**Chapter 8: Multifile Processing: Sequential Access**

**Ref book: Programming Practices & Techniques (6th edition)**

1. **What is the master file and transaction file?** (page no-155)

**Ans:**

**Master file:** A relatively **permanent file** that contains information **used regularly**; a file that must be updated and maintained.

Example: The inventory file.

**Transaction file:**

- A file that is retained for only a short time.

- A relatively **temporary file** that contains information that is used to update or

maintain a master file.

**N.B:** Master files and transaction files will be accesed **sequentially**.

1. **What do you mean by sequential access and serial access?** (page no-156)

**Ans:**

**Sequential access**: A special case of serial access in which the records in the file are in order on one or more fields.

More information>>>

* Sequential access is one form of serial access.
* The value in a field in each record is called **key** **field.**
* When the master and transaction files are **in sequence on the same** **key field**, the matching process is much **more efficient**.

**Serial access**: Processing records in a file by starting with the first record and

taking each succeeding record in turn.

1. **What is the key field?**(page no-156)

**Ans:** The field or fields that are used to identify a record;

1. **Why do we use a key field?** (page no-156)

**Ans:** Key field used in

* **sorting a sequential file** and in
* **retrieving records** from a direct file**.**

1. **What is the type of categorize in file-processing activities? Write the name of them?**

**Ans:** File processing activities can be categorised as

* Maintaining
* Updating
* Referencing

1. **What is the types of forms media we will use for sequential files or master files.**

**Ans:** Two types of forms media we will use for sequential or master files….

* Magnetic tape &
* Magnetic disk.

More information>>>

- Magnetic tape is used today primarily as medium for

I) backing up files that are stored on disc

II) for long term storage of transaction data

III) for transferring data &

IV) Programs from one computer to another.

-Tape is strictly a **serial medium**.

-The computer is **unable to** go to directly to a **specific record stored on tape**.

1. **Why do we check sequence from a master file?**

**Ans:**

1. **Why a unique key exists in a file?**

**Ans:**

1. **If unique key does not exists then what will happen.**

**Ans:**

1. **If unique key exists then what will happen.**

**Ans:**

1. **When the master record is updated?**

**Ans:**

1. **When the old master record is copied to the new master file.**

**Ans:**

1. **When the transaction record waiting to be processed?**

**Ans:**

1. **What do you mean by maintaining?** (page no-156)

**Ans:** Maintaining refers to the activities that changes the number of records in a

master file.

More information>>>

-The most common maintenance activities are…

I) **adding** &

II) **Deleting** records from a **master file.**

1. **What do you mean by updating?** (page no-156)

**Ans:** Changing the contents of records in a master file to keep it current without

changing the number of records in the file.

1. **What do you mean by referencing?** (page no-156)

**Ans:** Retrieving information from a file without altering its contents