

Information Market Marché de l'Information Informationsmarkt Mercado de la Información

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The European online information market (excluding videotex services) was worth 1600 million dollars in 1987, according to Link.

Technologies to services

The newly launched IMPACT programme shows that the countries of the European Community have seized the opportunity to create positive economic integration within the key information services sector. Common information resources are vital for a true Common Market.

Besides creating pilot demonstration projects in priority sectors, IMPACT will free up the market. The agreed aim is to create more jobs, increase prosperity with the aid of European information services. The private sector needs to be able to make public sector information more accessible with national laws converged and tax and communications charges aligned. The initial two year IMPACT programme can show the way; a FULL IMPACT programme of larger dimension is needed for the 1990s.

The synergy needs to be intensified between Community programmes. As the research to production cycle decreases in time, research results can be speedily incorporated into information service products. New easier voice access systems, expert systems, artificial intelligence and high powered storage and retrieval systems are but a few examples. Joint workshops and seminars could help to create a market place where latest technological advances from such programmes as ESPRIT, RACE, DRIVE, DELTA results could be incorporated into information service products. This would accelerate the innovation cycle, more in keeping with our industrial competitors. The downstream IMPACT programme could play a key rôle of management and coordination.

Downstream from research

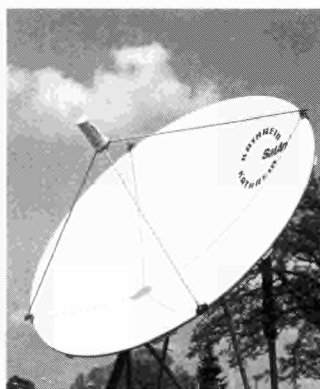
Promoting the IMPACT of new information services

The Commission has received an overwhelming response to its Advanced Notice of its Call for Proposals in priority areas of the European Information Services Market. More than a thousand companies, services, agencies have replied, indicating that they wish to contribute to Europe-wide information services in the run up to 1992. They will be invited to send in detailed proposals in the near future.

Announcing the figures to the Senior Officials Advisory Group, SOAG, on 24 October, DG XIII Deputy Director General Vicente Parajón Collada, said that the Information Services Market Programme would now be called IMPACT: Information Market Policy ACTIONS. The Community programme was agreed by the Council of Ministers in July, 1988.

It will initially run for two years with a budgetary envelope of 36 MECU. Of this, 15 MECU will be made available next year and 21 MECU in 1990 most of it for pilot demonstration projects to show the potential of advanced information systems for professional groups across the continent. The Commission's own database host, ECHO, will play an increasing rôle in encouraging greater public use of Europe's online information services. A whole range of initiatives will be taken to remove legal, technical and fiscal barriers to the flow of information within the Community.

Pilot/demonstration projects will be launched in the follow-



ing seven priority areas: tourism information, road transport information, information on standards, patent information, action on libraries, image banks and intelligent interfaces between information sources and the non expert user.

Tourism, for example, represents about 5.5 per cent of the Community's gross domestic product; over half the Community's citizens go on holiday at least once a year. The creation of tourism information projects should help to make a strategic contribution to help both the tourist have a clearer choice and encourage smaller firms, less well en-

dowed regions and countries to have a better share of the market.

As the mass of potentially accessible information becomes greater, the non expert user has more need of intelligent systems, which will help him find his way. Systems should be friendly, and simple to use. The user must never get lost; he must see where he is, how he got there and what he can do. The technical question of connections, retrieval languages and gateways should only become apparent if the user wishes this information.

As advanced information systems are often lacking in the lesser developed regions, the Commission is supporting a special investigation to see that such regions can make an adequate participation in the IMPACT programme.

EUREKA



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Elements of IMPACT programme

1 European Information Market Observatory (IMO)



An information market observatory is being established within the Commission to improve the statistical understanding of the Community information market and to inform the Commission's policy-making efforts. The aim of the IMO is to supplement the efforts of Member States, companies and other organisations with an interest in the development of the market. The activities of the IMO would therefore be taken in conjunction with, and not supplant, the efforts of Member States, companies and other organizations which collect data.

The IMO will work closely with expert correspondents from Member States to improve the quality and availability of market data on the information market by identifying ways in which this information could be collected according to an agreed conceptual framework.

It will also carry out analyses which will assist the Commission in formulating policy. The results of the data collection and analyses will be made public.

Financial allocation: 1.8 million ECU.

2 Overcoming technical, administrative and legal barriers.

The Commission will explore with information providers and users the demand for simplification and standardization of access to database services and the prospects for achieving agreement on such efforts.

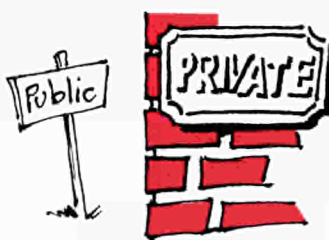


The Commission will also investigate the nature of legal and administrative barriers and possible means to eliminate them. The monitoring and advisory work of the Legal Advisory Board will continue to follow the following priorities: intellectual property, authentication of electronic signatures, computer fraud, liability in relation to information services, confidentiality of database searches, and protection of privacy.

The Commission will also support the improvement of conditions of dissemination of information services by postal and telecommunications services by encouraging technical consultation between publishers and postal authorities and through its efforts on the Community telecommunications regime.

Financial allocation: 1.5 MECU.

3 Improvement of the synergy between the public and the private sectors.



Studies and workshops will be held for the preparation of guidelines and recommendations to stimulate the setting up of European information services, help the public sector in decision-making related to making information available externally; encouraging the private sector to exploit public sector information and improve the transfer of Member States' experience in encouraging such private sector exploitation of public sector data. Efforts will also be made to improve the clarity of public sector policies for such private sector use of public sector data, such as pricing policies and the public sector provision of database services.

Financial allocation: 0.2 MECU.

4 Launching of pilot/demonstration projects



Following the reactions of the market, and the response to the forthcoming Call for Proposals, the Commission will analyze and evaluate the responses received. Preparatory and feasibility studies are already under way in various subjects. The Commission will negotiate with partners from large, medium and small undertakings, less favoured regions and different countries.

