

Athabascan Languages Can Now Be Typed

FRANKLIN LAKES, N.J. — Two typing elements which make it possible to type the related Athabascan languages on all IBM "Selectric" Typewriters have been introduced by the Office Products Division of International Business Machines Corporation.

The purpose of these new typing elements is to help further literacy among Indian peoples by enabling the preparation of text materials in Navajo, Apache, and related Athabascan languages on widely available IBM "Selectric" Typewriters.

Related languages of the Athabascan family extend from the Sarcee and Chipewyan in the far northwest of Canada and central Alaska to the Navajo and Apache in the Southwestern United States.

Efforts to develop written languages were undertaken independently in the late nineteenth and early twentieth cen-

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ATHABASCAN INDIAN LANGUAGE TYPING ELEMENTS DEVELOPED BY IBM

FRANKLIN LAKES, N.J. — New Athabascan Indian language typing elements are used on IBM "Selectric" Typewriters at the Canoncito Alternative High School on the Navajo Reservation at Canoncito, New Mexico. With the elements, copy can be prepared in Navajo, Apache and related Athabascan languages. They were developed by IBM in conjunction with 'AK'E'ELCHIIIGI, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing literacy among Indian peoples and to preserving their oral and written languages.

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tures. The major work on Navajo was initiated in the 1920's by Father Berard Haile, a Franciscan scholar.

Using this historic information as a background, IBM has created type faces for the related Athabascan languages. These faces are made up of the Roman alphabet augmented by five special symbols.

These elements are named Dine, a word in the Athabascan languages which identifies the people who belong to these related cultures. It means "the people," "ourselves" or "man."

A special typewriter keyboard

is not required for use of these Dine typing elements. One keyboard is available, however, displaying these special characters and diacritical marks, and utilizing a "dead key" which enables the typist to insert special symbols without having to back-space to the correct position.

These new typewriter elements were developed by IBM in conjunction with 'AK'E'ELCHIIIGI, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting literacy among Navajo and other Indian peoples, and to preserving their oral and written languages as im-

portant literacy modes.

Formed in 1973, the organization is located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Its name, freely translated from Navajo, means "about writing."

As a result of this joint effort, both 10 and 12 pitch IBM Courier type styles with these special symbols are now available. Priced at \$18, they may be purchased at IBM Office Products Division branch offices.

They are manufactured at the division's plant in Lexington, Kentucky. Delivery is within six weeks.