

Research Note

Initial appointments at psychological and special needs services:  
the 'Faril Loop' system

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A revised system of service delivery is described in respect of individual referrals from schools to support services. The month of calendar birth linked allocation system counters the tendency of referrals to "peak" at critical times and create or exaggerate waiting lists, and avoids many of the implicit discriminatory effects inherent within traditional systems.

The 1981 Education Act (Special Needs) has led to an increased demand on psychological services for multi-professional assessments, many of which require a formal "Statement of Special Educational Needs". Some of these involve children under the age of five seen at Paediatric Assessment Units (P.A.U.) or Regional Assessment Centres. However, the majority refer to school aged children whose special needs were initially identified by teachers after the children had started at school. Recent experience of the 1981 Act demonstrates that not only are the new procedures more time consuming than previous arrangements, but that in many areas of the country even more children are being referred for formal assessments. One major consequence of this is the creation of a lengthy waiting list.

With the current development of Systems Work and project based intervention this problem has perhaps not received the attention it merits from psychologists, to the detriment of service credibility within schools. A technique for rationalising service delivery has been the goal of the present writers.

Moreover, concern has been expressed about the wider implications of research findings (Calendar, I.IV.86) which suggest that the traditional "A - Z" waiting list discriminates against those individuals whose surname's nominal initial (prigraph) occurs towards the end of the alphabet. (Brit. J. Cap. Pvn. I.IV.87). In other words, when waiting lists are compiled on such a basis, those whose name falls early in the alphabet are likely to be seen earlier.

This effect is further amplified in some multi-cultural inner city areas where prigraphic analysis suggests that not all ethnic or national patronyms utilise the full alphabet spectrum (the "nominal universe").

We believe the proposed system (see Table 1) of service delivery has applications for appointments at school psychological services, Special Needs Support Services, Family Therapy Centres, and Medical Agencies, enabling an organisation to move towards equal opportunities for all groups regardless of surname, and to improve the service offered to all client groups in the light of agency priorities.

Table I illustrates the working of the Faril Loop:

Table 1

1. The client surname is identified from the referring information or relevant data schedule.
2. The prigraph is isolated, and this determines the month in which the initial appointment is to be offered. This can be towards the beginning or end of the month according to demands on the service at that time.

For example a referred client with the name Wittgenstein phonographically becomes "W" which immediately suggests "April" to experienced users of the system. Table 1 confirms that a first appointment can indeed be offered in that month. In no time at all, you will be seeing "W" and saying "April". It is a professional/administrative decision whereabouts in April the appointment occurs.

Once the appointment has been processed in this way, pupil, parents and school can immediately be informed of the date of the first appointment. Whilst we have already piloted this procedure in work with certain schools and at a Regional Assessment Centre, we welcome suggestions from psychologists, practising teachers or L.E.A. administrators for further modification and development of the system.

Table I

Appointments Calendar (by initial letters of surname)

Month of First Appointment

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O
			M					N			

## References and Further Reading

- 1) "Down among the Z men: waiting lists, treatment and the pathogenic significance of surnames." Wilson D.A. "Calendar" 1.1V.86.
  - 2) "The 'Faril Loop' appointment system. A view from the downside." Rolf Paoli. Proc. New Zealand Psychopriagraphical Soc. (Ibid, passim, kiwi).
  - 3) "The Alphabetogenic Syndrome." Sly O.A., Faldo L./Amer. J. Lexical Psychiatry.
  - 4) "A la Recherche des Noms Perdus." M. Poisson-D'avril et al. "Principia Prigraphica." Vol. 2.
  - 5) "The journey from A - Z. How many survive?" Leyden G.A. Brit. J. Capital Punishment. 1.1V.87.
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