Pilot or demonstration projects will be launched in accordance with the aims set out: in new application areas and for demonstrating innov-

ative applications of technology. Projects started under the Five year Action Programme will be followed up as appropriate under IMPACT.

Financial allocation: 23 MECU.

5 Promotion of the use of European information services



The IMPACT programme will supplement the work of information providers by providing objective information about services available from Community suppliers by such means as multi-lingual directories. Guidance and training for users will be provided by strengthening a help desk function. The Commission's infrastructure using its own database host, ECHO, will be used to act as an outlet for new services, where requested, and help in performing promotional campaigns for the use of Community information services.

Financial allocation: 7.0 MECU

6 Action in favour of libraries



Following the Council of Ministers' Resolution on libraries of 27 September 1985, the following work will be pursued: Preparation of a project to interconnect libraries in the European Community; support for the use of libraries; and the encouragement of the introduction of new technologies and services.

An Action Programme specifically for libraries is being prepared.

Financial allocation: 2.5 MECU

Total financial allocation for 1989-90: 36 MECU.

IMM

Information Market
Marché de l'Information
Informationsmarkt
Mercado de la Información

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Cooperating with **DIANE NEWS**

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Comments and inquiries to:
Commentaires et renseignements à:
Fragen und Bemerkungen an:

Information Market
P. O. Box 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg
Tel.: (352) 48 80 41
Telex: 2181

Direct access to ECHO

Onliners who would like to try out ECHO and who do not yet have a password for their national network, can access ECHO directly. Those with a personal computer, a modem and communications software, should call the following number in Luxembourg +352 43 64 28.

The software should be set at the following parameters:

- no or even parity
- 8 bits transmitted (7 data bits plus one stop bit)
- 300 baud data speed.

When you hear the modem tone, hit the carriage return to provoke a logon prompt from ECHO.

New users who have not yet taken out a free contract with ECHO, can use the public password DIANE to logon. If they wish they can leave their name and address in the ECHO mailbox and the ECHO staff will send full details of how to access all the ECHO databases. To access the mailbox, type INFO MAILBOX at the prompt ?

ARCOME

A first version of a database designed to improve the flow of information between experts in communications, **Arcome**, has been loaded on ECHO. Produced by IDATE, the Institut de l'Audiovisuel et des Télécommunications, the database is a follow up to a study jointly supported by the European Community and UNESCO.

Arcome gives a socio-economic approach to the information and communication research sector in Europe. Some 200 organizations, pub-

lic or private, are listed; 400 researchers and consultants and 2000 publications since 1980.

The searches can be made according to the user's needs: the results can be obtained on diskette or on mailing labels. A two volume European directory is published by IDATE from the database.

Organizations wishing to be included in the database should write to the producer.

Contact: Ms Isabel Jimenez
Bureaux du Polygone
F-34000 Montpellier
Tel: +33 67 65 48 48

Dictionary on materials

The European Materials Databanks Demonstrator Programme has produced a multi-lingual dictionary of technical terms on engineering materials in all Community languages. Designed to help users accessing the eleven databases forming part of the programme, the **Common reference vocabulary** is reproduced as it would appear on the screen within Europe (without accentuation).

The user can choose an index in his/her mother tongue and a permuted index is given in English, French, German and

Italian. Multi-lingual tables cover all 2000 terms in the vocabulary and definitions of terms are given in English. The Commission would appreciate feedback from specialist users. Please send the equivalent of 10 ECU to cover postage and packing or obtain the dictionary free at the Demonstrator Programme workshops (see list in IM54, page 7).

Contact: ECHO
P O Box 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 488041
Fax: +352 488040
Telex: 2181 lu

Experts required

The Commission's information market directorate, DG XIII/B, is in the process of updating its lists of experts and consultants in the information services sector. Those who wish their names in-

cluded should send details to the following address.

Contact: Mr Evangelos Paloglou
CEC, DG XIII/B
J Monnet Bldg B4/041a
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 4301 3586

Getting strategic information- ECHO shows you how!

A century ago, hotels in New York had signs for the guests asking them not to try to light the new electric lights with matches.

Many people need a similar sign today for their information systems. New technologies have completely changed how information is stored ... and how strategically important information for decision making can be found. Don't use matches when you have an electronic searchlight to find what you need.

To show you the way, ECHO has produced a series of video cassettes. They speak to you in your language whether you are seeking **Medical information, Chemical and industrial safety, Business and marketing information and Engineering information**. You can order them separately according to your need, language and video player.

For those thinking of launching their own information ser-

vice, a guide and check list has been produced. Synthesizing interviews from managers of Europe's successful companies, the book tells you how to go about planning, managing and promoting such a venture... and it tells you what mistakes to avoid. Produced for the European Commission by Euripa, the European Information Industry Association, **Taking off in the information industry** is essential reading for managers and entrepreneurs.



Eureka! Online information!

Avez-vous un mot de passe? Haben Sie Ihr Passwort?
Do you have your pass word?

Access to most of the ECHO databases is free of charge. These include **Eurodicautom**, an eight language scientific and technical dictionary, **Dianeguide**, a directory of online databases in Europe and a number of scientific research databases such as **EABS**, **Eureka projects** and the ESPRIT databases **SDC**.

Just fill out the coupon for details.

- Yes please send me details of ECHO databases.
- Please send me the following video cassettes
- Medical information Chemical industrial safety
- Engineering Business/marketing information
- Each cassette for 50 ECU = £ 35 Sterling, 100 DM, 350 FF
- All four cassettes for 150 ECU
- Language: English French
- German Italian
- My system is VHS U-matic Betamax

The Euripa book, **Taking off in the information industry**, by Brian Stanford-Smith at the equivalent of £ 75 or Belgian Francs 4500.

ECHO, P O Box 2373, L-1023 Luxembourg; tel: +352 488041, Fax: +352 488040; Telex: 2181.

