Annotated Bibliography
For Technology
In Criminal Justice

West Virginia
Statistical Analysis Center
Annotated Bibliography

for Technology in Criminal Justice

NCJRS
MAR 3 1995
ACQUISITIONS

West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center
Marshall University

1050 Fourth Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia 25755

May, 1992
Editor, Nerissa Young
Acknowledgements

This project was developed for the design and methodology of the Technology Survey Project for the Statistical Analysis Center, Marshall University. The information was collected by the Senior Research Associates: Margaret Phipps Brown, J.D.; Samuel Dameron, Ph.D.; and Reta Roberts, M.S. The graduate students of the Statistical Analysis Center assisted in searching for these articles among the dusty shelves of numerous libraries and finally, Nerissa Young spent long hours editing the document in an orderly fashion. This report will hopefully help others in the criminal justice community in their future decision-making concerning the application of technology within their field.

Christine L. Barry, D.B.A.
Director, West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center
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Discusses how computer information has enabled police departments to identify opportunities for citizens to contribute to crime prevention. Crime problems can be quickly analyzed and the information disseminated.


Discusses the GSA’s Information Resources Management Service (IRMS), which negotiates schedules for most types of commercially available Automatic Data Processing Equipment (ADPE). The schedules include discounts and purchase and protest procedures.


A new optical disk image retrieval system has lessened storage space and speeded data recovery for the Cincinnati, Ohio Police Division. A backlog of 6,000 reports was eliminated in four weeks while the department kept up with the other data entry.


Describes how the Atchinson Police Department used a municipally-owned computer to predict "trouble" in sectors and zones, speed dispatching, give responding officers advanced warning of trouble, monitor personnel performance, track the progress of cases through the courts and complete state mandated statistical reports.


Discusses the CAR Program for computerized accident reconstruction. This program has a main menu with 10 areas of concern including a full 42-step menu and an on-screen help and research section. CAR comes in four packages that range in cost from the $200 software package to the $1,000 software package and two hand-held computers. Information can be obtained from David G. Lord, P. O. Box 16613, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 or (801) 973-8756.
   The Calspan Reconstruction of Accident Speeds on the Highway (CRASH, now in its third version) has computation formulas derived from government crash tests which are more accurate than guesses.

   Computer Aided Design (CAD) or Computer Aided Drafting programs help construct accident diagrams and are available from the Share Ware Library Company. Included in these are PC-Key-Draw and DANCAD3D. Other programs are also available.

   Discusses the pros and cons of two computer-assisted accident reconstruction programs: Simulated Linear Accident Momentum (SLAM) and Calspan Reconstruction of Accident Speeds on the Highway (CRASH3).

   Discusses the Armed Robbery Eidetic Suspect Typing (AREST) program; a system to solve robbery incidents using a knowledge base constructed from experts' experiences and "if-then" inferences.

   Discusses the use of the Police Information System (PIMS), a crime tracking system designed and operated through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Maps are generated from information downloaded to the department's personal computer.

   Discusses the Federal Bureau of Investigation's use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems to investigate organized crime, terrorism, white collar crime, and foreign counterintelligence.

   Microcomputers have made it possible for small departments to computerize so that they may do database searches and generate mailing lists to collect fines. Discusses system and hardware selection and how to implement them.
BJS offers criminal intelligence system for microcomputers.  
The U.S. Department of Justice Assistance (BJA) announces 
the release of its Criminal Intelligence System for 
Microcomputers, which is an R:BASE relational database manager 
that can be used to link individuals, organizations, and 
vehicles with flexible search capabilities. For more 
information, contact the Institute for Intergovernmental 
Research, P.O. Box 12729, Tallahassee, FL, 32317.

*Law and Order*, pp. 94-97.  
Discusses new technology such as notebook-sized computers, 
Mobile Display Terminals (MDTs), enhanced databases, 
artificial intelligence (AI) systems, Automatic Vehicle 
Locator (AVL) systems, enhanced 911 systems, cellular phones, 
and Personal Information Managers (PIMs).

RDX-1000 hand terminal in West Germany. *Law and Order*, 
pp. 58-61.  
Discusses hand-held terminals which allow checking of 
suspect and vehicle before the suspect can leave the scene. 
The unit is especially suited to covert surveillance and SWAT 
operation because it is light-weight and the data transmission 
is secure.

computers in crime fighting, training, and administration: A 
Examines uses of computers by the San Diego Police 
Department.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center’s (FLETC) 
Computer and Economic Crime Division (CED) is using the 
Portland Search Warrant Program, developed by the Internal 
Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, as a 
computer training tool. For more information, contact the 
Computer and Economic Crime Division at FLETC; (912) 267-2729.

Bucci, W. J. (1990, February). Buffalo Police Network combines 
Communication between precincts has been improved by the 
use of an upgraded telephone line system which allows both 
voice communication and electronic communications on phone 
lines. This allowed the department to increase the number of 
available lines by getting rid of dedicated lines for 
electronic communication.
Cameron, B. W. (1989, February). We love 'em, we hate 'em, but we need them. Law and Order, p. 1.

Inquiries concerning computer use are on the increase. Many departments are seeking to use or expand their computer use. The major use for computers is in the expansion of communication and information management.


