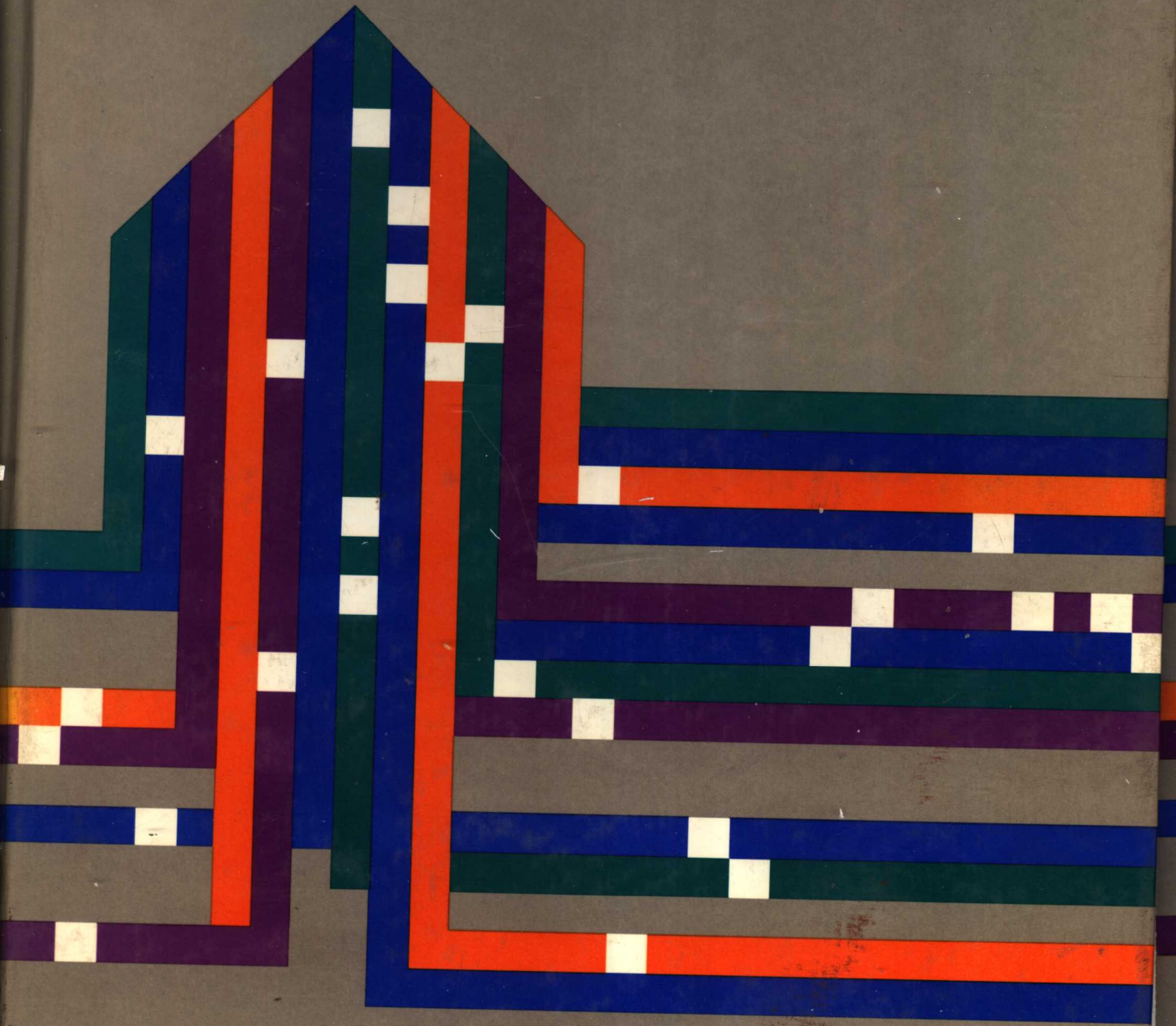


ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

People and Technology



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Administrative Information Systems

People and Technology

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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 The results have been large, encyclopedia-like office manuals that are filled with outdated material and sketchy glimpses of the future.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.

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Contents

PART 1 ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION 1

1 The Office Managerial Process 3

Introduction	4
The Evolution of Management Theory	4
The Scientific Management Era	4
The Human Relations Era	6
The Behavioral Science Era	6
The Systems Era	8
Management Functions	9
Planning	9
Organizing	9
Staffing	9
Directing	9
Controlling	10
Administrative Office Management	10
Administrative Information Systems	10
Summary	11
Student Activities	11
Active Orientation	11
Independent Problems	12
References	12

2 The Administrative Office 13

Introduction	14
Administrative Office Objectives	15
Organizational Structure	15
Office Organizational Structure	15
Line Organization	16
Line-and-Staff Organization	18
Departmentalization	19

Authority-Responsibility Relationship	19
Centralization and Decentralization	20
Informal Organizational Structure	21
Professionalism	22
Summary	22
Student Activities	23
Active Orientation	23
Independent Problems	23

