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Chapter 15

Advent of Computers in the Libraries

During the last ten years, the library profession is turning with wonder to the electronic engineer, fondly longs to emulate him and nimble at the fringe of applied electronics and consequently go slow in thinking on his own legitimate technique and even abandon it.

(17; Vol. 3, 1966, p43)

The computer is one of the versatile forms in which electronics can help mankind. We must accept the computer. We must derive all the benefits it is capable of giving us. It can relieve us of much of repetitive routine work and thus release man to higher kinds of work - particularly creative work. Its versatility is being increasingly extended year by year. Naturally, the electronic engineers would like to permeate everywhere. They have tempted the *Lotus Eater* in the library profession with the very welcome words, *You need not hereafter slave at classification and cataloging. Our computer will do all that for you.*

(17; Vol. 4, 1967, p204)

EFFECT OF ELECTRONIC MACHINERY

We have now nearly outgrown that temptation to inaction. We have now reached the second stage when we can say *The electronic machinery can no doubt obtain phenomenal speed in doing a certain kind of job which it may be set. It can do the data work at that speed. For, the different data pertaining to a given entity are commutable. But in literature search the Law of Commutation does not hold good.*

(17; Vol. 2, 1965, p16)

ELECTRONIC ENGINEER AND CLASSIFICATIONIST

Work of electronic engineers and that of classificationists appear to have just begun to influence each other. The nearer they come, the more appreciative they become of each other's needs and difficulties, the more helpful will be the March of Classification.

(17; Vol. 2, 1965, p25)

Advent of Computers in the Libraries

The machines can do the work efficiently only if a considerable prior classificatory work is done by the library profession.

(17; Vol. 1, 1964, p39)

Retrieval of micro thought and of the organisation of micro thought needed for this purpose will have to be done by the documentalist working in specialist libraries attached to research centres and industrial enterprises. They will have to depend on an efficient depth classification kept continuously up-to-date by applied research.

(17; Vol. 1, 1964, p39)



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