Name

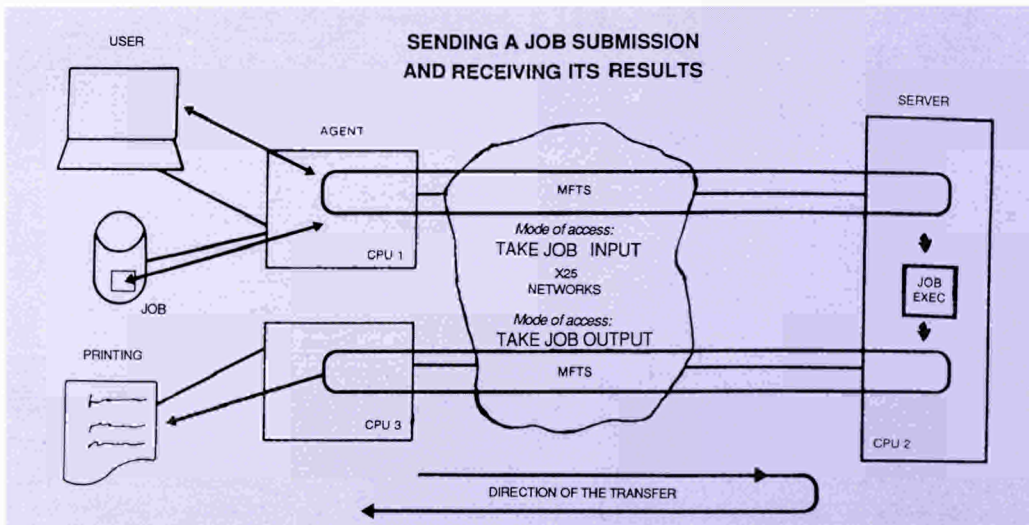
Company

Address

.....

.....

Transferring files with MFTS



The Commission's Informatics Directorate (IX/F) spurred the development of flexible and sophisticated multilateral file transfer system (MFTS) available on SIEMENS (BS2000), ICL (VME), IBM (MVS) and some UNIX V computers. MFTS can be used for a number of applications including: document transfer, database information exchange, remote printing, remote job entry, execution cascade from machine to machine.

The system is based on the most recent OSI standards in anticipation of the FTAM standard for upper levels. MFTS permits the transfer via the datanetworks of a file either binary or text using various character sets (latin extended and greek) for multilingual text transmission. The interworkability of the MFTS was assured through an implementation committee so that divergencies were clarified and balloted, and a product acceptance team cor-

rected deficiencies before the product went under extensive testing.

MFTS automatically resubmits transfers that fail due to network problems and restart where it failed. A high reliability and throughput is then ensured (3 to 5 megabytes an hour typically).

Contact: Mr. Antonio Doronzo
CEC, DG IX/F-5
JMO C2/81
L-Luxembourg
Tél: +352 4301.4548

Twenty years of patents

PATDPA, the German patent database available on STN international, now offers access to 20 years of patent publications. Some 1.7 million citations are included. Bibliographic data, abstracts of German first patent publications from 1981 to present, citations of patents and non-patent literature of the search reports, specific legal status data of all German patents are also included.

A software front end to help users with search content of STN databases has been offered. STN Express will allow the user to build a full range of subject, bibliographic and structure enquiries offline. As soon as the search is ready, STN Express can be used to automatically logon and transmit the query to the database specified. Chemical structure graphics, as well as text can be captured to disk. A word processing feature enables text to be re-edited and combined with the structures.

Contact: STN International
P O Box 2465
D-7500 Karlsruhe 1
Tel: +49 7247 82-4566

L'Europe par le minitel

Aides, subventions et prêts, innovation, grand marché intérieur de 1992, exportations, dumping et vos interlocuteurs dans les institutions de la Communauté: telles sont quelques-unes des rubriques disponibles du service Minitel, **EUROP**. Ce service, qui a été lancé par ETIC, Europe Télématique d'Information Conseil, s'adresse aux professionnels et notamment aux PME. Il fournit les informations sur l'état de l'intégration communautaire dans les domaines, tels que la vie des entreprises, le grand marché, les régions, le social, les nouvelles technologies, les propositions de la Commission, les sessions du Parlement, les colloques se rapportant à l'Europe et agendas des réunions. Une troisième rubrique est intitulée: suggestions et questions. Ce service est accessible sur le réseau Télétel 4 (3617).

Un deuxième service, **EU-**

ROPE est destiné au grand public, et est accessible via le réseau 3 (3615). Il comporte quatre grandes rubriques. La première présente une base quasi-permanente de données générales sur l'Europe: organes, fonctionnement, moyens, actions et statistiques de la Communauté, ainsi que des renseignements et conseils pratiques: les droits des citoyens européens et les actions en faveur de certaines catégories spécifiques (étudiants, femmes, handicapés). Les autres rubriques comprennent des informations générales (les flashes, les initiatives et décisions, notamment dans le domaine de l'Europe des citoyens et du grand marché), une messagerie électronique, et des jeux.

Contacteur: M. François Boucher
ETIC
8 rue Madeleine
F-93400 Saint-Quen

EURO della CERVED

La banca dati on line **EURO** (informazioni sulle aziende europee attive nell'import/export) della Cerved è stata arricchita con i dati relativi alle aziende francesi (34 000) e inglesi (65 000).

I dati sono di carattere anagrafico (ragione sociale, indirizzo, telefono) e commerciale (prodotti trattati). Per le aziende inglesi sono anche presenti i dati di bilancio relativi agli ultimi tre esercizi.

I dati sulle aziende francesi ed inglesi vanno ad aggiungersi a quelli sulle aziende olandesi già presenti in **EURO** e saranno seguiti tra breve da analoghe informazioni sulle aziende austriache, tedesche, belghe, svizzere, spagnole e portoghesi.

Contacto: CERVED
Via Appia Nuova 696
I-00179 Roma
Tel: 39 6 79 46 533
Telex: 620061

Informations transfer als Beruf

Nach über siebenjähriger Laufzeit endete am 30. Juni 1985 der Modellversuch „Konzeption und Entwicklung von Studiengängen im Bereich Bibliothek, Information und Dokumentation (BID)“.

