FOCUS ON JANET USERS IN HONG KONG

With the realization of the advantages brought about by using computers for classroom instructions, a number of schools today have set up their own computer systems through the Model Classroom Program introduced by IBM. The IBM Model Classroom, which uses JANET software packages developed by the Waterloo University of Canada, is being implemented today by some schools in Hong Kong like the Diocesan Boys' School and St. Paul's Secondary School.

A closer look on these schools will be provided in the following articles, together with the introduction of another JANET user, the Hong Kong Baptist College.

DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL

The Diocesan Boys' School, founded in 1869 by the Angelican Church, is one of Hong Kong's government-aided schools. It has 32 classes with approximately 1,100 students from Form 1 to Upper Six.

The Diocesan Boys' School (DBS) was the first in Hong Kong to implement the IBM Model Classroom on March 8, 1985. Initially, only Form 4 & 5 students used the Model Classroom for classes in Basic Language Programming and Fundamental Computer Concepts. Since then, a lot of students from Form 1 to 7 have been benefiting from it.

Form 5, 3 and 1 students use the Model Classroom for various classes:

FORM 5

There is one class for FORM 5 students. Topics taught include Evolution of Information Processing, Computer Operation, Basic Programming, Flowcharting, Input/Output and the Coding of Information, Data Processing and Computers in the Modern World.

In addition, the students are required to develop 4 main projects on the following topics – Arithmetic Function, Games Simulation, Data Processing and Computer Assisted Learner.

Topics taught for Form 5 students are more intensive than other levels since they are required to take the H.K.C.E.E. (Certificate of Education Examination), a government examination which includes a test in Computer Studies.

FORM 3

There are six classes for FORM... (Continued on page 4)
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3 students. The topics taught include: Introduction to LAN, Word Processing, Editor, PFS, and Sidekick. Classes are conducted from May to June, right after their Junior School Examination. This is done to give the students new activities and to give them a "feel" for computers before they make a decision whether to take Computer Studies as a course in Form 4.

FORM 1, 3 & 5

Two DBS Mathematics teachers use the Model Classroom facilities to demonstrate how the computer can help in solving their mathematical functions. Mathematical Softwares by Houghton Mifflin are used for classroom activities. There are 40 students from Form 1, 40 students from Form 3 and 36 students from Form 5 who use this software.

School clubs at DBS also make use of the Model Classroom facilities for recording or corresponding purposes. The software/utilities used are JANET Command, DOS, WATFILE, Word Processing and Editor. The facilities are used by students coming from Form 1 to Form 7 during lunch time when it is not booked for the Computer Club or after school hours.

The Diocesan Boys' School intends to conduct 2 classes in the coming September for Form 4 aside from its plan to introduce to more Forms the wide range of Computer Application in subjects other than Computer Studies.

Facilities

Diocesan Boys' School has 20 IBM PCs and 1 IBM PC/XT as server.

Contact Persons:
Mr. Jaclang Lai – Principal (Headmaster)
Ms. Lily Cheung – Chairperson-Computer Department
Mr. C.K. Ma – Teacher-Computer Department

(Based on the report of Ms. Lily Cheung-Chairman, Computer Department)

ST. PAUL'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

St. Paul's Secondary School is a Catholic institution for girls established in 1960. It is also a government-aided school with a population of more than 1,000 students.

St. Paul's Secondary School started Computer Studies in 1980 using machines donated to them. The school has found this very useful as reflected in the 100% passing average of students in the public examination in Computer Studies.

The IBM Model Classroom, using the JANET software, was first installed in August 1986. At first, only Form 1, 2 & 3 students used the Model Classroom with the supervision of 3 teachers in Computer Literacy. This year, however, everybody is taking the course.

Facilities

The IBM Model Classroom at St. Paul's Secondary School includes 20 units of IBM JX and 1
IBM PC/XT server.

Form 1 students learn typing using the IBM Typing Tutor. There are about 400 students from Form 1 & 2 using the Model Classroom for Computer Literacy. Form 3 students study the Introductory Course in Basic Programming. Form 4 & 5 use the Model Classroom for Basic Programming. Form 5 students concentrate on other computer subjects in preparation for the government examinations.

Contact Person:
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HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE

The Hong Kong Baptist College was founded on March 5, 1956 by the United Hong Kong Christian Baptist Churches Association, now the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong. At present, it has 2,400 full-time students pursuing honours diploma or degree programs in 18 different departments.

Computer Literacy was introduced in 1983 as one of the liberal education subjects required for all students in the College. The subject's goals are three-fold: to create an awareness of the impact of computers and technology within the society; to explore possible uses of computers by individuals and organizations; and to complement and augment other liberal and vocational elements of the curricula of the College. The subject is designed to have at least three hours per week hands-on machine practice with a programming language and popular software packages in the areas of word-processing, spreadsheet, database and statistics on microcomputer studies.

Facilities

The Centre for Computing Studies and Services was established in January 1985. In September 1985, the College installed its first two JANET systems, each with 10 IBM-PCs with 512 KB memory and enhanced colour graphic capabilities. An IBM PC/AT with 30 MB hard disk is the server of each JANET. At present, the College has a total of 9 JANET systems with 10 or 11 IBM-PCs or IBM-JXs in each system. The JANET systems had been distributed in different places in the College. Two JANET systems with IBM-PCs are in the Science Faculty student computer room supported by dot-matrix system printers. Two other JANET systems with IBM-JXs are in the Business Faculty student computer room supported by dot-matrix system printers. Four JANET systems with IBM-JXs are in the main student computer room supported by a print spooling system in a VAX 11/750 to a Xerox 3700 laser printer. One JANET system is used by the staff in the Centre for Computing Studies and Services. The standard set of WATCOM software has been installed in all the 9 JANET systems, supplemented by specially arranged software according to individual JANET system usage.

(Based on the article by King Foo Suen – Centre for Computing Studies and Services.)