Discusses word processing, data base management, spreadsheets, graphics and communications, and developments in fifth generation computer language programs and artificial intelligence programs.


Fifth generation languages will permit users to resolve problems and create programs that learn from their mistakes. Currently, there are five areas where software applications are generally used: word processing, data base management, spreadsheets, graphics and communications.


In 1986 the American National Standards Institute initiated a program to standardize the format for the exchange of information between dissimilar Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS’s). In the first stage, information can be transmitted by phone line from optical disks or magnetic tape. The second stage, completed by 2010, will have direct transfer from system to system.


Outlines an economical approach to developing a low-cost software system used by the South Portland Maine Police Department.


Discusses the CHIEFS data base system used by the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department for homicide investigations.
At the Symposium on Microcomputers in Law Enforcement (S.M.I.L.E.), the panel predicted that computer training would be standard by the year 2000. This will be necessary to gain convictions of computer thieves and insure computer data accuracy.

The St. Petersburg police department has set up a program that prepares Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). This system will dramatically cut down on the amount of time spent in processing paperwork.

The national E-Mail Registry, an on-line directory, offers an easy way to find out how to contact businesses and individual computers at no cost to those listed and a minimum cost for those using the directory. For more information call (800) 622-0505 or write to Computer Corner, Law and Order, 1000 Skokie Blvd., Wilmette, IL 60091.

A computer to be used for emergency preparedness should have a backup system and generator. Consider portable computer terminals for use with the system as well.

If you have similar questions you can contact others who have answers through electronic mail. For more information contact Computer Corner, Law and Order, 1000 Skokie Blvd., Wilmette, IL 60091.

Public domain software to help small police departments is available by contacting: the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at (202) 366-4296; National Criminal Justice System at (916) 392-2550; the National Criminal Justice Referral Service at (800) 851-3420; the National Technical Information Service at (703) 487-4600; or Bill Clede at Computer Corner, Law and Order, 1000 Skokie Blvd., Wilmette, IL 60091.

With a shareware program like TAPCIS, communication time on a network can be decreased because it permits off-line replies using a word process-type application. This makes the network more cost effective to use.


Discusses current uses of FAX machines and offers additional uses.


The National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) carries messages cleared by a ranking officer. The Public Safety section on CompuServe’s Safetynet also allows messages to be left by individual officers who subscribe.


Discusses computer software for traffic tickets, photographs, composite sketches, and investigative techniques. For further information, contact IPTM on CompuServe, or write IPTM, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Road South, Jacksonville, FL 32216-6699. Phone (904) 646-2722.


Police Records Organizer (PRO) will sort cases by various criteria, register activity, and file cases and vehicles. For more information, contact C. C. Inc. at (219) 947-2193. For more information, contact Safetynet’s Library 9 on CompuServe.


The Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) is being used at the Avoyelles Parish Sheriff’s Office jail. It reads the unique blood vessel patterns in a person’s eye for recognition.


The Law Enforcement R:Base User’s Group (LERUG) is on the Safetynet Forum of CompuServe. To join on-line, leave a message for Bruce Williams 72456,1555 in Safetynet Section 9 that includes your name, rank, telephone number, supervisor’s name and phone number, size of department, and your version of R:Base.
Lawcom is an integrated database management system to help officers with investigations. It is a shareware product and contains: SUSPECT, which files data on suspects and court calendars; CASE MANAGER, which manages case assignments and outcomes; STOLEN MANAGER, which lists stolen articles for recall and PAWN MANAGER, which records items pawned or sold to second hand shops. The program can be downloaded from the CompuServe Safetynet forum. Download LAWCOM.ARC from Library 9. You will need a utility such as ARCE to unarchive it.

The Unified Criminal Justice System (UCJ) follows the progress of criminal cases for the Boise Idaho Police Department.

Clede, B. (1989, October). Accreditation gets boost from software program. Law and Order, p. 11.
NDT Consulting has developed AC/TRAC for IBM compatible computers to compile accreditation standards for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Discusses a computer-aided evaluation system called Law Enforcement Advanced Document Evaluation Record System (L.E.A.D.E.R.S.). For more information, contact the Special Tactics Association Ltd., 653 West 11th Street, Waterloo, IA 50702. Phone (319) 236-0977.

SEARCH Group Inc. has a new Bulletin Board System (BBS) available free of charge to criminal justice practitioners and others with "expertise or serious interest in criminal justice issues." You can reach the BBS via a toll free number (800) 448-8257. For further information, contact BBS Systems Operator, SEARCH-BBS (916) 392-2550.

Local Area Networks (LANs) are becoming more popular with law enforcement officers.
Discusses the Police Forum, Safetynet, and CompuServe Information Service (CIS). Users can be in touch with hundreds of other law enforcement officers on the local, state, and federal levels. For more information, contact Bill Clede, 272 Ridge Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1019.
Also covers the Computerized On-line Property System, (COPS I), which is a fourth generation data base that provides a multi-faceted police information and tracking function. For more information about COPS I, contact Software Engineering Consultants, Ltd., 930 White Oak Dr., Oxon Hill, MD 20745; (301) 567-9619.

