Notes from Below the Floor

The Journal of Precision Teaching is designed to assist people with diverse interests share information or data (usually in the form of behavior frequencies) in a uniform format (the Standard Celeration Chart). Typically, a person with data submits it to the Journal in order to share it with people who might be interested. The purpose of Notes from Below the Floor is to reverse the process—people without data (and thus residing below the record floor) can use this column to find people who have the data they want, or to entice people into collecting some.

Submissions should generally take the form of “Data Wanted” advertisements which are brief, describe your interest, and provide your name, address and telephone, FAX, or E-Mail number. For example:

DATA WANTED
Concerning the Use of Frequency-Based Decision Rules in Computer-Based Instruction

I know of computer programs that accept frequency data and generate Standard Celeration Charts. I know of computer-based instructional programs that provide summaries of session frequencies for external charting and evaluation. I even have several megabytes of moment-to-moment responses frequencies collected during computer-based instructional programs, but not used by those programs for making internal branching decisions. As far as I can tell, however, existing computer-based instructional systems make internal branching decisions (e.g., to provide remedial assistance; to move to a more advanced frame; to terminate the program after “mastery” has been reached) based solely on accuracy data. Does anyone have access to data generated by computer-based instructional programs that use moment-to-moment frequency data for internal branching decisions? It seems that the increased power of instructional decisions based on such data would be tremendous. Anyone interested in sharing data or ideas?

Owen R. White, Director, Exp. Ed. Unit, WJ-10 University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98185 (206) 543-4911

Responses to the solicitations and issues presented in this column may take the form of responsive material submitted for publication in JPT. Regardless of publication, however, direct contact among interested parties is encouraged.