

REPORT OF P.I.P. ACTIVITIES

MAY - JULY 1998

1. P.I.P. General

A. Infrastructure

The main problem right now is that the computers in the P.I.P. office are not linked, which implies that our main database (Advanced Revelation) can only be consulted by one person at any given time. Another disadvantage is that the E-mail facilities are not available directly. However, this problem will normally be solved very shortly by the installation of Windows NT in the FIAF offices, which will link all our computers with the Secretariat office. This means for instance that we will be able to consult directly the "Imis database" (which contains full details of our customers for the annual volumes and CD-Roms). The P.I.P. already invested in a 3 User Add Pack and an upgrade of the Advanced Revelation programme, a necessity for the good functioning of the P.I.P. in the future.

B. Indexing matters

There have been important results in the search for new indexers. The Archimedia session on Documentation topics at the BIFI (May 1998) where I was invited to give a lecture about the P.I.P. resulted in a considerable number of participants eager to contribute to the project. The three main Spanish Film Archives (*Filmoteca Espanola*, *Filmoteca de la Generalitat de Catalunya* and *Filmoteca de la Generalita Valenciana*) decided on titles they would index for us. Furthermore, the representatives of French Film Archives (*BIFI*, *Cinémathèque de Toulouse*, *Institut Lumière de Lyon* and *the Archives du Film*) agreed to share the indexing of the main French periodicals. The *Cineteca de Bologna* offered to participate in the project, and the *Cinematheca Portuguesa* has also shown a keen interest.

We are currently improving and testing a new indexing programme which will allow the indexers to enter their data directly into the computer and will enable us to incorporate it directly into our Advanced Revelation Database. Indexers will then have the opportunity to send their work on disk or by E-mail attachments. All the current and future indexers have been informed that they will receive the new indexing programme in September. We want to make sure first that the new programme will run under the new Windows NT network.

We plan to establish an online discussion group on indexing topics. This will hopefully stimulate communication between all P.I.P. contributors.

C. Future developments of the P.I.P.

In an effort to improve the FIAF CD-Rom and the P.I.P., a questionnaire was sent out to the documentation staff members in each FIAF archive. This survey was prepared in collaboration with Catherine Surowiec who also wrote a report on the current state of

P.I.P. activities. The results are coming in gradually and will be used to establish a detailed three-year action plan for the project's future.

2. FIAF International FilmArchive CD-Rom

The Spring Edition was published in the beginning of June. Lay-out was carried out by the "Open University" (who also did the previous editions). Manufacturing of the CD-Rom took place in the Luxemburg branch of "Nimbus" (the English branch produced the previous volumes). The Windows version was delayed (due to the many unexpected priorities which arose during my period of transition) and postponed until the next edition. In a joint letter I introduced myself as new editor to all the subscribers and included a complimentary copy of the "Subject Headings". On the Spring edition, the back volumes 1973 and 1974 were added. The remaining back volumes (1975, 1976 and 1977) will be featured on the Autumn edition, which means that for the first time all data from 1972 to the present will be available on one CD-Rom..

3. Annual Volume of the "International Index to film Periodicals"

Because the original typesetting programme used for all the previous editions couldn't be used anymore (Computaprint went out of business), we had to develop a new programme. Richard Begernie, the creator of the original Advanced Revelation Database programme, proposed to write a new programme in Framemaker, which would then be installed in the Brussels offices. We accepted his offer and normally the new programme will be ready in September. Mr. Begernie will install the typesetting-program and the indexing programme (see 1.B.) himself in Brussels.

Regarding the printing of the 1997 Volume, we asked offers at a Belgian publisher and the old publisher Anthony Rowe (who is specialized in short runs). The general idea is that we should continue one more year with the old way of doing things. The main problem is the distribution which is been taken care of by Sally Douglas in England right now. If we relocate all our activities to Belgium, we have to find a good solution for the distribution as well.

We are currently encoding all the addresses of the customers of the annual volume in the "Imis database" which will certainly facilitate the invoicing procedure. At the end of this year all administration will be done in Imis like the other FIAF publications.

The 1997 annual volume will be published with a slight delay of three months because of all these problems. It will normally be shipped in October 1998.

Rutger Penne
P.I.P. Editor