

## SESSION VI GETTING STARTED WITH MICROCOMPUTERS IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Walter vom Saal, *President*

### Getting started with microcomputers in undergraduate education: Hints and guidelines

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Microcomputers can serve many functions in undergraduate education, including control of laboratory experiments, presentation of classroom demonstrations, generation of handouts, and monitoring student performance. Panel members of a symposium presented several general guidelines for the use of microcomputers, and specific guidelines for selecting and purchasing equipment and for daily operation of a microcomputer facility.

At the 13th annual meeting of the Society for Computers in Psychology, November 16, 1983, the authors participated in a symposium on Getting Started With Microcomputers in Undergraduate Education. A variety of uses of microcomputers in undergraduate education were described, including control of undergraduate laboratory experiments, presentation of classroom demonstrations, generation of handouts, and monitoring student performance. Walter vom Saal described the use of Atari microcomputers for student designed research in a research methods laboratory course; David Eckerman described laboratory control with Apple IIs connected to a hard disk; Peter Balsam described instrumenting TRS-80s for laboratories in animal learning, perception, human learning, and statistics; Cynthia McDaniel described a number of applications of microcomputers in an introductory psychology class.

The authors may be contacted at the Departments of Psychology of their respective institutions; zip codes are, respectively, 17551, 27514, 10027, and 41076.

We then suggested the following guidelines based on our experience using microcomputers in undergraduate education. It should be emphasized that this is not an exhaustive list, and the items are not listed in priority order. However, we did feel that these guidelines might be useful to others establishing or planning to establish a microcomputer facility.

#### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- (1) "If you want something done right, do it yourself." BUT:
- (2) Don't get hooked on computers.
- (3) Don't get hooked on programming.
- (4) Don't get hooked on the glamor of technology.
- (5) Don't assume your colleagues will be as excited about computers as you may be. Some will be enthusiastic, some neutral, some negative. Many will express positive views but do little because of lack of time, other commitments, or a general discomfort with computers.
- (6) If additional faculty involvement is desirable or

# Microcomputers On The Farm Getting Started

**Karl Schneider**



## **Microcomputers On The Farm Getting Started:**

**Microcomputers on the Farm** Duane E. Erickson, Royce A. Hinton, Ronald D. Szoke, 1990-01-01 Microcomputers on the Farm Duane E. Erickson, Royce A. Hinton, Ronald D. Szoke, 1990 Guidebook helps farmers decide whether to adopt a microcomputer for their operation and offers choices among the different systems This edition first was 1985 updates the list of available hardware and software and includes a glossary of common computer terminology Annotation copyright Book News *Use of Computers for Farm Management, 1985-1987* Lee Decker, 1988 **Soil & Water Conservation News**, 1991 Quick Bibliography Series, 1976 **African Economic Development, 1979-January 1988** Mary E. Lassanyi, 1988 *Computers and Information Technologies in Agricultural Production and Management*, 1997 *Computers and Information Technologies in Agricultural Production and Management* Karl Schneider, 1997 This bibliography contains 550 journal book and audiovisual citations from the National Agricultural Library's AGRICOLA database Each entry includes title publisher NAL call number place and date of publication volume and issue number pages description audiovisual and descriptors Many entries include abstracts Indexed by subject and author **Microcomputers and the Reference Librarian** Patrick R. Dewey, 1989 **A Study of Actual and Preferred Learning Activities and Microcomputer Usage in a Selected Group of Michigan Farmers** Thomas Lyle Thorburn, 1987 InfoWorld, 1983-10-03 InfoWorld is targeted to Senior IT professionals Content is segmented into Channels and Topic Centers InfoWorld also celebrates people companies and projects **The American Farm Crisis** Harold D. Guither, Harold G. Halcrow, 1988 *Buying a Computer for Your Farm Or Ranch* Paul E. Patterson, C. Wilson Gray, Anna Davis, 1994 *The Factors that Affect Farmers' Adoption of New Computer Technology* Jing-Tsuei Hu, 1996 **Your Fortune in the Microcomputer Business** Victor Wild, 1982-05 Reviews Business Opportunities in the Computer Field Offers Advice on How to Start Your Own Business *Microcomputer Software Sources* Carol Truett, 1990 Citrus and Vegetable Magazine, 1982 Getting Started In Computer Graphics Gary Olsen, 1993-01-03 For artists who would like to or find themselves forced to trade in their brushes and pens for a mouse and a screen Explains how to combine drawing and color paint programs and the tricks of getting the most out of a wide range of graphics software The principles are applicable to any flavor of computer Profusely and colorfully illustrated No bibliography First published in 1989 Annotation copyright by Book News Inc Portland OR **Doane's Agricultural Computing Source Book**, 1989 Microcomputers for Farm & Family, 1982

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