The History of LRDC: Part II

From Part I: By 1968, it was estimated that 30,000 children across the country were using IPI. . .

Increasingly, what was important was the curriculum development that was carried out at the Center. By the end of the 1960s and into the 1970s, much of the work was focused on instructional development. Curricula in mathematics, reading, science, and early learning were created. By the late 1960s, the cognitive revolution was underway, and LRDC was a leader in bringing the study of learning and instruction to incorporate the new ideas of cognitive science. By the mid 1970s, the Center had fully embraced cognitive psychology as a model to replace behaviorism. Work tended toward analyses of cognitive abilities—for example studies on reasoning and verbal analogies and of expertise. Advances in measurement of learning were taking place as well.

The cognitive shift of the 1970s coincided with the construction of a new building that provided a physical center that brought together the faculty who had been in offices across campus. The new LRDC building allowed for labs, facilities for materials production, a library, and, for a number of years, an in-house laboratory school on the third floor of LRDC in Room 314. Having a building also meant LRDC could house the critical components of a research center -- a staff to support its work. LRDC staff originally included producers of instructional materials and experimental tools. LRDC has always depended on an administrative staff to support the daily life of the center, including human resources, building management, and fiscal services to handle the grants and contracts that keep its research going.