

(Message inbox:140)
From: jsl
Date: 22 Apr 87 17:44:35 D (Wed)
To: mary
Subject: Please showcat

Filecc: (/)
cc --> Gene Garfield

Draft Citation for Scott award.

... for their role in the development of DENDRAL, and its seminal part in contemporary expert systems.

DENDRAL (named from "dendron", Gk., "tree", and ALgorithm) is a computer-based method of classifying and drawing inferences about organic molecules. Lederberg and Feigenbaum were the acknowledged leaders of a substantial group who developed these concepts and reduced them to practice at Stanford University almost 20 years ago. This work demonstrated that significant practical advances in computer applications could be achieved by the systematic extraction of the knowledge used by human experts in problem solving. The insights generated by the DENDRAL project are applied today in fields that extend from financial services to medical practice -- not to mention the academic research where it started. The authors are the first to insist that many aspects of human intellectual function are far from being captured by such programs; but this does not limit their utility for many practical applications. This separation of pragmatic utility from speculative claims about artificial intelligence has itself been an important contribution to the advance of computer science.

(But it's 20 not 25 years)
Dear Gene - your draft is A-OK. I had forgotten about the CC editorials: they're just right.

I'm also mailing you some other comments about Dendral, as backup.

Yours,
Josh.