

What is a system?

A system is a collection of inter related components that work together to perform a specific task. A system, as defined in the previous paragraph, is organized in different but independent sub components. Each sub component is called a subsystem. These subsystems may further be broken down into components and they carry out parts of the original system.

Examples:

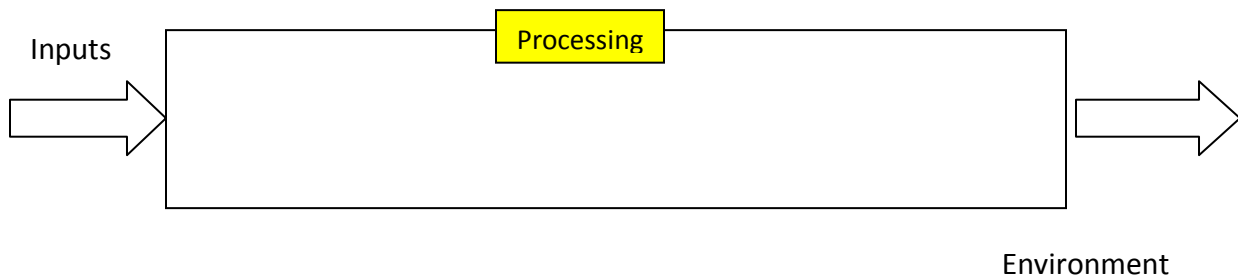
- Blood circulatory system
- Digestive system
- Respiratory system etc...

Elements of a system

- inputs
- output
- process

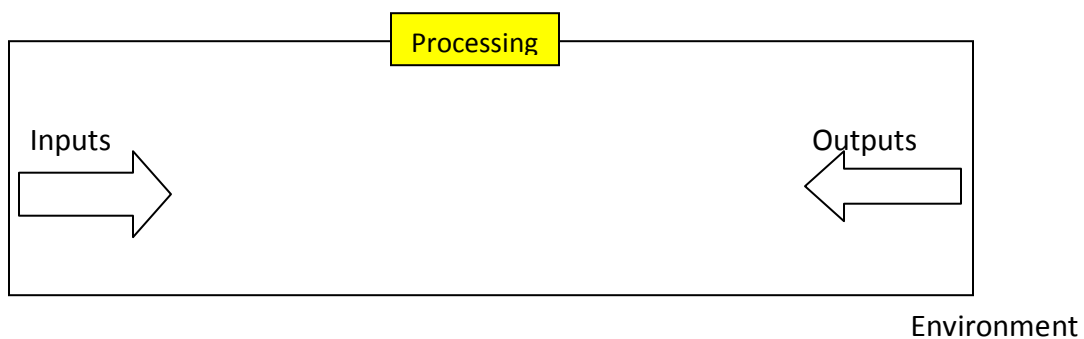
Closed and Open Systems

Open System



An Open System

Closed System



What is an Information System?

An information system is an arrangement of people, data, processes, interfaces, networks and technology that are integrated for the purpose of supporting and improving the day-to-day operations in a business, as well as fulfilling the problem-solving and decision-making information needs of business managers.

An information system can be:

- ❖ A Manual Information System
- ❖ A Computer Based Information system

Manual Information System

File storage devices, manual producers and papers are vital components of a manual information system.

The advantages of a manual system are

- ◆ The manual information system is flexible.
- ◆ In a manual information system, the judgment and decisions can be taken easily with the help of the guidance of human beings.

The disadvantages of a manual information system are

- ◆ Human beings are unreliable
- ◆ Human mind is slow in performing arithmetic operations
- ◆ Humans are tend to be tired and monotonous

Computer based Information System

Computer based information systems can replace manual information systems. In this text, our primary concern is on computer based systems.

A computer based information system involves six interdependent components: hardware (machines), software (instructions or programs), people (programmers, managers or users), procedure (rules), data and information.