Der vorliegende Abschlußbericht (aus Zeitgründen konnte er leider nicht überarbeitet werden und entspricht dem Stand vom Juni 1985) faßt die wichtigsten Arbeitsergebnisse der gesamten Laufzeit zusammen und verweist auf die ausführlicheren Publikationen über die unterschiedlichen Modellversuche. Er kann mit zwei internationalen Antwortcoupons bestellt werden.

Kontakt: Fachhochschule Hannover
Fachbereich BiD
z. Hd. Prof. Dr. Hüper
Hanomagstr. 8
D-3000 Hannover 91

Matching hardware, software to customers' needs

Consultants who have to advise companies on computer and software supplies could save time and increase customer satisfaction by using the database provided by **Computerscan**. It contains a comprehensive listing of recognized manufacturers and suppliers, with details of market area, equipment expandability and supplier support capability.

The consultant, after having carried out a normal evaluation of the client's business, produces a specification of re-

quirements and then matches the client's prime needs against an alphabetical directory of all criteria/facilities contained in the database. Preparation can be done off-line. An online search can then match customer requirements against suppliers services. Over 4000 suppliers are stored, 650 industries and 500 application areas.

Contact: **Computerscan**
The Guild Centre
GB-Preston,
Lancs PR1 1QR
Tel: +44 772 204060

Exporting info

Five areas of data for decision makers at various stages of the export chain is provided by **Export Network**. A menu type system provides access to: New business opportunities, country and market research, financial markets, transport and news relating to economic, business, finance,

travel and documentation matters.

Some 200 new business opportunities are added each day.

Contact: **Export Network**
31-37 Cursitor St
London EC4A 1LT
Tel: +44 1 430 0208
Fax: +44 1 831 0001

EINECS in ECDIN

A new version of the Commission of the European Communities' databank on Environmental Chemicals, ECDIN, and of the software used to access the databank have been released by the Ispra Establishment of the Commission's Joint Research Centre, and have been implemented on the host computer at the DC host centre in Copenhagen.

The databank now includes the **EINECS** inventory and a new data category: **Hazard Information**, containing data

useful in the case of accidents with chemicals. The new category is based on data from Brandweerinformatiecentrum voor Gevaarlijke Stoffen in Belgium. The data in this category can be displayed in any EEC language with the exception of the Greek language.

Contact: **I/S DATACENTRALEN** af 1959
DC host centre
Landlystvej 40
DK-2650 Hvidovre
Tel: 45 1 758122
Telex: 27122 dc dk
Fax: 45 1 750550

Going online

A free guide, **Going online**, is available from Materials Information. It answers basic questions such as equipment requirements, hosts and telecoms, passwords and databases, costs and how to search.

Contact: **Materials Information**
Institute of Metals
1 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1 5DB
Tel: +44 1 839 4071 ext 207

La télématique

Le guide de la télématique s'adresse aux débutants comme aux utilisateurs chevronnés et constitue une analyse de la télématique sous l'angle technique, économique et sociologique.

Contact: **CRDP**
92 rue d'Antrain
F-35003 Rennes

'You should seriously consider whether your organization can afford not to subscribe.'

Gordon Owen, Managing Director, Mercury Communications, UK

NETWORKS

Effective IT can radically improve your competitive edge and networking is the key enabling technology. But whether you are an exploiter of network services and technology or a supplier how do you keep abreast of developments in this fast moving field?

Networks is a loose-leaf information source designed to give you up-to-date in-depth coverage of all aspects of the networking scene. Updated quarterly, it draws on the expertise of the leading companies and individuals in the field including IBM, BT, AT&T, Mercury and ICL. It will include sections on practical networking problems and solutions; advice on network strategies; information on the latest standards; reviews of products and services; the latest technology; commentary on legislative developments and much more.

Can your organization afford not to subscribe?

For a full information pack on **Networks** please return the form below.

Name _____ Position _____
Company _____ Address _____

Return to: **Dept. DR, Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EL, UK**

User panel formed

A user panel has been created for the European Commission (DG XIII/B) to help monitor trends in the demand for electronic information services. A number of mail surveys will be undertaken using this group to aid the European Information Market Observatory.

Issues considered and analyzed will include:

- types of information services used
- volume of usage
- suppliers of market shares
- uptake of new services
- price sensitivity
- equipment in use.

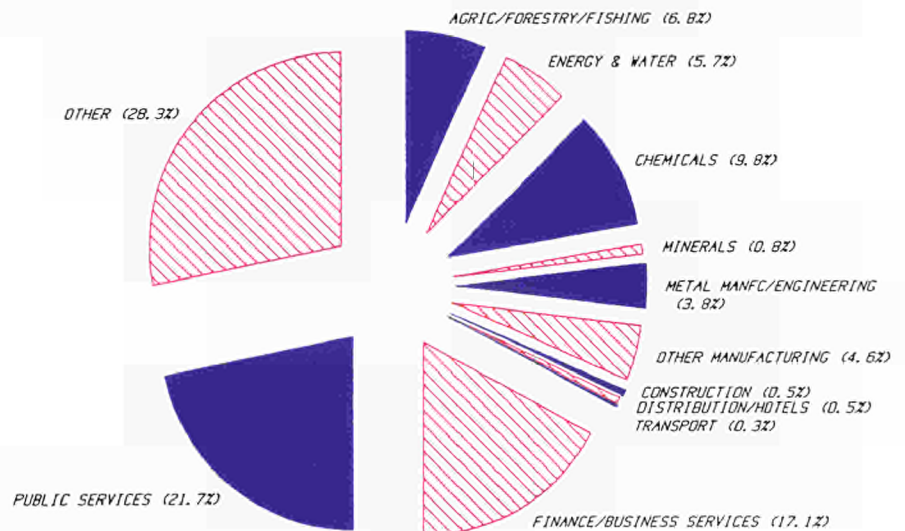
The panel has been established to reflect as near as possible the actual state of the European information services market. The most active countries are the UK, where there is a high concentration of financial information services and accessibility to US online databases, France, where the Télétel videotex has become an overwhelming success, and West Germany. Growth has been relatively slower in the FRG, partly due to the concentration of company information resources in centralized libraries rather than decentralized access by the end-user. In Italy, CD-ROM has gained most ground due to less advanced telecommunications. The Netherlands and Denmark have a high proportion of intensive online users, while in Spain use is mainly concentrated on the financial sector.

