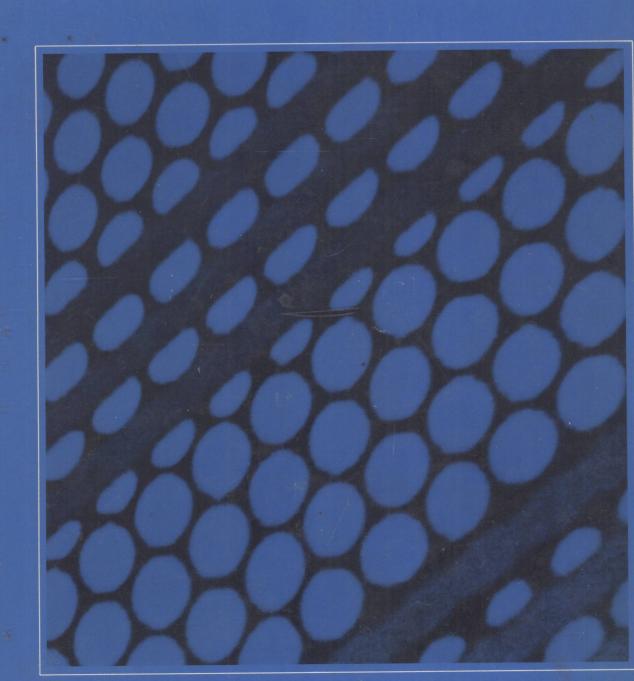
# MODERN DATA PROCESSING

# Third Edition

Robert Arnold Harold Hill Aylmer Nichols



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# Robert R. Arnold

Dean of Instruction, Occupational Education San Diego Mesa College

# Harold C. Hill

Professor of Data Processing San Diego City College

# Aylmer V. Nichols

Director, Electronic Data Processing Services County of San Diego



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# **Preface**

Although the text of this edition of *Modern Data Processing* has been reorganized, revised, and augmented, the primary objectives remain unchanged. They are:

1. To provide a comprehensive view of the many data processing techniques and applications for those desiring a general knowledge of this important and dynamic field

2. To provide a good foundation for those planning advanced study in

data processing.

The book is designed for use in basic data processing courses or for independent study. No background in data processing or other subjects

is required for comprehension.

Although the book still covers the full range of data processing methods and devices, the emphasis given to different topics has changed significantly from previous editions. A single chapter on manual and mechanical data processing has been retained as a result of our continuing belief that the reader should be aware of all commonly used data processing methods. However, punched card data processing is no longer covered in the main text. Punched card machines have ceased to be a major means of processing data, although the punched card itself continues to be an important document in electronic data processing systems. In recognition of the fact that some punched card machines are still in use as auxiliary card-handling devices, a condensed description of the basic punched card machines appears in the Appendix.

The emphasis on computers has been increased by the addition of two new chapters covering minicomputers and microcomputers and the

social and economic effects of computers.

Other revisions in the third edition of the text are:

- 1. Updating of all chapters to reflect the latest technological developments
- 2. A revised and expanded chapter on recording data for computer processing

3. Reorganization of electronic data processing chapters to facilitate understanding

understanding

- 4. Relocation of the data communications chapter immediately following the electronic data processing chapters
- 5. Relocation of the systems chapters so that they follow the discussion

of data processing methods, devices, and operations

- 6. The addition of a preview outline at the beginning of each chapter
- 7. The addition of important words and phrases at the end of each chapter
- 8. An expanded glossary.

The text is organized as follows: Chapter 1 presents an overview of data processing that serves as a general introduction and frame of reference to assist in comprehending and relating the topics in succeeding chapters. Chapter 2 outlines the history of data processing from ancient recording and computing techniques to modern mechanical and electronic devices. Chapter 3 presents a survey of data processing applications in various fields, with emphasis on business. This chapter also includes a brief description of basic business operations to aid in understanding the main sources of data and common data processing applications. Chapter 4 surveys manual and mechanical data processing methods and devices—some conventional and others newly developed.

