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[[File:Papertape3.jpg|thumb|300px|A program in [[paper tape]]]]

Humans have been storing, retrieving, manipulating, and communicating information since the [[Sumer]]ians in [[Mesopotamia]] developed [[Cuneiform|writing]] in about 3000 BC.<ref name="Butler">{{citation |last=Butler |first=Jeremey G. |title=A History of Information Technology and Systems |url=http://www.tcf.uw.edu/az/HistoryOutline.htm |publisher=University of Arizona |access-date=2 August 2012}}.</ref> However, the term "information technology" in its modern sense first appeared in a 1958 article published in the "[[Harvard Business Review]]"; authors [[Harold Leavitt|Harold J. Leavitt]] and Thomas L. Whisler commented that "the new technology does not yet have a single established name. We shall call it information technology (IT)." Their definition consists of three categories: techniques for processing, the application of [[Statistics|statistical]] and mathematical methods to [[decision-making]], and the simulation of higher-order thinking through computer programs.<ref name="LeavittWhisler">{{citation |title=Management in the 1980s |url=http://hbr.org/1958/11/management-in-the-1980s |last1=Leavitt |first1=Harold J. |last2=Whisler |first2=Thomas L. |journal=Harvard Business Review |year=1958 |volume=11}}.</ref>

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