The panel splits approximately equally between the commercial and non commercial sectors. The latter is composed of just less than a quarter academic, 13% government, 5% non profit organizations and 10% others. In the commercial sector approximately a third of the companies have either over 500 employees or less than 50; 12% have between 50 and 100; 17% have between 100 and 500.

Information services used include not only online services (86%), but magnetic/optical

Use of Electronic Information Services

Geographical Breakdown by Market Value



media (61%), broadcast electronic data (12%) and printed products derived from computerized systems (26%). More than a quarter considered themselves end-users of the information, half were intermediaries and 22% were users acting both as end-users and intermediaries.

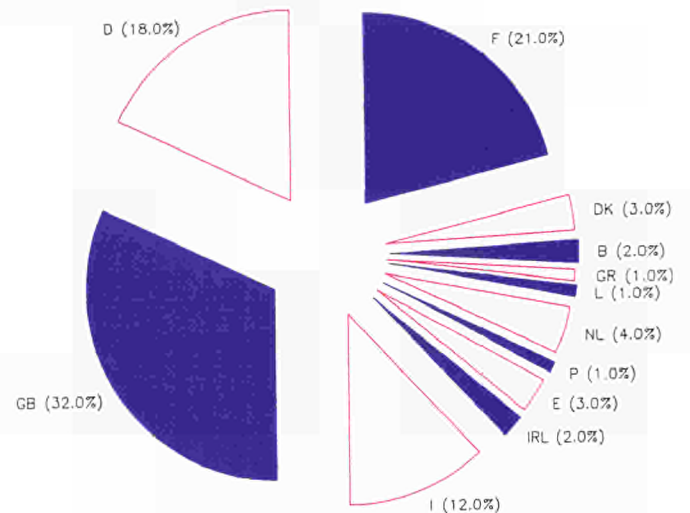
Eleven per cent of the panel had annual expenditures on professional electronic information services greater than £ 50 000; 27% of the panel spent between £ 10 000 and £ 50 000; 25% spent between £ 5 000 and £ 10 000 and the remaining 37% spent a more modest amount up to £ 5 000 per annum.

Scientific and technical was the most sought after category of information by the panel (81%). This category was not subdivided. But a number of categories of business information - which were broken down into marketing and product information, corporate information, credit information and investment and share prices registered high interest. News and current affairs information was searched by two out of five users.

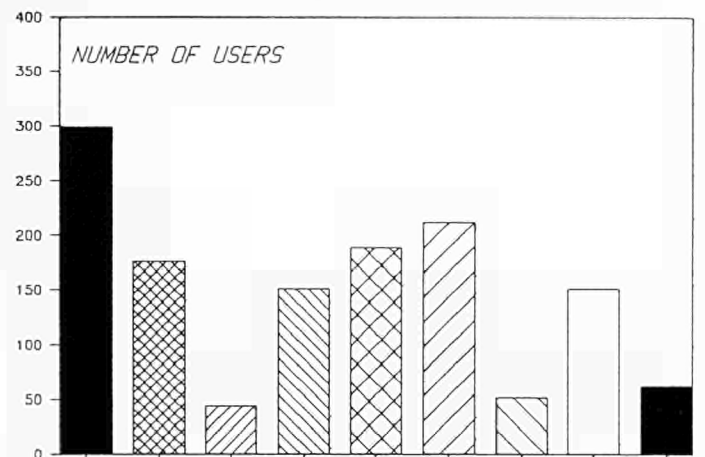
Contact: Mr Serge Lustac
CEC,
DG XIII/B, B4/016
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 4301 2892

The Survey Panel

Membership reflecting market value



Nature of Information Sought



- SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL
- ▣ LEGAL/PATENTS/LEGISLATION
- ▣ CREDIT RATINGS
- ▣ CORPORATE INFORMATION
- ▣ ECONOMIC INFORMATION
- ▣ MARKETING/PRODUCT INFORMATION
- ▣ INVESTMENT/SHARE PRICES ETC
- ▣ NEWS/CURRENT AFFAIRS
- OTHER

Euripa + EHOOG = EIIA

Two European information industry groups have joined forces to create a stronger voice for 1992. EHOOG, the European Host Operators Group, and Euripa, the information industry association founded the European Information Industry Association (EIIA) in Frankfurt on 7 October. It will be open to national bodies and special interest groups within the EIIA could be coordinated at the European level.

It was "the first truly comprehensive attempt to build a representative body for the information community in Europe," declared David Worlock, president of Euripa and Marino Saksida of EHOOG. Both bodies are now pressing

ahead with the necessary constitutional revisions and envisage that the joint body could operate from 1 January 1989.

The new organization sought to exclude no information industry interest, said Marino Saksida. "Rather it is our intention to create a single industry body which both matches the requirements of a single market in the European Community and gives the European information market place an effective voice in line with parallel organizations in Japan and the USA."

Contact: EIIA
P O Box 19
Wilmslow,
GB- Cheshire SK9 2DZ
Tel: +44 625 532 602
Telex:667028 G

Single Nordic shopping

The Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish telecoms authorities have started a joint company. Scandinavian Telecommunication Services AB (STS AB) can offer end-to-end services across Nordic countries and internationally, without the need to contact more than one telecoms authority.

Services include telex, integrated transfer of data and speech, storing and retransmission of telefax and electronic mail. New services such as video-communication could be offered if the market demands.

Contact: Telecom Denmark
Tietgensgade 37, 2
DK-1530 Copenhagen V
Tel: +45 2 91 11 ext 2309

Gale guides

The two volumes of Gale's **Encyclopedia of Information systems** lists 671 online host organizations and a total of more than 4000 listings electronic information firms or organizations around the world. The newly published eighth edition describes some 5200 databases coming from more than 2600 database producers. By contrast the number of teletext or videotex services it includes has fallen to a mere 110 listings. Nearly 1000 pages are devoted to US and about 500 pages in the second volume to 70 other countries.

