

Witt granted rights to Skylab spider data

Dr. Peter Witt, director of the Division of Mental Health Services research division, is currently evaluating the information gathered from the spider experiments in web building carried on in space aboard Skylab.

He received word in late November that he had "exclusive rights" to all the material gathered and will do the follow-up study and publish a final report. Dr. Charles Berry of NASA's life sciences department made the decision, much to the delight of Dr. Witt, who has also done research on the effect of drugs on web building. The report will be done jointly by Dr. Witt and research assistants Mabel Scarboro and Rubenia Daniels and will probably be completed by the end of February.

All research methods available will be utilized in the extensive evaluation of photographs, videotapes, control webs, data on the space environment, etc., that is turned over to the reserach laboratories located in Dorothea Dix Hospital, Raleigh. It is expected that weightlessness will be the main cause of any abnormality observed in the webs woven in space. Preliminary tests simulating blast-off ruled out any effects due to blast-off.