



**ASPECTS OF EDUCATIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY**



# Aspects of Educational Technology

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for Individualised  
Learning

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and John Leedham

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John Leedham



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# Editorial comment

JOHN LEEDHAM

The first publication of *Aspects of Educational Technology* was in 1966. Now, ten years later, we publish our tenth volume in a series which must rank as standard reference around the world.

In 1966 John Clarke published his account of the successful use of programmes in school; in 1976 he has shown at Dundee the successful application of the principles of educational technology, both in the organisation of the Conference and in the incorporation of the systems within the aim and provision of teacher training. Between the dates of 1966 and 1976 one can trace the development of system and success in the accounts which John Clarke has published.

This is the year which marks my retirement from the position of General Editor. It has been a post, honorary, sometimes arduous but always very, very interesting. With the publication of the Yearbook, Proceedings and the Journal we have maintained a coverage of developments and theory which has served a far wider readership than our own members. To this extent we trust that the Association can take credit for achieving its programme without calling for support other than from its own membership.

Now that the publications are all housed with our own publisher, now that we have seen what can be accomplished on our visit to Dundee, it is time to leave the field in good order. My thanks are due to most of you who may trouble to read this; but to Derick Unwin, now in Australia, who elevated the Journal to reality, to Alex Romiszowski currently in Brazil, to Robin Budgett who, like me, is still UK bound, my compliments and special thanks.

The final words should surely be of the Dundee Conference for which these papers stand as witness. May I therefore make the final comment that I would seek no better professional endorsement at the end of these ten years than to publish these Proceedings. I congratulate John Clarke and all who worked so well with him.



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*\* Papers concerned with medical education*



# Conference theme: individualised learning

J CLARKE

Three factors related to the theme of the Conference — *Individualised Learning* — were particularly pleasing to me as the Conference Organiser in that they all centred on the fact that Dundee was the venue.

When the offer was made to mount the 1976 APLET Conference it was assumed that the new building housing the Dundee College of Education would have been occupied for two years with all facilities commissioned and their use part of the daily routine of College life. In fact, having to organise the Conference throughout the autumn and winter of 1975/76 was something of an embarrassment to me since the building was only just occupied in time for the academic year beginning in October 1975, and the technical staff on whom so much depended for the construction and installation of the carrel and television systems could not move in until late November.

In the event, full credit must be given to the College technical staff for the tremendous effort they made to ensure the success of the Conference by completing the facilities required for the group presentations but, particularly, for those which ensured that the retrieval of almost all the papers on an individual basis in the carrels was a practicable and reliable possibility.

The three factors concerning the theme which made Dundee such an appropriate meeting place were, first, the fact that the College of Education had been chosen as a base for the deliberate implementation of educational technology throughout the Institution: second, that delegates had the opportunity to experience at first-hand the advantages and potential of individualised learning using from the simplest possible to highly complex methods of presentation through a purpose-designed and constructed installation: third, that it was possible for three organisations, APLET, ASME and AMEE, all committed to the development, spread and adoption of individualised learning and instruction, to collaborate in mounting the Conference.

A further factor, not related to the theme but very much in the historical tradition of the City of Dundee in welcoming visitors from overseas, was that the Conference, attended by delegates representing twenty-two different countries, was honoured by the Tayside Regional Council's first large-scale reception which was held in the most attractive City Museum and Art Galleries kindly made available by the Dundee District Council.

For years at successive APLET Conferences we have heard of the advantages, efficiency and desirability of individualised learning and instruction. Here at last, in April 1976 in Dundee, a dream came true. The opportunity was there for the delegates, many of whom had attended most of the previous conferences, to gain an impression of some of the reality of one institution's interpretation of individualised learning and its implications.

Many kind compliments have been paid to ETIC '76. The fates, on the whole,

were certainly on our side during the week and it is my earnest hope that delegates returned home feeling that their journeys really had been worthwhile and that Dundee was not quite so remote as formerly either as a geographical location or, more importantly, as an educational concept.

As Conference Secretary I wish to express my deep gratitude to all the members of the Conference Committee, the College clerical and technical staff who worked so hard and so effectively to mount the Conference; to all who submitted papers, many of which could neither be accommodated in the time-table nor in these proceedings; to all exhibitors who without doubt mounted the finest comprehensive exhibition ever seen at an APLET Conference; to the domestic staffs of Belmont Hall, Mayfield and the College refectories who catered for the comfort of the delegates so magnificently; and finally to all the delegates who made the week for me a most memorable happening.

We all still have much to learn about the benefits and implications of individualised learning for an institution, for its academic and their support staff, for the students and for the facilities and accommodation. For our part at the Dundee College of Education we hope that we had something special to offer for ETIC '76 of educational significance and that the future might provide us with the continuing opportunity to contribute to the development and study of individualised learning.

# The host college: Dundee College of Education

J CLARKE

The Conference was opened by Mr D E Stimpson, Principal of the Dundee College of Education. He warmly welcomed delegates, particularly those from overseas, hoping that all would have an informative, enjoyable and comfortable stay in the College and the city. He briefly noted that the College was singularly well-equipped to house a conference on Individualised Learning and trusted that the resources available in the new building, almost unproven in their effectiveness and reliability at the opening of the Conference, would successfully meet all demands placed upon them.

Dr J F Leedham, Vice President of the Association for Programmed Learning and Educational Technology, replied. He expressed the regret of Sir Peter Venables, President of APLET, in being unable to attend because of commitments at another conference, the gratitude of the Association to Mr Stimpson and to the Governors for making available the College facilities for the Conference, and the great pleasure of the members of APLET in being able to participate in the Conference together with members of the Association for the Study of Medical Education and the Association for Medical Education in Europe.

In line with Mr Stimpson's hopes the resources did indeed operate most reliably making it possible to use a conference format new to the experience of most delegates. Each paper was presented twice in a two hour session, using a medium or selection of media for presentation to whatever size of group selected that paper. In addition, throughout the Conference, it was possible for every paper to be retrieved by individuals using the carrel system in the Library/Resource Centre. A total of more than eighty group presentations was made and more than 800 individual retrievals.

The group presentation of each paper was followed later on the same day by a discussion session. The aim was to encourage groups to discuss in some depth different aspects of the theme of Individualised Learning. To facilitate this the presentations were so organised that delegates with particular interests were able to attend all the sessions related to any given aspect.

Readers of the papers contained in this collection may note that certain ideas written up by the authors would be clarified by the addition of visuals. Since, with the exception of the Keynote Papers, every presentation was made by some form of medium without the intervention of the author and some of the papers were modified only slightly for inclusion in these proceedings, interested readers who seek further clarification are invited to contact the authors directly.



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