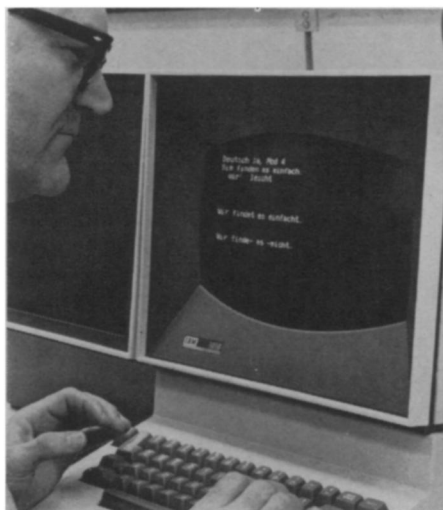


current patents

EDUCATION

Responsive teaching machine



A teaching machine that lets a student answer a question in his own words and then uses that material to lead the student out of any errors has been patented by IBM. Teaching machines usually have a programmed series of questions and answers that require either a yes or no or a multiple choice by the student. If the student answers correctly the machine goes on to more difficult material; if the student answers incorrectly the machine backtracks or changes its approach.

The new machine, developed by Dr. E. N. Adams, contains a series of questions and their correct answers in its memory. It presents the question to the student; he gives his reply; and the machine compares the reply with the correct answer. If there are errors, the machine gives the student a message telling him where the errors are and inviting him to try to correct them. The dialogue continues until the student corrects all his mistakes.

For example, if the machine were used to teach German, the questions might be English sentences to be translated.


The machine offers the student the sentence: "The house has cold rooms." The correct German for this is: "Das Haus hat kalte Zimmer," but the student replies: "Der Haus hase kalt Zimmer." The machine responds: "..... Haus h... kal... Zimmer." To the student who knows how the machine communicates, this means he is in error where the machine has put blanks. The student corrects the errors, and the machine responds, until the correct sentence is forthcoming.

Patent 3,371,321

DUET...



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