

to use an ASTRID-generated program to output a relation such as ABNFINDINGS, and read it into a RAPPORT relational database and try these queries, using a high-level query language under development at Aberdeen University Computing Centre. This will establish the relative value of the two techniques.

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The Wilkes Award 1984

The Society is pleased to announce that the Wilkes Award for 1984 has been won by four authors of a paper 'The Rainbow Workstation' published in the May 1984 issue of *The Computer Journal*. The paper was jointly written by six people, of whom four were eligible under the terms of the award, namely that they should be under 30 years of age at the time of submission of the paper.

The paper describes an experimental workstation that supports high-quality colour raster graphics in a distributed environment. Hardware assistance for screen management is provided, using a method that allows rapid reconfiguration of screen images. Much of the workstation function is defined by high-level software and loadable microcode, thus permitting the exploration of different ways of using this kind of equipment.

At the time of the paper being written the four authors, John Wilkes, Dave Singer, Jon

Gibbons and Tony King, were research students at Cambridge University. The work on which the paper was based arose from discussion with the other two authors, Dr Neil Wiseman, supervisor of the team, and Dr P. Robinson, Director of Research in the Cambridge University Computer Laboratory.

The number of papers eligible for the award this time was consistent with last year, although this had increased from previous years. All the papers were of a high standard, with the final decision being taken between two on completely different subjects. The judges agreed that in future preference should be given to papers of which all authors were under 30. The judges considered that the Wilkes Award was achieving its primary objective: to encourage the development and publication of research work in computer science and applications among young people.

The award was presented to Mr King at a

ceremony hosted by *Computer Weekly*. Mr King is the only one of the four authors still resident in this country. He is halfway through his PhD course at Cambridge University where his thesis will describe the successor to the Rainbow workstation reported in the *Journal*. Dr Wilkes is now with Hewlett-Packard Laboratories, Dr Singer is with Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation and Dr Gibbons works for Acorn, all in Palo Alto, California. Certificates will be given to the four winners.

The Wilkes Award, which consists of a silver gilt medallion, was instituted by The British Computer Society to mark the retirement of Professor M. V. Wilkes as Professor of Computer Technology at the University of Cambridge, in recognition of his pioneering work in both computer hardware and software and his unstinting efforts on behalf of the Society.