Greetings:

CUSS is now over a year old and some recollections are in order. When we started, we had no idea if anyone shared our interest in computers. We found the interest exists and is growing. The role of CUSS thus far has been to meet this interest by printing member ideas, resources, and activities, and you have responded with appreciation. But where do we go from here? Some ideas occur to me and I will throw them back to you for your response.

The goal of exchanging resources and ideas seems viable and will continue to guide the growth of the Network. A decentralized or distributed approach seems the best way to proceed. The newsletter is a mechanism to distribute tasks throughout the membership. Members participate by performing tasks as:

- Sending in their needs, interests, skills, experiences: activities.
- Distributing newsletters to friends and at workshops and conferences. If you’re attending a conference where participants may be interested in CUSS, let me know and I will send newsletters to place on a resource table. I have distributed over 100 newsletters at each conference I have attended.
- Participating in the skills bank developed by Gunther Geiss, Adelphi U. School of Social Work, Garden City, NY, 11530 (516 489-2000 ext 8083) by completing the form in this newsletter.
- Sending in lists of resources others would appreciate. Fred Dejong, NASUA, reported a large response to his announcement of available documents in the last two issues.
- Referring appropriate advertisers to CUSS. If you think a vendor could benefit by exposure to CUSS members, tell them so and recommend they take out an advertisement.
- Exploring possible new activities for the Network. For example Tom Neudecker, U of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, 2225 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (412 624-1902) is still investigating the possibility of automating some Network activities using a commercial network, such as The Source. However, the response to Tom’s request for input from members has not been overwhelming.
- Hosting local CUSS Network meetings. Lynn Vogel had a large turnout in Chicago. We are planning a CUSS network meeting in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area this Fall, and have sent out a survey to help plan the format and agenda. I will send a copy of our survey and mailing labels of CUSS members to anyone planning a local CUSS meeting. For those in a foreign country, Floyd Bolitho’s work in Australia offers a model to follow (see members report section).
- Reporting on ideas, products and events. Many members have made formal reports on conferences, surveys, and experiences. This issue launches a hardware/software review column by Richard Reinoehl and Linda D. Irft. The column promises to be a great addition for those seeking more technical information on vendor products. Other more formal reviews of vendor products useful in the human services are welcomed.
- Participating in the Users Software Survey in this issue. The survey is an attempt to provide a more formal mechanism for members to share knowledge. The results will be published in a future issue, and if successful, the survey will become an annual Network function.

Computer Use in Social Services (CUSS) is a network of professionals interested in exchanging information and experiences on using computers in social services. The Network’s newsletter is published 4 times each year. Those interested in joining the network and receiving the newsletter should write to Dick Schoech, Editor/Coordinator. Information on your interests, needs, experiences, hardware/software familiarity, etc., are welcomed. To cover expenses of postage and printing, a $5 contribution is recommended for students and the poor, $10 for individuals and $10+ for institutions and those wishing to provide additional support. Back issues are available for $2.50 each.

I wish to join the network. (Send to: Dick Schoech, UTA GSSW, Box 19129, Arlington, TX 76019)

Name: ____________________________ Title/Occupation: ____________________________

Organization: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________

Dues: I enclose ______ . Make checks payable to CUSS Network.
Think up new ways to participate. The possibilities are endless and I’m open to all suggestions. For CUSS to become a viable exchange network, everyone should participate in some way.

For the past several months, I have been talking to Haworth Press about their publishing, advertising and managing the books of the Network newsletter. Haworth would allow CUSS complete editorial control and would pay CUSS a percentage of royalties. After very serious consideration on both sides, we decided to postpone the decision until the newsletter becomes more viable in terms of (1) paying members and (2) the amount of print which I receive each quarter, and until Haworth becomes more automated in their operations and can provide the rapid turn-around we desire on printing and distribution. I appreciate the help given by many of the Network members I called on and would welcome member comments for future negotiations.

Advisory Board Forming: The negotiations with Haworth pointed out the need for a CUSS advisory board to help in Network decisions and to help in expanding the content of the Network newsletter. Becoming more formalized has some advantages, for example, we can receive more recognition as a viable entity and accept longer reports, win-in-progress, think pieces, commentaries, book reviews, articles, etc. Quality will be a major criteria; we do not need to publish longer pieces, but need the capacity if good longer pieces come along.

CUSS Conference?: I have received several requests for a CUSS Network conference. While I support the idea, I do not have the time to set one up and run it. My feelings are that CUSS members could meet as a group at existing conferences which many members periodically attend, e.g., American Psychological Association Conference. If you are interested in organizing a meeting of CUSS members at a conference you plan to attend, let me know and I’ll put your name, address, phone number and meeting information in the next issue. Reports from these attempts and local CUSS meetings should indicate the viability of a National CUSS conference.

Membership: For the past year, I have placed everyone who I thought may be interested in human service computing on the newsletter mailing list and removed only those who requested removal. Thus, membership may have been the precise term to use. The emphasis this year was to get the newsletter into as many interested hands as possible. However, as of this issue, I am narrowing the membership to those who have paid membership dues, those who receive complimentary copies, and those intending to pay but unable to quickly process a check.

Finances: The Network has two conflicting goals, the first to get information out to all who want it, and the second to survive financially. To maximize the first goal, I have sent free newsletters to all who requested them and put their name on the mailing list for all future issues. To maximize the second goal, I have requested contributions from all who received the newsletter and wanted to continue to receive it. At present, 32% of the members contribute. Advertisers and larger donations have helped us survive. Our only expense has been printing and postage. Beginning with this issue, I have decided to delete those not contributing from the mailing list. If you see a $ behind your name, you will not receive another issue unless I hear from you.

Announcement prepared: A ½ page announcement on CUSS has been prepared which can easily be included in a routine mailing to human service organizations or professionals. I will send copies to anyone willing to include them in a mailing or hand them out. I have had excellent luck with announcements in newsletters. If you know of a newsletter that could announce CUSS to its audience, let me know and I’ll send them the necessary information.

Dick Schoech, 1 August 82
Newsletter Editor/Network Coordinator

Reports from Members

Hardware Review — Here Comes the Sun by Richard Reinoehl and Linda D. Inoff, Consultants, Human Development Consortium, 802 Torrey Blvd., 314 W Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802.

(Editor’s note: I am pleased to announce this CUSS newsletter review column designed to keep members abreast of the newest technologies and their application in the human services. The authors welcome comments, specific questions and suggestions for future columns. Naturally, the opinions are those of the authors alone.)

As small computers become more powerful and aesthetically pleasing, they become smaller, and in the battle between micro and mini computers is numbing. For our first column, we will discuss a desk top system that approaches super-mini power at a micro price.

The Stanford University Network (SUN) workstation is a little known but exciting new microcomputer. It is based on the Motorola 68000 chip, which is widely recognized as the most popular and one of the most powerful of the 16-bit processors. The SUN comes with 256K bytes of RAM expandable to 2 M, a 17" graphics monitor with 1024 x 800 pixel resolution, the UNIX operation system and a 3M bit Ethernet interface. It is priced at under $10,000, with substantial discounts available to non-profit organizations. A hard util system (IBM being fixed and 8M removable) is available for an additional $8,500.

The major advantages of this system lie in its speed, high resolution graphics and networking capabilities. The 10 MHZ 68000 processor, which can perform up to one million instructions per second (this is twice the processing speed of an IBM 370), has been tested as running at 40-70% the speed of a VAX 11/780, a $500,000 super-mini computer. This speed allows the SUN to handle several users simultaneously (up to 16 may be supported) without the slow down that occurs in the so-called “multi-user” mainframe even in micro minis.

The graphics capabilities of the SUN are way beyond those of any other micro we have seen. The 16 frame per second cinematic refresh rate results in non-flickering moving images. The system supports vector drawing, text, characters of any shape or size, multiple windows, scrolling, etc. These abilities open a wide range of choices for conveying complex client, budget and other information in easy to interpret images. More interesting are the possibilities of using computer graphics for direct interaction with the client, including treatment for the severely disabled.

