
THE OPENING ANTHEM

An international association of Corpus Linguistics commissioned an anthem to be sung after the flag has been raised at the opening ceremony of its yearly conference. This was the winning entry by Robert Dillan.

How many words must a man analyse
Before you call him a man?
Yes, an' how many bugs can a program contain
Before it crashes in the sand?
Yes, an' how many years can a virus exist
Before it's forever banned?

The answer, my friend, is hidden in the code
The answer is hidden in the code.

How many times must a man click his mouse
Before he can calculate chi?
Yes, an' which is the best statistic to use:
Is it log-likelihood or MI?
Yes, an' how many tests does it take to be sure
That the findings ain't pie in the sky?

The answer, my friend, is hidden in the code
The answer is hidden in the code.

How many times can a man turn his head
When theory and data don't agree?
Yes, an' which is the safest method to use
To discover which words are key?
An' can anyone write me a Perl program
That will make a nice cup of tea?

The answer, my friend, is hidden in the code
The answer is hidden in the code.