

20th September 1978

*The limits of
technology in 1978*

Dr W J Herbert

Dear Dr Herbert

In your note, you say the "Dictionary in Immunology" was 6500 words long, with entries up to 80 words long. Assuming an average of 50 words per entry, that would mean $3\frac{1}{2}$ million words (English words) would be stored on discs. Frankly you are on the edge of Floppy technology, however, I am sure a scheme requiring between one to 200 discs, could be worked out.

The expected capacity of the dual drive system that we are bringing out is about 20,000 English words - 190,000 bytes. The alternative is to use a large disc eg. Ohio Scientific disc system with 70 megabytes. Large disc systems will no-doubt become available for the PET from external suppliers.

I am sorry the answer for this can not be straight forward, but if you would like to ring me at the above address, I would look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

*NW Green*Nick Green
SOFTWARE MANAGER*10 lines 93 wds.**1 page. 45 lines (counting spaces between dots, as 1 line)**192 pages in book = 80,000 wds.**About 70 letters per line (incl. punct + spaces etc)**About 37 lines of letters per page**192 pages \approx 500,000 letters. bytes?*