The Xerox Ethernet interface is a local area network which allows several SUN workstations to share information and peripherals, such as printers, disk and tape drives, and communication interfaces. The SUN can perform up to one million instructions per second (this is twice the processing speed of an IBM 370), has been tested as running at 40-70% the speed of a VAX 11/780, a $500,000 super-mini computer. This speed allows the SUN to handle several users simultaneously (up to 16 may be supported) without the slow down that occurs in the so-called “multi-user” mainframe even in micro minis.

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In future columns, we plan to further discuss such issues as network and a "community-based" computer system, graphics, generalized data base management systems, etc. We hope you will share your ideas, questions and comments on these and other topics. These discussions could act as a catalyst for some exciting advances for computer use in social service agencies.

Activities from "Down Under" by Floyd Boltis, C.O.S.S. Coordinator - Australia, Latrobe U., Social Work, Bunduria, Victoria, Australia 3083.

A brief note to keep you informed of our activities "Down Under". As mentioned in our last note C.O.S.S. - Australia is a reality. Norm Smith and I have formally launched the Network which, to date, has attracted just under 20 local contributing members. A letter has been drafted, and once in receipt of a promised mailing list, it will be sent out encouraging local human service agencies and professionals, informing them of the existence of C.O.S.S. and requesting their participation in the Network. We will keep you posted as to your success.

Norm has, since arriving back in Australia from a study leave in U.K. and U.S., where he looked at the use of computers in social work education, now become totally submerged in the topic to the point where such interests have taken on full time proportions. These include: (1) The development of a semester BSW course titled "Computers in Human Relations", which provides "hands on" opportunities. The course looks at the concepts used in computing, its approach to problem definition and solution, and its application in social welfare. Students are also introduced to programming. (2) The writing of a BASIC program for applications in "Fuzzy" decision making situations.

The program is based on the work of earlier efforts which utilize Sato's and Zaden's mathematical work in the area and (3) the recent completion of a program module for use in trend analysis where a number of variables are examined in conjunction with each other over a period of time. Work is in hand on a Social Security eligibility information program for use by clients and social workers. Anyone interested in Norm's work should contact him at the Department of Social Work, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia 3168.

Pursuing mutual interests, Norm and I have been working on ways of developing awareness of, and skills in, the application of computers in human service organizations in Victoria. As a result of the Workshop which I outlined in a previous report, Norm and I have called into a number of local organizations interested in extending their knowledge of computers and their applications to their respective agency needs. In addition, a number of people have expressed interest in C.O.S.S. and we now act as credentials and Australian agents for the enterprise.

As for myself, aside from the demands of numerous community conferences, I have just recently developed a post-graduate course titled "Computer Technologies in Social Work Practice". The theme is designed for those students interested in developing rational decision-making skills and in the application of micro-computer skills in social work practice. It is being taught as an experiential seminar providing "hands on" computer exposure. It focuses on decision making in human service organizations, service delivery systems, and evaluation of program performance. Information systems, data base management, data collection, generation, processing, storage, retrieval, and utilization are considered in relation to management control, administrative decision making and planning. (Thanks to Pay-Gaye, Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville, for assistance in course perspective).

Given the size of our program here at La Trobe (35-40 students per entering class), I was surprised by the number of students electing the course. I expected, at most 5-6 and ended up with 13. As we have only one micro whose first priority is for administrative and clerical purposes, you can appreciate the scheduling problems I am experiencing. Not all is lost, however. This demand is the kind of evidence I need to justify additional micros dedicated to instructional uses only. Drop me a line if interested in a copy of the course outline.

I am still very much interested in identifying information systems software for human service agencies. As I stated above a number of agencies here are seriously interested in instituting comprehensive computerized information systems into their operations. I would very much appreciate hearing about relevant systems and software from C.O.S.S. readers.

C.U.S.S./Chicago Meeting Held in May by Lynn H. Vogel, 992 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

The 40th persons attended the first meeting of the C.U.S.S./Chicago region, which was held on Wednesday, May 17 in Chicago. The meeting featured Mr. Stephen Lorch, Director of the New England Center for Health Services, and formerly lecturer in Health Services Administration and Associate in Psychiatry at Harvard University. Mr. Lorch is a systems analyst, and consultant in information and decision support systems, and has been working in the area of computers and systems for over twenty years. He has been actively involved in the human services field for much of that time.

Mr. Lorch presented a slide show and discussion, depicting the similarities between human services and other service agencies (e.g. hospitals) in terms of their need for tracking and reporting information systems. After Mr. Lorch's presentation, an informal discussion was held to consider the need for similar meetings in the future. The group was enthusiastic about the possibility for future meetings and a committee of interested participants was subsequently formed to consider specifically how C.U.S.S./Chicago might proceed. The committee includes Lynn H. Vogel, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago; Joan DiLeonardi, Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois; Barbara Miller, The Jewish Federation of Greater Chicago; Bob Specter, Council for Jewish Elderly; Margaret Borden, the United Way of Greater Chicago; Barbara Moncrief, Youth Guidance, Inc.; and Bruce Entie, Institute for Juvenile Research. The committee is currently considering the possibility of a day-long conference in the autumn, focusing on agency experiences with computers and information systems developments, with an opportunity for agency staff to also meet with area vendors. Several general presentations about information systems and the human services environment will also likely be scheduled.

Persons in the greater Chicago area interested in being added to the mailing list for the fall conference, or otherwise interested in being kept informed about the Chicago area activities, should contact Lynn H. Vogel. (Note: all C.U.S.S. members in the Chicago region are already included on the region's mailing list).


We are pleased with the response to our Human Services Computing advertisement in the C.U.S.S. newsletter. The response reflected, I believe, a growing interest on the part of direct service providers as well as schools of social work to begin and, in some cases, expand their use of computers. Responses have ranged from interests in our data base management system, EPIC, to the computer interviewing system, Dialogue. As I have been talking with various users and potential users around the United States I am left with the distinct impression that we are in the midst of a new cycle of computer enthusiasm.

When computer applications first came on the scene for human service providers there was initially a great deal of optimism about the potential of complex management information system and the virtues of large frame main computers. In some cases these optimistic appetites were justified but in many cases they were not. There followed a period of disillusionment in which one prominent system came to be known as "the MISinformation system". The name of course reflected the general disillusionment on the part of the staff about the quality of the information system.

Subsequent to some of the applications on large machines there have been a wide variety of mini-computer installations which have been, I believe, more successful not based on the size of the machine as much as the lower costs of smaller machines and of course the concurrent development of new software which greatly eases the development of information systems.

Particularly the development of data base management technology has greatly increased the likelihood that an information system will in fact be responsive to the needs of an organization. EPIC-based systems are dynamic; that is they can be modified as information needs, legislative mandates, organizational and staff requirements change.

The EPIC data base management system offered by Human Services Computing is a distinctively powerful tool for such system development. The system truly manages most aspects of data collection, storage, retrieval and analysis.

The most recent events in the evolution of computer technology for the human services involves the rapid expansion in the community-at-large of personal computers. Unquestionably, a great many applications are suitable for micro-computers. Particularly systems that do not require multiple users simultaneously accessing a common database. However, as with all computer technology, human service providers should be cautious to carefully examine how their needs can be met by an appropriate combination of computer hardware and software. I am particularly concerned that, as with any new technology, there is a growing cadre of "true believers" who fail to understand the limitations of micro-computers. Other systems, particularly those who are clearly capable of to the conclusion that micros can do everything. A basic caveat for any new information system user might be "If the
vendor or user that you are speaking to seems to be claiming an un-
limited horizon for their particular machine or software application, you
should proceed with extreme caution. One is reminded of the Law:
“For every complex problem there is a simple answer, which is
wrong.”
In closing let me say that our experience at Human Services Com-
puling has been that the CUGS Network is well on its way to enhancing
communication amongst users. Sharing across the boundaries of state
and regional lines will be a great aid to any consumer of information
systems. I encourage you to continue your good work in establishing
this important network.

