

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.017

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Object name: IBM Card Punch Model 29C

Vintage: c.1969

Synopsis: Classic IBM punched card punch.

**Description:**

This is a classic IBM punched card reader that was attached to the IBM 360/44 used by the Dept.Computer Science from 1969.

Punch cards evolved with the Jacquard weaving looms, Babbage's difference and analytical engines, Hollerith tabulators, and thence into computing, where they were used to write programs in the era before interactive computing (and also very widely for tea/coffee cup coasters, notepads, bookmarks, even cardboard aeroplanes). The writer of this text was still punching cards for a batch-oriented CDC Cyber73 in 1980! IBM held the Herman Hollerith patents on the punch card, which usually had 80 columns, i.e. 80 characters, and this linewidth survives to this day. Punching was very time-consuming and error prone, so punches did helpful things like auto-feed of the next card, and software developers soon learned simplicity was a real virtue.

The IBM 29 card punch was introduced on 14-Oct-1964, and continued to be for sale until May-1984. The punch and its companion, the IBM 59 card verifier, were used to record and check information in punched cards, and then those cards were read into a computer. The IBM 29 had an extended character set that made it useful for scientific computing.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.017	IBM Card Punch Model 29C. S/N: 55-92745-89



*Figure 1: IBM Card Punch Model 29C three-quarter view*



*Figure 2: IBM Card Punch Model 29C keyboard*



*Figure 3: IBM Card Punch Model 29C notice to users*



*Figure 4: IBM Card Punch Model 29C label*





*Figure 5: IBM Card Punch Model 29C serial number 55-92745-89*