Terminal Talk

Information Technology

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Wofford College Computer Center

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- THE WOFFORD CONNECTION -

Wofford College Computer Center

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Using Signal Detection Theory

Dr. Scott has developed a program to determine the effective "receiver operating curve" which governs a rat's response to reduction of environmental temperature. The analysis is based on signal detection theory. The program will be used to analyze data from his research project and a similar computer model is now under study by the Psychology 141 (Statistics) class. In the classroom version, the computer is used as an "electric rat" so that experimental procedure can be followed and data gathered which are similar to the real investigative situation. These programs are in FORTRAN.

Information Retrieval

The Physics Department has used the EDIT package and a data file containing information on company names and products to produce a listing of suppliers for equipment in each of the 55 EEM (Electronic Engineers Master) filing system categories. The data file was prepared from the equipment advertising literature kept in the department. This literature is the primary source of information for equipment orders and the new computer listing serves as a cross-index to this material.

Learn by Teaching

An editorial in <u>Scientific Research</u> (27 Oct. 1969) re-emphasizes the importance of the computer in education. In addition to the CAI approach, in which the computer plays some part of the instructor role, computers may be used as recipients of instruction. Those who argue for the importance of this use of computers make such statements as:

"...it is essential at the very beginning of the child-computer relationship that the child be taught to program the computer."

"...the computer will be of far greater value to the student as a challenge he can master..."

"...second graders of ordinary ability learn the basic concepts of algebra with ease. The child soon finds out that the computer is a not-too-bright companion that understands you only if you speak very exactly and carefully."

"The child...as teacher...learns very thoroughly himself."

"Mr. Average Citizen will be much better off in the age of the computer revolution if he learns at an early age that he can--and should--control the computer."