Report on the 22nd National Workshop on Welfare Research and
Statistics by Dick Schorsch.

Gunther Geiss and I were part of approximately 250 people who
spent several enjoyable days at this friendly, well organized conference
in San Antonio, TX. The agenda included sessions on data analysis, in-
formation systems, policy analysis systems, and even decision support
systems. Surprisingly, the research concerned client programs, no one
seems to be evaluating information systems to see if they are efficient
and effective. Most of the information systems discussed were large
city or state systems, but microcomputers kept appearing in the
reports as ways to inexpensively do a specific series of pre- and post-
tasks. The American Public Welfare Assn. presented a Voluntary
Cooperative Information System (VCS) which will begin this fall.
Details are still being worked out on what information to put in the
system and how the system will be funded. The Yikes Dept. of Human
Resources presented its Policy Analysis-Decision Support System
project. The project used a computer aid modeling in a rational
policy analysis process. DSS seemed to be the “buzz word”. Any appli-
cation using a computer model seems to be called a DSS.

All in all, the conference was a great forum for federal and state
officials to discuss data collection, processing, and research needs and
ideas. New years conference will be held in Mississippi. For the
preliminary information on this and previous years, write James B. Schrub,
Director Research and Analysis, Income Maintenance Administration,
Maryland Dept. of Human Resources, 300 W. Preston St., Baltimore, MD
21212

Cystems and CIHSM - Valuable Resources in Child Welfare Com-
puting from CYCIS-DATA Newsletter, with permission from Randall R.
McCutchen, Ex. Dir., Cystems, 1348 Connecticut Aves., N.W., # 310,

The Cystems Organization Gets New Name - Cystems. Since its
beginning in 1979 the CYCIS-DATA Project and the other CYCIS and JBSA
activities have been housed in a corporation whose name did not
match the organization’s activities: The Institute for Societal Research,
Inc. Originally, the organization was identified largely as CYCIS-DATA
since the project constituted most of the organization’s activities. How-
ever, over the past three years, a number of new projects have been
undertaken and the scope of activities has expanded to include juve-
nile court information systems, state system evaluation projects and
management information systems for diverse human service agencies.
At a meeting in May, the Board of Directors agreed to a new name:
Cystems. The acronym better reflects the range of current
activities: Child and Youth Systems: TECHNOLOGY, Evaluation and
Management Support.

The name change will not change the activities or direction of the
organization. “Hopefully, the new name will better reflect our primary
purpose — the improvement of services provided by child welfare,
youth service and juvenile court agencies through the use of manage-
ment information systems and other technical aids for improved
agency management.”

Cystems Plans CYCIS Adaptation for DUI Treatment Agencies.

With the completion of a microcomputer CYCIS version for private
child welfare agencies, CYCIS can now be adapted for other private
human service and treatment agencies. One of the first areas planned
for this adaptation is the treatment of clients referred to private
agencies after conviction for driving under the influence of intoxicants
(DUI). CYSTEMS has entered into an agreement with Occupational
Health Services, Inc., a leading California treatment agency located in
Oakland, Califonia. It will develop a prototype DUI Program Manage-
ment and Case Tracking System. Walter M. McDonald and Associates,
the technical designer of CYCIS, will perform all technical design work
in adapting Residential CYCIS and implementing the national prototype
demonstration with Occupational Health Services.

Private treatment programs for drinking drivers are an important
treatment option and ideas. Next year’s conference will be held in
Mississippi. For the preliminary information on this project and the technolog-
ical assistance available, contact Ms. Marilyn Caplin, CIHSM Project
Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, 150
North Lakeside Avenue, Room 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312)787-4650.

Member Comments and Activities

Child Welfare Computer Network Application (From Joyce
Archibald, User Services, Social Services and Community Health, 7th
St. Plaza, 10030-107th St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3E4)

I am the manager of User Services for the Social Services Systems
Development Project in Alberta. User Services is heavily involved
with design and implementation of new computer systems for
the Province in Social Services. Most of my staff are social workers who
have had experience in the field. We are currently implementing
a computer network throughout the province with a Child Welfare appli-
cation. We have had experience in the field. We are currently implementing
a computer network throughout the province with a Child Welfare appli-
cation.

Since I am now working for a fully-funded project, please accept my contribution to the publication of CUSS. I read every issue completely. I look forward to seeing the title page showing your name and the title of the newsletter. I am also interested in the articles which appear.

I have been working with Data Factory software from Micro Lab for the last six months in developing a data-base for special education and referral services. Now I am ready to embark on using a combination of Data Factory, V Factory, and VisiCalc to develop a total Management Information System for our organization.

I am in particular interested in sharing what I learn as well as hearing what others are doing in this area.

Again, thanks for the newsletter — it’s great!

Mental Health Software Vendor [From Bruce Guthrie, Psychological Software Specialists, 1716 Fairway #R, Richmond, VA 23230]

I develop and market software of interest to mental health professionals, and would be happy to send anyone requesting a free copy of our 1982 resource catalog. We also review computer programs for possible marketing in our catalog. We have programs that interpret the MMPI, Porschach, 16 PF, WAI, R, WISC-R and one that steps through the PSY-III. We are currently developing programs that interpret the Raitan and SCL-90. Most of our programs run on both the Apple and TRS-80 Model III micro-computers.

Looking for Available Applications [From Linda Thompson, TX Dept of Human Resources, Regional Office, POB 5128, Arlington, TX 76011 ]

The Department of Human Resources currently operates on two Univac main frames with remote terminal sites around the state. Upper echelon users are limited at this point. However, some exciting changes are happening. The Human Resources board has ear-marked start up costs this year for automating some of the larger offices around the state. The plan is for full automation, with an intelligent, interactive terminal accessible to every caseworker. The potential is awesome. For example, no more forms, an automated library of current casework literature, instant tracking and contact information on clients, etc., etc. — not to mention the management information available in such a system.

The other exciting news is that some counties have started independent MTS projects. Harris County has a system that has been operational for some time now. Nacogdoches is beginning one, and Dallas County has recently purchased a computer. Thus far the projects have used consultants to custom-design the software. My question: is there anything on the market friendly and adaptable enough to be purchased and refined by in-house staff?

I think the CUSS Network is a “great notion.” If not only provides a support group for those of us who currently work with systems in human services but potentially offers the kind of organization necessary to approach the computer industry with our hardware/software needs. I am also giving thought to organizing a local APA/AV/FAM chapter. Any thoughts, comments, ideas on the subject?

Project for Micro/Computer Applications In Social Services — England [From Peter Marsh, Alan Tennent, Department of Sociological Studies (Social Work and Social Policy), University of Sheffield, Sheffield, England]

We have recently set up this project which has two overall aims.

1. To evaluate and develop current micro-computer technology and software in social services settings.

2. To provide information about contemporary uses of micro-computer technology and software in social services.

The use of micro-computers as "intelligent terminals" of main-frame computers is included in the headings above.

At this stage we have an Apple II, with double disk and Epson MX80 printer. We are hoping that this machine will be used by postgraduates, researchers and others to develop and test small scale software for social services use. We intend to collect data on the current applications of computing in social services during late 1982. There is the possibility of the development of a large-scale social services information project. This would include direct practice use, management needs, and central and local government data.

Microprocessors as Aids in Teaching Statistics [From Walter Hudson, Florida St U, Tallahassee, FL 32306]

For many years I’ve frustrated over the problem of how to teach social work students some basic statistics in a way that will actually enable them to use it. The big problem has always been computational — number grading. Over the years I’ve learned a few things about all this.

1. If you stress computation a great deal is lost in conceptual understanding, and they forget the computations one semester later. If you stress the conceptual use and understanding of statistics, then they don’t know how to use it. 2. If you teach both, then the students come away knowing a very few things. Is a happy medium possible?

