



RC 7000

Odense Educational System



SUBJECT
Education

USER
Odense Educational System

APPLICATION
Datalogy, Programmed
Training

PROBLEM

Odense Educational System consist of 40 schools, 30 of which are extended to the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades. The pupils in these grades are being taught the subject datalogy, which is a relatively new subject which has been introduced into the timetable of various schools — not only in commercial, technical, and high schools but also in primary schools.

Odense Educational Authorities have planned to have their schools covered by computer capacity by 1979 and it was a problem to find a system capable of covering the increasing demand.

In addition a system was required which could at the same time be used for programmed education in the speciality classes.

The Odense Educational Authorities approached various EDP companies to get their problems solved, and decided on Regnecentralen's RC 7000 as the best system.

REQUIREMENTS

Due to the relatively new subject, datalogy, a system was required which was easily accessible and easy to operate. In addition, the required system was one that could be used for the elementary teaching of Danish and arithmetic in the various auxiliary classes. At the same time it was emphasized that it had to be a system which could be expanded in step with the increasing amount of data within the Odense Educational System.



SOLUTION

As one of the first schools in Denmark, Odense Educational System installed Regnecentralen's RC 7000 minicomputer with background store, line printer, card reader and paper tape equipment. The system was installed in August 1975 at Højstrup School, where today it is connected to 22 terminals — of which 17 can run simultaneously. Schools in which a terminal is installed have a contact teacher who is responsible for the contact with the control group at Højstrup School. This group consist of 3 teachers who develop new educational programmes and "look after" the system. The teachers have a duty system in the "data centre" where the RC 7000, the line printer and terminal are installed in the same room in order that the "data centre" may be open to the 8th, 9th, and 10th grade pupils at certain times of the day.

Parallel with the teaching of datalogy, Odense Educational Authorities are running an experiment in co-operation with the Experimental Council of the National School Authorities, — at Højstrup School display terminals have been installed in a 3rd and a 5th auxiliary grade. Here several of the children are under the care of the Mentally Deficient Welfare authorities and several are handicapped in movement and behaviour. In these classes the RC 7000 is used for elementary teaching of the subjects Danish and arithmetic.

In the preparation of the programmes there has been close co-operation between special-class teachers and EDP specialized teachers.

In classes the pupils receive problems that are suited to the individual as to degree of difficulty, and these may be built up gradually. When the pupil has completed the programme the teacher can see by a simple keying of the terminal how the problem has been solved and this forms the basis for new educational processes.

About the application of the RC 7000, teacher Mads Jørgensen says: "There isn't a tool in the world as suited to special education as the combination of a display unit and a computer. It fits like a glove to special education and the teaching of the pupils has been significantly improved".

RESULT

Accordingly a system has been obtained which may be used for datalogy and at the same time for programmed training in the special classes, where the said significant improvement in the teaching of the pupils has been established.

Much positive experience has been gained in these visionary projects, e.g., from Odense Educational System, which clearly shows the usefulness and justification of the use of the RC 7000.

The leader of the "data centre", Torben Høirup, says: "The system has shown a very high degree of reliability in operation. Therefore, we do not expect any problems when, in the next few years, more schools are connected to the system. It works to our complete satisfaction and teachers as well as pupils find it easy to operate the system."

The subject Datalogy will be even more widespread in future years. The same will apply to programmed education. — Here Regnecentralen can offer the RC 7000 system which quite simply grows with demand and projects.

The RC 7000 can be connected to a data network and be expanded to Regnecentralen's larger systems, RC 6000 and RC 8000.