

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

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Suggestions for the improvement of the International
FilmArchive CD-ROM

1. Windows version

The most immediate requirement is to add the possibility to run the CD-ROM on Windows. Dos is very much a thing of the past now and some new subscribers, and especially agents, are resistant to even trying our disk. The situation is bad now and will get worse.

2. Boolean searching

The facility to narrow down the scope of a search by specifying more than one search term is an activity dear to the heart of librarians, and the lack of this on our CD-ROM is often the first fault they find with it. Adding this facility would definitely improve its attractiveness to the people most involved in the decision to subscribe.

3. Printing

Although it is possible to print out selections from the CD-ROM, users frequently do not wish to print the whole of a section of the data. Greater selectivity in printing would be a natural by-product of a Windows version.

4. Marketing

When these improvements are carried out we will have the opportunity to relaunch our CD-ROM. I suggest a marketing campaign using a new leaflet with extensive mailings to universities and libraries across the world, possibly in conjunction with publicity for the FIAF journal.

Estimate of costs

Fortunately development work on the CD-ROM can be achieved in stages, and Windows and Dos versions can coexist on the same disk. The most urgent improvement is to convert to Windows and it would be advisable to carry this out first on the P.I.P. This, the most expensive process, will cost between £3000 to £4000, and will be incurred the first year. Once the problems of this are overcome it will be relatively easy to incorporate the other databases, and to introduce the facility to search across treasures and the bibliographies on the CD-ROM, costing in the region of a further £3000.