It occurred to me a couple years ago that we have overlooked an enormous teaching aid in the form of the very smallest of all — microprocessors.” They are called pocket scientific calculators. The nice thing about them is that students can afford them. The bad thing about them is that students are rarely taught or bothered to learn how to use them. Well, I started distributing a few calculator notes (in class and in instructional stuff) to show the students how to solve stats problems with a pocket calculator. They loved it! The idea took off and I’ve now expanded those class notes into a book. It’s called “A Statistical Package for the Pocket Calculator: The SPSS Manual.” (See Resources — Books section)

The book will be out around mid-August, and I’m excited about this because I will no longer have to spend huge jobs of time teaching computational stuff — The SPSS Manual will do that. Now I can focus on the conceptual stuff and still have the students do a huge amount of computational work — with much reduced agony for them. Best yet, the students who keep their copy of the text, The SPSS Manual, and their pocket calculator beyond the end of the course will have access to the actual use of statistics in their professional lives for many years to come. Also, once I got into this project, I was most impressed with what one could actually do with a very limited machine!


My primary interest is the creative application of computer technology to human services. I’m presently a faculty member in the Social Work program at the University of Wisconsin, Superior. Next winter quarter I’ll be teaching an undergraduate class on Computers in Social Work.

I am also a member of the Human Development Consortium, a consulting group which specializes in helping organizations through the computerization process. We especially like the use of generalized data base systems and shared mass storage for distributed processing. As a member of the Consortium I have had considerable pleasure in working with systems in human services settings. Now I am ready to embark on using a computer system for Child Welfare which is a computerized registry of all the needs, and central and local government data.

Clinical CMHC Coordinator [From Jerry Cinari, 3357 North Carson Street, #405, Carson City, NV 89701 ]

I became a Network member while employed at the Community Mental Health Center in Lancaster in Lincoln, Nebraska. Recently I moved to Carson City, Nevada, and I am presently employed with the Rural Clinical CMHC of Nebraska. My Nevada position is that of coordinator of program evaluation with responsibility for a management information system.

CMHC System Using Digital Microcomputer & CP/M [From Cynthia B. Finer, Mammalian CMHC, 4802 109th Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219 ]

Our facility is finally getting computerized this summer.
The computer experts of the Medical Center have been working with us on software development. Our center will be purchasing the equipment directly from the manufacturer, the Digital Systems. Specifically, we are going to use the IRIS-2000 series. CP/M Disk Operating Systems. CP/M stands for Control Program/monitor was developed by Digital Research of Pacific Grove, California. It's designed for use with IBSOZCIB - based microcomputers with IBM-3740 compatible floppy disk drives. The nice thing about it - it is available as an all-inclusive software, which we can customize to our own terminal and disk interface.

Like any conversion from manual system to automated, our facility has monumental tasks ahead of us before implementation of the computer system. I'd like to have the time to write about it and share it in the CUSS newsletter.

Aging Information System Using an Apple II (From William Briggs, 3435 Alfred Drive, San Diego, CA 92111)

I am a volunteer consultant working on an APPLE II attempting to develop a client services record management system for a senior citizen center. The information will be collected, reformatted and reported to the local area Agency on Aging. I am especially interested in contacting others who have prepared or who are preparing software of a similar nature.

A Distributed Multipurpose System — Australia (From Murray Mountain, Association for the Blind, 7 Mail St., Brighton Beach, Victoria, Australia, 3168)

As far as our ideas and interests, etc. — as we are an organization with branches throughout the State of Victoria the type of system that we would be looking at would be one where there is a main computer with terminals at each of our country branches and eventually we would be looking at something like 12, but initially six.

The areas of need for our organization in order of priority are:

1. Accounting, which would need to tie in with the Health Commission's requirements.
2. Fundraising applications, e.g. letter appeals, etc.
3. Patient records and statistics.
4. Planning, administration, community organization, community development and self-help projects.
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is based on an expansion model. We don't have alternative theories or models to fit a situation that is nonexpansion, not for just the short term but probably for the long term. So, I think I'll offer a research seminar on "Cut-Back Planning, Administration, and Social Work Practice," and see what I come up. I'm sort of leaving the "machines" except to get back to my home workshop.

**Using Apple to Maintain Probation Training Records** (From Shirley Hanish, Probation Dept., Co. of San Bernardino, 175 W. 5th ST., San Bernardino, CA 92410)

We have a Four Phase Computer System. IBM and Apple II Plus available in our department. A program which maintains our training records is in operation on the Apple Computer.

**Statewide Child Welfare System** (From Igor Koroluk, Services Systems Development, Dept. of Social Services, POB 1060, Albany, NY 12201)

I have picked up a copy of your newsletter at the American Association of Public Welfare Information Systems Management conference in San Antonio last August. Having responsibility for statewide information systems supporting child welfare and child support programs in New York State, I am most interested in your Child Welfare Article of November, 1980 and in the ongoing activities of the CUSS network.

Please accept the enclosed check and add me to your newsletter mailing list.

**Becoming Intelligent Consumers** (From David E. Kropp, Synergistic Office Systems, 510 N. Lake St., Mundelein, IL 60060)

Your CUSS Network is a great idea and a needed SERVICE for professionals in the social services area. Enclosed is my check for membership.

As a "former" social services professional, with over 12 years of experience in State, County and Private agencies, I understand the need for such a newsletter and I agree with Lynn H. Vogel from the University of Chicago (CUSS Vol. 2, No. 1) that some of your efforts should include descriptions of vendor products.

I am now employed in the marketing of computers and I have found that few industry Social Service agencies are at the mercy of computer vendors who do not understand the unique needs of social services and many times the agencies are deciding upon hardware and software based upon inadequate, and incomplete information. Often, a vendor will be selected based upon a slick demo at a local "computer store," and in the social service areas we cannot afford to make a mistake in such an important decision!

**2 Year Training Program in Computers in Mental Health** (From John H. Landy, M.D., Dept. of Psychiatry, Center for Health Sciences, 600 Highland Ave., Madison, WI 53792)

We are not accepting applications at this time but may be able to do so by January 1983. We have taken post/docs as well as pre docs and if additional information would be helpful, please call ROE-263-0707.

For Graduate students with a strong interest in Mental Health Services who have completed preliminary examinations (dissertation proposal not required) in computer science, psychology, sociology, social work, industrial engineering and other fields.

Objectives: To provide trainees with knowledge of and practical experience with mental health services, health system analysis and mental health computer applications necessary to solve many problems now faced by clinicians, administrators and researchers in mental health settings.

Curriculum: Year 1 — Course work designed to insure knowledge of mental health problems and professions, health system analysis and computer hardware and software resources available in the medical field. An ongoing seminar on mental health clinical literature, computer applications and health system analysis will be conducted.

Year 2 — Each trainee will be directly responsible for solving a mental health problem through the application of computer techniques. While guided and supported in this work by faculty and staff, the trainee will be expected to learn and play the roles of consultant, system analyst, designer, programmer, implementor and evaluator. Effective course work is desired.

National Institutes of Mental Health stipends and tuition are available.

If interested, send curriculum vita and three references.

**Computer Support for NC Energy Groups** (From Joseph Vaughan, Energy Services Network, P.O. Box 15633, Raleigh, NC 27605)

I have on my item in the Planners Network newsletter. I am writing on behalf of Energy Services Network, Inc. of North Carolina. We are developing an inmate capability to support environmental, energy, and social service organizations in service to the community, with a network of computer hardware, software, and user access. I would appreciate your sending us a sample copy of your Computer Newsletter, along with the rates for a non-profit group. If you know of other efforts similar to ours, please do not hesitate to mention them as we are seeking any information which would be useful in guiding our efforts. I am enclosing a copy of a questionnaire which we recently distributed. It should give you some idea as to the scope of our ambitions.

We are currently proposing to provide administrative support to a bi-state NC/SC Nuclear Waste Transportation Project in cooperation with the Palmetto Alliance of Columbia SC.

