with the Computer Age

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+20% year

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 1976 >< 1977 >< 1978 >< 1979 >< 1980 >< 1981 >< 1982 ><

...mputer use over the last ten years.

Historical Development

Machine Model	Instruction Rate in thousands per second	Memory size in characters (thousands)	Secondary memory in characters (millions)	Comment
1959 LGP-30	.1	20		The first computer at U.N.B.
1960				
1961				
1962				
1963				
1964 1620-II	7.5	40		Industry standard compiler
1965		60	2	Printer, disk operating system
1966				
1967				
1968 360-50	250	128	28	Mag tapes, high speed printer
1969		256	230	large disk system
1970		384		multiprogramming, telecommunications
1971				trial computer network
1972 370-155	840	1024	1030	APL terminal system
1973 370-158	1000	1024	.330	Virtual memory system
1974				
1975		1535		
1976				
1977		3072	1430	non-IBM memory
1978 370-3032	3000	4096	3500	New machine
1979				
1980		6144	4000	Memory added
1981		8192		
1982		12288		Non-50-

The above chart shows principle characteristics of the computing equipment and services as they have evolved at the University of New Brunswick. It shows dramatic increases in processing speed, and secondary memory and in services offered.

equivalent to the growth of travel technology in one hundred years. There are many advances in the field of computers that people are unaware of.

The increase in computer use at UNB has made it necessary for the centre to purchase new computers. The latest was bought in 1978. Since that time there have been additions such as new disk drives. Because of the growth in use, UNB is planning to purchase a new computer in the fall of '83. This one will have two or three times the capacity of the present model. The cost will be covered by money from tuition, government grants; the university budget in general.

Micro computers are on the way. Plans are being made to sell the remaining keypunches at UNB and bring in about 100 micro computers. These will allow for quicker turn around time because the user is working with the main computer. His is the only job being handled by the micro, compared to the large number handled by the main computer. This coming of micros will cause an increase in computer use rather than a decrease as one might expect. These micros will be available to people who presently do not use com-

puters. When they overcome their fear of computers they will soon be creating programs too large for their micro computers to do. This will bring them to the computer at the computing centre.

As we are able to design smaller and more efficient computers we are able to reduce the cost of running and purchasing them. The hand held calculators of today can do much of what the older, much larger and more expensive models could do. The computer planned for the fall will use considerably less power than the present model and therefore the cost of running it will be less. As we find better ways of cooling the computers, cost decreases once again.

There are many things in store for students and faculty of UNB in the field of computers. One example is the graphic terminals. Although not presently available, in five years they probably will be. Director David MacNeil prefers to keep some of the people working at the centre at least five years ahead. Presently there are individuals working with the new graphic terminals.

As can be seen, UNB is keeping up with the changes in computing technology.