Discusses preventive measures for keeping computer viruses off telecommunication systems.

Discusses crime analysis programs available on "public domain" from the CompuServe police forum library. For a free Intropak, send a self addressed #10 business size envelope with 45 cents postage to Bill Clede, 272 Ridge Road, Wethersfield, Ct 06109, or contact him via CompuServe on SAFETYNET Public Safety Section 9.

Electronic mail (E-mail) is confidential and cheaper than hard copy. It can send messages and documents to other people’s computers or fax machines.

Discusses an artificial intelligence system used for missing persons. It compares the missing person to the unidentified person files to see if there is a match.

Currently, communications are very formal or open to the public. CompuServe should establish a restricted network for more informal communications.

CLEAR is a program which tracks incidents from dispatch through clearance, administrative functions, fleet management, budget tracking and NIBRS reporting. A new program, INTELL, can access these records and draw associations by a circular system of linking.


Advanced Revelation is a fourth generation relational database program for PCs. It allows English language programming. It also has variable length fields. For more information contact Syscomp Inc., 3505 River Drive #C, Lawrenceville, GA 30244 or (404) 972-5992.


Gangfile is a new program to record suspects and track a suspect's associates. GANGFILE.EXE is available on SEARCH BBS at (916) 392-4640 and on CompuServe's Safetynet Library 10. Or write Dana Software Systems, 1993 Edith Dr., Arcata, CA 95521-4740.


Discusses Telepatrol, a system that telephones preprogrammed numbers when situations warrant it. The system includes Crime Call, Crime Alert, Emergency Alert, Emergency Recall, Life Search and Donor Fund.


The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is issuing their officers personal computers. They often produce leads in seconds while manual searches would take hours. They have increased investigative time by 30 percent.


The South Gate Police Department is using Prime's INFORMATION software to help the officers maintain accurate information for determining patterns in crimes and accidents.


Metro-Toronto police have installed a computer that is expected to solve 11,000 of their unsolved crimes through analysis of fingerprints.

The Metropolitan Toronto Police Department has a computerized full-color image/text mug shot data base which is stored on a personal computer's hard disk or optical disk.


The Oakland Park Florida Police Department uses an IBM AS/400 computer to manage its police, fire and paramedic records. They have installed a FERRUPS uninterruptible power system (UPS).


The Federal Bureau of Investigation is in the process of instituting the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) as the new standard for incident-based crime reporting.


Software has been developed to pin-point high crime areas. For more information contact Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority; Map Information, Corp., Troy, NY; and Etak Inc., Menlo Park, CA.


The Carthage Police Department, of Carthage, Missouri uses a software system to call the senior citizens in their community to check on their well-being. If they do not answer the phone, a squad car is dispatched and the officer can enter the premises with a key provided to the department by the senior citizen.


The Police Department in Summersville, S.C. is using the Condor3 system. It performs jobs such as incident reporting, tracking the department budget, and managing the fleet.


Discusses the U.S. Department of Justice search for the installation of a nationwide data transmission network (JTN).
Includes information that should be included in a comprehensive request for a proposal of an automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) from the standpoint of a vendor, (North American MORPHO).

Discusses practical applications of export systems: developing profiles of offenders, problem solving, decision making, program planning and design, and instructional training programs.

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association (LSA) established a FAX network for the state which links all of the Sheriffs' Departments together. The departments identify wanted persons and stolen property through the system.

In 1986, the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and the Tacoma Police Department, Washington, jointly purchased an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). Searches for fingerprints which would have taken two years now take 30 minutes.

Forcefield II was created by the XImage Corporation to provide law enforcement officers with immediate color image capture and retrieval of suspects during booking. For more information, contact XImage Corporation, 300 Orchard City Drive, Suite 126, Campbell, CA 95008; (408) 370-2666.

Distributed processing permits the system to be subdirected which allow several users to access the system for different queries at the same time.

A workable relationship can be established between men and machines through the use of visual surveillance, video cameras, automated surveillance systems, and remote controlled cameras that can fully monitor an area and its guards.

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) works in conjunction with the Police Foundation to offer on-site free consulting and training services to law enforcement in arson investigations, STING operations, Integrated Criminal Apprehension Programs (ICAP), organized crime investigations, and white collar crime investigations. For more information, contact: Project Coordinator, BJA/Police Foundation, Technical Assistance and Training Project, 1001 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037; (202) 833-1460.


The Metro Dade Police Department integrated its crime laboratory and evidence bureau with a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). It tracks items through the use of bar code labels and provides reports of case loads.


The St. Louis County Police Department has implemented a computer-assisted police report entry system called CARE. It has increased the quality, accuracy and timeliness of reports, reduced downtime, improved detective follow-up and improved departmental administration.


The Detroit Emergency Response System (DETERS) has Enhanced 9-1-1, Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD), Mobile Data Terminals (MDT), Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL), and Graphic Workstations.


The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Hazardous Materials Information Clearinghouse (HMIX) was established to provide federal, state, local, and private sector organizations with the ability to share up-to-date information. For more information, contact the HMIX coordinator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, State and Local Program Support Directorate, Technological Hazards Division, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC. 202472; (202) 646-3525.

