CONNECT

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM CURRICULUM CORPORATION

Curriculum CORPORATION
A.C.N. 007 342 421

Welcome to your newsletter...

WELCOME to *Connect*. The information technologies field is bristling with a changing array of hardware and software given the multiplicity of products available, it is important to get succinct, accurate and applicable information to our users. We believe that users of established and newly developed Curriculum Corporation services and products will gain fresh insights, ideas and information through this regular newsletter.

In this way Curriculum Corporation can continue to support you in providing your school with the best in library services, thereby enriching learning and teaching.

Please read and let us know how you feel about *Connect*.

David Francis,

Executive Director

In this issue...

In This Issue

IN this first edition of *Connect*, we address issues relating to the implementation of CD-ROM technology in school libraries, based on the practical experience of a teacher-librarian.

In future issues other technologies, such as on-line searching and bulletin boards, will be discussed in terms of their practical applications. Library automation is not a pre-requisite for implementing these technologies, nor is technical expertise. Your contributions are welcomed.

The newsletter also provides information about the new ABBREVIATED CATALOGUING MICROFICHE and a review of SEARCH. We also include some tips for effective use of SCIS Dial-Up. In future issues we will include letters to the editor and their replies. If you have any issues that you would like to raise please write to the editor.

Information Staff 1992

Curriculum & Information Manager:	Warren Brewer
Acting Senior Information Officer:	Lance Deveson
Education Officer:	Alan Ferguson
Curriculum Information Network Coordinator:	Jenny Ferguson
Cataloguing Services Co-ordinator:	Louise Tuft
Cataloguer:	Sallie-Ann Boyle
Library Technician:	Barbara Burr
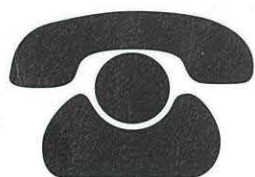
☎ Dial-Up

How do I get the most out of my Dial-Up time?

When using any Dial-Up service the user should do their thinking before going on-line.

In relation to the SCIS database, if you are going to do some SEARCHING of resources to locate the SCIS Order Number, using the ISBN's as the search term (a quick way), sort the books with the ISBN's showing and once onto the system use the CHAIN COMMAND facility on the DOBIS/LIBIS system to speed your search from one item to the next. The procedure is explained in the Dial-Up manual all subscribers to the service receive.

If you still need help with the CHAIN COMMAND contact Curriculum Corporation for assistance.

HINT: *Choose a communication software that has a timer facility inbuilt to give you an idea of how long you have been on the system. If you are using Dial-Up for more than 1.5 hours per month it is cheaper to pay the registration of $125.00 per calendar year and $30.00 per connect hour.*

Dial-Up gives you access to the bibliographic information and also to the Curriculum Information Subsets for the one subscription. As soon as a resource is added to the database, it is available to a Dial-Up user.

Get to Know Your Editor

DIANNE LEWIS is the teacher-librarian in charge of the secondary school library of Mount Scopus College in Burwood, Victoria. She is an avid reader and promoter of adolescent fiction and has developed a whole school approach to teaching information skills. She has been interested in the application of technology to libraries for many years and was one of the pioneer users of ASCIS microfiche and later the Dial-Up service. More recently she has been involved in the implementation of technologies such as CD-ROM, on-line databases and bulletin boards at Mount Scopus.

Dianne is currently completing a Master in Business Information Technology at RMIT in Melbourne, Her major area of interest is in researching current developments in CD-ROM and on-line applications in school libraries in Australia.

When not working and studying, Dianne enjoys reading on the beach, bush camping (while listening to Pavarotti), good theatre, patting the cats (two of them) and playing with her computer.

STOP PRESS...

Have you re-subscribed?

If your school has not received the January Cumulation of either the Full Cataloguing Microfiche and Subject Authority Microfiche of the NEW Abbreviated Cataloguing Microfiche and Subject Authority by now, it is probably because Curriculum Corporation has not received your SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL. The subscription package was sent out to all schools in November last year. If in doubt please contact us: we will check our records and, if necessary, send you another form.

# Setting Up a CD-ROM Service in a School Library

WHY SET IT UP?

Curriculum changes over the past few years have resulted in a greater emphasis on resource-based independent learning, particularly on the use of periodicals as sources of current information.

CD-ROM enables students and teachers to more easily and effectively search for information from encyclopedias, statistical databases and periodical indexes.

