

Evolution of a large statistical database

Robert M. Branton
Marine Fish Division
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
P.O. Box 1006
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 4A2

The Marine Fish Division database was started in 1946 using coding sheets and notebooks. The database was subsequently moved to punch cards, magnetic tapes, and finally disks, where various database management systems (DBMS) systems have been employed. Today the database is a diverse assortment of data structures and storage methods. It is difficult to integrate and analyze data from different sources. A contributing factor to this situation has been incompatible multi user computers at MFD's two centers of operation. Personal computers (PCs) have provided some relief, and there are plans to replace one of the two computers, therefore permitting installation of a single Relational DBMS at the two sites. New technologies such as: expert systems, object oriented data management, automated data collection and optical disk storage are being considered for use.