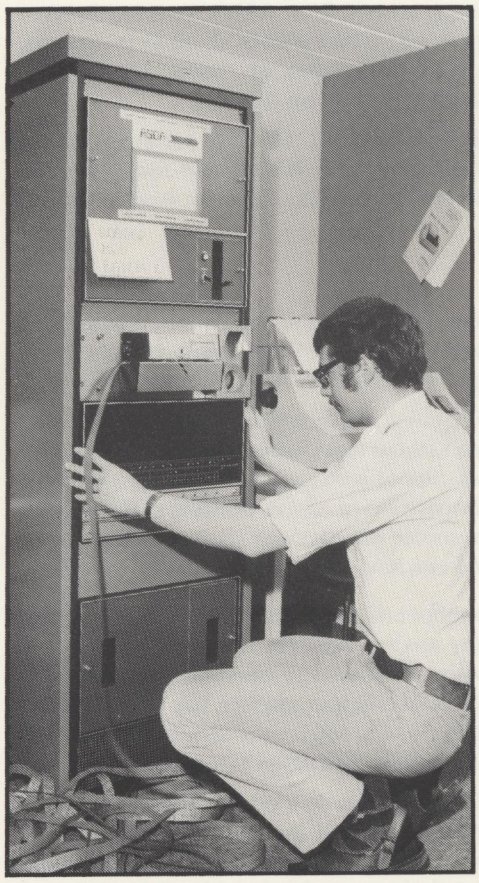
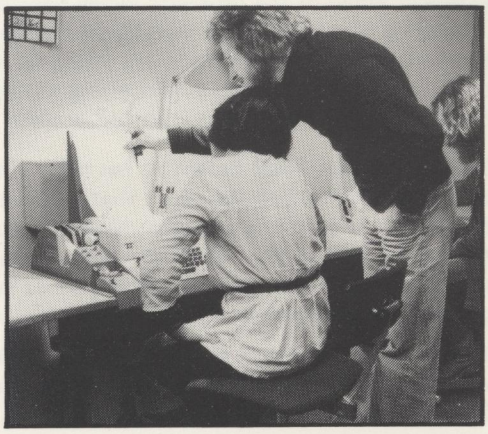
RC 7000
Aalborg Seminarium





SUBJECT
Education

USER
Aalborg Seminarium

APPLICATION
Datalogy

PROBLEM

Aalborg Seminarium is a relatively new teacher training college and one of the largest in the country. As early as in the sixties work on datalogy was carried out at Aalborg Seminarium where they participated in various datalogy experiments in the normal schools where at the time they had just commenced to be interested in EDP. As it was expected that datalogy would soon be introduced as a subject in the normal schools, and as the teacher training colleges would naturally have to take into account all subjects to be taught in normal schools, it was only natural that they started to look for a suitable computer capacity for use in education.

The requirements were simple operation, robustness, flexibility and facilities for development in accordance with future requirements, and the choice was therefore Regnecentralen's RC 7000 as the best system.

REQUIREMENTS

At the time when Aalborg Seminarium acquired its RC 7000, this was mainly to be used in connection with the teaching of datalogy, but there was also the desire for a system which could be expanded in step with future requirements with a view to the application of EDP in other subjects and for programmed education. Also, the system should be easily accessible and easy to operate to avoid too much time being spent on practising and application.

SOLUTION

As one of the first teacher training colleges in Denmark to do so, Aalborg Seminarium had Regnecentralen's RC 7000 minicomputer installed in the summer of 1972. The first system consisted of a central processor with 16 K words, 3 terminals, tape reader and tape punch.

Students from the college, pupils from the college training school and students from the Aalborg division of the Royal Danish School of Educational Studies were soon busy users of the system, and it was not long before the requirement for machine capacity grew. This, and such possibilities as attempting programmed education, gave the background for an expansion of the system which today consists of a central processor of 32 K words, tape equipment, line printer, card reader, 3 typewriter terminals, a display unit and an exchangeable magnetic disc store of 1.2 million words.

Around the RC 7000 minicomputer at Aalborg Seminarium, a group was formed of students and teachers, and this group was characterized by a frankness which also extended beyond the college itself and the associated training school. Thus ASDA, Aalborg Seminarium Data Section, as the group soon called itself, has served a large number of schools, colleges, institutions, etc., mostly on a voluntary basis and free of charge. Up till now, more than 50 schools have been able to operate datalogy based on ASDA.

This extroversion has also been of importance in another field. The first initiatives for coordination of the activities in the field of datalogy came from ASDA, and today this has led to an educational association: "The Association for Datalogy and the Application of EDP in Education".

RESULT

Accordingly, a system has been obtained which not only meets the original requirements of the system, but in addition the system has acted as a kind of "inspiration" for the users, who have from time to time taken up problems which had not originally been envisaged.

Also, they have obtained a system with great flexibility and quality software which is RC COMAL. Some of the problems which have been tackled from time to time by ASDA are: processing of mathematical investigation, analyses, files of addresses for members of subject teachers' associations, printing out schedules, composition of teams, printing out file index cards for the college library, processing multiple choice samples and statistic processing in connection with the teacher students' projects and teaching specialities.

College Lecturer Peter Bollerslev has said: "The simplicity of operation and the robustness of the system has had the result that without any anxiety we have left it to the students themselves to start and stop the machine, exchange the discs and generally look after the equipment after a few hours instruction. Even school-children manage the whole system without trouble although the system cannot be described as small considering the advanced possibilities contained in the disc operative system and the associated software".

The positive experience gained from RC 7000 at Aalborg Seminarium is one of the reasons why the majority of the remaining teacher training colleges in the country and the Royal Danish School of Educational Studies have acquired Regnecentralen's RC 7000 minicomputer and many new teachers now arrive at their new schools with a knowledge of datalogy and the application of EDP in education based on RC 7000.

RC 7000 can be coupled to a data network and be extended to Regnecentralen's larger systems, RC 6000 and RC 8000.

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