SELECTION OF CD-ROM DATABASES

Factors to consider in selecting CD-ROM products include
- relevance to the curriculum
- Australian content
- coverage of journals on subscription
- ease of use
- cost
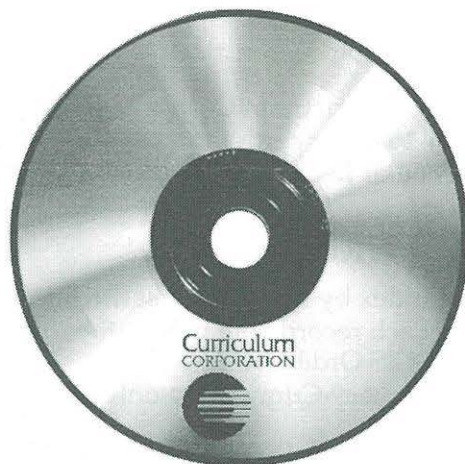
DATABASES SELECTED FOR INITIAL PURCHASE

This is not an attempt to provide an exhaustive list of CD-ROM products. It represents the selections made for one secondary school library.

AUSTGUIDE

As *GUIDELINES* is an index with which students are familiar (in print) and for which the library holds a significant coverage of the indexed journals, it was felt that this was a good beginning point. Students have found it easy to use with little instruction.

The *AUSTGUIDE* disc also contains *Pinpointer*, and a variety of ABS statistics.

Cost: $220 single disc.

AUSTROM

This disc provides access to *APAIS*, as well as a range of specialist indexes such as *Family, Leisure, Ausport, CINCH, AGIS, ARCH, ASCIS, Home Economics Index, WESTDOC* as well as *Australian Education Index* and *Edline*. (Subscription to AUSTROM will allow cancellation of print subscription to APAIS.)

Cost: $295 single disc, or $745 three discs per year.

Informit, producers of AUSTROM and AUSTGUIDE, have a special introductory offer valid until March 31, 1992, which also includes the literary database *AUSTLIT, ARTS, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT*, and an issue of *VICTORIAN PIONEERS INDEX*.

SAGE – Science and Geography Education

This disc, produced by the CSIRO, indexes general science and geography journals. It would be useful for all science subjects offered at school as it covers topics such as environment, earth science, astronomy and technology with an Australian emphasis.

Cost: $100

> *AUSTGUIDE, AUSTROM and SAGE all operate on KAware search software. This software facilitates students moving from one disc to another.*

SUPERMAP FOR WINDOWS

Produced by Space-Time Research, this disc provides statistics from the 1981 and 1986 censuses with maps, graphs and summary statistics. It is impressive when demonstrated. The Windows version is faster and easier to use than the MS DOS version.

Cost: $1,000

ELECTRONIC ENCYCLOPEDIA (Grolier)

A general encyclopedia such as Compton's or Grolier may be bundled free with the CD-ROM drive. I selected the *ELECTRONIC ENCYCLOPEDIA (Grolier)* because of the search strategy which it provides. By using this encyclopedia, students learn to use rudimentary Boolean search strategies which will be transferable to other searching situations.

Cost: $595 (if not bundled with purchase of CD-ROM drive)

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

A computer *(IBM compatible system described here but Apple Macintosh systems are also available)* and a CD-ROM drive (either external or internal) are the basic requirements. CD-ROM extensions come with the CD-ROM drive. The ability to print information is also essential, although an existing printer may be used.

