



Dr Marcus Wigan in 1960's Hertford College Oxford First Rowing VIII regalia

This book is a 1967 DPhil Thesis at the University of Oxford plus historical commentary. This scanned version was created from the authors' copy, and the context surrounding it documented. No hardcopy remained at the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford by 2010. A softcopy of the present book is available at www.mwigan.com.

It is the first known Thesis prepared using word processing (via paper tape) for the entire document. The term "word processing" itself did not exist when this thesis was produced. The word was invented by IBM in 1969 when they added magnetic cards to their 1964 MG/ST Selectric electric Typewriter and then coined the term.

The details of the process and the events that led to the creation of this book are given in the introduction. As a result of the methods of production, it was trivial to respond to subsequent requests for copies from several major US and French Nuclear Research Centres, using the paper tape, at a time when all other practical means of reproduction were both expensive and of very low quality.

Dr Wigan subsequently undertook a career in transport research and policy, with a major commitment to information technology, computing, document and data repositories, and library information systems.

As a natural follow-on from this first word processed thesis, he has also run a specialist software distribution organisation (Oxford Systematics) for the last 30 years, handling TeX and other mathematical and other typesetting systems.

Dr Wigan is currently an Emeritus Professor of Transport and Computing Systems at Edinburgh Napier University, and a Visiting Professor in Civil Engineering at the Centre for Transport Studies at Imperial College London and completes an eight-year term at the end of 2011 as a Professorial Fellow in the Department of Infrastructure at the University of Melbourne.



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M.R. Wigan

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The first known word-processed thesis (1967)



The AERE Harwell Synchrocyclotron in 1967

M.R. Wigan