

Computing and Data Processing Center

Papers 1956-1974
(Predominantly, 1965-1969)

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Wayne State University first entered the field of computers in 1947 with a mechanical differential analyzer acquired from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Five years later the University established the Computation Laboratory. Wayne worked in conjunction with Burroughs Research Lab to develop the Unitized Digital Electronic Computer. In 1955, an IBM 650 Magnetic Drum Data Processing Machine used punched cards to process academic data and student records and registration information. The machine's function was expanded the next year to process payroll. The expanded functions resulted in the Computation Laboratory becoming the Computing Center in 1958. The Center continued to expand with the installation of an IBM 1401, IBM 7070/1401, and IBM 1460. With the addition of the new equipment, in mid 1962 the University's Electronic Data Processing Office merged with the Computing Center to form the Computing and Data Processing Center. The Center continued to install newer, more powerful computers such as the IBM 360 Model 40, IBM 360/65, and the IBM 360 Model 67 throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

Dr. Arvid Jacobson, Professor of Mathematics at Wayne University, in 1947. acquired the machinery to develop mechanical and electronic calculation at Wayne University. The project was supported by Grants from many local firms including General Motors, Ford, Burroughs, Detroit Edison, J.L. Hundson, and others. The Wayne University Computation Laboratory was established and directed by Dr. Jacobson. Under his direction computing grew at the University. Faculty members from the Wayne University departments of mathematics, chemistry, physics, and electrical engineering, as well as scientists from the research laboratories of the major industrial backers of the Computer Laboratory, experimented with developing computer codes to solve a variety of problems.

Dr. Jacobson left the University in 1957. Dr. Walter Hoffman served as acting director until 1959 when he was appointed director of the Computing Center. He remained the director when, in mid 1962, the University's Electronic Data Processing Office merged with the Computing Center to form the Computing and Data Processing Center. In addition to his directorship at the Computer and Data Processing Center. Dr. Hoffman also served as a trustee and president of the Oak Park School Board, chairman of the committee on computer oriented mathematics of the National Council of Teacher of Mathematics, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Computer Science for the National Academy of science and served as a consulted for several national organizations. He served as the Center's director until his death in December of 1969.

Dr. Robert Hubbard was appointed acting director for 1970. In January of 1971, Dr. Franklin H. Westervelt, Associate Director of the Computing Center at the University of Michigan, was named director of Wayne State's Computing and Data Processing Center.

The papers of the Computing and Data Processing Center consist of correspondence, articles, minutes, publications, personnel policies, personal records of Dr. Hoffman, and reports reflecting the emerging field of computing at Wayne State University under the direction of Dr. Hoffman. They also reflect the Computing and Data Processing Center's involvement with Argonne University Association, a consortium of universities research.

NON-MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL

A few photographs of the Center and its staff have been transferred to the Archives Audiovisual Collection.

Important subjects and correspondence in the collection:

ARGONNE University Association	Briggs, Charles
Center for Applied Sciences and Technology (CAST)	Crockett, George
Computation Laboratory	Hardenbergh, Roger
Computers	Hilberry, Clarence B.
Computing Center	Hoffman, Walter
Computing Education	Hubbard, Robert
Chemical Abstract Service (CAS)	McCarty, H. James
Chemical Information and Data Studies (CIDS), U.S. Army	Monroe, Robert
International Business Machines (IBM)	Pixley, Henry H.
Mathematics Department	Smith, E. Burrows
Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM)	Westervelt, Franklin H.
National Science Foundation (NSF)	Whaley, Randall
Oak Park Schools (Michigan)	
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U.S. Army, Chemical Information and Data Studies (CIDS)	

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