli able to be checked with precision, so alleged explanations of cases are relatively reliable. An extensive use of the program could help ufologists in selecting most of their casuistry, finding the sure astronomical events. The result would be double :

(1) they would have case samples without sightings of "flying" stars and planets.
(2) there will be the possibility to carry out an in-depth study on sure astronomical IFOs using a large reliable sample.

There are other astronomical programs for the C-64 on the market, but no appears so sophisticated as Sky Travel. One of them, COSIPLAN (COmputer SImuliertes PLANetarium) seems quite interesting (2), even though it is slow in processing data (eh, the old BASIC !). I hope to publish a review of it by a German reader in anext CUFON issue.

I don't know much about software available for Apple computers, but I think an ephemerides program should surely exist. Belgian researcher Ronny Blomme is finishing a valuable software of such a kind for his own Apple II/e : among its many options, it is possible to print on paper the sky chart currently examined. An article about such a work will be published in the near future.

Concluding, I would like to remember a book entirely devoted to astronomical programs running on Apple II : some of them could be of great help to ufologists too. A review of such E.Burgess' "Celestial BASIC" (Sybex) would be very appreciated.

                        Maurizio Verga

(1) Mosbleck, G. (1985) "Sonne, mond & sterne - Astronomie in der UFO-forschung", Journal fur UFO Forschung 6, 4, 107-111
2) AA.VV. (1985) "COSIPLAN II - COmputer SImuliertes PLANitarium", Journal fur UFO-Forschung, 6, 3, 74-82

%%%

IMPORTANT !

Please speak about "The Computer UFO Newsletter" (as an excellent publication, obviously !) to all your correspondents and groups or magazines you know. We need new subscribers, as well as new exchanges with similar publications. The future of the Newsletter depends on this your help too.

Project UFODATA

— A status report —

by Per Andersen

Here is an up-to-date report about the Danish project UFODATA, which was thoroughly presented in issue number three of "The Computer UFO Newsletter".

In this notice I would like, very briefly, to describe the status of Project UFODATA right now (January 1986).

Since the early eighties the Project continued encoding Danish UFO and IFO cases and today a total of about 2,100 cases have been stored into the system, primary covering the years from 1975 to 1979, which were the peak years of the last 15 years.

Today the project is working at a slower pace. This is beacuse S.U.F.O.I. in recent years has become an ever increasing understanding of the fact, that if the analyses based on computerized data files should yield the high quality results needed, the data (cases) will have to be of a higher quality than the present. Hence the field investigators (report recorders) should be trained to ensure a higher level of data quality. Therefore S.U.F.O.I. to some extent has moved its resources from project UFODATA, in order to establish courses for field investigators.

Several series of courses have been held, the most recent towards the end of 1984, bringing the number of trained field investigators to a total of about seventy. With limited resources, which I am sure most ufologists will understand, S.U.F.O.I. had to give these courses higher priority than project UFODATA itself.

But still some results have emerged from the project. Lars K. Lassen of S.U.F.O.I. recently analyzed 1,338 Danish UFO and IFO cases from the period 1976-1979 by the help of UFODATA. The aim was compare the UFO events with the IFO ones in order to investigate whether there were any significant differences with regard to parameters such as duration, shape, number of witnesses, number of objects and colour. The chi-square test was used, but no significant difference was demonstrated. Though some results could be statistically significant, further analyses are necessary in order to determine this.

Another major event has been the preparation of a new revised and enlarged edition for the codebook, now including 150 pages with description of each parameter coded in project UFODATA (34 parameters). Each parameter has been described by general rules, specific rules, references to report forms, codes, examples of coding and typical errors in coding.

Project UFODATA is still using the SPSS statistical system, but today the media of course being magnetic tapes and disks. In the future it will probably become important to move the work to micro-computer, perhaps using commercial database programs and statistical software.

NOTICE

The "Software review" should be a regular section inside the Newsletter, but we need massive contributions by readers. If you have or know a program (for any kind of computer) which could be interesting for ufology, please prepare a detailed review with an alleged discussion about its possible applications. And don't forget to provide a copy to us, if possible !
At the same time will be accepted also reviews about books and articles from computer magazines, presenting topics useful to our work.

****

NEWS

As regards the production of low-cost bulletins or newsletters, Commodore 64 owners should take into consideration the presence of a special software. It is the famous "The Newsroom" by Springboard, an exahustive package (a master disk, plus a lot of data disks) specifically devoted to the production of small magazines. It offers a wide range of options, for example allowing to mix text and figures (including digitized images) or to send/receive documents through a modem. There are four available sets of characters and it is possible to use practically all printers on the market. This software doesn't seem to be easy to use, but results should be exceptional. As we haven't "The Newsroom" manual yet, we cannot prepare and extensive review of the program, but if a few members is able to do this, we'll publish the text at once.

****

Uptodating ....

Here is a couple of new references to be inserted in the bibliography about ufology and computer published elsewhere in this Newsletter.

D'Orazio, Piergiovanni
1985
L'uso del computer in ufologia per una corretta analisi dei dati
"Notiziario UFO" 103, 12

Strand, E.
1983
Statistikk, fra U.R.D.
UFO 2, 5, 21+24

****

Notice

We remember to all readers and - above all - editors of magazines who have kindly published reviews about CUFON that the Newsletter is a publication of I.C.U.F.O.S. now. This Editor is no longer involved with C.U.N., an organization now composed only by ten or so strange people. Please notice the change.