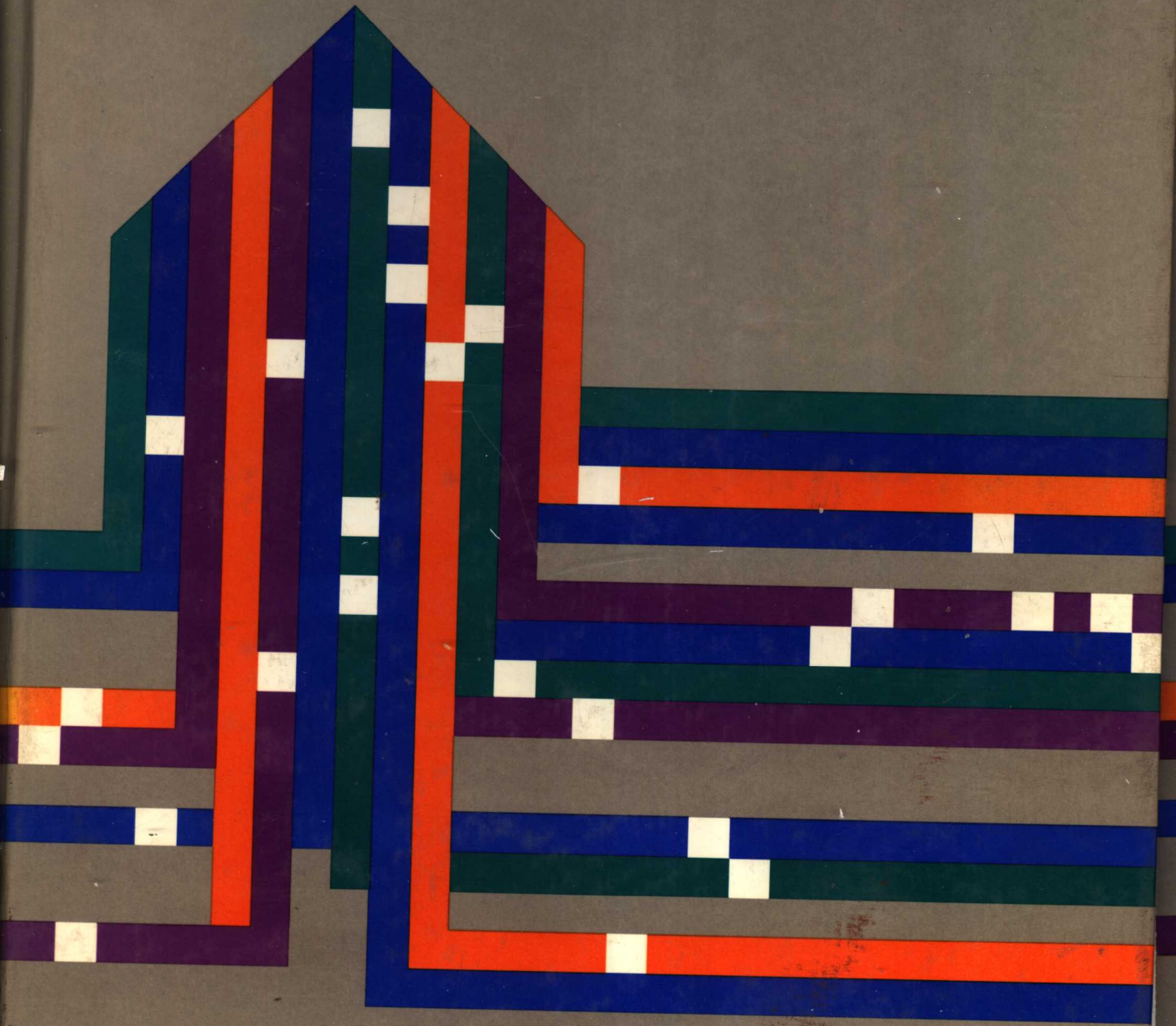# ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

People and Technology

Thomas Keller / Ernest N. Savage

Administrative Information Systems

People and Technology

Thomas Keller, Ed.D.
Arizona State University

Ernest N. Savage, Ed.D.
Bowling Green State University

Preface

In recent years, methods of operation in business organizations have changed dramatically to meet the challenges of today's world economy. Greater emphasis is placed on the administrative office today than ever before. Issues such as productivity, human resources management, and technology, which once were topics of discussion in warehouse and factory settings, are now focused directly on the administrative office environment. It is imperative that today's administrative office managers use every human and technological resource available to transform the office into an effective administrative information system.

