Apple /// Computer Information
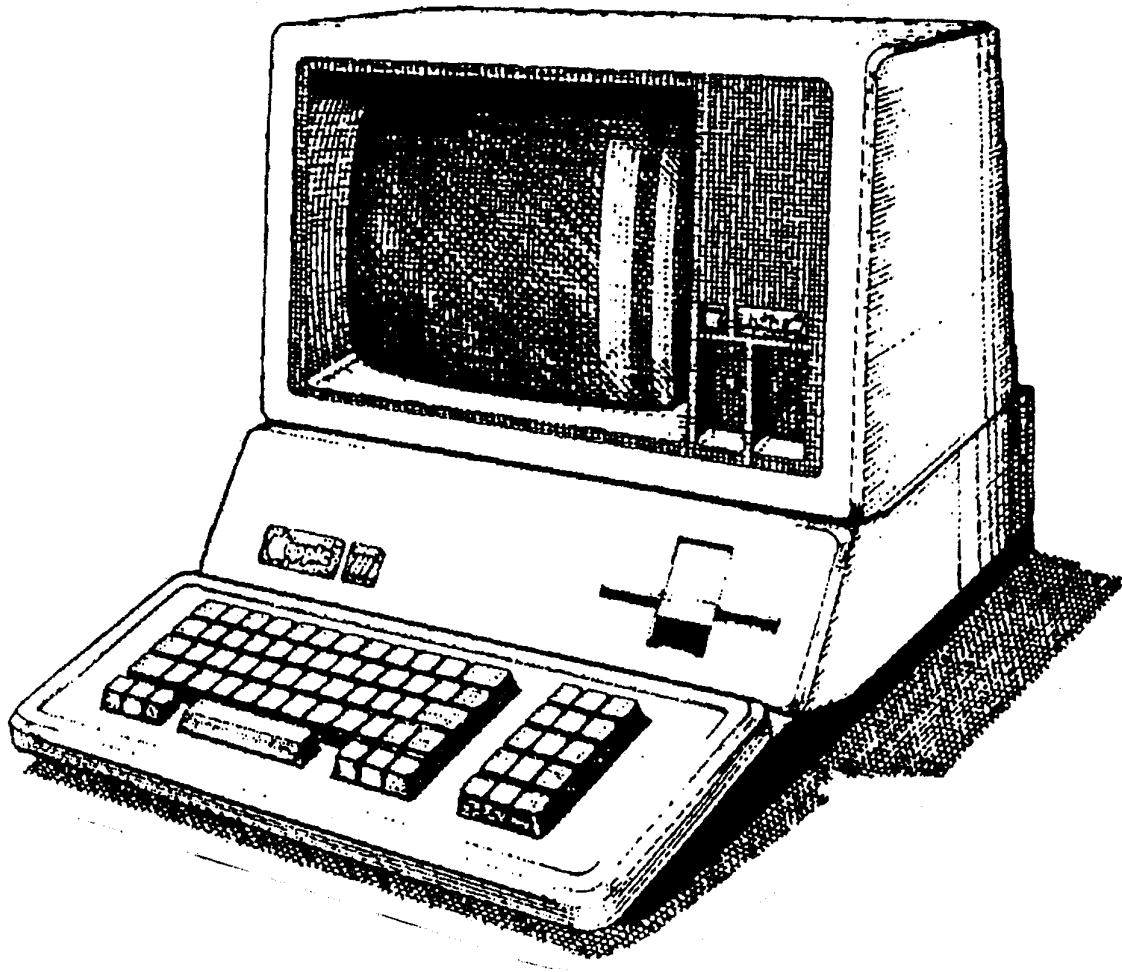
DOCUMENT NAME

INFORMATION ON THE USE OF RPS

1986

159

Ex Libris David T. Craig

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 1    Title: Information on the use of RPS        -
 2    Created by: SYSOP on: 11/22/1988 13:42:01
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 4    ~04/21/1986    08:41:24
 5    From: Tom Betz
 6
 7           I just picked up RPS Record Processing Services (a now-unsupported
 8    Apple product, an extension of Pascal) from Sun Data, and was able to use it
 9    to write a book indexing assistant program that had taken me about two weeks
10    in standard Pascal, and have it working in about four days! As far as I know,
11    the world's RPS expert is Terri Wiles (of CompuCraft, makers of PostMaster Mail
12    List Manager)... are there any contenders out there with experiences to share?
13    Anybody who has the source for it, so that we may continue to support it, in
14    Apple's absence?
15
16           For those unfamiliar with RPS, it provides an easy and fast means of
17    maintaining indexed data files keyed on practically any number of fields.  It
18    operates as an extension of Pascal, and essentially maintains an index file
19    for each data file you use... which means that instead of the usual 10-12 file
20    limit (depending on how you direct output to printers, or whether you use a
21    program library file [If the program is PROGRAM.CODE, the library file is
22    PROGRAM.LIB, and takes up one of the available file slots] ) you end up with
23    a maximum of 5-6 data files, meaning that you must create very large records,
24    and it is more difficult to attach "parallel" files to existing files, since
25    there is no "sequence" number to key from...  but it also provides for the
26    file data space to be "paged" dynamically, and space is allocated based on
27    what is needed at the moment, instead of all declared file types being
28    allocated all the time, as is usually the case.
29
30           As I said, I've just started working with it... but Sun Data has it for
31    a _very_ reasonable price, and if you're working with very large data files,
32    it will save you a lot of time, both in program development, and in file
33    access.
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