The Career Officer Project (COP) between the Arlington police department and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms has solved many crimes in a joint project which had the departments pooling personnel, electronic technology, investigative expertise and training.


The Los Angeles Police estimate that it would take 67 years to manually scan their 1.7 million fingerprint cards to identify a suspect. Fingerprint searches will be reduced from two to three weeks to less than 18 hours.


The Rochester Police Department’s automated video identification system (AVIS) was created by the EDICON Systems Division of Kodak. It involves the use of a video camera, data base, laser printer and color thermal printer.

In a small police department near Seattle, Washington, lap-top computers are heros in the war against paperwork. (1989, February). Law and Order, p. 23.

The department purchased laptop computers for its officers and allowed them to take them home. This improved efficiency.


The Dayton Ohio Police Department is using Dictaphones to record reports. They also use management information systems, computer assisted dispatching and in-car keyboard terminals to aid the officers.


Discusses two computer programs: Police Operations Support System-Elementary (POSSE) allows small and medium departments to store and retrieve police records and reports, and Crime Analysis System Support (CASS) has tools to support crime analysis. Both are available for transfer to law enforcement agencies free of cost, other that the cost of transfer.

A computerized information system called Gang Reporting Evaluation and Tracking (GREAT) assists the L. A. Sheriff's Department in fighting gang related violence. Information used includes names, street names, addresses, descriptions (especially tattoos), partial and full plate numbers and conditions of probation.


With a microcomputer, modem and communications package criminal justice agencies can communicate with BBS systems.


Fourth generation computer languages allow non-programmer users "to produce ... flexible application programs without the use of professional programmers." Police departments are using these languages to develop new applications for gathering and using information in investigations.


The United States Department of Justice has decided that it is not feasible at this time to implement a system to identify convicted felons who may try to purchase firearms.


Based on the experiences of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's implementation of its in-car terminals, many anticipated and unanticipated consequences were studied. Findings included that terminals are attractive to all size departments and that the information is extremely useful if information overload is avoided.


Grapevine, Hurst, Bedford, and Euless, Texas have developed an electronic data link and database. They exchange information about persons, stolen guns, stolen articles and driver's licenses and messages. This is done with the use of Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs).
Lesce, T. (1989, February). Choosing a radio system—What a police administrator should know. Law and Order, pp. 41-44. Urges police administrators to consider the administrative needs of their organization, as well as their technological and financial needs. Cautions against choosing a system that will fade quickly or become obsolete.

Lesce, T. (1989, February). Tempe Arizona’s new system. Law and Order, pp. 37-40. The Tempe Police Department procured a new communications system. Each officer was assigned his/her own radio. A Motorola SMARTNET information system was added, which included push to talk I.D., several talk groups for different units and bureaus, Computer Assisted Dispatch and Mobile Data Terminals.

Lesce, T. (1989, July). Computer assisted profiling: Help for small departments. Law and Order, pp. 62-64. The FBI’s Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) is designed to link offender characteristics with certain crime scene features. Computer Assisted Profiling (CAP) has been designed to profile sexually related crimes for small departments.

Mallory, J. (1989, June). Small agencies use computers. Law and Order, pp. 37-41. Departments are beginning to take advantage of microcomputers. They are using Shareware and can partially finance the computers through state or federal agency grants.

Management information system has practical use. (1988, June). Police and Security Bulletin, pp. 1-2. The Police Information Management System (PIMS) for the State of Illinois has provided up-to-date information quickly and efficiently for the past 6 years. Some of the most proven applications of PIMS are summaries of incidents, arrests, and service calls.

Manning, W. W., & White, G. H. (1990, April). Data Diddling, Salami Slicing, Trojan Horses...Can your agency handle computer crimes? The Police Chief, pp. 46-49. Most departments are not prepared to handle computer crimes or computers when they are seized in operations. Departments need policies and procedures for investigating crimes.

Discusses the Montgomery County Maryland’s new automated public safety system which includes Response and Response F - two computer aided dispatch programs and Automated Law Enforcement Records Tracking (ALERT). For more information, contact Calibre Press, Inc., 666 Dundee Road, Suite 1607, Northbrook, IL 60062-2727; (800) 323-0037.


The St. Petersburg Police Department has found that cellular phones assist its officers in "time savings, better decisions, accelerated investigations, quicker apprehensions, more solved cases, early release of innocent suspects, closer supervision, increased officer availability, and improved officer safety."


The Clakamas County Oregon’s enhanced 911 system features a computer terminal that automatically shows the call’s place of origin, name of phone subscriber, phone number, and what emergency services serve the person calling.


The California Commission on Peace Officer’s Standards and Training has developed an automated testing and tracking system, POSTRAC. It is a distributive processing system used by basic training academies to access a battery of carefully developed classroom tests that are tailored to the basic academy curriculum.


Live-scan fingerprinting produces more accurate and legible fingerprints than inking and rolling and the images can be sent to an automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS).


BIS’s Public Safety System Software will be available on Motorola’s System 8000 multiuser, UNIX based computers.

Drug-Trak Plus is the name of a system that collects and tracks records for drug investigation units or the drug task force. For more information, contact the Institute of Police Technology and Management, University of Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Road, South, Jacksonville, FL 32216-6699; (904) 646-2722.

