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AN EXAMINATION OF READING MATERIAL USED  
IN YEAR 11 WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO  
SOCIAL SCIENCE TEXTS

by

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A Field Study Report submitted in partial  
fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree  
of Master of Education in the Canberra College  
of Advanced Education.

June 1982

Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to the following people for their understanding and assistance in many ways:

My wife;

Mr. M. Kemp, my supervisor and Mr. G. Little,  
one of my lecturers;

The Senior Teachers of English at Campbell,  
Watson and Lyneham High Schools and their staffs,  
for administration of the tests given in this  
study.

Abstract

This study examines the readability of text books used by Year 11 students at a Secondary College in the A.C.T. Twenty-seven texts are examined with the majority being taken from the area of Social Science. The texts are examined using the following measures, The Fry Readability Index, The SMOG Formula, The Cloze Measure, The number of Words per T-Unit and the level of Abstraction of the text.

According to these indices between 60% and 84% of the texts are too difficult for students commencing Year 11.

This study also examined the interrelationship between the indices.

A feature of this study is that it introduces into readability measures a consideration of the number of words per T-Unit and level of Abstraction.

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