

New York State and SDC for unified project planning and joint execution of the project.

THE PLANNED SYSTEM

The basic concepts

The New York State Identification and Intelligence System, the first of its kind in the world, has as its long-range goal a computer-based central facility, located at the capital city of Albany, that will store all the information pooled in the system. Qualified agencies concerned with the administration of criminal justice, located anywhere in the State, may contribute and have access to this information center on a voluntary basis via a communication network.

The system's approach is based on the concept of information sharing among all agencies involved in administering criminal justice; these agencies fall into six broad functional groups—police, prosecutors, criminal courts, probation, correction, and parole. These agencies are necessarily independent and autonomous in their operations, yet none of these agencies provides a service that is a totality of and by itself; none functions alone. Each of these agencies has a part in a continuous operation; one subject, and his accompanying file, for example, go successively through these respective agencies until the ultimate disposition of the particular case. With rare exceptions, none of these agencies, except the police, may take official action unless it is on a matter in which another agency has previously acted, and then it is usually concerned with the predecessor agency's "product." Each agency needs to have the same information, with some variations, about each subject, yet each is currently served by separate information sources.

At present, the sharing of information among agencies is uneven in quality; i.e., the transfer of facts often is unsystematic and undependable. A major problem has been the difficulty of developing regular procedures for movement of information among agencies that are involved in different aspects of public service, but are in possession of information of great value were a means for dispensing it to other agencies available.

For example, how is fact "A" in the official files in Buffalo to be correlated with fact "B" in Albany and, perhaps, additional facts in New York City? At present they are not coordinated. Upon full implementation, the new system will provide unified and complete information to all appropriate agencies without compromising the sensitive nature of the information; it will not inhibit their independence of operation, but will provide unity—of information—where unity is urgently needed.

While the system will represent a new agency in State government, independent of all present agencies, it will have no operational powers (such as arrest, prosecution, confinement); it will be strictly a State service agency and will not diminish the authority or autonomy of operation of any of the participating agencies. The system is not a few fact-gathering device; it merely makes facts already being gathered by these agencies at taxpayer expense significantly more useful. It is a service tool for these agencies. Its routine functions can be operated effectively by present personnel of the user agencies; the system is basically simple and does not require the creation of an entirely new professional staff or new physical facilities.

There are 3,636 separate and virtually independent agencies that are potential State and local subscribers to the system. Among these are:

Six hundred and eleven police agencies.

Sixty-two district attorneys.

Seventy-five probation agencies.

Two thousand four hundred and seventy-nine courts with criminal interest, including 2,278 justices of the peace.

Four hundred and six institutions for custody and detention.

Three parole agencies.

Selective use of the system can be made by many other agencies, including:

The Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor.

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.

The New York State Department of Law.

The New York State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The New York State Department of Mental Hygiene.

System capabilities

In support of the normal daily operation of these participating agencies, the fully implemented system will provide rapid access to summary criminal history, as well as detailed criminal, social, and modus operandi data on each subject;