Title	The Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka computer system
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Citation	Zainal Abidin Bakar. (1987). The Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka computer system. In AMIC-USM-UNESCO Workshop on Use of New Technology in Research and Documentation : Penang, Jun 23-Jul 2, 1987. Singapore: Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre.
Date	1987
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10220/678
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The Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka Computer System

By

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THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA
COMPUTER SYSTEM

by

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Background

The Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka ia a government agency responsible in the development of the Malay linguage as the national language of the country. The agency is devided into two main departments; the research and development department and the publishing department. The research and development department is again subdevided into the linguage research and development division and the literature research and development division; while the publishing department is supported by the editorial, the translation, the production, the printing and the marketing devisions. And, there are the services divisions and units like the administration and the finance divisions and the planning, the library and the computer units.

Dewan and the New Technology

When the new technology knocks at the Malaysian door, Dewan, like most government departments and agencies wanted to adopt the new technology. As for Dewan, there were the financial constrains. As an alternative, in the initial stage, Dewan was allowed the use of the CPU at the Prime Ministers's Department. But, as the Mainframe has to serve a large number of government departments and agencies, the system was rather slow. As such Dewan still request for an in-house computer system.

Dewan was rather lucky when in early 1981, IBM offered the use of their CPU in Petaling Jaya on lease. They also helps Dewan to develop the terminology database. This was done with the help of computer personnels from the School of Computer Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

However, the so-called database developed by the Dewan was more like a record of all terminological data prepared by the Terminology Unit of the Linguage Research and Development Division. Works done was no more than a shift from the mannual working system to that of a computer aided working system. The whole terminology working system was still the same except that now Dewan uses computer system to do works like listings of terminological informations, extractions of any given term, printings of terminological lists and so on. The proper Terminology Database has not been developed.

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An In-house Computer Technology

After using the IBM's Mainframe in Petaling Jaya for about two years in the terminology system, Dewan was ready financially to go into computers. It means that Dewan is ready to be fully computer aided in all its activities. So, in early 1985, the Dewan added a new unit to its service department, the Computer Unit. The unit was entrusted with the task of developing the computer system for the whole of Dewan which for the last five years or so have adopted computer works on isolated cases, like the terminology computer aided system (mentioned erlier) the laser printing system to help the publishing division which was adopted in 1984, the financial system and many small computer aided working systems.

And in July 1986 Dewan secure a computer mainframe unit under the charge of the Computer Unit. The first task of the unit was to combine and centralized all the isolated computer activities in the Dewan. And one of the biggest role that the unit has to undertake is the development of a database, namely the Bahasa Malaysia Database which comprises of the Lexicon (Malay) Database, the Terminology Database, The Text Database which combines to form the Bahasa Malaysia Database.

Future Development

The Dewan is now scouting for a turn-key programme to help out in the development of the Bahasa Malaysia Database mentioned above. Apart from that, Dewan is also looking into the posibility of intergrating translations system into the main stream of the computer system.

Dewan hopes to develop an intergrated system where the Bahasa Malaysia Database is linked to the Translation System and the two is again linked to the Publishing System and vice cersa so that Dewan could function a fully computerized research and publishing department.

Some Comments on the Simulation Programmes

1.   Basically the simulation programmes are not that interactive, except for the <u>Communication Theory</u> programme.

<u>Internal Public Relation</u>
1. The Programme is just a game for some ten-year-old kids. A PR man needs a more dynamic sets of problems.
2. The exercises given were too short and straight forward. There were no interaction between the user and the computer.
3. The problems given were irrelevant to the third word settings.

<u>Communication Theory</u>
The programme is a good programme for students of communications. However, most of the informations included in the programme are too American oriented. It would be better if some questions regarding the third world communications, regarding the whos, whats, and so on are included in the programme.

<u>Newsapaper Management Programme</u>
The programme could give one a good exercise on newspaper management. However, the exercises are not education-oriented, but more of a game-oriented type, which could somewhat be useful to some people who wants to play a game on newspaper management and publishing.

COMMENTS BY: Zainal Abidin Bakar.