

Cognitive Science News

With this issue, we launch the *Cognitive Science News* section. Assuming that suitable material is received, *Cognitive Science News* will appear in every issue henceforth. We welcome news items; moreover, we would like very much to find someone in the cognitive science community who would like to serve as News Editor. If you are interested, please contact David Waltz.

REPORT ON COGNITIVE ASPECTS OF SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In the spring of 1983, the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) held an Advanced Research Seminar on Cognitive Aspects of Survey Methodology (CASM), aimed at creating a dialogue between cognitive scientists and survey researchers and at developing proposals for cross-disciplinary research. Participants in the seminar, which was chaired by CNSTAT member Judith Tanur, included cognitive scientists, survey researchers, applied statisticians, and staff of the Bureau of the Census, of the National Center for Health Statistics, and of CNSTAT. Discussions dealt broadly with the effects of problems in comprehension, retrieval, and judgment on survey responses. Special attention was given to cognitive aspects of respondent reports on illnesses, health care utilization, and activity restrictions in the National Health Interview Survey.

The report of the CASM project, *Cognitive Aspects of Survey Methodology: Building a Bridge Between Disciplines*, is now available. The report includes background papers prepared for the seminar, a summary of seminar discussions, and descriptions of research activities and proposals developed by participants following the seminar. For a copy of the report, write to: Committee on National Statistics, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20418 or telephone (202) 334-3096.

The Committee on National Statistics is part of the Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. The Commission is one of the major program units of the National Research Council, the principal operating agency of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.