

which was connected to an electric typewriter. Data from a source document were key punched and typed simultaneously on a form inserted in the typewriter. The cards produced were then used in the second part of the system, which consisted of a card reader also connected to an electric typewriter, to produce the final document.

13. The I.B.M. system is more sophisticated and complex than it needs to be for the application under consideration - i.e., writing of passports. It has a potential for producing ancillary information, e.g., statistical data which is not essentially for this application. Furthermore, due to the number of cards required to produce one passport the processing time per passport would be high compared to the Flexowriter. The large number of cards required (five per passport) introduces the danger of them becoming misplaced or lost and in addition would constitute a filing problem. Even without these disadvantages the cost of the system would not permit its purchase considering that Flexowriter equipment can be purchased for approximately one-half the cost of the I.B.M. equipment. For these reasons then, the I.B.M. system could not be considered a suitable alternative.

14. After examining the merits of these alternatives, the decision was reached that the Flexowriter would be the best replacement available.