

INTERNATIONAL INDEX TO FILM/TELEVISION PERIODICALS

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EDITOR'S REPORT

1. Film and television volumes and microfiches

1991 saw the publication of the third television volume, which covered the period 1983-86, and the 1990 film volume which was published in September. This year we hope to bring out the 1991 film volume during the summer, and the next television volume, for 1987-90, in the autumn.

The 1987-91 microfiche cumulations (18 fiches for film and eight for tv) will be despatched next week, together with the first despatch for 1982.

2. Staff

For the last six months Milka Staykova from the Bulgarska Nacionalna Filmoteka has been working with us (she has just returned home). This has been a very happy and productive time for us, and I hope for Milka too. She has helped enormously in reducing the backlog of indexing of Russian, Bulgarian and East German periodicals, as well as giving me invaluable assistance with invoicing. It occurs to me that other archives might consider sending us a member of staff on leave of absence for a few weeks! It could be beneficial to both of us, since we could provide a period of intense training while they were helping us in our work.

3. Finance

As a result of receiving most of the income from the 1989 and the 1990 volumes in the same year our finances this year present a healthy picture. We have paid off the outstanding Fiaf loan and still carried forward a balance of more than £14,000. However this situation will not be repeated, and the publication of the television volumes does very little more than cover its costs. Sales of the microfiches and the volumes too appear to have reached a plateau which does not seem to be improved by publicity.

4. CD-ROM project

As I said in my last report I feel that the way forward is with CD-ROM and several months of investigation have confirmed my opinion. The complications of our requirements proved too much for the Philips Interactive system. On the other hand the estimate for the Reed Opti-Ware software is out of reach for us without a grant, which I am not optimistic about getting. As a compromise I am having discussions with the Open University (who created the CD-ROM for The Times newspaper). Their provisional

estimate for our requirements is £6-10,000. I am waiting for a more precise figure.

I have allowed £5000 this year and next year for the CD-ROM project in my proposed budgets. This will probably not be enough to cover the costs, bearing in mind that the production of the disk after the development cost is in the region of £2,500, and there is also design and marketing to allow for.

Should we go ahead with the Open University my proposed timetable for the project would aim at a first disk in September. I am hoping that it will be technically possible within the budget to incorporate the data which was input on Infodoc's computer from 1983 to 1986. At this stage modifications and improvements can be made to the disk. The first commercially-aimed disk should be produced in the spring of 1993.

Present intentions are to bring out one disk per year. I would hope to keep a microfiche service in operation (albeit on a less frequent basis than at present) for those existing subscribers who are not ready for the CD-ROM, and it could also operate if required as an update service for CD-ROM subscribers. Both the film and television databases would be included, but probably not merged. The pricing structure cannot yet be decided on, but in the first years I would not expect it to exceed £500, to allow for discounting, with a supplement of possibly £100 for the microfiche updates. We could reasonably expect to cover our costs with the first disk in 1983, though we may well have some cashflow problems before then. The British Library are interested in the venture, and may come up with a proposal for joint publishing on a cost/profit sharing basis. I have also submitted a request for a grant to the Library of Congress (c/o David Francis). There is also a possibility of sharing costs with the Design & Applied Arts Index in a joint CD-ROM.

There is now a great interest in this medium and Variety published a special report on it in their March 9th issue. The potential market is much greater than for microfiches, which is now out-of-date and unpopular with users. I am aware that several university librarians buy the book only because students will not use the microfiches. There are over 500 media courses in the USA listed in the AFI Guide to College Courses. We have these and over one thousand other addresses listed on our publicity database.

BUDGET 91	RESULT 91	BUDGET 92	FORECAST 93
RECEIPTS			
4700 Balance at start of year	4700	14288	1899
24000 Subscriptions	26946	28500	35000
7400 Support	7374	7400	7400
39000 Film volume sales	43746	30000	32000
5000 TV volume sales	5268	1900	3400
1000 Micro. cumulations	645	200	100
500 Other publications	132	200	200
800 Back periodicals	292	300	350
0 Fiaf grant (accountancy)	935	450	450
0 Misc. income	87	90	100
0 Bank interest	397	400	400
82400	90522	83728	81299
PAYMENTS			
820 Rates	580	700	800
68 Water rates	67	80	90
1829 Service charges	1391	1500	1650
5645 Rent	5644	5644	8000
0 Office cleaning	0	95	10
85 Electricity	126	140	150
620 Telephone	577	630	700
190 Insurance	217	240	264
500 Office equipment costs	151	400	200
200 Furniture & fittings	157	200	200
50 Refreshments	22	100	50
st:10007 sub-total: Office costs	st:8932	st:9729	st:12114
9265 Print costs: film vols.	9203	5100	5400
4680 Print costs: TV vols.	3337	5000	0
1900 Other printing projects	0	2000	900
st:15845 sub-total: Printing	st:12540	st:12100	st:6300
600 Microfiche production	552	650	650
200 Microcumulations	235	100	0
760 Computer supplies	91	200	200
400 Computer hardware	598	1500	500
750 Revelation software	0	500	0
100 Other software	210	300	300
st:2010 sub-total: Computer	st:899	st:2500	st:1000
672 Travel (Abroad and UK)	956	1000	1200
100 Reference books	15	100	100
40 Subscriptions to BFI	44	50	55
57 Bank charges	134	200	250
598 Accountancy	520	450	550
5300 Fiaf loan repayments	5307	0	0
st:5955 sub-total: Finance	st:5961	st:650	st:800
26000 Monthly salaries (net)	24470	27000	30000
14050 Taxes, N.H.I. & Pension	13559	14700	16400
4160 Invoicer/indexer	3026	4000	5000
st:44210 sub-total: Staff	st:41055	st:45700	st:51400
680 Stationery	181	350	220
200 Publicity	0	200	220
3000 Postage & distribution	4679	3500	3500
130 Couriers & faxes	185	200	220
Project: CD-ROM		5000	5000
83649 Total payments	76234	81829	82779
-1249 Bank/cash at year end	14288	1899	-1480