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# JEM Research

*by*  
*JEM Projects*

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## History

Joint Educational Management Research (JEM) is a nonprofit research institute located at the Discovery Park complex on the University of Victoria campus (British Columbia). The title of the organization reflects the early focus of JEM on projects related to educational administration. These projects were commenced at the request of the Minister of Education in 1977, for both field agencies and the central bureaucracy. JEM's work within education in British Columbia has been to undertake initial feasibility studies for the ministry or field agencies and, where appropriate, to act as project manager or project consultant to initiated work. Much of this work has involved computer technology either directly for modeling, in data support systems, or for project planning and control.

Because of the interest within education and the employment marketplace in computer technology, JEM has sponsored several projects related to the need for computer literacy. These include computer science employment forecasts, the use and potential for the implications of microcomputers in computer-aided instruction and learning (CAI), and micro-electronic learning aids. JEM discussion papers on these subjects and related aspects of instructional technology resulted in the Deputy Minister and Senior Superintendent of Schools requesting JEM to embark on a program to bring microcomputers into the schools of British Columbia on a pilot basis.

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## Current Work

JEM's present activities, while including research assistance in management projects and project planning for educational agencies, are focused on microcomputer technology in the instructional setting. The scope of involvement covers:

- 1) hardware acquisition and testing;
- 2) courseware acquisition and testing;
- 3) creation of discussion papers on related topics;
- 4) publication of a newsletter on computer-aided instruction (CAI);
- 5) evaluation of pilot test activities;
- 6) publication of courseware development standards;
- 7) operation of an instructional technology coordination centre;

- 8) courseware development; and
- 9) coordination of inservice training.

In addition to the above, JEM is engaged in the evaluation of new techniques for applying advanced hardware and software technology to such areas as speech recognition, special keyboards, speech synthesis, animation and graphics, author languages, courseware design, analysis of learning potentials, and education of handicapped children. These activities are conducted in conjunction with the University of Victoria and the National Research Council.

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## Future

The long-term goal of JEM Research is to enhance the learning process through innovative technology. It is committed to undertake this work utilizing a team of highly skilled research associates with both practical classroom experience and exemplary technical qualifications, in an environment of well-organized individual creative freedom and professionalism.