Discusses technological advances that will make patrol officers more efficient, via radio, computer and car telephone.

Under a new system being added to NCIC, an officer will be able to take and transmit a subject’s photograph and fingerprints from his/her police car to the police station and then on to NCIC where they will be digitized and stored on the host computer in Washington.

Discusses issues, earlier cases, features of statutes and different state approaches to computer crime.

An on-line Hazardous Substance Data Bank (HSDB), developed by the U.S. National Library of Medicine for the Hazardous Materials Response Team (HAZMAT), was designed to make HAZMAT’s TOXNET system faster and more efficient in dispensing pertinent emergency information. For more information about NLM’s TOXNET system, write to NLM’s Division of Specialized Information, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894; (301) 496-6531.

The Bowdoin College Security Department uses the on-campus Digital VAX to computerize its case index file, parking registration file, and parking ticket file for a more accurate and cost efficient information system.

Discusses hand-held computers used in issuing parking tickets.


Some of the most troublesome traps of computerization are: limiting your field of vision too soon, not correctly analyzing the costs involved, underestimating the need for external support, not considering data conversion costs for new systems, and failure to write a good contract with suppliers.


The Computer Assisted Report Entry (CARE) allows officers to call in reports by phone. Citizens can also call in certain reports directly, which eliminates the need to send cars to some calls.

Researchers say: Public police should use more high-tech to compete with private security. (1990, December 30). *Corporate Security Digest*, pp. 4-5.

According to Penn State researchers, public police departments will have to increase their use of high technology if they want to compete with private security.


The primary resource available to support street personnel is information: training, warrants, fleet maintenance schedules, written reports, crime statistics and case/criminal histories. This can be accomplished by the use of mainframe computers or PC-based department-wide systems.


Technically advanced alarm control panels can receive information sent from an off-site location by downloading information into a remote site.


Arcadia police have upgraded their information management system by purchasing an Altos 386 Series 2000 computer designed for the UNIX operating system. This system contains 30 fields for indexing police reports which can be cross-referenced and searched in a matter of seconds.

A speech by William S. Sessions, Director of the FBI, citing five technological and procedural initiatives that the FBI would be looking into: NCIC 2000, Automated Identification Systems (AIS), National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, reporting all crimes committed during an incident in the UCR, and DNA testing.


Departments are using computers for examination of firearms evidence, chemistry/toxicology, crisis management, digital imaging and networking.


Hand-held computers and fax machines increase officer efficiency.


The FBI has established the National Stolen Art File (NSAF) to help cut down on art theft, in excess of one billion dollars, that occurs each year. For more information, contact the National Stolen Art File, Laboratory Division/Document Section, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9th and Pennsylvania, NW, Washington, DC 20503; (202) 324-4452.


Excel is a "powerhouse" in spreadsheets which offers many features and allows resident experts or third-party suppliers to program other tasks. It also has extremely strong auditing and security features, including password protection.


The United States National Institute of Standards and Technology's Center for Computing and Applied Mathematics has developed a program called AutoBid which is designed to help in fleet selection.

Advocates the need for police administrators to keep police strategies (be they community policing or problem solving policing strategies) in mind when purchasing an information system to facilitate an increase in efficiency and cost-savings.


Artificial intelligence systems are extremely beneficial because they can always be consulted and are accessible by phone anywhere in the world.


The Virginia State Police’s Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) will allow remote cites to input and retrieve information.


The new strategy to increase accountability for police departments is automated management and crime-related information systems. It stresses the need for more efficient gathering, coding, storing and processing of information.


According to a 1989 computer security survey by Ernst and Young, system availability and continuity of data process service are the chief security goals for security professionals.


The New Orleans Police Department is utilizing several optical disk storage and retrieval systems to make the storage and retrieval of records more accurate, efficient, and cost effective.

World Status Map by WSM Publishing provides a country by country analysis of photo guidelines, currency controls and tourist and registry warnings, as well as travel advisory warnings. For more information contact WSM, Box 466, Merrifield, VA 22116; (703) 385-9080.


Geographic information systems (GIS) programs allow information to be placed, moved, and updated and maps to be drawn. They can be used to coordinate operations for emergency and relief agencies. Police software can be readily adapted to help in these efforts.


Lists agencies and systems which are utilizing computers and software. For more information, contact the Bureau of Justice Statistics (800) 732-3277.

Video imaging a police tool for the 90’s. (1990, May). Law and Order, pp. 103-105.

Law Enforcement Video Imaging System software permits the video photo of a suspect to be added to the arrest record on the computer. The image and report are stored on a laser optical disk and can be accessed through an on-line system.


An Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a computer system which matches latent prints with "tenprint" fingerprints taken from someone arrested previously.


ASISNET, an electronic network system, offers several services to its growing number of subscribers: security news bulletins, interactive bulletin board, electronic mail, and headquarters information. Contact Information, Inc.; (202) 833-1174.

