

The Journal of Educational Techniques and Technologies welcomes letters to the editor from its readers. Letters should be sent to Suzanne E. Lindenau, Editor, *J.E.T.T.*, 304C Moore College Building, UGA Language Laboratories, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, U.S.A.

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TELECONFERENCE ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES WAS DISAPPOINTING

On May 10, 1988, I was among the fifty or so individuals present on the University of Georgia campus for participation in the teleconference "Emerging Technologies in Modern Language Instruction," which was to be hosted by both Dr. Wilga Rivers of Harvard and Dr. Frank Otto, the Executive Director of CALICO.

As a French teacher who also has a background in computers, I must say that I left the teleconference more than mildly disappointed. My first disappointment came when I learned at the beginning of the teleconference that Dr. Rivers would not be taking on active on-line role. I am sure that many viewers had hoped to hear her field questions from across the country.

In addition, the information on the "emerging technologies" failed to emerge from the fast-paced videoesque format of what seemed to be a series of very unobtrusive plugs for particular products and companies, schools and departments. One particularly annoying feature was the constant background music. What little specific information that was offered by way of example was not impressive. In one instance we saw a student performing an exercise in French on the computer in which he placed a given adjective with a given noun, after changing its form as necessary: in a group of given words (already in the correct form), the point being to teach correct word order. Are these examples of "emerging technology" in software? Hardly! The brief segment of the *Perseus* project was, in

contrast, fascinating; but again, the pace prevented any real depth of treatment.

As a pioneering effort, the teleconference is an exciting means of intra-professional communication. This particular teleconference, however, failed to meet the needs of its viewer-participants. Those who came to the teleconference with some degree of knowledge about computers, videos, compact disk, etc., found little offered in the way of detail. Those who came naively, hoping to gain an introduction to how these different technologies mesh and complement each other, probably felt confused, and perhaps overwhelmed by the overkill of quick camera shots of "systems." Finally, those who came with a negative mindset about the use of the new technologies may very well have found confirmation for their worst fears.

Ironically, there was simply a lack of instruction either at the elementary or at the more advanced levels. The often repeated warning that language teachers must not expect the various new machines to perform miracles was obviously not heeded during the planning of this teleconference. It seemed almost as though we, the viewers, were supposed to be impressed by the mere fact that this was a **TELECONFERENCE** (!!!), and that somehow because it was a teleconference, learning and communication would automatically occur.

J.K.C.
Romance Languages
University of Georgia

IMPRESSIVELY TYPESET AND PRINTED JOURNAL

I have worked in the printing business for almost a decade, both for others and as a freelance consultant. Through a friend, I happened to see the Spring 1988 issue of *The Journal of Educational Techniques and Technologies*. If I had seen this issue on a magazine rack, it would have jumped out from among all the rest, not only because it is unique in its cover design, but also because of the quality of the typesetting and

printing. Although I looked for a reference to see who typeset and printed this journal, I could not find one. Whoever is responsible for the typesetting and printing of *J.E.T.T.* deserves high marks for producing a very clean (I even looked for bullets and could not find one) and professional-looking publication. How about a splash of color on the cover, like maybe the globe? It would make the "internationalness" of the book stand out.

L.M.K.
Houston, Texas

Editor's Note: We appreciate the kind words from L.M.K. of Houston. It is comforting to know that the "packaging" of *J.E.T.T.* gets high marks from professionals in the field. We, at *J.E.T.T.*, owe a special note of appreciation to Southeastern Lithographers in Athens, Georgia, for the absolutely first-rate service they have provided

to us and the professional manner in which they have typeset and printed this IALL publication. Getting *J.E.T.T.* ready to be typeset and printed is one thing; the actual work involved in typesetting and printing, however, is quite another. *J.E.T.T.* has not always been typeset and printed by Southeastern Lithographers, Inc., so we have vivid comparisons of the "printing process" of an academic journal by several different printers, both locally and out-of-state. It has only been since coming to Southeastern that the publication of *J.E.T.T.* has been treated with the concern and care we, quite naturally, think it deserves. Although we are by no means Southeastern's largest account, we receive the same first-class professional treatment, attention to detail, and quality publishing that all of their clients receive. The editors of *J.E.T.T.* publicly thank Southeastern Lithographers, Inc., for making our job easier.