I & R System Using Apple & Data Factory (From James D. Shields, PA, Dept. of Health, Elizabethtown Hospital for Children & Youth, Elizabethtown, PA 17022)

We presently have a Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center through a grant from the Federal Government supporting an information and referral system for the handicapped. This information and referral system is supported by an Apple II Plus, 64K computer and using the software package of Data Factory 5.0. I am interested in joining your network and receiving your quarterly newsletter.

If you have any questions or I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

**Involvement of Clinicians in Child Welfare Systems** (From Richard H. Calica, Juvenile Protective Assn., 12 East Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60611)

I am pleased to enclose my contribution and hope I can be of some help in further discussions locally. I am particularly interested in the involvement of sophisticated clinicians in the design of any decision support systems created for child welfare. It would be a shame to not take advantage of advanced practice knowledge when developing software to assist managers and clinicians in the social services.

**Organizational Decision Making** (From John L. Hankins, University of Michigan — Social Work, 23017 N. Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48109)

Please add my name to the CUSS Network. I am currently a doctoral student in a joint Ph.D. program in social work and political science, with a primary interest in organizational decision making. Thanks for getting CUSS going — it is long overdue in social work.

**P.S. How about a C U S S conference?**

Impressed With Variety of CUSS Activities (From Robert Morris, Brandeis U., School of Advanced Studies in Social Welfare, Waltham, MA 02254)

Just a word to acknowledge the last CUSSN LETTER. I am pleased with the spread of belief in use in so many directions, and with the large number of letterwriters and members who are in centers far removed from the one-time powerhouses of social work education. (That may be a misperception, or a commentary on institutional arteriosclerosis.)

I will send on a modest contribution to encourage the work, even though it is not "my work." So much use I have seen for fiscal manipulation, it is heartening to see you carry an open-minded campaign of technology applied to human service as well as to service finance.

**TRS 80 Owner Needs Help** (From Larraine Allen, The William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis and Psychiatry, 30 West 74th St., NY, NY 10023)

We are a non-profit psychoanalytic training institute which offers post-doctoral training for psychoanalysts and psychologists. In addition our Continuing Professional Education Division offers courses to the students in relating fields. Our clinical services program offers psychotherapy on a sliding scale to the community.

We are small but varied in our functions and have recently acquired a Radio Shack computer and need to know how to get started using it and what is available in the software. We are currently studying our needs and expect to begin use of the computer during the summer and fall of this year.

Please put us on the mailing list for the CUSSN newsletter so that we may be informed about how to get started on the road to computerization.

**Overworked and Misunderstood** (From a Network member)

As far as updates for the next CUSS edition, I really do not have any; however, it would be nice to see an article or report about the inherent problems associated with social agencies allowing only 10-25% staff time allocation for one person to develop an automated system. I can see the development of a similar situation for myself and it would be nice to have an "expert's" advice on the matter. If you can work in
something along that line I believe it would be a valuable support service for those of us who work in agencies and are having a difficult time communicating those who know little about information systems of the time their development took.

Plato Programs for Child Welfare Staff (From Gary L. Shaffer, Regional Vice Child Welfare Training. U of LI at Urbana-Champaign — Social Work, 1139 West Oregon St., Urbana, IL 61801)

For the past year or so I have been developing PLATO programs for child welfare staff in public agencies here in Illinois. I’ll send along some of our products at a later date, if you are interested.

Need to Computeize in the Worst Way (From Gary O. Goldsmith, Adolescent Health Chrm., The Door: 616 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 10011)

I would be most interested in receiving a copy of the newsletter of the computer-in-service-delivery network. The Door is a large comprehensive multiservice center grappling with the data generated by 100,000 service visits a year by hand! Needless to say, we need to develop computer facilities in the worst way and I seem to be the person with the most interest in EDP.

Computer Programmer/Community Organizer/Social Service Provider (From Dan Framko, 1200 E. Auer Ave., Milwaukee, WI)

Your item in the Planner’s Network Newsletter evoked some excitement and joy on my part. The existence of a planner/programmer (alone a networking planner/programmer) struck me as a pleasant surprise.

I have enclosed a check for your newsletter, and would like to start by receiving the Spring, 1982 issue. I would also like to receive any information you have on the CUSS network.

I have worked since early this year as a computer programmer with a small firm that creates management information systems for large manufacturing corporations on large computer systems. The firms top people have an average of 20 years computer experience (all IBM related) and the firm itself, which has enjoyed phenomenal growth, is a pretty well run organization.

I also have a Master’s in Urban Planning, and several years experience as a community organizer/social service provider. Since my undergraduate years I have maintained an interest in social sciences and an activism in social commitments. My longer term interests are much more closely associated with social sciences than manufacturing.

Hence my pleasure at reading your notice. Should you desire any further information about me, please let me know. I would be glad to help with the newsletter or network if in any way can.

Microcomputers and Attitudes of Professionals (From Gary L. Pinkerton, PDB 1893, Beaumont, TX 77704)

I can’t tell you how pleased I was to get the copies of the CUSS Network Newsletter. That answered a lot of questions I had for you and made some immediate connections for me both on my research project and for personal/professional interests.

Please mention in the next newsletter that my interests are in research on the attitudes of human services professionals toward computers and the use of microcomputers in agency settings.

TRS-80 Use in Education (From Richard W. Nutter, Faculty of Social Welfare, U of Calgary, 11051 Saskatchewan Dr., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada TRS-294)

I was very impressed with Vol. 2, No. 1. Please send me the back issues and add my name to the list for future issues. Many of the topics discussed are right on topic for me.

The enclosed materials give some information about the computerization of our Edmonton Division. We hope to have five TRS 80 Mod Ills with 48 K RAM, double disk drives and LP IV or Vills functioning this year. We have been using our first Mod Ill for several months now, primarily as a word processor.

I am currently being cast in the role of expert advisor to several small agencies who are purchasing micro systems in the near future. Receiving your newsletter was most timely.

Client Information System for Services to the Blind (From Risa Pollack, Director, Program Information & Analysis, NY. Astan for the Blind, 111 East 59th St., NY, NY 10022)

The New York Association for the Blind (The Lighthouse) has developed an extensive, computerized Client Information System (CIS) to support its goals of service, research and training to meet the needs of the blind and visually impaired. The system is operational and is now providing all client tracking data and management information in relation to the 8,000 individuals who annually seek and utilize interdisciplinary programs including Low Vision, Rehabilitation, Leisure and Social Services. All professional line staff use the CIS to record and retrieve client data, service records and document reference. The data is recorded via paper forms which are batched by administrative support staff and keyed in at a central data processing department. Information retrieval is done via 17 terminals located throughout the programs/service areas and through selected printouts for staff use.

Although the Lighthouse operation is fairly large, the CIS is a flexible system that is adaptable to any size agency and to university teaching programs. The Lighthouse is willing and eager to share its experience and to help others in adaptation and use of the Client Information System for more effective service delivery. We are also looking for ways to work cooperatively with other agencies and/or universities to expand the whole area of client information systems and the use of computers in the human service field. A series of specialized workshops and trainings and development materials is in preparation now for the winter of 1982/83. Anyone wanting to be on that mailing list should write me at the above address.

As the initial step in developing the CIS the Lighthouse systematized information, trying to ask the right questions of the right people at all staff levels. The process also included study of the client pathway in the Lighthouse, focusing on the ways in which client and worker develop a program plan. Other steps included studying questions of data storage and confidentiality of records. For example, the study led to use of various levels of access codes based on an individual worker’s need and right to know the information being sought.

The actual system design sets up a Large Data Logical Groups (LDG) which replicates the way an individual moves into and through Lighthouse programs and services. The CIS allows separation of input and the linking together; all output of various Logical Data Groups. The LDG’s are in three categories — Client Data, Program/Service Data, and document reference, with sub-categories in each.

