

The search is on for the Translator's Word Processor

At the Aslib/Translators' Guild seventh international conference on Translating and the Computer, held in London in November 1985, there were calls for the development of a "Translator's Word Processor". In response to these calls a group of professional translators decided to cooperate in working out the detailed specifications which such a machine ought to have, with a view to getting it put on to the market.

The group met in London last December and formed themselves into a steering committee to manage the project, just in time to send out an initial questionnaire with a scheduled mailing to members of Aslib. The intention behind the questionnaire was to gather information and comments from practising translators and translators' secretaries, with a view to laying down the broad lines along which the project should be directed.

More recently, following contacts between the steering committee and the *Language Monthly* management board, *Language Monthly* has agreed to sponsor the project, to be known as the **Translators' Word Processor Project**.

About 50 replies were received to the original questionnaire. Since a great deal more information is needed about people's practical experience and their wishes before we can start to lay down detailed specifications, we ask our readers (those that did not complete the original questionnaire) to take the time to answer our simple questionnaire if they have experience of working, as a translator or as a translator's secretary, with a word-processor or a microcomputer running a word processing program, or if you are considering buying or leasing such equipment. There is no need to copy out the questions, the section and number will suffice. Completed questionnaires should be sent to the editorial office of *Language Monthly* (for address see page one).

Please answer Section A or Section B and enter your name, address and daytime telephone number before returning the questionnaire.

SECTION A

For people with experience of word-processing equipment.

1. In what capacity have you used word-processing equipment
 - (a) as translator
 - (b) as secretary
 - (c) in some other capacityIf (c) please specify.
 2. From which language(s) do you translate?
 3. Into which language(s) do you translate?
 4. Which word processor or microprocessor do you use? – please give FULL identification.
 5. Which printer do you use? – please give FULL identification.
 6. Which software do you use? – again, please give FULL identification.
- Please answer the following questions in as much detail as you can.*
7. What do you particularly like about the above machine and software?
 8. Which improvements or further facilities would you like to have?
 9. What annoys you particularly about your present machine and software?

SECTION B

For people who are considering buying or leasing equipment.

Please answer in as much detail as you can.

1. Why are you considering taking this step?
2. What characteristics are you looking for in your proposed machine and program