



Using the new testing system, a student responds to an audio message indicating his answer by touching the appropriate portion of the touch-sensitive screen.

portable units which could be easily relocated and reassembled.

The system incorporates a random access slide projector, a random access audio unit and a touch-sensitive screen device. It permits tests to be administered by a trained non-professional, only requiring the child to make a finger-pointing response after an appropriate audio

message is presented with an accompanying slide. The system provides a printed record of the test scores together with a profile of the child's performance in all tests administered and an analysis of the results and interpretation. This written record, available immediately after testing, is suitable for insertion into a child's hospital or school files or as background information with a further referral.

Reliability tested

Dr. Elaine Pressman, director of the department of language/speech pathology at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario is currently evaluating the reliability and validity of the computer-administered tests. In all, some 200 children from Ottawa schools are involved in the program.

Long-range plans include use of the computer-aided test as an adjunct to the language-speech program at the Children's Hospital. It is hoped that the automated battery will function as part of the diagnostic testing protocol for those children referred to the service with language learning disabilities.

This is the first time such a battery of tests has been automated and researchers and clinicians from both Canada and the United States are now seeking input and advice from the programs in starting their own programs.

(Article by Joan Powers Rickerd in Science Dimension, 1981/2)



June Cunningham, research associate for the project, obtains background data from a Grade 2 student prior to testing.

South African incursions in Angola

The Canadian government has expressed its profound concern to the South African Ambassador in Ottawa concerning the recent South African incursions into Angola, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced.

The South African Ambassador was informed that the government deeply deplores the escalation of violence which can only serve to heighten tensions in the area and put in serious jeopardy the negotiations for Namibia's independence for which the Western Contact Group, including Canada, has been striving.

The government hopes that the Republic of South Africa will terminate its incursions into Angola and avoid any further escalation of the conflict.

Task force to study copyright law and cultural policy

The federal government has appointed a task force to study the relationship between copyright law and cultural policy objectives and to make recommendations for revising Canada's Copyright Act.

The task force, composed of officials from the Departments of Communications and Consumer and Corporate Affairs, are expected to make their suggestions for revision of the act within the next year.

Fifty-seven years old

The existing Copyright Act, which came into force in 1924, is administered by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Although it has been amended several times, it has never been revised to reflect contemporary cultural conditions and the impact of technological developments such as videotape, cable and pay-TV, and information storage and retrieval systems.

Since 1977, the department has received almost 120 briefs from writers, composers, artists, performing rights societies, and users of copyright materials, including universities, broadcasters, publishers and other entrepreneurs. The development of copyright legislation will take into account Canada's obligations under international copyright conventions to which it is a member. The legislation must also recognize the need to provide fair economic returns to creators, while ensuring reasonable access to their works.