The CIS has had both planned and unplanned side effects. Although always intended as a useful adjunct to staff training, it has turned out to be a very powerful training tool in a number of ways. Because the CIS was designed to support good practice, its very use forces careful consideration of practice issues in every interaction. Workers who are doing the job well have had no problems in dealing with the CIS. An unplanned, but very welcome side effect has been that the CIS has built computer literacy among both professional and administrative support staff and, as a result, has generated ideas about further use of computers in the provision of direct service and in training the blind and visually impaired.

CUSS Journal? (From Ram A. Ciancio, Director of Planning Dept., Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 10 Yadduratz St. Tel Aviv, POB 1280, Jerusalem, Israel 91000)

First of all I must congratulate you on the splendid job you have done so far; I think that the attention given to the newsletter has grown so rapidly that its need and importance have been established and are of no doubt.

I would like to suggest that CUSS progress to a new and more advanced format. CUSS should become a journal consisting of articles plus information exchange. As the future of social work is linked with computers, there is a need for a professional journal with references, editorial board etc.

Will you please print this suggestion so that other people who are interested may support this idea?

In addition, next year I may teach a course on computer usages in social work and would appreciate ten extra copies of the next CUSS.
New Members (from 1 May 82 - 1 Aug 82)

California
Brian Dugan, United Way of San Diego
P.O. Box 17720, San Diego, CA 92117

Connecticut
Perlit Levinson
Jeda Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830

District of Columbia
Chester Hartman, Planners Network
1901 Que St. N.W., Washington, DC 20009

Florida
Robert Broedel, Science for the People
P.O. Box 20049, Tallahassee, FL 32304
Walter Hudson, Florida State U - Soc Wk
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32305

Georgia
R and J Mills, U of Georgia
105 South Homewood Dr., Athens, GA 30606

Illinois
L Bloomfield, United Way/Crusade of Mercy
72 West Adams St., Chicago, IL 60603
Lisea Haap, Jewish Family & Com Services
One South Franklin St., Chicago, IL 60606
Gayle Mitchell, Jewish Family & Com Services
One South Franklin St., Chicago, IL 60606
John Waltz, Jewish Family & Com Services
One South Franklin St., Chicago, IL 60606
Robert Spector, Council for Jewish Eldery
1015 West Howard, Evanston, IL 60202
David Kropp, Synergistic Office Systems
510 N. Lake ST., Mundelein, IL 60060
Gary Shaffer, U of Ill - Soc Wk
1207 West Oregon St., Urbana, IL 61801-3789

Kansas
Patti Rous, Area Agency on Aging
217 S Seth Childs Rd, Manhattan, KS 66502

Maine
James Sorg, Northeast Research
11 Glenwood St., Orono, ME 04473

Maryland
Paul Hazan, Personal Computing/Handicapped
John Hopkins U, P.O. Box 670, Laurel, MD 20810

Massachusetts
Lydia Miller, Boston U Med Ctr, Biobeh Sci
655, Newton St, Suite 915, Boston, MA 02118
Jeffrey Schwamm, Brandeis U
B.S. Hornstein Pgm, Brandeis University
Waltham, MA 02254

Michigan
John Hanks, U of Michigan - Soc Wk
330 N. Ashley Apt, 5, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

New Mexico
Donald Jones, Hazelden Foundation, Eval Dept
Box 11, Center City, NM 87512

Missouri
Larry Seery, United Corn Serv, Act Together
605 W. 47th St., Suite B, Kansas City, MO 64112
Mumps Users Group
2012 Big Bend Bnd, St. Louis, MO 63117

New Jersey
M. Wasserman, Decision Systems, Inc.
200 Route 17, Mahwah, NJ 07430
Warren Du Pree, OCTO Limited
Martinsville Center, Martinsville, NJ 08836

New York
Richard Beer, OfficeMH, Bureau-Pgm Eval
44 Holland Ave., Albany, NY 12229
Igor Korenuk, NYS Dept. of Social Services
67 N. Pearl St., Albany, NY 12243
Paul Levison, TROI, Inc.
250 W 55th St., New York, NY 10019
sib Rabinson, Res Foundation/Mental Hygiene
Rockland Research Ctr, Bldg 39
Orangeburg, NY 10962

Oregon
Dick Ricketts, CB/Comrider & Info Sci Dept
U of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403

Pennsylvania
James Shields, CBO, Elizabethtown Hospital
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Nancy Knepper, PA Test Asst for Special Ed.
236 Union Deposit Mail, Harrisburg, PA 17111
D.M. Laffer, Hazleton-Nanticoke MHMR Ctr.
West Washington St., Nanticoke, PA 18634

Texas
James Calicott, U TX at Arl — Soc Wk
Box 19129, Arlington, TX 76019-0129
Linda Thompson, TX Dept of Human Resources
630 106th St., Arlington, TX 76011
Hsing Jung Yu
Box 131515, UTA Station, Arlington, TX 76019
Peggy Bole, United Way of Texas
P.O. Box 1487, Austin, TX 78767
Gary Pinkerton
P.O. Box 1983, Beaumont, TX 77704
Chuck Vogt
2705 Greenway #204, Brownwood, TX 76801
Roy Dukas
6226 St. Albans, Dallas, TX 75214
Pat Murphy, U.S. Childrens Bureau
1200 Main Tower Bldg, #200, Dallas, TX 75202
Sally Stansfield, Catholic Charities Services
3845 Oak Lawn Ave., Dallas, TX 75219
George Sutton, L & H Moor Childrens home
1100 Cliff Dr., El Paso, TX 79902
Paul Ratfoul, U of Houston, Soc Wk
Central Campus, Houston, TX 77004
Ann Schneider, Neighborhood Child Day Care Assn
P.O. Box 68024, Houston, TX 77004
Christian Hooper-Russell, TX Dept. of Human Resources
405 E. Marshall Ave., Longview, TX 75606
Loren West, TX Baptist Childrens Home
P.O. Box 7, Round Rock, TX 78664

Virginia
Abigail Nichols, USDA, PFS, Food/Nutrition SER
3101 Park Center Dr., Alexandria, VA 22302
James Chenaun, American Child Care Services
P.O. Box 445, Hampton, VA 23669

Washington
Bruce Duffin, Psych. Software Specialists
1715 Fowler #7, Columbia Ctr N
Richland, WA 99351
Rosemary Cunningham
U. of Washington — Soc Wk
School of Social Work JH-30, Seattle, WA 98195
Wisconsin
Daniel Frankel
1200 E. Auer Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212
Richard Kaas, Co. Dept of Social Services
1220 West Vliet St. Rm 113, Milwaukee, WI 53205

Wyoming
Bob Hiltgenfeld
4206 Comanche Dr., Laramie, WY 82070

Australia
Murray Mountain, Association for the Blind
7 Main St., Bright Beach, Victoria Australia 3181
Valerie Adams, Health Commission of Victoria
32 Rocheaure St, East Cumberwell
Victoria Australia 3124

Human Service Info. Systems
402 Albert St. East, Melbourne, Victoria Australia

Energy Services Network
516 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne
Victoria Australia 3002

Human Service Info. Systems
28 The Esplanada Clifton Hill, Melbourne
Victoria Australia

A Armstrong, Uf of Melbourne
Parkville, Melbourne Australia 3052

Canada
John McDonald, U of Calgary — Social Welfare
2500 University Dr. N.W.
Calgary, Alberta Canada T2N 1N4

Camille Lambert, U of Toronto
248 Bloom St. West
Toronto, Ontario Canada M4S 1A1

England
Peter Marsh, U of Sheffield — Socio Studies
U of Sheffield, Sheffield, England S10 2TN

Jerry Moller, Child, Adol, Youth Health Serv
285-295 South Terrace
Adelaide, South Australia 5000

Resources and Materials

Magazines, Journals, Newsletters and Networks

The Computing Teacher is the journal of the International Council for Computers in Education. The ICCE provides a way for educators at all levels to further instructional computing through individual and organizational memberships. For further information, write ICCE, Dept. of Computer and Information Science, U. of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.

