



The Learning Systems Institute: *Review of Research and Development 1963 Through 1964*¹

Ted Ward

The major function assigned to the Learning Systems Institute is research translation. This function is most broadly defined as activities which provide means and motivation for educational institutions to modify their practices in accordance with suggestions and clues from the broad field of *research* in human learning and social development. More precisely, the function is comprised of research and development of the following sorts:

1. Identification and bridging of the communicative gaps between research and practice.
2. Development and evaluation of systematic processes for experimental change of educative environments.
3. Identification and structuring of knowledge about human learning into forms for practical application in school environments
4. Development and provision of technological resources required for experimental changes.
5. Design and operation of evaluative field studios to examine the consequences of experimental change.
6. Deducing a more explicit base of scientific data to undergird the professional practices of education.

Each of the established projects of the Institute has a direct relationship to one or more of the listed research and development activities. A review of these projects will reveal this relationship:

1. Identification and bridging gaps in research and practice.
 - a) Ward: Literature review, theoretical analysis of the problem, development of a position paper.
 - b) Sellin: Development of experimental study dealing with the language aspect of the communication gap.
2. Development of processes for change.
 - a) Southworth, Hoffman, Ward, Henderson, Freeman: Clinic-School project in two MSU internship centers. Developing an approach to teacher training which allows interaction between research and practice.
 - b) Ward, Frye: Computer-Based instruction, development in collaboration with MSU's EDP for the establishment of IBM cooperative research project for use at college level. (Expect to explore secondary level in subsequent phases of the research).
 - c) Ingham County Combined Services Center for Special Education, planning with the Council and affiliated agencies for a facility conducive to clinical training and research.

¹Ted Ward. The Learning Systems Institute: Review of Research and Development 1963 through 1964, College of Education, Michigan State University, February 17, 1965

- d) Alonso, Ward, Featherstone, Burke and Sellin: Michigan School for the Blind, consultation with administrators, faculty, and architect on new elementary building conducive to clinical training and research.
3. Identification of knowledge about human learning and application in school environments.
- a) Henderson. Freeman: Clinic-School Project, simulation of the learning researcher's role in the Interactions with teachers through the materials of the Clinical Manual.
 - b) Vinsonhaler, McIntosh: LINCENT Project (Learning Information Center), behavioral analysis of users of an information system (micro-system) based upon twenty abstracts from *Journal of Experimental Psychology* and *Journal of Educational Psychology*.
4. Development of technological resources for experimental changes.
- a) Hudspeth, Ward, Featherstone with Professors Durr, Houston, Oana, Van Roekel and Walsh: System-Designed Course—Pilot I, experimental saturation model for utilization of AV media in off-campus instruction.
 - b) Ward, Roa: with Professor Gross: System-Designed Course—Pilot II, experimental saturation model as in Pilot I, but derived from tape-recordings of regular instruction (project In temporary suspension for lack of staff).
 - c) Freeman, Ward: Professional Decision Simulator, development and funding search for projects for the construction and evaluation of a device and procedure for professional training through simulation of decision-making.
 - d) Frye: Simulated Statistical Inference, computer-based instruction experimental system, in collaboration with System-Development Corporation and U.C.L.A.
 - e) Vinsonhaler, McIntosh: LINCENT, design and funding search for projects in the construction and evaluation of a national center for automated storage and retrieval of documents on human learning, (to be collaborative with the Human Learning Research Institute.)
 - f) Suehr, Heald. Vinsonhaler: Computer Applications to School Scheduling (CASS), developing a collaboration with Stanford University a capability for generating master schedules for secondary schools of Michigan (essential service to enable the individualized scheduling indicated for the School of Tomorrow).
5. Design of field studies to examine change.
- Ward. Heald: Development of models for operation with a network of public schools for research, demonstration, and dissemination.
6. Deducing a base of scientific data to undergird practices.
(Anticipate collaboration with Human Learning Research Institute in this activity.)

Although continuance of these activities is conceivably possible at the present level of staff and fund commitment, progress will be slow. Additional faculty members for the Institute are needed. The current group of collaborators is working beyond reasonable expectations and may run out of steam any day now.