

A system of electronic retrieval of information on microfilm through index coding is currently being installed in the Food and Drug Directorate of National Health and Welfare and I expect that other government agencies will also be able to benefit in the future from modern equipment of this kind, which goes under the trade name "Miracode".

In making use of Social Insurance Numbers, the Government maintains a cross-indexing system on microfilm and all records are searched through viewers. In the Citizenship Registry cross reference indexing is housed in mechanical revolving trays. All documentation over two years old is retained on microfilm and searching of these records is performed on viewers.

It is expected that these various systems will be enlarged and improved upon as the hardware and systems prove themselves and as we gain experience with them. The object of most of them is to: cut down on paper work; lower costs; speed up both filing of information and access to it; provide better service; assist the decision-making process; save space. I think you will find in time that some, at least, of these modern techniques will be of interest to the Department of External Affairs.

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