The Basic Hardware Required

CD-ROM Drive

Computer & Monitor

Printer
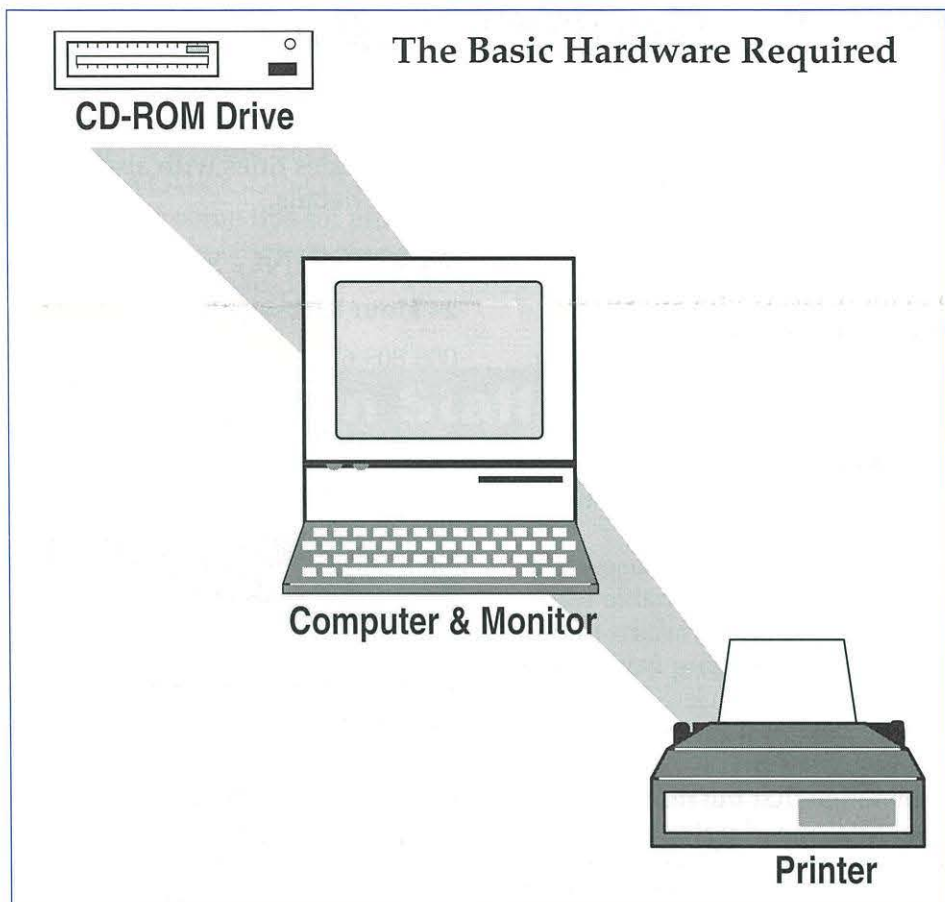
Although it is possible to use a 286 with 1mb RAM, it seems that the faster the better. A 386/25 computer with 2mb RAM, a 40mb hard disc, 5.25 or 3.25 fdd, and a VGA monitor is comfortable to use and access time is reasonably fast.

For good performance with the Windows version of SUPERMAP, you will need a more powerful computer: 386/33 or 486, Windows 3.0 and mouse.

Experience in Australia and overseas has shown that the popularity of CD-ROM is enormous. It is anticipated that the newly acquired CD-ROM station will be the first of several which will be eventually networked.

If the printer is to be located in the main reading areas of the library the noise level may be a factor to consider. Quiet printers and/or acoustic hoods could provide solutions to this problem.

SECURITY ISSUES

Consideration should be given to ways of ensuring an adequate level of supervision for reader assistance with the hardware and search strategies, as well as to ensure that deliberate mischief does not occur. Some alternatives may include locating the CD-ROM drive and computer close to the inquiry desk, locking the floppy disk drive, or locating the CPU away from the students, leaving the monitor and keyboard on open access.

Informit can provide technical information to prevent students exiting to DOS from any of the KAware products (and possible creating havoc on your computer!). Ask about this when you purchase your CD-ROM discs. If you allow students to bring their own floppy discs to download information, a virus protection program is advisable as a precaution against infection.

REACTIONS FROM STUDENTS & TEACHERS
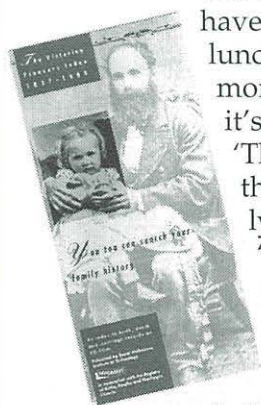
'The kids can't stay away from it! The younger boys have monopolised it, "playing" with the Groliers at lunchtime and recess. The girls have taken a little more coaxing but once they try it they are hooked – it's just so easy.'

'The senior students are amazed at how quickly they can find citations – and how many are actually in the library (especially from *AUSTGUIDE*).'

'Today I really had a coup! The most "anti-technology" teacher in the school came looking for information. I coaxed her onto the CD-ROM and two hours later, not only did she have two pages full of useful citations from *AUSTROM* and *AUSTGUIDE*, but she had begun to play on the encyclopedia looking for pictures of kangaroo rats and could hardly be dragged away. Research has never been so satisfying or so much fun.'

A new service for libraries that need current information but also need to consider the cost...

Search

CURRICULUM CORPORATION is well aware of the demands placed on libraries, school libraries and libraries in tertiary institutions to access current curriculum information at the lowest possible cost and often without access to on-line databases or microfiche.

Educators need current information and up-to-date resources to assist them with their curriculum planning and also need to be able to access that information in the easiest possible way – via a telephone.

After initial trialling in Victoria and New South Wales in late 1991, *Search* has been introduced on an extended trial basis for schools, school libraries, tertiary institutions and libraries to meet this need. The *Search* service is a low cost way of accessing information from the Curriculum Corporation national database. It can be used without the need to have electronic access via computer and modem, or without the tedious searching on microfiche. The service provides bibliographic data and, in many instances, abstracts or reviews.

