Assignment #3

During your interviews with Professor Allen and Mrs. Scattone, you gathered a great deal of information. After our review and subsequent discussion of your interview findings, your next task is to analyze the information at hand and respond back to Professor Allen using a “Preliminary Investigation Report”; essentially an executive summary detailing the main issues you have found thus far (see layout specifications in Problem section below). An electronic means of capturing data, a centralized database, and accessible reports are a few areas to focus on; you should address these issues and include any additional ones you may have uncovered.

Once the “Preliminary Investigation Report” has been presented and a potential course of action has been agreed upon, your next task will be to begin developing a logical model to represent the information flow for this area. To help your transition to modeling, organization of your information is a critical factor. In a classic system’s model you would utilize one of the various UML models such as Functional Decomposition, Timeline, or Use-Case to do this. For this particular project you need to create a “Rough Systems Flow” instead (see layout specifications in Problem section below and refer to pages 132 – 135 in your text). A “Rough Systems Flow” is a substitute for the traditional UML models but nonetheless still requires you to choose a point of view for your organization; this “Rough Systems Flow” will serve as a critical tool when you begin to construct Data Flow Diagrams.
PROBLEM

1. Prepare a “Preliminary Investigation Report” as a means of formally reporting back to the Computer Studies department at CCRI.

This document should be organized as follows:

- **Introduction:**
  - why you are undertaking this investigation (goals, scope, etc.)

- **Systems request summary:**
  - general summary of what current system does, and the environment it operates in

- **Your findings:**
  - list main issues you have found and where applicable include any contributing factors to these issues

- **Your recommendations:**
  - your expected contribution to resolving the issues delineated above

- **Expected benefits:**
  - what your contribution will provide for the present and future activities of the club
2. Prepare a *Rough Systems Flow* (not a Systems Flowchart), to document the current processing done by the club. Choose one or a combination of the following methods to organize your collection of documentation and interview information.

- **Chronological:**
  - best when system exists in a cyclical environment; pick a starting point and detail activity throughout the cycle returning to the starting point

- **Functional:**
  - based on *Functional Decomposition*, take the major activities that occur within the system and break them into sub-components moving from a system down to a detail level

- **User:**
  - organize the system activities based upon who is doing what; best used in a system that is predominately people-based rather than process-based