NIMBL Newsletter is a new newsletter from the National Institute for Microcomputer Based Learning, Dept. of Technology and Society, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY 11794. NIMBL is a nonprofit organization dedicated to disseminating microcomputer based learning research, techniques, and other information, including work in progress in this area.

Energies Services Network is a recently formed nonprofit service group which has organized to offer computer support services, networking and technical assistance in the areas of energy and environmental resources. For more information, write Energy Services Network, POB 10585, Raleigh, NC 27605.

Planners Network is an occasional newsletter of the Planners Network a group of planners who share experiences and skills. (if forgot to include the address in the last issue it is 1901 Q St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.)

The New York Evator is the newsletter of the New York State Program Evaluators Assn. Write Sam Saffer, Sound View — Things Nass Oflcm, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 2527 Gabe Aves., Bronx, NY 10461.

Many magazines/newsletters are available to persons who have computer/ information system responsibilities in their organizations and are willing to periodically complete a reader information form. For example:


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Midwest, write to POB 1002, Minneapolis, MN 55478.

Small Systems World is a magazine for business systems managers. Write to them at 950 Lee St., Des Plaines, IL 60018.

Communications News, POB 6010, Duluth, MN 55806.

Systems and Software, for computer professionals who design, integrate and manage today’s computer systems. Write Systems & Software, Hayden Publishing Co., Inc. POB 1411, Riverforth, NJ 07077.

The Murray 1982 issue of Healthcare Financial Management is on computer applications in health care.

Check the May/June 1982 issue of Government Data Systems for an article on the different methods under consideration for using Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) in the food stamp program.

(From Fred Romero, HiCrest Medical Center, Social Services Dept., 1250 S. Trenton, Tulsa, OK 74120)

Write Premise Hornich Co., R.D. 2, Box 191, Shreve, OH 44676 to obtain free information about personal computers for disabled persons and a catalog of programs developed for the handicapped.

Write COPEF 2, 2000 Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60618 to join the Committee on Personal Computers and the Handicapped (COPEF2). The purpose of the organization is to search out, evaluate and share information about personal computer systems that are relevant to the disabilities represented in the membership.

Write Programs for the Handicapped, Clearinghouse on the Handicapped Office of Information and Resources for the Handicapped, Rm 3119, Switzer Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20020 for a free 3-monthly publication called "Programs for the Handicapped" and to the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, 11120 St. N.W., 6th Floor, Washington, D.C., 20210 to obtain a free quarterly magazine called "Disabled USA."

Government Documents:


System Description and Documentation

From Gary L. Shaffer, Asst Professor & Faculty Director, Region V Child Welfare Training Center, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work, 1207 W. Oregon St., Urbana, IL 61801.

Enclosed is some material on our project as well as a list of CAI materials provided by the U. of I. Department of Secondary Education. The paper, "The PLATO System: An Alternative Staff Development Approach" will be published in the proceedings of the National Conference on Social Work and the Law later this summer. The "How to Use PLATO" booklet was prepared for our project advisers and consultants, most of whom were very knowledgeable about law and social work but naive about computers. You will find materials from the Department of Secondary Education most helpful to people wishing to explore the use of computers as teaching tools. I have noted with an * a few which I think are particularly good.

I will keep sending additional materials on the PLATO/Child Welfare Demonstration Project to you as they are developed. I can also send copies of the above materials to interested colleagues if they send along a dollar for postage. The articles listed below are available for 75¢ per copy from our Dept. of Secondary Education.

1. Teacher Education in Use of Computers.
2. A Teacher’s Introduction to Educational Computing.*
3. Designing Instruction for Teaching With a Computer.*
4. The Question Episode - Building Block for Teaching With a Computer.*
5. Evaluating Materials for Teaching with a Computer.*
7. Drill and Practice on a Computer.*
8. Computer Simulation and Its Instructional Uses.
9. Instructional Games and the Computer Using Teacher.
15. The School Administrator’s Introduction to Computing.
16. Computer Applications in Science Education.
18. Microcomputer Maintenance by Users.
1. Practise Activities for training Teachers to Use Computers.
22. Documentation of CRIS — Computerised Test-Result Reporting System.

I am writing to let you know of the availability of my recently completed PhD thesis on the reception of computerized client record systems in social services fieldwork district offices. Copies of the thesis have already been purchased by some 40 of the 125 Social Services departments in the UK, and in view of this interest I have now decided to offer the thesis to a wider audience. The thesis covers a wide range of different versions of the 'same' information. The methodology was particularly influenced by Coox, especially as regards the method of interviewing and the collection of different versions of the 'same' information.

To order your copy of the thesis, please send a cheque for $15 payable to "D. du Feu" at the above address postage is included.

Contents

Volume I - Main Text

1. The background to the research
2. Survey of computer applications in social services departments
3. The debate about computerisation - survey of the literature
4. The departments, the districts, and the social workers
5. The client record systems and their history
6. The reception of the computer system by social workers
7. Conclusions

Volume II - Tables, Figures, Appendices, etc.

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Appendices

1. The background to the research
2. Survey of social authorities - methodology and response
3. Methodology
4. Instruments used in fieldwork
5. The client record systems
6. Correlations between computer attitude variables
7. Practical suggestions sent to department A
8. Practical suggestions sent to department B

Glossary

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Books

New Information Technologies for the Nonprofit Sector by the Foundation Center, 888 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10019, $4.95, 1982. This conference report contains 8 case studies on using technologies as interactive cable-TV, electronic magazines, telecommunications products and services, and computer systems.

Proceedings of The John Hopkins First National Search for Applications of Personal Computing to Aid the Handicapped, 304 pp., Oct 31, 1981 from IEEE Computer Society, 10662 Los Vaqueros Circa, Los Alamitos, CA 90720. This publication is the report of the John Hopkins search in the Fall of 1980 to identify the most promising practical applications of personal computers for persons with disabilities.

The SPCC Manual: A Statistical Package for the Pocket Calculator by Walter W. Hudson, from Wahrer Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2554, Tallahassee, FL 32303.


Contents:

The Microcomputer Revolution? Technical Possibilities and Social Choices by Craig J. Calhoun

Social Science Research and The Microcomputer by T. W. Collins

Microcomputer Data Base — Management and Bibliographic Information by Sandra S. Hutton and S. Ray Hutton

Microcomputers in Anthropological Research by Rodney C. Kirk

Microcomputers in Applied Settings: The Example of Urban Planning by John R. Ottenmann

The Microcomputers in Applied Settings: The Example of Urban Planning by John R. Ottenmann

The Microcomputer in Social-Psychological Research: An Applied FIRST Laboratory by Beverly Marshell-Goodell, I. Gormezano, John Scarlinett, John T. Caccoppo

Computer Simulation of Social Systems by Paul Anthony Federico and Paul W. Fizhetti

Upcoming Events, Conferences and Meetings


National Council on Community Mental Health Councils, March 9-13, 1983, Detroit. This conference typically has 10-20 vendors demonstrating the latest in OMHC hardware and software. For details, write Howard Fishman, NCMHC, 2233 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., #322, Washington, D.C., 20007.

1983 Symposium on Community Organization and Administration March 13, 1983 ( Held in conjunction with the Annual Council of Social Work Education meeting). Write David Austin, Symposium Chairman, School of Social Work, U. of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712. I have agreed to coordinate an exhibit area of computer applications in the human services. If you have an application which you would be willing to demonstrate, let me know. I hope to have several computers available for use by exhibitors. I will also coordinate a meeting of CUES members who are interested. Further details will be available in the next newsletter.
First Annual CUSS Network Software Survey

Help fellow CUSS members by sharing your knowledge. Complete and return this survey to Dick Schoech, UTA GSSW, Arlington, TX 76019-0129. Make copies of this form if you can provide information on more than one software product.