Search enables users to identify a full range of resources in specific areas of the curriculum. The list provided could then be worked through by the user to provide sufficient, suitable and up-to-date materials to support the development of a unit.

Presentation is by curriculum area and the information includes title, author, date of publication, publisher and ISBN. The informa-

tion requested by a *Search* user can include items from the Curriculum Corporation databases: Schools Cataloguing Information Service (SCIS), Curriculum Information Network (CIN), Asian Studies, Environmental Education, Australian Studies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resources, and Computer Software Review. The result is sent to the user in a professional print format.

The service can be used as a buying guide. It can enable teacher librarians and librarians to buy resources by selecting from the list rather than be restricted to material available from the normal sources of supply. A bonus is the knowledge that the resource has been catalogued onto the SCIS database and the Abstract will provide a resumé of the resource and how other educators may have used the resource.

Access to the service has been made as easy as possible by provision of a 24 Hour Message Bank on 008 809 678 (ringing from outside Melbourne) or 639 1405. This access enables the user to phone the service and leave a recorded message. *Search* can also be accessed by fax on (03) 639 1616. A *Search* proforma is also available from Curriculum Corporation.

The service aims for a 48 hour turnaround or, if no result is achieved then, Curriculum Corporation will contact the user to notify them of the problem and ask for an alternative search term. Curriculum Corporation has priced the *Search* Service at $8.00

plus 20 cents per title listed and this includes titles with abstract/review details.

ACCESSING SEARCH:

24 Hour Message Bank:

008 809 678 ....Outside Melbourne
639 1405 ....Melbourne Callers

Facsimile:

(03) 639 1616

Review...

The year 12 Art teacher at my school is preparing a unit on methods used in the preservation of art works. Knowing that this was a difficult topic, I decided to give *Search* a go. I ignored the request on the *Search* profile form to include SCIS subject headings (why make it too easy?) and requested:

SUBJECT: Methods used to store, preserve and maintain studio art works and requested abstracts.

I faxed in the request and received a reply within 24 hours. The speed was impressive.

Two items were retrieved (I knew it would be difficult): one with abstract including price and availability, and the second a SCIS record of a 1978 reprint of a 1973 title. There was also a covering letter suggesting two organisations which could be helpful.

For a library with no access to the SCIS dial-up facility, this is an excellent service.

Di Lewis

Abbreviated Cataloguing Microfiche

A new Curriculum Corporation product designed to assist schools quickly locate the SCIS Order Number or ISBN to order cards, and machine readable records by having to search through less sheets of microfiche. Particular help for schools using ASCISRECON.

FEATURES:

- Index by title (The first title in each frame is indexed).
- Each record contains: author, title, publication details, DDC 20 and ADDC 12 Call Numbers, ISBN and SCIS Order Number.
- January Cumulation only 70 sheets versus almost 200 in the Full Cataloguing Microfiche.

HOW DO I USE MICROFICHE?

Can I order full descriptive catalogue cards from this fiche?

Cards or machine readable records can be ordered in full or abbreviated descriptive cataloguing format from this type of microfiche by just noting down the SCIS Order Number or ISBN.

What is the best method to search this microfiche?

With the *Full Cataloguing Microfiche* the index is by author, however the often requested title index has been included as the search mechanism for the *Abbreviated Cataloguing Microfiche*.
To locate a SCIS Order Number, sort the resource into alphabetical order by title.

Will I get updates?

Every month subscribers receive an update of the new resources on the database as per the *Full Cataloguing Microfiche*. Each update includes the previous month's additions to the database.

Does this microfiche complement ASCISRECON?

The most effective way to use ASCISRECON is to order the records by SCIS Order Number which should result in a 100% 'hit rate'. This is providing you have located the number from a current set of microfiche or SCIS card set. The *Abbreviated Cataloguing Microfiche* speeds up the searching process by providing less sheets of microfiche to check and when the record is located the information required (i.e… SCIS Order Number) is easier to locate.

Microfiche Schedule 1992

Cataloguing Microfiche Full & Abbreviated

Cumulation in Schools	28	JAN
Feb Updates	28	FEB
March Updates	3	APR
April Updates	6	MAY
May Updates	5	JUN
June Updates	3	JUL
July Updates	7	AUG
August Updates	4	SEP
September Updates	2	OCT
October Updates	3	NOV
November Updates	27	NOV

Subject Authority Microfiche
(4 times/year)

7 FEB, 8 MAY, 14 AUG, 6 NOV