

Draft Presentation:

Universal Reference System's

~~THE~~ Codex on the Culturally Disadvantaged

The purpose of this project is to apply a computerized retrieval system to the scattered and rapidly expanding literature dealing with the culturally ~~disprivileged~~ disadvantaged.

Research on the disadvantaged has many dimensions: educational, social vocational, and several other. Therefore, research is originating in all of the social disciplines. The need for indexing and retrieval system to accommodate the diverse literature on the topic is manifest.

Added to the element of broadest scope is one of productivity: data on the disadvantaged is growing at a swift, urgent pace. (Number to come) pertinent books, articles, and reports are produced every (time period to come).

The sources are diffuse. The output, according to researchers, is "staggering."

Understandably the bibliographic resources are as segmented and scattered as the literature. Indeed there isn't a bibliographic volume ~~devoted to the culturally deprived.~~ ^{disadvantaged.} Researchers must use the works ~~authors choose to cite in their books.~~ An outstanding example of such a resource is contained in Intelligence and Experience by J. McV. Hunt, who lists some 850 citations at the end of his work. Typically, these ~~are not annotated; the volume was issued in 1961.~~ Yet it is ~~a~~ primary resource at the present time.

In the periodical field, Education Index provides a timely service but one lacking any richness. Annotations are not provided, and the cross reference system is of a limited traditional variety.

There appears to be no method whatsoever for locating fugitive matter such as research memoranda issued by agencies, institutes and other educational research units.

Given the need ~~maxim~~ for swiftness in dealing with the problems of the disadvantaged, there is no indexing and information retrieval system that can match, let alone speed, the pace of the research effort.

The Universal Reference System would approach the retrieval problem in the following manner:

1) Under the direction of an advisory committee, several

thousand research works would be selected.

2) A complete citation would be made for each work.

3) About 20 important characteristics of the work would be noted.

4) An annotation of about 50 words would be written.

5) This data would be encoded and placed on magnetic tape.

6) A computer would print out a Codex on the Culturally Disadvantaged.

7) The Codex would be published for general use, and Researchers would utilize the Codex in according to the method described below.

The finished Codex will contain an ~~the~~ Index with the following content and format: the reader first finds his primary subject of interest in an alphabetic column of key descriptors. Perhaps the primary term would be (to come).

Upon finding this term on an entry line, he then scans an adjacent column. There he finds several critical descriptors of the work, terms such as (to come) or (to come). If the entry still has relevance, he moves across to a third column, where he will find perhaps 10 additional descriptors of the content of the work.

If his interest is maintained, he next finds a page reference in a fourth column, and turns to the Catalog section of the volume. Locating the appropriate page, he will find a full citation, annotation plus several lines containing descriptor-terms about the work.

In sum, the Universal Reference System provides a high-intensity index and retrieval method for data on the research literature.

((Due to the imprecise nature of language, ~~it~~ it cannot screen out all literature not relevant to a specialized interest. Yet it greatly reduces the volume of peripheral data so that it approaches proportions desirable in a scholarly study.))

The ^{wright} Codex on the Culturally Disadvantaged ~~will~~ contain upwards of 3,000 works, and some 0000000 cross references. It can be produced within one year. A system of annual supplements seem desirable, and after three years, would be incorporated into a second edition of the Codex.

A contribution to the social sciences such as the Codex series is naturally dependent on ~~support~~ grants from the scholarly community. Previous editions of the Codex, on International Behavior and International Affairs, were supported by the U.S. Department of State, and (to come). In ~~any~~ ^{on} ~~all~~ respects we feel the proposed Codex on the Culturally Disadvantaged merits such support..... |end of effort|