Chapter 4 - HELP/INFO OPERATIONS

This chapter is devoted to a discussion of two valuable types of LTPlus operations, **help** and information. The simplest sort of **help** (non-psychiatric that is) comes in the form of a user *prompt* which is a very brief burst of information accompanying a request for information/data entry from the user.

In support of the growing body of evidence that suggests that LTPlus was developed with the user in mind, there are three commands which access and display useful information about any user-specified function, menu or macro. These commands, **barf, burp** and **help**, also strongly suggest that someone with a sense of humor (strange as it might be) was allowed to run amok through the program and user guide documentation prior to release and publication. The help command causes LTPlus to display the appropriate *Command Language Reference* page from this manual on the screen for scrolled review. The **burp** function displays a brief, but enlightening, version of the **help** command. The **barf** command was designed to provide a highly detailed and example-filled explanation. In all honesty, the best of these three commands is **help**, and that information is all available in the *Command Language Reference* section of this manual.

The most current revisions of the LTPlus *User's Guide* and *Technical Reference* are included in the LTPlus software package and may be printed by executing the command **man_print**. This command differs from the **help** command in that the manual documentation is sent to the printer rather than to the screen. Again, it may be simpler to paw through the LTPlus *User's Guide*.

If all you need is a sense of what process is the next logical one from where you currently are, then the **next_step** command is very helpful. It checks the **job_stats** and **register** files to determine the current map status and prompts the user with a next logical processing step for the current map. This command is very useful for people who are learning LTPlus and for experienced users who need a reminder or have forgotten just what state a map was in when they last worked on it. This command is automatically called when a map is acquired.

All of the help and information commands are more clearly described in the *Command Language Reference* section of this manual.