House for the History of IBM Data Processing

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Parking behind the building
(approach from Neckarstr.)

Hollerith Electric Tabulating System / 1890
(Replica made by Club Members in 1997)
Herman Hollerith (1860-1929)

House for the History of IBM Data Processing

Purpose
• Demonstrating the history of IBM’s data processing efforts,
ranging from Hollerith (1890) through the Deutsche Hollerith
• Presenting information about the achievements IBM
accomplished as
  Data Processing Pioneer
  and
  Establisher of a German Technology Center
  (Production and Research)

Activities of the Club Members
• Conducting guided tours
• Maintaining the installed machines
• Completing the Collection of Historical IBM Equipment

The exhibited Systems, Machines and Devices
are restored and workable.
Data processing started with the Punched Card System invented and developed by Herman Hollerith to a working product during the years 1882 to 1890. The first successful application of the Hollerith Electric Tabulating System occurred during the US Census of 1890. (processing 62.5 Million cards)

The first large-scale commercial application was began in 1895 by an US railroad company.

In the 1905/08 time span Hollerith reoriented his punched card system predominantly toward commercial applications. Thereafter the number of customers in industry, commerce and administration grew rapidly.

In Germany the Hollerith-System reached a peek success in September 1935 with the introduction of the D 11 printing numeric Tabulator developed by the DEHOMAG at Berlin (Germany). The D 11 was capable of multiplying, dividing and direct balancing, and could also punch results into punch cards. Its control panel provided the means to mechanize large and complex processing steps.

Character printing started in the USA in 1931 following the introduction of the 80-column card in 1928. Character printing was introduced in Europe in 1950. An alphabetic printing D 11 was ready in 1943/44: the D 11A.

In addition to tabulators, all other machines used in Hollerith Departments are also shown: Card Punches, Sorters, Collaters, Interpreters etc.

Electronic data processing started in the USA in the early 1950s, with Germany following not much later. At first, the large enterprises took advantage of the new possibilities offered by electronic data processing.

Towards the end of the 1950s the transistor technology provided an increase in processing speed. Magnetic cores and magnetic tapes allowed larger storage for data and programs. This extended the acceptance of electronic data processing.

The IBM 1401 and the Report Program Generator (RPG) contributed significantly to this success.

In 1964 the IBM System/360 represented for the first time a complete family of processing machines with common architecture. The technological progress led to new dimensions in performance. The basic ideas of this architecture are prevalent even today.

The breakthrough into the aera of database systems, video terminals, world-wide communication and thus direct on-line data processing was achieved via large-scale integration of circuitry. This threshold is represented by the IBM/370 family of systems, introduced in the early 1970s.

The trend of higher performance at lower prices for computers as well their application programs alike, led to a penetration of all aspects of life by the computer.

► Our newly designed PC Department can only be mentioned.
IBM Devices for Banking Applications

In 1934 IBM developed its first device for teller applications, the Proof Machine IBM 801. This machine accepted, endorsed and sorted cheques. In Germany this machine was known as the IBM 803, which was used up to the 1950s. Thereafter, the IBM 1060 replaced it in 1962. It was the first on-line terminal which included a keyboard and a protocol printer capable of printing a balance into a deposit book. Also, money could be withdrawn or deposited, using just the deposit book as legitimation. Highly successful was the IBM 3600 System, introduced in 1973, which was the first computer system that operated unattended around the clock. It offered a large number of bank-specific devices, such as video consoles, keyboards, printers, magnetic stripe readers, and cash terminals. In 1981 the IBM 4700 System followed, eventually replaced by PC-Terminals.

Typewriters

In 1933 IBM began the production and development of electric typewriters, starting with the Electromatic. As of 1948 and right through to 1979, IBM produced the Models A, AA, B, C, and D. In 1961, the IBM SELECTRIC Typewriter was put on the market. This machine was revolutionary. Together with the Magnetic Tape Typewriter, the IBM Composer, Dictating Machines and Copiers, IBM created in 1963/64 the Text Processing application.

Also the complete range of IBM Office Systems is exhibited.

IBM Electromatic / 1935

Last but not least, the Electronic Invoicing Machine IBM 632 should be mentioned. This machine was capable of writing invoices, doing multiplications and punching results into punch cards, e.g. required for doing sales statistic reports.

Guided Tours for Groups (that is, lectures and demonstrations) can be arranged by appointment for 8 to 12 Persons four weeks in advance.
(Such guided tours can include merely a selected number of the exhibited machines, etc.)
The Information Point (i-Punkt) at Sindelfingen's Old City Hall offers Guided Tours for individuals.

The “House for the History of IBM Data Processing” (for short: HZG; not IBM Museum) was begun in 1988 at Böblingen by former IBM people, and transferred in 1994 to the former IBM Card Printing Plant in Sindelfingen.
Open to the public since Februar 1997.
The HZG is operated by members of the Section "IBM History" of the IBM Klub Böblingen e.V.