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About this issue...

Something for everyone to begin Volume 4—a case study, a technique, some theory, some "how-to," a training module, book reviews, letters, and ERIC.

Deden-Parker describes a project that used a needs assessment approach to identify and assess skills and knowledge required for successful job performance in a business setting.

Mitchell discusses the use of algorithms in ID, including what they are, what roles they can play, how they are different from other procedural methods, what areas of application and research are available, and what the implications for developers are.

Kaufman and Carron propose a model for selecting among education alternatives based on the requirement that each learner reach "self-sufficiency" requirement in society; the model allows one to calculate the social utility of various programs in meeting this criterion.

Diamond and Sudweeks present some of the

key issues related to course evaluation in the form of a set of "how-to" heuristics and an Evaluation checklist for identifying which questions a developer wants to ask about any course being evaluated.

This issue's *ID Training Module* teaches several strategies for conducting a workshop needs assessment within the practical constraints of limited time and resources.

The *Book Review* department features a review of Gavriel Salomon's important new book on the symbol systems of media and their interaction with the mental skills of learners.

Some reaction to Wallington's article "We Live in Two Different Worlds..." (*JID*, 3, 3) and to *JID's* theme issues will be found in the *Letters* column. We'd like to publish more of these—so please let us know your reactions to our articles and format.

—K.H.S.