

The SPIRES Program: Multi-Use in Sport History

R. WAYNE SIMPSON

University of Alberta

The nature of this presentation was to show how, with little technical knowledge of computers, sport historians could establish a data base which would have the capability of storing, querying, maintaining and retrieving information. Evidence was given to show how the information market is rapidly expanding and as such, historians should become concerned with more effective means of collecting and storing data.

It was an important consideration of this presentation to make clear that computers are only tools and by no means would they replace the cognitive assembling of information by the sport historian. But in light of this, it was suggested that computers can allow individuals more time to qualitatively intellectualize rather than quantitatively assimilate various data.

Included in the presentation was an historical discussion of the development of data bases, along with an explanation of some of the terms and terminology of information management systems. As well, the organizational structure of the Stanford Public Information Retrieval System (SPIRES) was outlined and a 'hands on' demonstration of sample files was presented.