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Land Data Banks

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an information network beyond the mere passive utilization of a nationally produced tape by teleprocessing, remote terminals, or locally owned copies, "Ideally, and well within the achievable," reports Mrs. Sessions, "is analytical activity at the local level to enrich the total informational resources of the nation."

[Mrs. Sessions, report on the project may be found in PLANNING 1965, selected papers from the 1965 joint planning conference of the American Society of Planning Officials and the Community Planning Association of Canada, Toronto Canada, April 25-29, 1965, published by the American Society of Planning Officials, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.]

proceedings . . .

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ELECTRONIC DATA RETRIEVAL AUGUST 9-11, 1965

Since M.U.L.L. is the official publication of the Special Committee on Electronic Data Retrieval, the Proceedings section is reserved for the texts of the papers and reports presented at the Committee's annual meetings. They are reproduced here free of editorial supervision or restrictions and the views expressed are attributable solely to the authors.

In addition to those reprinted in this issue, the 1965 Proceedings include the following papers which appeared in the September 1965 issue of M.U.L.L.:

Progress Report on the Committee's Forthcoming Book on Electronic Data Retrieval in Law, *Robert P. Bigelow*, 65S-128

Report on Cooperation with Local Bar Associations, *Ronald A. May*, 65S-128

The American Bar Foundation Project, *William B. Eldridge*, 65S-129

Status of American Bar Foundation Research on Automatic Indexing-Searching Computer System, *Sally F. Dennis*, 65S-131

Analysis and Prediction of Judicial Decisions—Informal Progress Report, *Reed C. Lawlor*, 65S-132

Lite: Legal Information Through Electronics, *Richard P. Davis*, 65S-138

LAND DATA BANKS

F. Reed Dickerson
Indiana University

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws recently established a Special Committee on Model Simplification of Real

Property Transfers Act. This committee initially determined that the crux of the conveyancing problem was the high cost and inconvenience of obtaining title information under current methods of keeping land records. Accordingly, it decided that it should first propose appropriate measures for land records, including those relating to titles, taxes, special assessments, and zoning, sanitation, fire, and construction limitations.

The possibility of ultimately developing a workable land data bank accessible to all interested users presents practical problems suggesting the strong advisability of large-scale research programs. Rather than undertake this burden itself, the Special Committee is encouraging and cooperating with outside projects already under way, including that being conducted by Professor Robert N. Cook of the University of Cincinnati School of Law. Projects have also been undertaken in such diverse places as Philadelphia, Alexandria, Virginia, and Alameda County, California. Interested Federal agencies include the Bureau of Public Roads, the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of the Census, the Housing and Home Finance Agency, the Department of the Interior, and the Coast and Geodetic Survey. One of the most important technical problems is to develop a uniform, practicable means of identifying particular plots particularly in relation to the larger plots of which may be parts. This is a necessary precondition to adequate indexing.

DATA PROCESSING AND COURT ADMINISTRATION

Allen Harris

Institute of Judicial Administration

Last week I attended, as a guest in my capacity as Associate Director of the Institute of Judicial Administration, the annual National Conference of Court Administrative Officers.

Many of the Court Administrative Officers expressed a lively interest in data processing to me and they especially expressed interest in how the most recent developments in this area could be used to more efficiently help them carry out their responsibilities in administering their courts. In fact in some courts where data processing equipment is not now being used, their administrators told me the acquisition of such equipment is under serious consideration.

Distributed at the Conference were the results of a questionnaire entitled: "Automatic Data Processing in The Courts". This questionnaire was prepared by the Council of State Governments, which acts as the Secretariat for the Conference, from information supplied by court administrators who are members of the Conference.

The questionnaire covered the use of data processing equipment by the following twelve court systems: (1) Alaska, (2) Los Angeles County, California (3) Santa Clara County, California, (4) Colorado, (5) State-wide Circuit Court in Connecticut, (6) Hawaii, (7) New Jersey, (8) New York, (9) Multnomah County, Oregon, (10) Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, (11) Puerto Rico, and (12) United States Courts.