A small department can purchase a personal computer complete with software programs for under $2,500.00. Database management systems can be purchased for approximately $300.00. For more information, contact: PFS: Professional dFile, Software Publishing Corp., 1901 Landings Drive, Mountain View, CA 94039, (800) 848-4391; Q & A, Symatec Corp., 10201 Torre Ave., Cupertino, CA, 95014; R:Base for Dos, Microrim, P.O. Box 97022; Redmond, WA 98073; dBase IV, Ashton-Tate Corp., 20101 Hamilton Ave., Torrance, CA 90502; (800) 437-4329.


An extension of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems can be made through the use of Mobile Data Terminals (MDT), from in-car to hand-held terminals. The hand-held terminals have been found to decrease the load on voice channels while providing the officer with quick response to data base inquires.


Bernstein, P. (1990, September). Breaking down the barriers to computerization. Trial, pp. 80-81. Examines psychological barriers to using computers faced by many lawyers, the factors which will compel lawyers to learn to use computers, and approaches to computerization.

Bernstein, P. (1990, October). Steps to getting started with your first PC. Trial, pp. 76-78. Proposes ten steps for getting into the computer market and recommends software packages for beginners.

Discusses various computer software packages utilized by law firms for case management, including a checklist of factors to consider when purchasing software for that purpose.

A description of rogue programs, recent incidents of rogue behavior in computer networks, a review of state and federal statutes, and a summary of pending federal legislation.

Describes the benefits of utilizing computer software in the calculation of guideline driven child support payments and makes specific software application suggestions.

Describes the growth in computer usage and discusses the phenomenon of computer crime, the difficulties encountered in defining and detecting computer crime, and recommended security procedures for use with personal computers and computer systems.

Examines the various uses for computers within plaintiffs' law firms and provides advice on how to go about buying hardware and software programs.

A comprehensive look at technological expectations in courts and their applications.

Discusses PRIVILEGE, a comprehensive office-management computer program built around the calendar which includes: a data base manager, docket and appointment screens, a card file system, and the program's application to a law practice.

Discusses Hypertext, a software system that makes links between one part of a document and another, and its applications to a law practice.
Describes the computerized assistance project (CAP) system developed and implemented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the benefits of the system.

Advantages of outlining software programs in litigation support.

Describes the management information system (MIS) developed for fine accounting, collection, and enforcement in Richmond County, New York. The MIS was designed to run on the court's microcomputer and to provide court administrators and judges with meaningful management information on the court's collection and enforcement activities.

Discusses Municipal Court Information (MCI) system utilized in Los Angeles County Municipal Courts.

Describes the use of litigation support software in courtrooms.

Explores the issue of whether or not computer software is eligible for both copyright and patent protection or whether copyright and patent protection for software should be mutually exclusive.

Examines the application of the Freedom of Information Act to computerized government documents.

Results of the 1989 American Bar Association's Legal Technology Resource Center Survey of smaller (25 or less attorney) law firms. Includes listing of numerous software programs with vendor addresses.

A look at a number of ways a comprehensive database can be useful to a law firm.


Small law firms need computers and can benefit enormously from them provided certain pitfalls are avoided. Describes the various applications of computers to law offices and suggests an approach to purchasing hardware and software.


Explores the advantages one small law firm experienced when it converted to personal computers and word processing and document assembly software.

Explores the acceptance of computerized records in courts, the specific admissibility of computerized driving records, statutes authorizing the use of properly certified driving records, legal issues associated with the use of these records, and provides a sample statute to facilitate the introduction of certified computer printouts of driving records.


Publications relative to computers, technology, legal issues created by technology, and technology-related legal literature.


Publications relative to computers, technology, legal issues created by technology, and technology-related legal literature.


Describes the American Bar Association's Legal Technology Resource Center (LTRC) and its services to members.


Describes the capabilities of CD-ROMs and WORMs for law offices, and lists some titles (then) currently on the market with vendor addresses.


Explores the benefits to trial lawyers of two types of trial support systems: document retrieval systems and computer-assisted transcript systems. Discusses specific software packages.

Contains reviews of nine automated systems in use in various state courts, including: FORECOURT Case Management System; Housing Court Information System (HCIS); Wyoming Statewide Court Automation Project; Alabama State Judicial Information System, Juvenile System; Prerecorded Videotaped Trials; Own Recognizance Management System (ORMS); Computerized Information Center for Pro Se Access; Jury Management System; and District Court Automation Software (DCAS).


Outlines the proposed Guidelines and Recommendations Relating to Computer Support for Judges produced by the National Conference of State Trial Judges Technology and the Future of the Courts Committee. These guidelines are designed to be objective standards used by judges in making decisions on hardware and software purchases.


Discusses automated legal forms and a document assembly software program called WorkForm and its use by one law firm.


A look at methods of increasing efficiency and profits in law offices through the use of computers, local-area networks (LANs), and software programs.


A description of the courtroom of federal district judge Roger Strand, of Phoenix, AZ. Technological innovations include Computer Aided Transcription (CAT), Computerized Legal Research, and PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) available to lawyers and the judge in the courtroom.


Discusses the use of personal information managers (PIMs) software packages in litigation preparation and support.


