

**THE NEW LITERACY: AN INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS**  
**“COMPUTER OPERATIONS”**

by Richard Bellikoff

PBS LOGO

OPENING TITLES

MUSIC: UP

DISSOLVE TO:

ORIGINAL FOOTAGE:

HOST (sync):

(TO BE SHOT)

EXT. BACKYARD GARDEN

CU a pair of hands, working with garden tools. With great effort, they finally succeed in pulling up a weed.

This is the least satisfying part of gardening. Because no matter how

many of these things I pull up --

PULL BACK to reveal the HOST, in work clothes, dropping the tools, showing us the weed.

He walks a few feet, shows us another weed about to sprout.

-- there's always one more lurking beneath the surface. They just

keep sprouting, like -- well, like weeds. And it's exactly this sort of

boring, repetitive work that computers are best at. They can be

programmed to perform the same operation over and over and over

again until the job's done.

ORIGINAL FOOTAGE (cont.)

In computer language, that's called looping. A computer can loop all

day --

He feels a twinge of lower back pain, tries not to look like Quasimodo.

-- and never get a bad back.

DISSOLVE TO:

ORIGINAL FOOTAGE:  
HEX FF, CU hands keying in on CRT.  
Reel 109b 1:46:33 - 1:46:39

NARRATOR (V.O.): COMPUTERS, FOLLOWING STORED  
PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS, READ DATA AS INPUT --

CUT TO:

ORIGINAL FOOTAGE:  
EMM, Reel 108a  
CUT TO:

-- PROCESS THE DATA --

ORIGINAL FOOTAGE:  
HEX FF, CU printer  
Reel 109b 1:49:18 - 1:49:23  
CUT TO:

-- THEN WRITE INFORMATION AS OUTPUT.

ORIGINAL FOOTAGE  
CUT TO:

REGARDLESS OF ITS SIZE, A COMPUTER SYSTEM  
PERFORMS CERTAIN BASIC OPERATIONS -- INPUT,  
OUTPUT, ARITHMETIC AND LOGIC OPERATIONS.

ORIGINAL FOOTAGE  
CUT TO:

BUT NO COMPUTER CAN PERFORM ANY OPERATION  
UNTIL IT GETS THE DATA IT NEEDS -- OR IN COMPUTER  
TERMINOLOGY, "READS" THE DATA.

ANIMATION  
CUT TO:

READING DATA IS AN EXTERNAL DATA TRANSFER  
OPERATION THAT TAKES PLACE BETWEEN THE  
PROCESSOR AND THE INPUT/OUT OR SECONDARY-  
STORAGE DEVICES.