The third edition of **Telecommunications systems and services directory** is aimed at

providing identification and comparison of providers of telephone, data networks, local area networks, electronic and voice mail, audio and teleconferencing, cellular radio, microwave and satellite networking, videotex and audiotex, shared tenant and teleporting services, telegram, facsimile and telex services.

Gale Research have acquired **Computer readable databases: a directory and data sourcebook**, previously edited by Prof Martha Williams.

Contact: Gale Research Co
Book Tower
Detroit MI 48226
Tel: +1 313 961-2242

Informatics architecture

The Commission has published a third edition of **Guidelines for an informatics architecture**. This brings their informatics architecture up to 1995.

The guidelines show an evolution away from proprietary equipment "empires" and an opting for a vendor-independent strategy based on standards. Personal workstations, which have increased ninefold since 1980, now equip a third of the staff. Half the Commission staff should have their own workstation by 1990 and all intensive users by 1995. These stations will supply a range of advanced services, such as email with graphics capabilities and using icons for

speedy manipulation of tasks. Because of these requirements, the informatics directorate foresee workstations based on UNIX; MS-DOS type machines should be phased out. In the period 1990-95 terminals will be connected to Local Area Networks (LANs) and the switchboard will be replaced by ISDN equipment. The next edition of the guidelines will concentrate on applications architecture. The Commission would like to receive information and suggestions.

Contact: Mr. De Backer
CEC, DG IX-F
Jean Monnet Bldg C2/84
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 4301 39 36

Revue belge

VTX & COM est une nouvelle revue belge qui a pour but d'informer les chefs d'entreprises sur les nouvelles technologies de la communication qui sont au service du monde des affaires: les serv-

ices et banques de données, les centres serveurs, les terminaux, produits télématiques, des applications.

Contact: Sales & marketing
149 av. Van Volxem
B-1190 Bruxelles
Tél: +32 2 344 49 55

Info from Japan

In order to reverse the "information deficit" from Japan, the European Commission is supporting a service offered by Euroconsortium which provides to subscribers copies of translation into English of abstracts of newly published Japanese scientific and technical reports and, on request, of the full papers. These documents are collected by a commission contractor in Tokyo, translated, and distributed by contractors in Europe. Be-

cause the quantity of information is too large to digest (about 900 articles each month) subscribers receive a subset defined by their "profile" of requirements. The service will be provided absolutely free during an initial period.

Contact: Mr. Loll Rolling
DG, XIII/B-4
C. E. C.
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 4301 2885

Retrieval testing

The Dutch online user group Vogin have tested and compared 30 software packages which can be used alone or in combination for online and local information retrieval. Programs included those for terminal emulation and communication with online databases, including uploading of search profiles and downloading, programs for converting downloaded information into formats for local retrieval pur-

poses, and programs for building local documentation systems.

The test report, **Microcomputer applications for online and local information systems**, contains technical data as well as an analysis of the ease of operation of the systems.

Contact: J van Halm & Associates
PO Box 688
NL-3800 AR Amersfoort.

European market slow on CD-ROM

Western Europe: Installed Base of CD-ROM Drives by Country, 1987-92.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
UK	720	2,400	6,400	17,200	32,500	54,000
France	420	2,150	5,300	12,800	27,500	45,500
West Germany	720	2,950	7,200	18,000	36,000	61,000
Italy	4,020	13,800	19,600	27,300	37,000	45,000
Scandinavia	200	850	2,400	9,300	16,500	26,000
Rest of Europe	620	2,950	6,300	15,900	32,500	52,500
Total Europe	6,700	25,100	47,200	100,500	182,000	284,000

By 1992 there will only be 284 000 CD-ROM drives installed in Europe. This compares with the estimated 30 million personal computers then in use. This pessimistic forecast for the CD-ROM market comes from Link resources in a recent report, *Market opportunities for CD-ROM in Europe 1987-1992*. By 1992 Germany will have overtaken Italy as the largest market for CD-ROMs with an

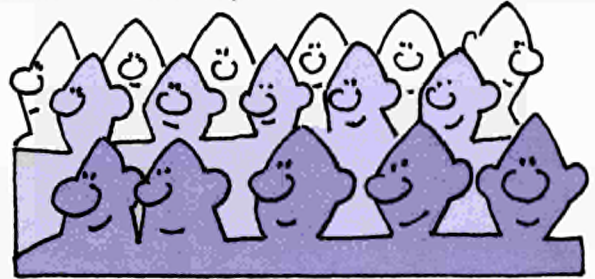
installed base of 60 000 drives. Over the next five years 17 million discs will be pressed in Europe. A recent estimate by Julie Schwerin of InfoTech puts the world installed base of drives at 78,750 in 1988.

Contact: Ms Amanda Jones
Link Resources
2 Bath Road
London W4 1LN
Tel: +44 1 995 8082
Fax: +44 1 747 0212

POPLINE on disc

The large bibliographic population database, **Popline**, is to be produced on CD-ROM by SilverPlatter in a project funded by the United Nations Populations Fund. Popline

contains bibliographic citations and abstracts of literature on population, family planning and related health care, law and policy issues.



Census on CD

Supermap have produced CD-ROM versions of the 1980 U S census and also the 1981 Australian census data. The sophisticated package comes together with matching digital mapping data. Statistics on such topics as housing, vehicles, rent, agriculture, an-

cestry construction, place of work and 2 440 other items can be manipulated on colour coded maps by state or even county.

Contact: Chadwyck-Healey Ltd
Cambridge Place
GB-Cambridge CB2 1NR
Tel: +44 223 311 479

Plantfacts for steel

Plantfacts is a databank for construction data of iron and steel industry production plant from all over the world. Currently 175 000 items on 7000 plants are stored.

The databank, which has received support of the Euro-

pean Commission, is available in English and German. Customers can ask for selective information on optical disk.

Contact: Verein Deutscher Eisenhüttenleute (VDEh)
Sohnstrasse 65
D-4000 Düsseldorf 1
Postfach 8209
Tel: +49 211 67 07 310

Gale's discs

Gale Research, known for its encyclopaedias on the information industry, are to produce their first CD-ROM,

covering associations and association periodicals, called **Associations-CD**.