Describes methods in which technology can change the way rural courts now operate without causing them to lose their positive qualities.
Lackner, Jr., V. E. (1989). The lawyer as intelligent computer consumer. *Law Office Economics and Management, 30*, 149-168. Suggests a four step approach to computerization of law firms. Basic definitions of terminology, applications of hardware and software, and training are described with specific examples and references to additional resources.


Marx, R. L. (1990, April). Principles and predictions for justice information management systems. In Bureau of Justice Statistics (Ed.), *Criminal justice in the 1990’s: The future of information management* (BJS Publication No. NCJ-121697), (pp. 25-35). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice. Future implications of predominately court related information. Discusses some of the issues relevant to information management twenty years ago and how they have corrected themselves. Contends that the problems and concerns of today’s criminal justice technologies will be solved through the evolutionary process of scientific knowledge and case law.

Suggests factors for consideration in deciding whether or not to convert from outmoded computer systems. These factors include: (1) maintenance costs; (2) ad hoc reports; (3) enhancements; (4) functional time; and (5) user satisfaction.

Describes the capabilities and equipment needs of CD-ROMs for law firms.

Reviews recent advances in technology which should be of interest to attorneys including: laptop and portable computers, palmtop computers, modems, fax machines, telecommunications services, portable phones, and portable printers.

Examines artificial intelligence and its future applications to the practice of law.

Moss, D. C. (1988, October 1). There’s a PC on my desk: In the future, everyone will have a computer. ABA Journal, p. 26.
Cites several uses for computers in lawyers’ offices in the future.

Describes the pilot programs of the "Courtroom of the Future" project sponsored by the National Shorthand Reporters Association (NSRA).

Examines the feasibility and advantages of computer-supported jury management and offers suggestions on how to go about automation.

Describes the nature, classification, and literature of decision-aiding software as it relates to the practice of law and the legal process. Includes a four-part bibliography of literature related to legal reasoning.
A brief description of the ABA LawTech Center learning facility for ABA members.

Specific applications of CD-ROMs and CD-WORMs with detailed requirements for hardware and applications for law firms.

Outlines the services available to courts through the National Center for State Courts Technical Services. For each automated system, information can be provided about: court demographics, hardware profiles, software profiles for each case type, and information on other technologies used.

Describes the planning and choices necessary for effective use of data base programs in law practice.

A description of existing CD-ROM legal data bases and suggestions for implementing CD-ROM based research in law offices.

Describes problems and benefits of software transplants of court management programs.

Explores the success a solo practitioner experienced utilizing various software programs in his law practice.

Explores various uses of litigation support software programs including: databases, case management and tracking, computer-enhanced and generated demonstrative evidence, and artificial intelligence systems that assist legal analysis with on-screen prompts in fact patterns, with specific points to consider when purchasing litigation support software.

Explores problems posed by government use of electronically stored information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Depository Library Program (DLP).


Describes law office automation as it will be affected by artificial intelligence. Specific details are given on currently available forms of artificial intelligence, including expert systems and relational databases, which can be enhanced by the use of hypertext.


Describes the New York State Judiciary’s introduction of microcomputers in all aspects of information and records management. Discusses methodology and specific functions.


The author, a United States District Court Judge in Phoenix, describes his computer-integrated courtroom.


Describes the "Courtroom of the Future" project sponsored by the National Shorthand Reporters Association (NSRA) utilizing computer-aided transcription to assist judges, lawyers, law clerks, paralegals, and, when necessary, witnesses and interpreters.


Discusses the advantages of computers within a law firm and specific applications, such as electronic mail, User Defined Application Packages (UDAPs), and various software packages.


Describes the State Justice Institute, which has made both funding technological development and dissemination of information a major priority. Describes the "Courtroom of the Future" project sponsored by the National Shorthand Reporters Association (NSRA).

Contains information on automated systems and the court agencies utilizing those systems. Based on information generated from the Automated Index of Criminal Justice Information Systems database, which is maintained by the National Clearinghouse for Criminal Justice Information Systems.


Information on automated systems and the prosecuting agencies utilizing those systems. Based on information generated from the Automated Index of Criminal Justice Information Systems database, which is maintained by the National Clearinghouse for Criminal Justice Information Systems.


Explores the process of legal reasoning and legal problem solving, and the application of artificial intelligence.


Offers ideas about how communication among computers (and court personnel who use them) can improve the administration of justice.


Discusses automated systems for case management and court administration currently in use in the Fourth, Ninth, and Tenth Circuits. These systems include the New AIMS (New Appellate Information Management System) and the Appellate Records Management System (ARMS).


Describes a recommended course for law offices to follow when computerizing, with specific recommendations on computer hardware and software.

A look at the use of computers to deal with the problems of "information float." Solid administrative suggestions are provided, which include training, levels of computer literacy, planning strategies, and preparing for change.


A comprehensive overview of computers and their use in criminal justice. Includes detailed information on topics of data bases, management information systems, desktop publishing, word processing, computer assisted instruction, networking, and monitoring of offenders. A glossary and references.


Notes several problems within the system which lead to a lack of computerization: inconsistencies in software packages, fragmentation of the CJ system, privacy of offender records, and geographic updating and connections.


Discusses methods for evaluating Management Information Systems (MIS) while distinguishing between private MIS and Public MIS (PMIS). The results are guidelines for PMIS design, operation, and evaluation.


