

A DESIGN FOR IMPLEMENTING A SIMULATION FOR TRAINING
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS IN DECISION-MAKING UTILIZING
VIDEODISC TECHNOLOGY

by

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to design a simulation using a personal computer-based authoring system that could serve as a vehicle for investigating decision-making styles of educational administrators. The program was designed to be used at the graduate level for students seeking advanced degrees in educational leadership. The simulation makes use of simulation techniques for controlling presentation of material and data collection for subsequent analysis about information search and utilization procedures of administrators.

The study was undertaken to demonstrate that nontechnical personnel using state-of-the-art technology could develop affordable and effective multimedia simulations. The study was also designed to demonstrate that technology was sufficiently advanced that time to develop such a program would not preclude its use.

Data were gathered from seven graduate students attending an introductory graduate course. Other sources of data included practicing university professors, district administrators practicing principals. Data were gathered using a survey and personal interviews.

Results of the survey indicated that respondents found that the technical approach was innovative and could be

useful in teaching graduate students how to be better principals. District administrators expressed interest in using the program to evaluate candidates for beginning principalships.

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my family, especially my wife Marie, for their patience and understanding while I pursued this arduous but rewarding task.

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