

SECONDARY SCHOOL UPDATE

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This issue's column presents several projects that directly impact secondary students and are possible only through advances in technology. The one clear fact that stands out among all the speakers, conferences, literature, workshops, etc., in our field is that language instruction is changing in almost every way conceivable. The content base is moving from a grammar-driven curriculum to a communication-oriented series of lessons based as much as possible on authentic materials. Strategies for the instructional delivery system are evolving based on changes in content orientation and, equally importantly, on changes in educational technology.

ACCESS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO INTERNET RESOURCES

Many secondary schools have either no access or limited and fairly costly access to Internet resources. B&R Samizdat Express, a small publishing company in Boston, is expanding access to public-domain information on the Internet through its Internet-on-a-Disk service. Samizdat downloads, obtains permission, duplicates, and distributes select information on DOS or Mac disks for \$10 a disk. The information is provided in plain, unenhanced text format so that it can be imported into the consumer's word processing program. A wide variety of titles

is available, such as: computers and networking (general and Internet related), tools for teachers (ERIC Digests), world and government information (facts, fax numbers, committee memberships, selected acts of Congress, for example), literature, and so on. The company released more than thirty new disks in October 1993, which included three on math, two on Latin, three on NAFTA, and eighteen on literature. For more information on this service contact Barbara Hartley Seltzer, B&R Samizdat Express, P.O. Box 161, West Roxbury, MA 02132, or email to samizdat@world.std.com.

A MODEL FOR A GRANT PROPOSAL

Many secondary schools find themselves in the position of having a variety of electronic equipment available, but little or no expertise on the operation or use of the equipment to the best instructional advantage. One creative solution to the problem of providing training in educational technology for teachers comes from Dr. Eleanor Hoffman at the University of Denver. Dr. Hoffman is Director of "Technology Training for Foreign Language Teachers,"

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recently funded by the U.S. Department of Education (the Secretary of Education's Fund for Innovation in Education: Computer-based Instruction Program). She states that the University has been awarded a two-year grant of over \$200,000, or 100% of the project cost, to train teachers in the Denver Public School system. During the first year the project will focus on training sixteen public and four private Denver K-12 teachers. These twenty teachers will attend workshops, staffed by experts and consultants in the field of educational technology, once per month at the University of Denver. The following year this nucleus of twenty teachers will serve as trainers for clusters of seven to ten teachers at sites throughout the Denver area. Dr. Hoffman stresses that evaluation is an integral part of this project and that teachers will answer questionnaires and videotape themselves using the new instructional techniques. This project might well serve as a model for other school districts that need funding from a governmental or private source. For further information, contact Dr. Hoffman at the University of Denver's Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, (303) 871-2169.

A NETWORK FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

Another innovative use of technology is the creation of bulletin boards for special interest groups. The following project extends this use to gifted secondary students who are interested in being in contact with peers elsewhere and specialized information not available in their own schools.

During the past eleven summers I have served on the staff of Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development (CTD). As you may be aware, a cluster of these centers exists throughout the country to provide opportunities for academically

gifted students of primary and secondary age level. Julian Stanley started the original project at Johns Hopkins University, and the concept later extended to other regional centers such as Duke in the South and Northwestern in the Midwest. Students qualify based on either SAT or ACT scores and may participate during the school year and in the summer. Since the summer students come from all over the United States and sometimes other countries, Northwestern's CTD has begun a CTDNet to provide talent development in a global context. The network is available to students, parents, counselors and teachers of the gifted, and others associated with gifted programs throughout the Midwest. CTDNet is a gopher server on the Internet. In addition, CTDNet provides or will provide topic forums, email, program applications, expert forums, software demos, CTD publications, a game library, Internet Relay Chat, and other services to be developed as interest surfaces. Students may subscribe for \$40 a year with parental permission.

The potential for bulletin board services of this type seems boundless. For further information contact Dr. Charles Seibert, Assistant Director, Center for Talent Development, Northwestern University, 617 Dartmouth Place, Evanston, IL 60208 or email: c.seibert@casbah.acns.nwu.edu.

If you know of any projects or technologies from which readers of this column might benefit, please send information to me at the address below. I would welcome either referrals or descriptions for publication in this column (with byline).

Contributions/suggestions for the "Secondary Update" column may be sent directly to Sue Salay at Glenbrook South High School, 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60025, FAX (708) 729-0310, or email: gbsfl@class.org