RESEARCH SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PACIFIC STUDIES

COMPUTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 1975

There was no change in the membership of the Committee during the year and its duties were less onerous than in the previous year or so.

The year 1975 more or less co-incided with the first effective year of operation of the Joint Schools DEC 10 computer. In a mechanical sense it has operated and been maintained in a highly satisfactory fashion. The work load was somewhat slow to develop as both the Programming Section and users needed to learn how to use it but towards the end of the year the initial available core capacity was being strained.

The prospect of additional demand being generated once the planned wiring of the Coombs Building for terminals had been undertaken (completed in December) gave rise to a request to the Directors for funds for an additional disk drive and an extra 16K of memory, the latter involving a 50% increase in "free" core capacity. Fortunately for operations in 1976, rather than in 1975, the required finance was obtained and the additional equipment was operating satisfactorily before the end of the year.

During the year the DEC 10 operated as a "stand alone" machine. The cable for the link between the DEC 10 and the 1108 has been laid, and temporary terminals to the 1108 attached to it, but the link itself was not effected in 1975 and is still some months off.

Naturally there was a change in emphasis in the Programming Section's work during the year. Approximately one third of its time was given to general support of the system and not as aid to specific users. This relatively large amount of the Section's time was linked to the technical processes involved in obtaining maximum performance from a new computer in a particular operating situation. It is anticipated that the relative importance of this type of work will be substantially less during 1976 and more time devoted to applications software and more to increased documentation (working routines specifically designed to the requirements of the users of the DEC 10). The demand for the latter type of work is likely to grow with the increased use of terminals. Without greater clerical assistance the Section may be unable fully to meet this demand.

The course given by the Section to Agricultural Economics masters students was again given in 1975.

As the DEC 10 now has the only 7-track magnetic tape drive within the University the Section does all tape conversions involving 7-track tapes and thus performs a University-wide service.

Details of the usage of time, both of the Programming Section and of the two computers are given in the attached table.

It would be inappropriate to complete this year's report without observing that the thanks of all users in both Schools are due to Miss Rose and the staff of the Programming Section who, despite difficult accommodation problems in the early part of the year, alongside their traditional duties not only ran in a new computer in a highly efficient fashion but completed the time-consuming activity of planning and supervising the wiring of the Coombs Building for terminals.

A.R. Hall, Chairman,
Computer Management Committee

3.10.6

EXPLANATION OF TABLE

The attached table sets out the volume of work done for the various departments.   The following definitions will assist in the interpretation of this table.

No. of Projects   :   refers to a particular job or research project, and most users had only one project although a number of users could be working on the same project.

No. of programs
handled   :   is a count of the number of times any program was submitted to the computer whether for development and testing or production.   This figure excludes terminal work as it is difficult to estimate how many times a program is run during one Login session.

Time %   :   is an estimate of time spent on the projects by the Section and it includes both discussion time and programming effort.   Time spent on small jobs, recent larger jobs and unusual jobs is fairly easy to estimate directly. Time spent on other jobs is assessed by comparing them in size and type with those already estimated.

Computer time   :   is the sum of the monthly usage figures produced by the Computer Centre and the Coombs DEC 10 and therefore includes all programs submitted by department members as well as the programming section.   For the DEC 10, CPU time is shown, and for the U1108 SUP time is shown where SUP time is the sum of CPU time, I/O time and system servicing time.   The 360/50 time is not included as these figures ceased to be kept after the middle of the year.

	No. of Projects	No. of Programs Handled	Section's time %	U1108 Computer time	DEC 10 Computer time
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES					
Demography	10	47	4.4	91:21	7:09
Economic History	1	–	.4	19:02	:11
Economics	3	2	1.0	212:16	:01
Law	1	8	1.6	:26	–
Political Science	4	14	1.2	:25	25:50
Sociology	5	13	2.2	174:14	30:38
Statistics	–	–	–	44:46	:01
U.R.U.	3	10	1.3	141:27	1:02
E.R.U.	5	19	2.0	35:08	2:56
National Pop. Enquiry	1	–	.4	28:46	–
S.R.C.	2	–	.4	:57	–
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PACIFIC STUDIES					
Anthropology	4	93	5.5	4:01	18:20
Economics	16	136	12.1	145:30	11:05
Human Geography	9	63	8.0	11:06	139:38
N.G.R.U.	1	25	1.8	43:40	–
Biogeography	5	78	4.5	1:56	4:43
Linguistics	–	–	–	6:06	–
Prehistory	6	29	6.3	1:56	1:32
Political Change	1	–	.2	–	2:12
OTHER					
Systems Support	–	310	16.6	–	102:55
Applications software	7	28	5.3		
Admin. of Section	–	10	11.0	15:31	20:44
Courses	5	7	5.4		
School Services	2	30	.6	–	8:32
SGS & other A.N.U.	7	3	2.2	?	1:53
Non-ANU Tape Conversions	11	32	2.4	–	:16
Non-ANU Other	3	–	3.2	?	–
TOTALS					
R.S.S.S.	35	113	14.9	748:48	67:48
R.S.Pac.S.	42	424	38.4	214:15	177:30
Other	35	420	46.7	15:31+	134:20