

Earthquake Engineering Research in the United States

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Synopsis. A research digest describing approximately 100 current research projects in earthquake engineering in the United States has been published in June, 1968. It is hoped that this research digest will motivate other countries to create similar research digests.

Introduction. A considerable expansion in earthquake engineering research has taken place during the last few years. This expansion in activity has been not only at universities already having established programs in earthquake engineering but maybe more significantly new programs in earthquake engineering have been initiated at many other universities. It is expected that research activities in earthquake engineering will be growing to an even higher degree within the next decade.

When the research efforts in earthquake engineering were concentrated at relatively few universities it was possible for the researchers to keep reasonably well abreast of other researchers' work through personal contacts at scientific meetings. This is no longer possible with the number of universities engaged in earthquake engineering research being increased at a rapid rate. It is well known that a time lag, up to 3 - 4 years or more, exists between the time research is carried out and until the results become available in the published literature. This time lag can lead to not only a wasteful duplication of efforts but will also hinder a more rapid advance in knowledge gained from research. The research digest will help to cut this time lag; to be effective it is planned that it be revised and updated every one or two years.

The Research Digest. A survey of earthquake engineering research in universities in the United States was conducted by means of a questionnaire sent to over 140 individuals and university departments throughout the United States who were thought to be active in the area of earthquake engineering research. A total of 100 research descriptions were received from 32 universities.

Of the 100 research projects about 50 are being carried out at four universities while the other 50 projects are quite evenly distributed among the remaining 28 universities. It is noteworthy that many universities answered that they did not presently have any research projects in earthquake engineering but that they expected to be active in this field within a few years.

For each research project the following information is listed in the research digest: title of project; names of all investigators; a brief description of the project including obtained and anticipated results; financially supporting agency; publications resulting from the research project both those in the open literature and internal reports.

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International Cooperation. It is obvious that the research digest will be much more valuable if it also contained descriptions of research in earthquake engineering currently under way in countries outside the United States. Maybe the best way would be if other countries would follow suit and create their own research digests. It might also be practical to issue research digests by regions. One might cover North and South America; another could cover the activities in Japan, New Zealand, India and Pakistan; a third could cover the USSR and the European countries.

An excellent opportunity exists to discuss such possibilities with the national delegates attending the Chile conference. A sufficient number of copies of the research digest will be shipped to Chile so that all participants can receive a copy. Suggestions for improvement of the research digest will be very appreciated.

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