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Brief 70-10071

NASA TECH BRIEF

Cost-Reducing Multipurpose Microfilm Card

A multipurpose microfilm-aperture card has been devised that will substantially reduce the cost of purchasing, storing, processing, and filing operations. It is essentially a standard 80-column punch card that is printed in the same format on both sides. The card is prepunched with information indicating the direction of the image plane of the inset microfilm slides. Printing the same format on both sides of the card will enable the user to use one card for mounting films that are "right reading" on the emulsion side as well as those that are "right reading" on the base side.

At present microfilm aperture cards are manufactured with the format printed on one side only. This necessitates the stockage of cards for mounting each generation of film used and in each format required. Consequently, users have such problems as: (1) determining format, form number, and the appropriate film image plane on at least four numbered forms for each basic format; (2) maintaining large stocks of cards for first- through fourth-generation films, both aperture and duplicate cards; and (3) difficulties in filing and processing cards that have inset film of intermixed face- and back-image planes.

This new card is designed to provide a solution to these problems. Users will be able to limit their purchase and inventory to two types of cards in each format needed in their operations, namely, aperture cards into which film can be mounted, and duplicards (aperture cards with duplicating film mounted in them at the factory but unexposed) onto which other images may be copied.

Notes:

1. This innovation is valuable as a means of reducing the number of microfilm-card formats. A prototype has been tested.
2. Microfilm aperture cards are now used generally throughout industry. This innovation will be applicable, therefore, for use in all industries using the cards. It should also be useful in automated or programmable information storage and retrieval systems. Designers and manufacturers of data processing and storage equipment and manufacturers of data processing forms should find the idea interesting.
3. No additional documentation is available. Specific questions, however, may be directed to:

   Technology Utilization Officer
   Kennedy Space Center
   Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899
   Reference: B70-10071

Patent status:

No patent action is contemplated by NASA.

Source: A. V. Smith of
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