The standard display is a line or bar chart. Combination of lines and bars can be shown together, either within the same grid or on a split screen.

Telichart will also re-scale the display and list actual data values.

A variety of standard time-series functions is available with the system, such as moving averages and indexing. The calculations are performed and the results are shown as curves.

Basic projections can also be made based on the available data. A hard-copy printer can be linked to terminals to transfer the screen image to paper.

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VIDEOTEX AND THE SENIOR CITIZEN

A large concern of any government is the ability to provide up-to-date information to its senior citizens.

The Province of Ontario, Canada, is no exception with close to one million of its citizens 65 years of age or older. Not only is this segment of the population growing, its needs are becoming more complex as people try to cope with an everchanging world.

To help overcome this problem, the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development initiated a pilot project, installing NAPLPS videotex terminals in eight senior-citizens' homes. Now at the touch of a button, residents of these homes can access various types of information presented in full-colour graphic and textual format.

Information includes facts on health care, nutrition, housing, recreation, and many other subject areas, as well as financial advice.

While residents were at first apprehensive about using the new technology, they quickly discovered that it can make their life much easier, particularly when they need a contact name and phone number for a particular government agency, or information on programs which affect them.

In addition, many find the presentation format easy to understand and as a result are using it frequently to access information.

To help the seniors overcome initial apprehension about using the system, volunteers were recruited as instructors to demonstrate how the terminals work.

Compared with traditional means of keeping seniors up to date (such as mail-outs) the system is proving to be far less expensive and more efficient. Changes can be made instantaneously and with a greater degree of accuracy.

Because of its graphics capabilities, videotex also makes it easier for illiterate persons to understand the information as well as for persons suffering from other types of handicaps.

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