Microfiche to optical disc

A reader/scanner capable of reading microfilm or microfiche and transferring it to an optical disc system has been announced by Philips Telecommunications and Data Systems. The new scanner, which is being offered as part of the Philips **Megadoc** optical filing system, provides a bridge between micrographics and optical storage, thus enabling organizations to transfer their existing records on a

selective basis. Other enhancements for the Megadoc system have been introduced such as connection to fax for remote scanning and printing and a larger range of workstation options.

Contact: Mr. Rob Morel
Philips International
Bldg KOA 1
P O Box 32
NL-1200 JD Hilversum
Tel: +31 35 891 128
Fax: +31 35 856 990



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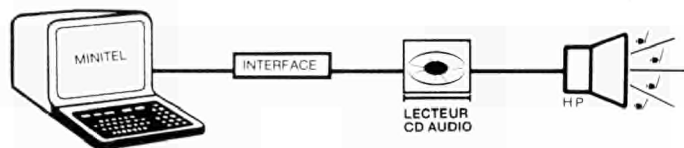
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CD Tel est un disque compact audio pouvant contenir jusqu'à 3 000 pages-écran Minitel. Chacune d'entre elles est enrichie par une illustration sonore. Au total, une heure et quart de son numérique accompagne la diffusion des pages-écran Minitel.

Ce produit n'a pas les capacités du CD-ROM mais il reste un outil performant de communication, bon marché à la portée de tous les utilisateurs de Minitel. Deux versions sont offertes. La version professionnelle utilise un «boîtier MPO» (breveté) relié à une télécommande. Le minitel peut ainsi piloter un lecteur CD Audio et donner la possibilité, de façon interactive, d'accéder aux informa-

tions du disque. Le minitel devient alors un système complet et autonome. En version grand public, le lecteur CD Audio donne accès, par l'intermédiaire d'un simple câble à l'une des 3 000 pages par les touches de fonction standard.

Les domaines d'application de ce produit qui recourt à la qualité exceptionnelle du son numérique sont très nombreux: éducation, apprentissage des langues et de la musique, tourisme, locations saisonnières, publicité.

Contacteur: MPO
Averton
 F-53700 Villaines-La-Juhel
 Tél: +33 1 43 03 27 35
 Fax: +33 1 43 03 79 33
 Téléc: 721432

Fast medical info



SilverPlatter is offering **PDQ**, the Physician's Data Query database on CD-ROM. Produced by the National Cancer Institute, it consists of treatment information, plus key citations about various cancers, treatment protocols, and a comprehensive directory of physicians and organizations involved in the treatment of cancer. SilverPlatter has also announced a reduction in price for its Cancer-CD which contains three medical databases on the subject.

MathDisc is a CD-ROM version of reviews and abstracts of the American Mathematical Society's *Mathematical Review* from 1985 and some 50 000 entries from *Current Mathematical Publications*. Records can be downloaded and edited with T_EX software into typeset form.

Contact: SilverPlatter
 10 Barley Mow Passage
 Chiswick, London W4 4PW
 Tel: +44 1 995 8242
 Fax: +44 1 994 1533

WHO database

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the regional office of the World Health Organization, has produced a CD-ROM of the Latin American Database on Health (LILACS) maintained by its Latin American Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME). A new edi-

tion is planned every six months. The July 1988 edition contains 150 000 records from the Latin American Database in Demography (DOCPAL) covering 1980-7.

Contact: Eng Claudio Brito
PAHO
 525 23rd Street, NW
 Washington D C 20037
 Tel: +1 202 861 3365

English words on disc

The twelve volumes of the Oxford English Dictionary are now available on two CD-ROMs — equivalent to a quarter of a million manuscript pages. Electronic form allows searches over eight fields such as the lemma, sense, etymology, date or author to be easily effected — a

much quicker way to find certain Elizabethan words, for example, across the whole dictionary.

Contact: R R Bowker
 Borough Green
 Sevenoaks
 GB-Kent TN15 8PH
 Tel: +44 732 884567
 Fax: +44 732 884079

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equipment of Eurologos in Brussels. Eurologos can carry out post editing or revision of the SYSTRAN text, which being in machine readable form can be then printed or further processed directly.

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Multi-lingual dictionary

Twenty five dictionaries containing scientific and technical terms in English, French, German, Danish, Norwegian, Finnish, Russian and Spanish have been used to produce **Termdok**, a database created by the Swedish Centre for Technical Terminology. Termdok is published by Walters Lexikon in Stockholm and produced by Archem-type in London.

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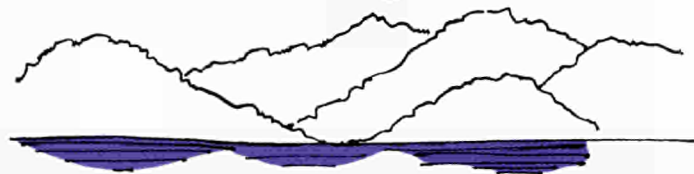
The experts team work at the University College of Swansea in such fields as manage-

ment science, ergonomics, overseas trade, electrical and mechanical engineering, foreign languages, psychology and sociology.

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Electronic crofting



Just Krabhuis, a multi-lingual Dutch scientist, offers a research, editorial and translation service, from the Atlantic swept coast of Scotland. The **Highland Data** service offers information broking, abstracting, indexing via the

electronic mail service, Telecom Gold.

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Voicing and hearing data

Although phoneticists and linguists were confident, that with the invention forty years ago of the sound spectrograph, the mysteries of voice input and output would be solved, that has not proved to be the case. Computers are still too slow; noise and interference renders computer voice recognition difficult; accents of individuals and vocal characteristics vary and words and sentences are formed in unpredictable ways.

Dr E J Yannakoudakis and P J Hutton of Bradford University, in their book, **Speech synthesis and recognition systems** review the speech and hearing processes, phonetic aspects of language, digital coding of speech, as well as speech synthesis and voice output techniques. A complete Pascal program for converting text to phonemes given in an appendix could be used to create software for a speech synthesizer.

