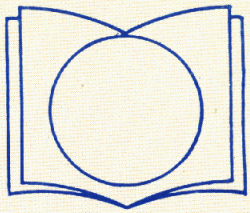

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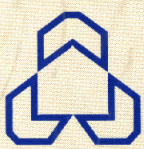

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Imperial College, University of London

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Preface

This text discussing the structure and design of computer files has grown from a course given for a number of years to second year undergraduates in Computing at Imperial College. Most of it, in this or a shorter form has been used by the students, and has undergone a process of evolution from year to year. I acknowledge with thanks their criticisms, corrections and suggestions.

Conversion of the material into book form would not have been possible without expert assistance in the production of diagrams from Jim Cunningham and Linden Rice; and in text processing from Eunice Edwards, Alison Glen and Alex Milne. I thank them all, especially Jim, who also managed to live with the varying optimism of a novice author!

Margaret Cunningham
June 1985

To Jim,
Ailsa, Ian and Alastair.

Contents