

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The Sixth National Nutrient Databank Conference was held in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 18, 19 and 20, 1981. The University of Nebraska Medical Center served as the 1981 host institution.

This conference provided an opportunity for individuals who used computerized data bases in analyzing the nutrient contents of food to share research results and new information. Participants represented agencies of the government, industries, universities, hospitals and management science companies involved in nutrient research.

The 1981 conference had two parts: (1) an introductory one-day pre-conference (May 18) designed to help the novice begin use of data bases; and (2) the main conference which consisted of sessions designed for individuals with experience in the field. This program met a variety of individual needs including those of individuals with a computer background who were interested in the manipulation of the data bases; those of individuals involved in the collection of dietary information; and those of individuals simply interested in the results of the overall analysis.

Suggestions for Future Programs

1. Future conferences should concentrate more on data bases and less on application.
2. The pre-conference should have more hands-on sessions using computer terminals.
3. Thirty minutes is not enough to get into the topics. Future conferences should allow 45-60 minutes per presentation.
4. More sessions should be included on the technicalities of computerized data bases.
5. Information should be included on graduate programs using nutrient data banks.
6. Lists of people or organizations having data on specific items, such as ethnic foods, vegetarian foods, etc., should be provided.
7. Future programs might provide separate groups for discussion of specialized data bases.
8. More information should be provided on how a non-computer person can work with a programmer to get desired results.