



## RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

### FILM

**FLETCHER, RICHARD M.** *"Profile Analysis and Its Effect on Learning When Used To Shorten Recorded Film Commentaries."* Technical Report SDC 269-7-55. Research by the Instructional Film Research Program, Pennsylvania State University for the Special Devices Center, Office of Naval Research, Port Washington, L. I., N. Y. 25 p. August 30, 1955.

*Purpose:* The purpose of this experiment was to determine the effect on learning of the profile technique developed by Twyford when used to shorten instructional material such as a lecture, film, and such, as compared to shortening the same material without the use of the profile technique. The profile technique is much simpler and quicker to use in making an evaluation than the established method of measuring learnings with tests.

*Procedure:* The commentaries for the films *The Weather* and *Human Reproduction* were selected for analysis. It is at the commentary stage that it is most feasible to make any desired modification. Four profiles were obtained from four groups of 32 recruits each. Each recruit turned a knob to indicate whether he was learning nothing, little, average, much, or the most he could. Each film commentary was shortened (a) by a group of judges using profiles of learning and (b) by a different group of judges without benefit of the profiles. The shortened versions of *Human Reproduction* were heard by four companies of men and were tested on each bit of information contained in the commentaries.

*Results:* The major finding of this study was that, with the film commentary of *Human Reproduction* there was equal learning for those hearing the shortest version—the profile version, as compared to the longer script writers' and full versions. Script writers cut out 11 percent of the sentences which was 8 percent of the duration while the profile version had 26 percent of the sentences removed which took 24 percent of the presentation time. It was recommended that profile analysis be employed by writers of film commentaries to eliminate material prior to production that does not contribute to learning so that it can be replaced with material that does. If this had been done with the film *Human Reproduction* the amount of learning could have been increased by 31 percent. It was also recommended that profile analysis be used by instructors and others concerned with evaluating training to discover what is being learned.—L. Twyford