

Status Report on PDP-1 Software Cataloging
Prepared for March 15, 2006 Meeting of the SCC
by Judith Tauber-Lovik

Progress

To date, I have cataloged approximately 120 paper tape items. Many items involved multiple paper tapes that were marked Part 1...n and/or were adjacent to each other in their container. Containers were of three kinds:

1. Covered boxes from the paper tape supplier,
2. Folding cartons from the paper tape supplier,
3. Multi-compartment paper tape trays, plastic with see-through covers.

Details entered in the catalog include:

1. the “Title” on each paper tape and whether it included an official DEC label,
2. any label on the container it was in,
3. a description of the relationship among tapes in multi-tape items, and
4. the date on which the item was received for cataloging.

The wrapping, tying, labeling and boxing of the actual items has been refined with experience, and seems to provide for good preservation.

Immediate Goals

1. Gain an understanding of the kind of “report” that will be generated from these entries, in order to refine my inputs.
2. Meet with Lyle Bickley and Eric Smith, to gain a better understanding of the content of the tapes and to learn whether they already exist in “working copy” form.

Longer Term Goals

1. Contact Al Kossow to learn how this effort can best interface with his.

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Progress

The entire collection of paper tapes taken from the PDP-1 lab has now been cataloged, along with 13 new items (bearing DECUS labels) attributed to Al Kossow.

The total number of catalog entries showing JTL as the cataloger stands at 351.

Follow-up on Last Month's Goals

Objective: Gain an understanding of the kind of “report” that will be generated from these entries, in order to refine my inputs.

- Paula Jabloner created a preliminary report on which I could readily proofread my entries; it will be some time before a layout is created for public access to this data.

Objective: Meet with Lyle Bickley and Eric Smith, to gain a better understanding of the content of the tapes and to learn whether they already exist in “working copy” form.

- I deemed this goal to be unrealistic in view of the PDP-1 team’s need to prepare for the public showing on May 15, 2006.

Objective: Contact Al Kossow to learn how this effort can best interface with his.

- Al and I first met at the close of the 3/15/06 SCC meeting and on two subsequent occasions; he gave me a preliminary overview of his work on bitsavers.org
- My immediate objective of getting the paper tapes completely cataloged preempted any further effort in this direction.

Current Objective

Get acquainted with the process for cataloging PDP-1 text documents and begin working on that effort.