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COMMITTEE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Meeting of experts on the use of computers in university administration

Strasbourg, 23/24 September 1974

Standardisation of computerised personal files for students - Present situation in the CCC member States

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Secretariat information note

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I. Present situation	Future plans
1. Austria All universities enrol their students on computer basis. The following systems are used : IBM 7040, IBM 1800, EA1 Pager, IBM 360 (University of Vienna), IBM 1130 (Hochschule für Welthandel, Hochschule für Bodenkultur, Vienna, Montanistische Hochschule Leoben, Hochschule für Sozial- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften Linz), UNIVAC 494 (Rechenzentrum Graz), CDC 3300 (University of Innsbruck). Responsible services : the heads of university administration.	To collect all data concerning examinations taken by students at all universities, to collect data on inventory rooms, equipment and financial resources available as a basis for planning and management ; (later) to unify computer systems by a uniform code.
2. Belgium Systems used : CDC 6400 (Free University of Brussels), Siemens 4004 G, System DOS (Rijksuniversiteit te Gent and six other universities), IBM 1130 (University Faculties of Sint-Ignatius at Antwerpen, the University Centre at Antwerpen) ; the University Centre at Limburg does not have any computer ; the "Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen" will soon have a PDP 11/95. Responsible services : the Rectors and computer centres.	General files for all Belgian universities.
3. Cyprus (no information).	-

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4. Denmark

Systems used : UNIVAC-9400 (University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University Center), CDC 6400 (University of Århus), IBM (University of Odense), RC 4000 (College of Business Administration, Economics and Languages, Århus, Technical University of Copenhagen), GA 1830 (College of Business Administration, Economics and Languages, Copenhagen).

Responsible services : the rector (only University of Copenhagen), the heads of study administration.

Integration of different systems by using a database-system, to develop a further information system to be used by budgetting and planning, development of system in order to include all students, teachers and censors.

5. Finland

Systems used : Burroughs 6700 (University of Helsinki), Honeywell H 1644 (University of Jyväskylä, University of Tampere), UNIVAC 1108 (University of Joensuu, Helsinki University of Technology, Tampere University of Technology), IBM 1130 (Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration).

Responsible services : Supervising Registrars, head of Bureau, Secretary of Studies. There are also two responsible officials in the Ministry of Education.

A student data system is at present being developed in Finland. The system will be divided into the following partial systems at university level :
- student selection
- enrolment and term registration
- registration per each study subject
- study results
- maintenance of central files
- maintenance of the student aid system.

Enrolment, maintenance of the central files and to some extend study results will be computerised first.

6. France

Many French Universities have computerised personal files for students. There is no information as regards the systems used at present and the services responsible.

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7. Federal Republic of Germany

The Technical University of Berlin and the Universities of Kiel and Hamburg do not have computerised files, all other universities are using computers. The following systems are used :

CII-IRIS 80	CD 3150
CD 6400	CDC 3300
DCD 3300	DEC
Hewlett Packard	IBM 360/25
IBM 360/50	IBM 360/67
IBM 370/165	Philips ELX/8
ICL 1906 S	Siemens 4004/45G
Siemens 4004/45	Telefunken TR 440
Telefunken TR 86	IBM 370/168
CDD 3300	IBM 7040
CDC 6500	Siemens CDC
EAJ	
IBM 360/40	
IBM 370/158	
Telefunken TR 4	
Univac 1108	

Responsible services : for matters of organisation the student secretariats, for technical problems the centres for computerisation and planning.

In the Länder Berlin, Hamburg and Rhineland-Palatine there are no future plans. In all other Länder certain suitable subjects will be computerised, for example, a student operations system (Bremen, Lower Saxony), collection of data for planning (North Rhine-Westphalia), unifying of the present computer systems (Bavaria, Hesse), collection of data for routine evaluation (Sarre).

8. Iceland

(no information)

9. Ireland

Only the University College Dublin, has computerised files (IBM 360, Model 50 H 1).

Responsible services : College Registrar.

Proposals for revised Student Information systems which would incorporate detailed records for applications for admission, students registered at present and graduates.

10. Italy

(no information)

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11. Malta

No computerised files.

12. Netherlands

Systems used :
IBM 360/50, 360/65, 370/158
Data Control : CDC 3200, CDC 6500, CDC 6600
Burroughs : B 6700 and SCL 1903 A.

Responsible services : the executive committees of the different universities.

13. Norway

(no information)

14. Spain

Systems used :
UNIVAC 1108 (Barcelona, Saragossa, Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle - Madrid, Granada).

Responsible services : no information.