This text is designed and written to aid students, business managers, government officials, and educators in transforming the isolated manual offices of yesterday to tomorrow's automated offices. Most texts currently on the market do an excellent job of describing office practices as they have been performed for decades. However, for the most part these texts have merely added chapters to previously written editions, giving little thought to the changing role of the administrative office. The results have been large, encyclopedia-like office manuals that are filled with outdated material and sketchy glimpses of the future. This process has forced instructors to teach office management from a strictly theoretical basis.

Administrative Information Systems: People and Technology was written as a practical guide to administrative office management. It is intended to be a bridge between the theoretical and the applied instructional approaches. This text provides only the essential material from traditional office management references while giving specific examples and the managerial strategies necessary for developing effective administrative information systems.

TEXT STRUCTURE

The text is divided into four parts. Part 1, "Administrative Organization," describes both the office managerial process and the admin-

istrative office organizational structure. Part 2, "Administrative Functions," provides the reader with a detailed description of the major administrative office functions as they exist in today's offices. These functions include word processing, records management, micrographics, reprographics, forms control, telecommunications, and budget analysis. Part 3, "Administrative Information Systems," consists of seven chapters that describe the various integrated systems that make up today's administrative information system. The main theme of this portion of the text is the "systems approach." Although there is a substantial amount of technology described in Part 3, it is presented from the manager's perspective in a clear and concise manner. Chapters 8 through 13 provide the reader with many step-by-step procedures for developing effective administrative information systems. Part 4, "Human Resources Management," includes very important information on the most important of all resources—the human resource. Part 4 is written as a manager's guide to acquiring, training, motivating, measuring, compensating, and retaining administrative office personnel.

Individual instructors may desire to cover these topics in an order other than the one presented here. Instructors are encouraged to utilize this text in the manner most conducive to their students' understanding.

TEXT FEATURES

Numerous important features are incorporated in *Administrative Information Systems: People and Technology.*

☐ The concept of systems theory is included in the discussion of the evolution of management theory.
☐ The detailed descriptions of strategies for automating many of the traditional office functions provide the reader with greater insight into the uses of computer technology in the administrative office.
☐ The reader is provided with a practical guide for using systems analysis techniques as part of his or her managerial skill set. These techniques are utilized throughout the text.
☐ Chapter 9, "Ergonomic Designs and Productivity," is a very timely discussion for today's managers. This chapter emphasizes the delicate relationship between people and technology.
☐ A major strength of this text is its managerial approach to evaluating, acquiring, and utilizing computer technology. The strategies presented here have been developed and utilized by the authors in actual business contexts.

☐ The human resources management issues are presented from the workers' perspective as well as from the management viewpoint. Both points of view are discussed in the framework of the rapidly changing job market.

In addition to these important features, chapter summaries and student activities are provided as instructional aids at the end of each chapter.

INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL

The instructor's manual that accompanies *Administrative Information Systems: People and Technology* provides guidelines for the instructor to follow with respect to curriculum timelines, sex-equity and special needs issues, and the availability of resource materials. It also presents a strategy for modifying curriculum in order to create and maintain a contemporary focus.

Each chapter is analyzed in an objective and subjective manner. Objective testing takes the form of "Test Your Knowledge" review questions. By answering these questions, students will be able to review and evaluate their understanding of each chapter's content. Answers to these questions can be found at the back of the instructor's manual. Subjective testing requires students to respond to simulation and case study scenarios. This type of activity requires students to address the main issues of the chapter and also synthesize information from previous chapters and outside sources. Sample responses are at the back of the instructor's manual.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Carolyn Dolecheck
Northeast Louisiana University

Mary Evelyn Galbraith
Sam Houston State University

Beverly House
University of New Orleans

Velma Jesser
Lane Community College

Dora Johnson
Central Piedmont Community
   College

Gloria Mitchamore
North Harris County College

Karen Munson
Tacoma Community College

Linda Sarlo
Rock Valley College

Elaine Schmittke
Nassau Community College

John B. Smith
Bucks County Community College

Contents