

This office was formed when on May 16, 1968, the Administrator of GSA merged the GSA ADP organization responsible for Government-wide ADP management, utilization, and procurement of ADP equipment and related resources with the ADP organization which had previously been responsible for GSA's own internal ADP service requirement.

This reorganization immediately constituted 11 Federal data processing centers with all manpower and equipment pooled to meet Federal agency needs.

It also provided a firm organizational basis for the rapid expansion of Federal data processing center operations without increasing operating staff overhead.

With GSA leading the way as the first agency to rely fully on Federal data processing centers operating through the ADP Fund to support its ADP operations requirements, we anticipate benefits for GSA and other agencies through:

1. Elimination of duplicative liaison with manufacturers and associations.
2. Reduce internal management of separate funds.
3. Provide a nationwide career ladder for ADP employees which should reduce turnover and multiple Federal recruiting for scarce ADP skills.
4. Provide opportunities to level ADP operations workload nationwide and attain maximum equipment utilization.

40. Will you describe its functions?

(a) Plans, develops, promotes, directs, and coordinates all GSA programs and activities relating to management, operation, utilization, and procurement of ADP equipment and related resources.

(b) Coordinates GSA's efforts with those of BOB, NBS, CSC, and other Federal agencies, congressional committees, industrial associations, and ADP concerns and representatives in the establishment and execution of definitive programs for improving the management, utilization, and procurement of ADP equipment and related resources throughout the Government.

(c) Plans for the development of centralized data processing services and operations for Federal agencies whose individual programs do not warrant establishment of their own data processing operations; and for those who require additional capacity to meet extraordinary workload demands.

(d) The Government-wide area, under the direction of the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Automated Data Management Services (ADP Resources Procurement and Development), consists of three divisions; (1) Inventory and Requirements Management; (2) Procurement; and (3) Technical Developments. The ADP operations area, under the direction of the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Automated Data Management Services (ADP Operations), consists of five divisions: (1) Applied Programming; (2) Operations Coordination; (3) Federal Supply Data Systems; (4) Public Buildings, Records, and Property Management and Disposal Data Systems; and (5) Transportation, Communications, and Staff Offices Data Systems.

(e) The Federal Data Processing Centers in the various GSA regions provide ADP services for GSA and other agencies. The regional ADP coordination branches review and assist other agencies in satisfying their requirements for ADP services and equipment.

41. Who has the responsibility for deciding whether or not the use of a computer for a particular function within your agency is justified?

The program manager makes the final determination.

42. On what basis is the decision made? Are there documented systems studies available for review in all cases?

The basis of the decision is as follows:

(a) Technical feasibility.

(b) Economic advantages or mission necessity.

Since 1965 systems studies have been documented for all cases and are on file.

43. Can you cite instances in which a request for a computer system was disapproved for lack of adequate justification?

There are instances where requests for a computer system were disapproved. For example, a major nationwide supply system designated Project 65 was proposed but was rejected when results of the study indicated it would be too costly for the benefits derived therefrom. A second example is a computer system feasibility study performed on "Matching Civil Agency Requirements to Available Excess Personal Property." The computer system was found to be too costly and therefore rejected. A more economical EAM processing system was approved and is presently in operation.

44. Assuming the use of a computer has been fully justified by a proper study, are there procedures for determining whether the requirement can be satisfied by using (sharing) equipment already installed in your agency? Will you describe the procedure?