Since only a few Spanish universities have yet computerised files the systems will be expanded in the near future to all other universities.

15. Sweden

There are computers in Uppsala and Göteborg

Responsible officials :
Mr. Leif Sauner, University of Uppsala, Mr. Stefan Sauger Chalmers School of Technology Göteborg.

16. Switzerland

(no information)

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17. Turkey

Systems used : IBM 1620 (Technical University of Istanbul, Bogaziçi University), Burroughs B-3500 (Hacettepe University), IBM 360/40 F (Technical University of Ankara).

Responsible services : the University Computer Centres (one project manager) and the University Registrars.

Within the next two years it is planned to computerise student academic and health records. Course tables will be prepared automatically, the capability of entering data and changing existing records on an on-line basis will be added to the system.

18. United Kingdom

There is a computerised national student record system but there is no information as regards the systems used.

Responsible service : no information.

II. Possibilities of standardisation

1. Student's reference number

It would be desirable to reach agreement on a European reference number composed of three elements :

a) A code for the country where the student has so far been to the university (preferably to be indicated by the national identification plate system for cars) ;

b) A number for the individual university in the country where the student is actually studying ;

c) A number for the individual student.

2. Name of the student

It seems desirable to put both the surname and the Christian name in full.

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3. Address of the student

A European model should contain some space for the address to be inserted, although it is difficult to keep them up to date.

4. Sex and age of the student

A European model should contain a separate item for the sex and for the age.

5. Marital status

A European model might contain the following indications :

- bachelor
- married
- divorced
- widowed.

6. Nationality of the student

The nationality should be added to the list of information needed. It would be preferable to use the national registration plate system for cars. Further space might be left free to indicate the country of domicile for those wishing to do so.

7. Name(s) of the institution(s)

It is necessary to enumerate all universities, colleges, etc., to which the students have been so far. At present the numbers used at national level will have to be taken over. In the long run a common system of numbers for all European institutions of tertiary education might be found.

8. Department or unit of teaching and research or faculty

A European model need not necessarily contain the department, faculty or unit, because the terminology is too different from one country to the other.

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9. Field(s) of study

A standard dictionary or European Agreement for the codes to be used for the various subjects would be extremely difficult to achieve, because the same terms do not always mean the same thing. Furthermore, the chosen subject itself does sometimes not say very much about the studies undertaken so far. Nevertheless a European model should continue to indicate the field(s) of study as a sort of slogan.

10. List of lectures, tutorial classes, seminars, etc.

Although it may be necessary to have information about the individual courses taken by a student coming from abroad, there is not much chance that all countries can be persuaded to computerise these details. Agreement on a common code system for individual courses, tutorial classes, etc. is even less probable.

11. Tests and examinations passed

The enormous variety of tests and examinations in Europe makes it impossible to reach agreement on a common code for them. Computerised personal files for students should, however, contain these data.

III. Comments of the Secretariat

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3. : Address of the student

Keeping up-to-date the addresses of the students would enlarge too much the administrative expense at a European level. This would be done in the future also by the national authorities, since in the view of the Secretariat an earlier address is unimportant for the foreign university.

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8. : Department or unit of teaching and research or faculty

Although it is not absolutely necessary to have these data collected in a European personal file, it might be useful to do so, because they are indicating the kind of studies undertaken so far. For example, one can study chemistry or mathematics at a technical university or at a faculty of an university, economics at an university or at a college for economics and so on. The aims of studies will vary from one kind of institutions of tertiary education to another.

9. - 11. : It might lead to abuse if there are no indications at a European level. Concerning these points a material equivalence should be applied, which may be illustrated by some examples :

9. : Field(s) of study

The mere indication of names of curricula is nearly worthless, because they are sometimes different in the institutions of tertiary education even of one country. In order to get reasonable results one must compare the aims which should be reached by a curriculum.

10. List of lectures, tutorial classes, seminars, etc.

Here it seems to be the same problem. The indication of titles of lectures, seminars, etc. and the numbers of weekly hours for them, are also not very important. On a European level one has to find out which subjects are taught in order to compare the value of lectures. In this context it seems to be important to make a difference between lectures (i.e. where the student is only listening to the professor, lecturer, etc.) and such academic lessons, where the student must also do a certain amount of work (i.e. seminar, practical classes, laboratory classes, etc).

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11. : Tests and examinations passed

Although there is an enormous variety of tests and examinations in Europe it is absolutely necessary in the view of the Secretariat to some indications about it. For various reasons it is very important to know which quality has an examination passed within the studies undertaken so far. Therefore it must be possible to make a difference between preparatory, preliminary and final examinations independent how they are called in practice.