

Gabriel Chrisman – IPL Question #2

Needed by: no need by

Question:

What are the effects of computer technology and how has it revolutionized the business world?

name: felicia

from: fmk_533@live.com

confirm: fmk_533@live.com

location: trinidad

area: Computers

reason: this information will be used as a guide in my research

school: Yes

Greetings from the IPL! Thank you for sending in this question about computer technology in the business world – I had a good time locating resources for your research.

The most specific site I found for your topic was this resource: From Carbons to Computers: the Changing American Office.

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/carbons/start.html

This link is very long and may break. Here is a shortened version for your convenience:

<http://tinyurl.com/o25bz>

Within this site, the page which most specifically addresses your question is:

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/carbons/computers.html

This link is very long and may break. Here is a shortened version for your convenience:

<http://tinyurl.com/yhjgtf7>

This site has been put together by the Smithsonian Institution, and can be considered to be a very reliable source. I found this site by starting at the Librarian's Internet Index:

<http://www.lli.org/>

This is a useful general collection of websites which have been verified by librarians for accuracy and usefulness. From their main page, I selected 'Business', then clicked on 'Company Histories, General'. This brought me to this listing:

<http://www.lli.org/pub/subtopic/710>

The link I selected is the second one from the top.

There are many articles on this topic in various publications, some of which are available freely on the internet. One example is

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/10/071008080207.htm>

This link is very long and may break. Here is a shortened version for your convenience:

<http://tinyurl.com/yjj985b>

This article was published in Science Daily, which is a journal focused on a wide selection of current science research. While this is a commercial source, and contains advertising, it should also contain reliable information. The article is credited to researchers at the University of

Wisconsin, Milwaukee. I found this article by searching Google for “history of computers in business change” (without the quotes). The article above was the top result.

A conference paper on “Business Computing: the Second 50 Years” is freely available here:

<http://is2.lse.ac.uk/LEO/Archive/mowery.pdf>

This is a PDF document, which will require Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free software application that is available for download here:

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

This fascinating and useful paper describes the introduction of computing technology to a small chain of British teashops in the 1950s. It was written by David C. Mowery, who is a professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. There are many references to further reading at the end of this paper. The paper is offered through a British society known as the LEO Computer Society, devoted to studying early computers. You can find more information about them here, including more information that may be helpful in your research:

http://is2.lse.ac.uk/LEO/About_LEO.htm

Because of the academic source of this paper, it should be considered a reliable source.

I also located a good source for general information on the history of computers for your reference:

<http://www.thocp.net/index.html>

This includes a helpful timeline linked from the main page that will help with understanding when and in what form computers entered the workplace. The site has been reviewed by the Internet Public Library and can be considered reliable – it also lists many references to further information, and cites the sources of information that is included on their pages.

I found this site through the Internet Public Library, which listed it on their ‘History of Computers & the Internet’ page:

<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/hum30.03.30/>

I found this listing under ‘Computers’ from their main menu.

I hope you find this information useful in your research. Thank you for using the IPL, and please don’t hesitate to come back and ask more questions!