

Lecture no. 3

Department: Information and Library Science

Subject: Information Storage & Retrieval

Name of the lecture: Input devices

Dr. Arwa Z. Nasser

INPUT DEVICES

The following devices are used for input operations, giving the definition and the functions of each one.

Input hardware: Devices that take data and programs that people can read or comprehend and convert them to a form the computer can process.

Devices are of two types : Keyboard entry and direct entry. It enables data to be put into computer process form.

Digital Camera : Type of electronic camera that uses a light sensitive silicon chip to capture photographic images in digital form. It can produce images in digital form that can be transmitted directly to a computer's hard disk for manipulation, storage, and printing out.

Electronic Camera: Type of camera that captures images in electronic form immediate viewing on a television or computer display screen. Two types are : Still-video cameras and digital cameras. It can convert images to digital form, which can be manipulated by computer.

Image Scanner : Also known as imaging system, or graphic scanner. It converts text, drawings and photographs into digital form that can be stored in a computer system. The image scanners have enabled users with desktop publishing software to readily input images into computer system for manipulation, storage and output.

Key-board: Typewriter-like input device that converts letters, numbers, and other characters into electrical signals that the computer's processor can read. Keyboards are the most **popular kind of** input device.

Mouse: Direct-entry input device that is rolled about on a desktop to position a cursor or pointer on the computer's display screen, which indicates the area where data may be entered or a command executed. For many purposes a mouse is easier to use than a key-board for communicating commands to a computer. With microcomputers, a mouse is needed to use most graphical user interface programs and to draw illustrations. **Sensor:** Type of input device that collects specific type of data directly from the environment and transmits it to a computer. Sensors can be used for detecting speed, movement, weight, pressure, temperature, humidity, wind, current, fog, gas, smoke, light, shapes, images.

Smart card: Wallet-type card containing a microprocessor and memory chip that can be used to input data. In some countries, telephone users may buy a smart card that lets them make telephone calls until the total cost limit programmed into the card has been reached.

Terminal: Input device that consists of a keyboard, a video display screen, and a communications line to a main computer system. It is generally used to input data to, and receive visual data from, a main frame computer system.

Touch Screen : Video display screen that has been sensitized to receive input from the touch of a finger. It is often used in automatic teller machines and in directories conveying tourist information. Because touch screens are

easy to use, they can convey information quickly and can be used by people with no computer training ; however , the amount of information offered is usually limited.

Voice Recognition System: Input system that converts a person's speech into digital code. The system compares the electrical patterns produced by the speaker's voice with a set of prerecorded patterns stored in the computer. Voice recognition technology is useful for inputting data in situation in which people are unable to use their hands or need their hands free for other purposes.