Name of Software Product ____________________________
Company/Developer ____________________________
Cost ____________________________
Overall description of application ____________________________
Specific Capabilities ____________________________
Hardware Requirements ____________________________
Operating System Requirements ____________________________
Rate the software by checking the appropriate box.
Usefulness
Poor □ Fair □ Satisfactory □ Good □ Excellent □
Ease of Use
Poor □ Fair □ Satisfactory □ Good □ Excellent □
Ease of Installation
Poor □ Fair □ Satisfactory □ Good □ Excellent □
Freedom from Bugs/errors
Poor □ Fair □ Satisfactory □ Good □ Excellent □
Vendor Service
Poor □ Fair □ Satisfactory □ Good □ Excellent □
Documentation
Poor □ Fair □ Satisfactory □ Good □ Excellent □
Overall satisfaction
Poor □ Fair □ Satisfactory □ Good □ Excellent □

List overall strengths of the software ____________________________
List overall weaknesses of the software ____________________________
Additional Comments: ____________________________
Can I publish your comments? □ Yes □ No Are you willing to discuss this software with other CUSS network members? □ Yes □ No. If yes, give your phone number, name and address (if different than label below)
Name ____________________________
Organization ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City _________ State _________ Zip _________
Phone ( ) _________
(Use an additional page if necessary) Thank you.

Dick Schoech
CUSS Network
The University of Texas at Arlington
Graduate School of Social Work
P.O. Box 19129
Arlington, TX 76019-0129

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Arlington, Texas
Permit No. 81

Address correction requested

Note: If you see a $ behind your name, you will not receive another newsletter unless I hear from you. See page 2, Finances.
The following items (14-38) relate to educational computer applications that you have developed or used in human service education.

Is the computer used in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use personally?</th>
<th>Used by school or agency?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. Teaching? [ ]

15. Research work? [ ]

16. Research courses? [ ]

17. Administration courses? [ ]

18. Policy/Macro courses? [ ]

20. Field work administration? [ ]

21. Computer Class scheduling? [ ]

22. Financial administration? [ ]

The following items relate to more detailed information regarding educational use of computers by yourself. For example, you may use a computer for a research course, specifically for data analysis or for computer aided instruction, etc.

Is the computer used for

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use personally?</th>
<th>Used by school or agency?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23. Applications - Data Analysis? [ ]

24. Applications - Computer aided instruction? [ ]

25. Applications - Decision analysis? [ ]

26. Applications - Simulation/Gaming? [ ]

27. Applications - Exam administration and/or grading? [ ]

28. Applications - Information system demonstration? [ ]

29. Applications - Course and/or faculty evaluations [ ]

30. Applications - Student records? [ ]

31. Applications - Advisement? [ ]

32. Applications - Admissions [ ]

33. Applications - Clinical Records [ ]

34. Are you interested in micro computer applications? [ ]

35. Is a micro computer available? [ ]

Planning on acquiring one?

When ________________

Where - dept. ________________

School ____________________

College ____________________

University __________________

36. Brand of micro computer available or planning to acquire

- No/NA
- IBM
- Commodore Pet
- Apple
- Alpha Micro
- Cromemco
- Radio Shack TRS 80
- Dynabyte
- Radio Shack Business System
- Intertec
- DEC
- Other (Specify) ________________

37. Micro computer applications explored

- No/NA
- Education
- Practice
- Research
- Administration
- Other (Specify) ________________

38. Do you have a background in engineering or physical sciences?

- No
- Engineering
- Chemistry
- Physical Science
- Other (Specify) ________________

If you are aware of others in academic or agencies interested in participating, please write down their names, affiliations and phone numbers and I will follow up by engaging them in this survey.

Name ________________________

Title ________________________

Affiliation ____________________

Address ________________________

Phone: Home ____________________

Business ________________________

Name ________________________

Title ________________________

Affiliation ____________________

Address ________________________

Phone: Home ____________________

Business ________________________

Gunther R. Geiss
Adelphi University School of Social Work
Garden City, NY 11530
Are You Willing to Share Your Talents?

If so, participate in the CUSS Network Skills Bank. The Skills Bank, operated by Gunther Geiss of Adelphi University, New York (516) 489-2000 ex 8083, is designed for those wanting to share or obtain specific knowledge, skills and experiences. To share your talents, complete this form, fold, staple and mail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office and/or home phone number(s) ( )

Check all the boxes adjacent to the item(s) which apply to you.

1. **General Areas of Interest in Computer Applications:**
   - [ ] None
   - [ ] Administration and Research
   - [ ] Education
   - [ ] Education and Administration
   - [ ] Administration
   - [ ] All of These
   - [ ] Research
   - [ ] Clinical
   - [ ] Education and Administration
   - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

2. **Current Experience Status**
   The following items listed under system design experience refer to your personal experience in the conceptualization, design, implementation and operation of information systems (both manual and automated) for human service agencies. They are intended to summarize your overall experience rather than any single experience in detail.

   **System Design Experience**
   - [ ] Unknown
   - [ ] Voluntary - Not for profit
   - [ ] Public
   - [ ] Proprietary
   - [ ] Quasi-Public
   - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

3. **Organization’s Field**
   - [ ] Unknown
   - [ ] Aging
   - [ ] Mental Health
   - [ ] Corrections/Justice
   - [ ] Medical/Rehab.
   - [ ] Education of these
   - [ ] Welfare/Social Services
   - [ ] Child Welfare
   - [ ] Homemaker
   - [ ] Advocacy/Comm. Action
   - [ ] Educational (other than your institution)
   - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

4. **Your personal responsibility:**
   - [ ] Unknown
   - [ ] Conceptualization
   - [ ] System Design
   - [ ] Program Install.
   - [ ] Operation
   - [ ] Translator/Facilitator
   - [ ] Total Responsibility
   - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

5. **Your personal role:**
   - [ ] Unknown
   - [ ] Admin./Manager of Org.
   - [ ] Consultant to Organization
   - [ ] Educator for Org. Staff
   - [ ] Staff Member of Organization
   - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

6. **Purpose of system:**
   - [ ] Unknown
   - [ ] Monitoring/Evaluation
   - [ ] Record Keeping
   - [ ] Research
   - [ ] Tracking/Referral
   - [ ] Clinical Diagnosis Evaluations
   - [ ] Treatment Planning
   - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

7. **Size of the largest system you are involved in:**
   - [ ] Unknown
   - [ ] Voluntary - Not for profit
   - [ ] Public
   - [ ] Proprietary
   - [ ] Quasi-Public
   - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

8. **System(s) type:**
   - [ ] Unknown
   - [ ] Manual
   - [ ] Computerized Batch (Regularly scheduled updating)
   - [ ] Computerized - Interactive (On demand - inquiry)
   - [ ] Manual Computerized
   - [ ] Distributed Processing (Local compute tied to a larger one)

9. **Size of computer(s), if used:**
   - [ ] Unknown
   - [ ] Maxi (Mainframe)
   - [ ] Micro (PET, TRS-80)
   - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

10. **Manfacturers of computer(s) used:**
    - [ ] Unknown
    - [ ] IBM
    - [ ] Burroughs
    - [ ] Univac
    - [ ] DEC
    - [ ] HP
    - [ ] Data General
    - [ ] Harris
    - [ ] Perkin Elmer
    - [ ] Control Data
    - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

11. **Source of software used:**
    - [ ] Unknown
    - [ ] Created - Original
    - [ ] Combination
    - [ ] Canned - Purchased
    - [ ] Canned - Purchased and modified or adapted
    - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

12. **Have you produced any publications on the system(s) you developed?**
    - [ ] None/unknown
    - [ ] Journal article(s)
    - [ ] Internal documents only
    - [ ] Monograph(s)
    - [ ] Paper presentation(s)
    - [ ] Book - chapter
    - [ ] Other (Specify) _______________

13. **Can we put your name on our mailing list? (Permission for this information to be shared with group members)**
    - [ ] No
    - [ ] Yes