Chapter 5 describes the most commonly used codes, media, and devices used to record data for computer processing. Chapters 6 to 10 are concerned with electronic data processing, including a survey of computer characteristics, physical elements and functions of a computer system, and numbering systems. Data communications is discussed in Chapter 11. Chapters 12 to 16 cover electronic data processing program development, programming systems, the BASIC programming system, problem-oriented programming languages, and electronic data processing operations.

Chapters 17 and 18 are devoted to systems study and design. Systems study aids are described in Chapter 17, and principles of systems study and design are covered in Chapter 18. The uses of computers in industrial automation are outlined in Chapter 19. Chapter 20 surveys the social and economic effects of computers.

End-of-chapter review questions and lists of important data processing words and phrases are furnished as a guide in reviewing important text material and as a basis for discussion. The glossary contains definitions of terms that appear in this book, or that the reader is likely to encounter in supplementary reading. A discussion of basic punched card machines appears in the Appendix. A workbook containing lists of terms, review questions, and exercises is available to reinforce the text.

We express appreciation to the many individuals and companies who provided information and illustrations for this book, or who otherwise assisted in its preparation. Specific credit is included with illustrations wherever appropriate.

Robert R. Arnold Harold H. Hill Aylmer V. Nichols

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# FUNDAMENTALS OF DATA PROCESSING

#### **CHAPTER PREVIEW**

**Definition of Data Data versus Information** The Need for Data Processing The Need for Improved Data Processing Techniques Volume of Data Clerical Costs **Accuracy Requirements** The Need for More Timely Information The Data Processing Cycle Origination of Data **Recording Data** Manipulation of Data **Summarizing and Report Preparation Data Communications Data Storage Methods of Processing Data** Manual and Mechanical **Punched Card Machines Electronic Data Processing** Conclusion Important Words and Phrases **Review Questions** 

Although the term "data processing" is of relatively recent origin, the activity itself is not new. On the contrary, there is evidence that the need to process data originated as far back as the beginning of recorded history, when people's activities first exceeded their ability to remember the details of their actions. Throughout history, commercial and governmental activities have created the need to process data of one kind or another.

In its broadest sense, data processing refers to the recording and handling of data that are necessary to convert it into a more refined or useful form. In the past these tasks were referred to as record keeping or paperwork. They were accepted as a routine clerical activity. Recently,

with the advent of more sophisticated electromechanical and electronic business machines, the terms "paperwork" and "record keeping" have been replaced by the phrase "data processing." In addition, the volume of data has grown to such proportions that data processing has become a major activity attracting a great deal of interest. This interest is justifiable, but it should not lead to the conclusion that data processing is an end in itself. It is rather a means of achieving objectives that are almost as varied as the nature of data.

#### **DEFINITION OF DATA**

Because of the widespread application of new data processing techniques to banking operations, billing, and other financial situations, there is a tendency to assume that the term "data" refers primarily to accounting or other business functions. Actually, data can include any facts, figures, letters, words, charts, or symbols that represent an idea, object, condition, or situation. Thus, data can include such diverse things as completed election ballots, inventory figures, gas meter readings, school attendance records, medical statistics, engineering performance reports, and production figures. In fact, this list could continue for pages because examples of data can be found in every field of activity.

There are, of course, differences in the types of data handled in various fields. In science, for example, chemists, physicists, and mathematicians find it necessary to perform vast calculations on relatively limited amounts of data. This is also true of the many fields of engineering, where extremely complex design and performance calculations must be made.

In business and government operations the situation is usually quite different. Here the data is voluminous and repetitive, but processing requirements, although varied, are generally less complex. In this book attention will be focused mainly on this type of data processing, although the techniques to be discussed will be found to some extent in virtually every field.

# DATA VERSUS INFORMATION

There is a significant difference between data and information that can be described by one word: *usefulness*. No compilation of data, regardless of how vast, can be called information unless it has been organized in a meaningful way and is useful to someone. In other words, data becomes information when it achieves relevance.

Thus, data is the raw material used to produce information. Information consists of *selected data*—data selected and organized with respect to user, problem, time, place, and function. The conversion of data to information is a primary function of data processing (Figure 1–1).