PART 2 ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS 25

3 Word Processing 27

Introduction	28
Word Processing Costs	28
Word Processing and Organizational Structure	29
Objectives of a Word Processing System	30
Phases of a Word Processing System	30
Word Processing Technology	31
Dictation Equipment	31
Electronic Typewriters	32
Word Processors	32
Common Features of Word Processing Packages	34
Text Origination	34
Text Editing	35
Block Move	35
Word Processing Centers	36
The Centralized Approach	36
The Decentralized Approach	36
Summary	38
Student Activities	38
Active Orientation	38
Independent Problems	39

4 Records Management 41

Introduction	42
The Records Management Function	42
Objectives of a Records Management Program	42
The Records Management Process	42
Records Creation	43

Records Maintenance	44
Records Storage	46
The Computer and Records Management	47
Data Base Management	48
Summary	52
Student Activities	52
Active Orientation	52
Independent Problems	53
References	53

5 Micrographics, Reprographics, and Forms Control 55

Introduction	56
Micrographics	56
Computerized Micrographic Applications	57
Micrographic Services	57
Reprographics	58
Reproduction Costs	59
Today's Intelligent Copiers	60
Determining Reprographic Needs	61
Forms Control	62
Forms Creation	63
Forms Design	63
Summary	63
Student Activities	65
Active Orientation	65
Independent Problems	65

6 Telecommunications 67

Introduction	68
Telephone Systems	68
Automated Features	68
Switching Systems	68
WATS Lines	69
Data Communication	70
Teleconferencing	71
Audio Teleconferencing	72
Video Teleconferencing	72
Summary	72
Student Activities	73
Active Orientation	73
Independent Problems	74

7 Budget Analysis 77

- Introduction 78
- Objectives of Budget Analysis 78
- Types of Budgets 78
 - The Master Budget 78
 - The Capital Budget 78
 - The Operating Budget 79
 - The Financial Budget 79
- Structuring the Budget 79
 - Managerial Commitment 80
 - Employee Input 80
 - Assigning Responsibility 80
 - Setting Goals 80
 - Budget Flexibility 81
 - Monitoring the Budget 81
- Budgeting Methods 82
 - Traditional Budgeting 82
 - Zero-Based Budgeting 83
- Implications for the Administrative Manager 83
- Summary 83
- Student Activities 84
 - Active Orientation 84
 - Independent Problems 84

PART 3 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS 85**8 Administrative Systems Analysis 87**

- Introduction 88
- Administrative Support Systems 88
 - Objectives of Administrative Support Systems 88
- Designing the System 89
 - Conducting the Systems Study 89
- Tools of Systems Studies 91
 - Systems Charts 91
 - Task Charts 92
- Implications for the Administrative Manager 94
- Summary 97
- Student Activities 97
 - Active Orientation 97
 - Independent Problems 97

9 Ergonomic Designs and Productivity 99

Introduction	100
What Ergonomics Is and What It Is Not	100
Ergonomic Factors	101
Chairs	101
Workstations	103
Lighting Systems	106
Acoustics	108
Air Conditioning Systems	109
Conducting an Ergonomic Study	110
A Systems Approach to Ergonomic Design	110
Ergonomics and Productivity	112
Cautions About Estimating Ergonomic Productivity	112
Estimating the Payback of Ergonomic Designs	113
Implications for the Administrative Manager	113
Summary	114
Student Activities	115
Active Orientation	115
Independent Problems	116
References	116

10 Administrative Communication Systems 117

Introduction	118
Objectives of an Administrative Communication System	118
Objective #1: To Inform	118
Objective #2: To Direct	118
Objective #3: To Lead	118
Administrative Communication Model	119
Types of Administrative Communication	120
Written Communication	120
Oral Communication	121
Designing an Administrative Communication System	121
Step 1: Determine Organizational Objectives	121
Step 2: Determine Needs	121
Step 3: Establish Organization-Wide Policies	122
Step 4: Evaluate Equipment	122
Step 5: Provide Cost Analysis	122
Step 6: Design the System	122
Step 7: Purchase or Lease the System	123
Step 8: Implement the System	123
Step 9: Evaluate the System	123

Summary	123
Student Activities	124
Active Orientation	124
Independent Problems	124
11 Information Processing Technology	125
Introduction	126
The Development of Business Computer Systems	126
First Generation Business Computers	126
Second Generation Business Computers	127
Third Generation Business Computers	127
Minicomputers for Business	128
Microcomputers for Business	129
Word Processing: 1964 to the Present	131
Electronic Typewriters	131
Word Processors	132
How Today's Information Processors Work	133
The Information Processing Cycle	136
Computer Software	136
Computer Networks	139
Summary	140
Student Activities	141
Active Orientation	141
Independent Problems	141
References	141
12 The Information Center	143
Introduction	144
Information Management	144
Data Processing and MIS	144
What Is the Information Center?	145
Information Center Structure and Personnel	146
Structure	146
Personnel	147
Strategies for Developing an Information Center	150
Step 1: Define the Scope of the Project	150
Step 2: Acquire Commitment from Top Management	150
Step 3: Articulate Objectives with DP/MIS	151
Step 4: Staff the Center	151
Step 5: Develop the Implementation Plan	151
Information Center Evaluation Program	151

