

# INTERNATIONAL INDEX TO FILM PERIODICALS

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London, 1st December 1982

TO THE SUPPORTERS OF PIP AND THE FIAF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The financial situation of the PIP at the end of 1982 is better than foreseen, in spite of unexpected building and legal costs. Thanks to the supporters there has been no cash flow problem this year, and no loans have been required from FIAF for this purpose.

The FIAF loan for the publication of the 1979-80 television volume has been received and is being held for the printing costs of this volume which will be incurred in January 1983. The loan will be repaid out of the first sales of this volume. Income can also be anticipated from the ten-year microfiche cumulation of the film index, due in February 1983.

In spite of these additional sources of income our revised budget 1983 and draft budget 1984 for the card service show that in order to achieve a balance it is necessary to increase subscriptions and allow for a 12.5 per cent increase in supporters' contributions. Our continuing financial problems are caused by high and inflationary costs of labour, materials and postage, and they are unlikely to be solved as long as we continue with cards. Even when more subscribers are attracted the financial gains are substantially reduced by the high unit costs of the service.

The PIP sub-commission therefore suggests that we should take advantage of the economic benefits to be gained from using a more advanced technology and replace the cards with microfiches. The advantages to subscribers are set out in the enclosed documents. We are circulating our subscribers for their views on the change and we will present the results of the questionnaire to the meeting of the Executive Committee in January.

Additional advantage to PIP are as follows:

1. Cost: see budgets.
2. Removes dependence on a professional printer and on a trained clerical assistant able and willing to sort some 45,000 cards, and file some 2,500 cards, each month.

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3. Avoids future storage problems.
4. Simplifies our service: no "B" or "Special services".
5. Greatly reduces the unit cost of multiple copies, therefore reduces the cost of providing the free East European service. Similarly it would make possible a reduced price for Third World countries.
6. Increased sales potential. This is an unknown factor, but we do know that some institutions have not subscribed because of shortage of staff and space.

The PIP sub-commission strongly recommends that the microfiche system be adopted. Having taken the decision to produce a ten-year cumulation the time is ripe, since the sales of one will reflect upon the other. Given the approval of the subscribers and the supporters we would like to implement the proposal in March 1983. To wait until the Congress would mean cards for another year with consequent financial and administrative problems (e.g. the printing machine - see Note 4, Budget 1983). We would be grateful therefore if our supporters would let us have their opinions in writing before the Executive Committee in January.

It is our opinion that this development would mean a real hope for the future of the PIP.

On behalf of the PIP Sub-Commission (meeting 26th-30th November 1982),

Michael Moulds  
Editor