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GH12-5114-0

# Storage and Information Retrieval System (STAIRS/VS),

## Program Product

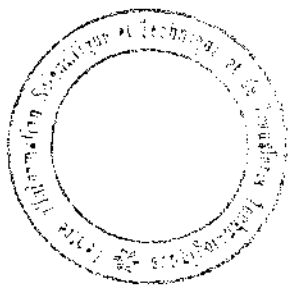
## General Information

### Program Product 5740-XR1

This manual presents an introduction to, and a general description of, STAIRS/VS. The intended audience comprises executives, system analysts, and programmers.

STAIRS/VS is a terminal-oriented, multi-user, online dialogue system for the storing and retrieving of unformatted textual and/or formatted data (documents). STAIRS/VS offers the user a variety of resources for data-base creation and maintenance. It also contains special features for data-base searching and document output. The user's queries are formulated in terms of extended Boolean logic and/or by means of comparison operators.

CICS or IMS can be used as an online control program. STAIRS/VS can be used in all areas in which specific information must be obtained immediately from an immense number of documents.



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# Introduction

The increasing flood of information, the "information explosion," cannot be handled by the conventional means currently available. A growing wealth of information lies "uninvested," attesting to a need for a fast, accurate retrieval scheme. That need, preferably for an automated system which provides online search functions, has increased overproportionally to the volume of information-bearing documents, to which quick and immediate access must be available.

The IBM System/370 (OS/VS) Storage and Information Retrieval System (STAIRS/VS) consists of a program package that enables the user to search documents through a most effective dialogue with the system, to produce or display documents on various output devices, to create data bases automatically (without manual indexing of documents), and to extend and maintain data bases by means of an updating utility program.

Some important application areas for this program system will be:

1. Government, e.g., for information centers, Police (criminal intelligence and modus operandi systems), land registry, personnel skills, legislative and judiciary sytems, etc.
2. Research, development and manufacturing, e.g., for technical reports; test reports, skills/expertise inventories, etc.
3. Media for news gathering and dissemination services.
4. All types of libraries and information centers.

Wherever a large number of articles, reports, contracts, laws, general directives, or abstracts of publications must be directly accessible, STAIRS helps the user to find and extract the relevant documents.

STAIRS/VS provides a broad spectrum of search capabilities as well as flexible and varied output options for retrieved documents. Privacy is provided at many levels to ensure the integrity of both the system and the data to which it has access.

This manual describes the operational concepts and capabilities of STAIRS for a fundamental orientation on how STAIRS can be applied and how the first steps of user education and/or data preparation can be performed.



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