Implications for the Administrative Manager	153
Summary	155
Student Activities	156
Active Orientation	156
Independent Problems	156
References	156

13 Evaluating and Acquiring an Administrative Information System 159

Introduction	160
Where to Start	160
Selecting Team Members	160
The Evaluation and Acquisition Process	161
Step 1: Determine Organizational Objectives	162
Step 2: Analyze the Present Method of Operation	162
Step 3: Match Software	162
Step 4: Select Hardware	163
Step 5: Develop Bid Specifications	163
Step 6: Hold a Bidders' Conference	163
Step 7: Evaluate Bids	164
Step 8: Hold a User Evaluation Session	164
Step 9: Hold a Team and User Evaluation Meeting	164
Step 10: Make Recommendations to Senior Management	166
Implications for the Administrative Manager	166
Summary	166
Student Activities	167
Active Orientation	167
Independent Problems	167

14 The Office of the Future 169

Introduction	170
The Productivity Challenge	170
Productivity Measurement	170
The Technology Challenge	171
Technology Integration	172
Barriers to Integration	172
The Human Resources Challenge	174
Dealing with Change	174
Where Will the New Workers Come From?	175
Implications for the Administrative Manager	176

Summary	176
Student Activities	177
Active Orientation	177
Independent Problems	178
References	178

PART 4 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT 179

15 Acquiring Office Employees 181

Introduction	182
Where to Look	182
Internal Referrals	182
Temporary Help Agencies	183
Educational Institutions	184
Public Employment Services	184
Private Employment Agencies	184
Advertisements	184
Personnel Acquisition Procedures	185
The Application Process	185
The Interview Process	185
Employment Legislation	187
Employee Orientation	187
Materials	188
Notifying Other Workers	188
The "Buddy System"	188
Summary	189
Student Activities	189
Active Orientation	189
Independent Problems	189

16 Supervision and Motivation of Office Employees 191

Introduction	192
Leadership	193
Supervising Employees	194
Functions of Supervision	194
Human Factors That Affect Leadership	195
Motivating Employees	197
Group Behavior	198
Individual Behavior	201
Summary	201

Student Activities	202
Active Orientation	202
Independent Problems	202
References	202

17 Administrative Job Analysis 205

Introduction	206
Job Descriptions	206
Writing the Job Description	207
Job Specifications	207
Job Evaluations	208
Advantages of Job Evaluations	208
Disadvantages of Job Evaluations	208
Job Evaluation Methods	208
The Rank Order Method	209
The Guideline Method	209
The Point Method	210
Making Job Evaluation Work for You	211
Work Standards and Today's Business Office	211
Conducting a Work Measurement Program	211
Setting the Stage	212
The Scope of the Study	212
Summary	214
Student Activities	215
Active Orientation	215
Independent Problems	215
References	215

18 Administrative Productivity 217

Introduction	218
Can Administrative Productivity Be Measured?	218
Step 1: Create Awareness	218
Step 2: Measure Productivity	219
Step 3: Evaluate Productivity	220
Step 4: Plan Productivity	221
Step 5: Improve Productivity	223
Step 6: Establish Control Reporting	226
Summary	226
Student Activities	227
Active Orientation	227
Independent Problems	227
References	228

19 Compensation Administration 229

- Introduction 230
- Objectives of a Compensation Program 230
- Components of a Compensation Program 230
- Administering Compensation Programs 230
 - Gathering Job Data 231
 - Structuring Salaries 232
 - Structuring Benefits 233
- Communicating the Compensation Program 234
- Summary 235
- Student Activities 235
 - Active Orientation 235
 - Independent Problems 235

20 Administrative Labor Relations 237

- Introduction 238
- Major Labor Legislation 238
 - Norris-LaGuardia Act of 1932 239
 - Wagner Act of 1935 239
 - Social Security Act of 1935 239
 - Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 240
 - Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 240
 - Landrum-Griffin Act of 1959 240
 - Equal Pay Act of 1963 241
 - Civil Rights Act of 1964 241
 - Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 241
 - Equal Employment Act of 1972 241
- Recognizing Unions 242
- Union Hierarchy 242
- The Labor Contract 243
- Grievance Procedures 243
 - Resolving the Grievance 244
- Implications for the Administrative Manager 245
- Summary 245
- Student Activities 246
 - Active Orientation 246
 - Independent Problems 247
- References 247

21 Training and Development of Administrative Personnel 249

- Introduction 250
- Types of Office Training 250
 - Entry Training 250