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Terminal Talk - The Wofford Connection - September 1975

Wofford College Computer Center

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Usage Report

Category	Users 1974	Users 1975	CPU Seconds 1974	CPU Seconds 1975	No. of Connect Min. 1974	No. of Connect Min. 1975
Computer Science	55	55	75,436	101,991	28,125	26,525
Physics	15	11	39,834	9,470	9,074	3,722
Chemistry	24	7	12,843	1,818	4,457	968
Math	77	113	16,456	15,234	5,685	4,265
Biology	3	88	234	4,000	73	1,684
Psychology	9	36	1,489	29,555	820	7,762
Social Science	23	38	4,676	23,277	2,153	6,182
Research & Administration	9	7	30,639	24,121	6,758	5,920
Arts & Humanities	2	1	75	0	53	6
Other	27	54	34,459	21,114	6,824	6,457
Totals	157*	289*	216,141	227,118	64,022	63,005
Percentage Change		+84%		+5%		-1.6%

*Number of different users

The table above presents a comparison of terminal usage figures for the periods September 1973-August 1974 and September 1974-August 1975. The dramatic increase in the number of different users is due to new uses in Biology and Math classes. The connect time shows a significant decrease in the physical sciences and a corresponding increase in psychology and the social sciences.

Financial Report, September 1974-August 1975

Category	Expenditure
Computer Service	$ 7685.06
TTY and phone	1108.29
Supplies	704.15
Assistant	500.00
Maintenance	891.60
Tax and Misc.	2264.70
Sub. total	13153.80
Overhead	3320.02
Total	$16473.82

The very significant increase in costs over the previous fiscal year is largely due to the change-over to the new computer system announced below. The summer-school-support funds normally budgeted but not spent were used this year to purchase a terminal (DEC writer II) for the new system at $1924. Some other "change-over" expenses were included, and during the year there was a significant maintenance cost for the plotter and teletypes. A portion of this maintenance had been accomplished during the previous year, but not paid at that time. Even if all expenses are charged to the current year, the annual cost per user was about $57, considerably less than the previous year.

New System ARRIVES!

A grant from Hoechst has made possible the purchase of a minicomputer system to replace the single terminal service which has served us well since the spring of 1968.
Our timesharing service was installed on 15 April 1968. From then thru June, 1975, a total of 8310 terminal hours were logged (not including time for off-line preparation of paper tape which was also significant, but not measured). This represents a usage of over six hours per class day during the more than seven years of service. Total computer costs during this period were $100,529, including NSF funds, overhead estimates, student assistants and travel as well as direct charges for computer service, equipment, phone connection, and maintenance.

In preparation for the Hoechst grant, several mini-computer systems were analyzed carefully. On the basis of strength of company support, machine and language features (over 100 detailed comparisons), possibility of future expansion and a price limit of about $50,000, Digital Equipment Corporation's PDP-11/40 computer and RSTS software were chosen. A price reduction during the process of obtaining the grant made possible the expansion to RSTS/E software and increased machine capability. The final selection included: the PDP 11-40 cpu with 48K words of core memory, two RK05 disks with a capacity of 2.5 million words and interfaces for eight terminals. Wofford currently has three terminals on the system and two teletypes and plotter waiting to be connected.

This system arrived on 7 July 1975, the hardware was installed 11 July 1975, and the official software installation was 18 July 1975. Much of the remaining summer was spent testing the system, modifying the software for our needs and preparing a User's Handbook. In August, a few students experimented with the system and, as school opens, the Wofford WITCH* is ready to go!

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*acronym from Wofford's Instructional Timesharing Computer from Hoechst.