Automatic speech recognition

is now used routinely in many work environments. Workers can record limited information via a head microphone/transmitter, thus saving time and money on manual entries. A 25% increase in productivity was noted with one system. A review of recent research and practical experiments in John A Waterworth and Mike Talbot's **Speech and language-based interaction with machines** includes a discussion of the primitive dialogue using VODIS (Voice Operated Database Inquiry System) for train timetable information. A behavioural study of how humans pose questions in real life need to be combined with advances in artificial intelligence systems, linguistic theory, knowledge representation and conversational analysis.

Contact: **John Wiley & Sons Ltd**
Baffins Lane, Chichester
GB-Sussex PO19 1UD
Tel: +44 243 779 777
Fax: +44 243 775 878

Data belge

Un salon belge de l'information, de la documentation, des bases données et de leurs systèmes de conservation et de transmission, **Data '89** se déroulera les 26-28 janvier, au Centre Anspach, Bruxelles.

Contact: **Mme Christine Bertrand**
Advice and management
ASBL/VZW
215 rue du Trone
B-1050 Bruxelles
Tél: +322 640 6060
Fax: +322 640 7072

B L launches LIBs

The British Library Research and Development Department and the Library and Information Technology Centre have launched a new information service called **LIBs**, Library and Information Briefings. Published eight times during the year with an annual bound updated volume, LIBs

will cover the legal and policy environment of information and new technologies such as CD-ROM, desktop publishing, value added networks and standards such as OSI.

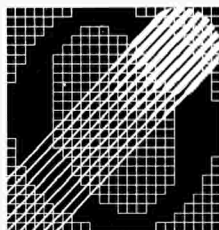
Contact: **Ms Roslyn Cotton**
British Library R & D
2 Sheraton St
London W1V 4BH
Tel: +44 1 323 7049

Learning symposium

An international symposium on **Computer assisted learning** called CAL 89 will be held 11-14 April 1989. Summaries of workshop presentations, abstracts of papers and exhibition plans should be

submitted by mid-September.

Contact: **Dr Terry Hinton**
CAL89
University of Surrey
GB-Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH
Fax: +44 483 300 803



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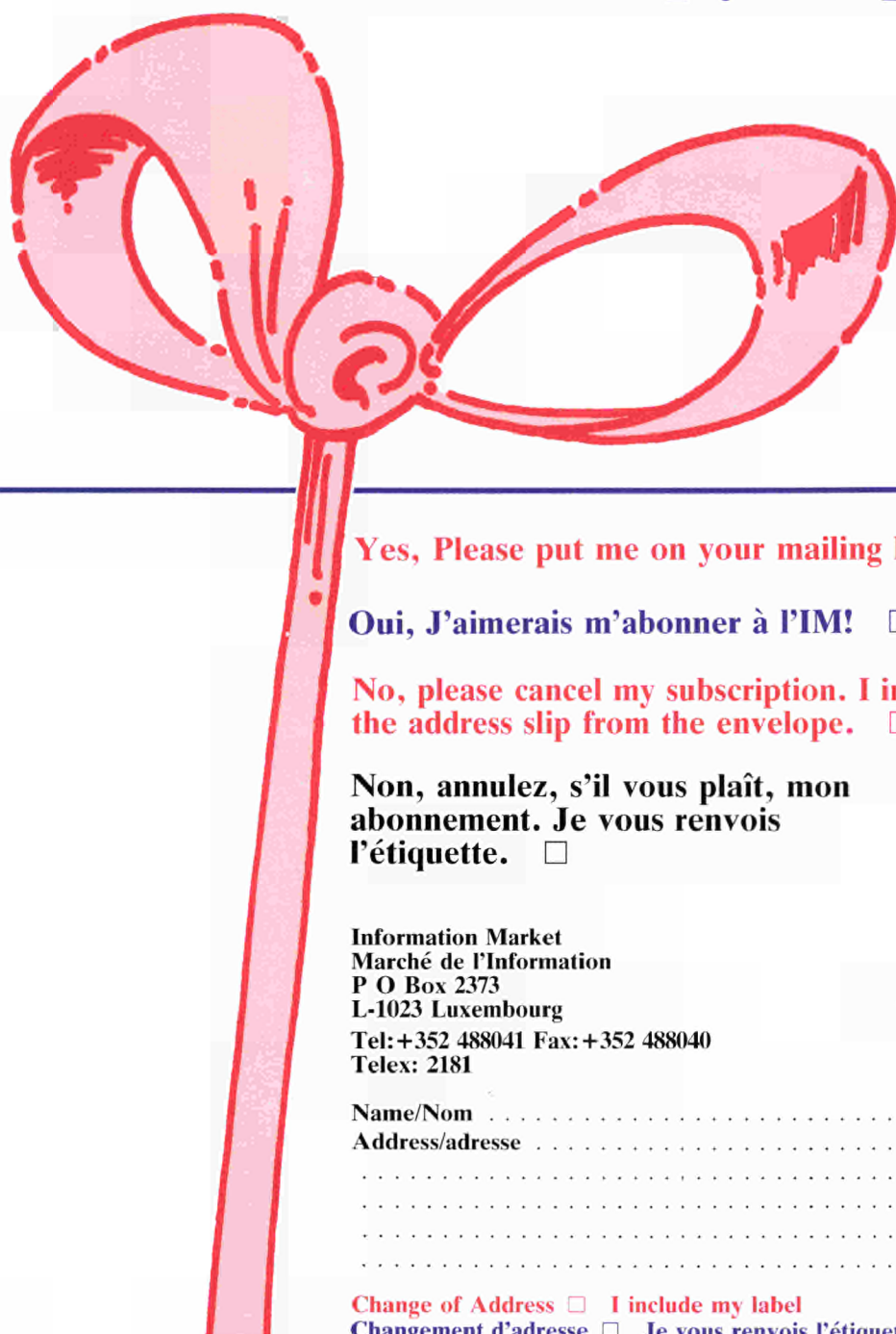
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