



Editor's Corner

Article on Head Alignment: Tilt, height, tangency, contact, and azimuth are all topics discussed under the title "Alignment" in the recent issue (Vol. II, No. 3, 1969) of *Sound Talk*, one of several newsletters published by the Product Communications, Magnetic Products Division of the 3-M Company. This technical but clearly written article discusses the various elements which are involved in guiding a tape across a deck. A valuable and readable addition to you and your technician's fund of knowledge, write for a free copy at the above address, 3M Center, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101, and ask that your name be added to their mailing list. (Flint Smith)

Instrumentation Talk is the title of a second occasional newsletter from the 3-M Magnetic Products Division. The entire issue of Vol. II, No. 3, 1969 is devoted to the problems and procedures of faithful "Bulk Degaussing" in relation to fundamental characteristics of magnetic recording tape. Free for the asking, this concise discussion of the techniques of AC erasure has much to recommend it for director, for technician, and for student aid. (Flint Smith)

Pennsylvania Again! John Carroll's review of the Pennsylvania study published in the December 1969 (Vol. 3, No. 2) *Foreign Language Annals* is a masterpiece of unimpassioned, objective reporting. While Carroll questions some of the statistical analyses undertaken by the Pennsylvania Project Staff, in general he finds that the main results regarding "strategy" and language laboratory systems are "sufficiently solid and replicable to prompt us to rethink methods and objectives in foreign language teaching". (p. 234). With regard to the language laboratory, Carroll notes that the study does reveal that "when language laboratories were used in conjunction with certain 'audio-lingual' texts they did not produce the facility in listening and speaking that one might have expected." He continues, "the study does not tell us what might have happened if language laboratories had been utilized extensively with traditional texts. . . ." "It does not tell us whether there was possibly an interaction between teacher proficiency and the use of the laboratory". Carroll also notes that "on the average, the audio-lingual teachers audio were more proficient in oral language skills *that* the teachers of the "traditional" than classes, and thus "it is possible that the language laboratory equipment did not have an opportunity to show its advantages under less proficient

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teachers." Finally Carroll warns that "perhaps the commonly available language laboratory materials are cast in such a form that they slow down learning, particularly when they are used only to drill and review material already presented in class".

Clearly the proverbial challenge to reduce common ill-usage of machine-aided language learning is a problem that faces us all. One and all could help resolve some of these ills by sharing successful and innovative lab techniques through the columns and paragraphs of the *Editor's Corner*, and by sharing personal views and experiences with specific instructional materials through the *NALLD Journal's* "Materials Review Section." Guidelines for the above may be obtained from the Director of the Publications Center, Charles Richardson, Ellis Hall, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 45701 (Flint Smith)

FL Annals—Pennsylvania Report If you want to read more comments, criticisms, results, and/or reviews of the Pennsylvania, the December issue of *FL Annals* Vol. 3 (2): 1969, lists on pages 180-181 over forty bibliographical citations including journal articles, bulletins, news releases, unpublished memoranda, and newspaper articles. Anyone wanting to more thoroughly "investigate" the investigation will find this source list extremely useful. (Flint Smith)

ACTFL Bibliography. Watch for the forthcoming publication of the 1969 *ACTFL Annual Bibliography on the Teaching of Modern Foreign Languages*. It will list more than fifty items under the section designated "Equipment" and include references to books and articles dealing with audiovisual specifications, research, techniques and bibliography at all levels of instruction but with specific application to language teaching and language learning. (Flint Smith)

Didacta — World Fair for Educational Aids. The circle of exhibitors at the 10th *Didacta* which takes place in Basle (Switzerland) from 28th May to 1st June, 1970, is even more international and world-wide compared to that of the last exhibition in Hannover, 1968. The number of exhibitors has risen to 480, the number of countries represented to 24 and the area covered by stands to 26,000 m². As well as almost all the west European countries, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia will represent east Europe—often with large joint stands, and from overseas Argentina, Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan and the United States will be represented.

The field of audio-visual educational aids and self-instruction teaching aids will be considerably extended; the corresponding exhibits will not only be directed at schools and educational institutions of all levels, but will also appeal to all those who are concerned with

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adult education, personnel training and fostering the coming generation of employees.

There is already great interest from European and overseas visitors, so that the 10th European Educational Aids Fair Didacta, which will be promoted by the European Educational Materials Association in collaboration with the German Educational Materials Association and the Management of the Swiss Industries Fair, Basle, which is responsible for the organization, can be considered as a world fair for educational aids. (Sister Zimmerman)

Tavor Aids Bulletin. Those interested in a newsletter style publication which offers information about French culture and ways to utilize picture-writing to teach French should write: TAVOR Aids, P. O. Box 282, Forest Hills, N. Y. 11375 (Charles Richardson)

Cover Design and Format. We have been most pleased with the favorable reaction to the new *NALLD JOURNAL*. As editor I would like to give credit to the Ohio University Publications Office; its Director, Mr. Don Stout; and Senior Designer, Mr. Paul Bradford; who are responsible for the new format and cover.