A comprehensive guide for CJ practitioners assigned the task of selecting computer hardware and software. Written at a level the novice could understand, yet contains information useful to the intermediate computer user. Includes a glossary of terms.

A state by state guide to the implementation and continuation of criminal history data bases. Useful for statistical purposes, however, no technical assistance or information is provided.


Computers and increasing technology will lead to increased unrest in urban areas, and an increase in the need for personal relationships. Even though technology can replace many humanistic factors, many things cannot be replaced, such as personal values, relationships, and democratic processes.


A synopsis of the Florida Criminal Justice Information Systems network. These systems provide information sharing for the state of Florida which track cases from arrest through the correctional system.


An overview of the implementation of intake computerization in the St. Louis Family and Support Centers. Discusses how to set up a similar program, and learn from the St. Louis mistakes. All topics, including planning, training, staffing, professional responses, and benefits are elaborated.


An account of the development of the Correction Management Information System (CORMIS) in Westchester County, New York. Provides insight into the legislative involvement phase of correctional information systems. Concludes that, regardless of the initial costs, a computerized system is "indispensable" for "new generation jails."
A synopsis of the Construction Information Exchange, a database established by the National Institute of Justice. It offers on-line information regarding new construction technologies, as well as planning and financial information for new jail and prison construction.

A historical perspective of correctional policy while addressing future changes. Author believes that the policy of "get tough on crime" will increase, which will lead to the need for greater accountability by probation and parole officers. Technology will assist with this accountability factor. More of a philosophical view, with little information on technology or information management.

A historical and legal view of electronic monitoring. Limited information is cited for the actual technological setup of this sentencing alternative, however, the NIMCOS organization is used as a brief example of the workings.

There is no substitute for quality staff, regardless of the level of technology utilized in a correctional facility. An argument is made to train all correctional employees in technological advances, otherwise the goals of safety, security, and efficiency are not capable of being met.

A look at the effects computers have had, and will have, on organizational structure, employment, work life, politics, and decision making in public sector agencies.

Examines microcomputer software packages used to automate practices of independent social workers. Programs reviewed include: word processing, data base and file management, spreadsheets, statistical programs, integrated programs, utility programs, and accounting programs.


A discussion of authors' exposure to conducting research in human service agencies; a brief account of their successes and failures. Focuses on data collection (database software) and statistical analysis programs.


A systematic method for selecting an information system within the human service agencies. A basic discussion, however, the issues are essential to the novice computer user. Discusses how to develop a request for proposals to submit to vendors, plus how to make a decision on a vendor once the proposals are received.


Discusses pitfalls involved in excessive reliance on technology at the expense of innovative programs and policies designed to satisfy inmate populations and prevent reliance on increased security. Suggests that technology hides the real problems associated with inadequate training and planning and serves to build false securities.


Survey of state government use of computer decision support systems used to assist in nonroutine decision making. Implications for manager include increased organizational effectiveness due to the ability to cooperate with other agencies and to obtain resources; the ability to provide effective and swift response to requests for information; and the ability to justify requests for resources.
Commentary on the uses of human resources and technology to ensure efficient operation of correctional facilities and warns against excessive reliance on technology at the expense of the individuals housed and monitored by corrections.

Discusses NASA research being used to assist correctional institutions. An example is the low-cost magnetic resonance imaging system like those used in CAT scans, which are now being used to detect contraband or weapons in prisons.

Reviews computer use for social work practice including client intake and assessment, establishing treatment goals and developing treatment plans, diagnosing and interpreting client data, and overseeing client progress as the use of current technology allows for a more efficient method of data collection and display.

Provides a comprehensive overview of computers: various hardware, uses of each and suggestions on how to decide what to purchase. Reviews various software programs. A thorough mini-dictionary helpful to beginners.

A practical guide to those considering automation. Establishes computerization as a means to increase agency effectiveness.

Presents problems associated with the technological developments of the 1960’s which allowed for alternatives to incarceration. Although dated, the article is useful in regard to the evolution of the use of current electronic monitoring technology and in recognizing the author’s worst fear: the use of electronic monitoring primarily for surveillance.

Presents the evolution of computerization in public organizations with focus on technological solutions or upgrades which can resolve problems associated with outmoded systems.


Discusses the use of, problems associated with, and cost efficiency of electronic telecommunications in nonprofit human service programs.


Addresses the purpose of an NIC grant awarded to the American Correctional Association to provide for the development of a users' guide to evaluate current uses of correctional technology.


Results of a SEARCH survey which compiled information on computer software and hardware used by correctional agencies in the U.S. Information is given per department with limited narration.


Results of a SEARCH survey which compiled information on computer software and hardware used by probation and parole departments in the U.S. Information is given per department with limited narration.


Discusses the Automated Social History (ASH) software program used mostly by probation officers to gather data for use in the intake and Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) process.

An overview of computer scoring and interpretation of psychological tests used in corrections.


An overview of basic computer concepts with clear cut examples and definitions. A primer for persons with no computer knowledge to receive methods for selecting computers and ideas for computer uses. Contains a simple glossary and references. Some concepts and tasks are outdated.