

THE DOMESDAY DISCS IN EDUCATION

Over 15,500 volunteer schools and community groups responded to the BBC's invitation to take part in creating the 'People's Database' by recording statistical information from their local areas, writing about life in their communities and taking photographs during the spring and summer of 1985. This information, along with vast amounts from national information sources, appears on both the Community Disc and the National Disc.

Many educational groups including librarians, resource centre organisers, teachers, lecturers and advisers have expressed a keen interest in using the Domesday Discs as an educational resource. They suggest that Domesday will be relevant in virtually all subjects in the curriculum. Some major areas would be Geography, Social Studies, Environmental Studies, Art, Design and Technology, Local Studies and Statistics. The Domesday database could also be invaluable for undergraduate Social Science and Geography courses.

Curricular area	LEA/Institution
Primary Projects and Topics	Northern Ireland, North East Education and Library Board and Bulmershe College, Reading
Mathematics	School of Education, University of Exeter
Social Studies	Gwent LEA and Gwent Institute of Higher Education
Environmental Education	Moray House College of Education, Edinburgh and Scottish LEAs
Art; Craft, Design and Technology	Gateshead LEA
Geography	University of Loughborough
In-Service Training	Christ Church College, Canterbury

BBC Support Materials

Practising teachers, co-ordinated by the following Local Education Authorities and Higher Education institutions, are developing curriculum resource materials, after trials of the Domesday AIV system in educational settings: BBC Enterprises will publish these seven resource booklets in the spring of 1987.

The BBC will also provide a basic information pack to schools, other education centres and libraries about the Domesday Discs and the AIV system with suggestions for fund raising activities.

Schools wishing to spread their investment in the Domesday system

may care to take advantage of the leasing scheme arranged with Philips Finance Services. The leasing scheme is available through any of the appointed distributors.

The price of the complete system is £3990 (ex VAT). However, Acorn Computers, Philips Electronics, BBC Enterprises and the participating dealers have jointly arranged a grant of £800 (ex VAT) per system available to qualifying schools (institutions offering full-time education to students between the ages of five and eighteen, together with recognised resource centres for their teaching staff). This will be administered through a voucher system arranged through Philips Electronics and Acorn

Computers and will apply to orders received by 31st December 1987. In addition, schools can claim the DTI software subsidy of £194.52 (ex VAT) per computer system through their LEA.

Those schools who have already purchased a BBC Master 128 Microcomputer may purchase the other components of the system for £3555 (ex VAT), (an appropriate grant will also apply). Full details of the grant and voucher system are available from the BBC, Acorn or Philips.

The Ecodisc

In the near future the BBC will be publishing another Advanced Interactive Videodisc called the Ecodisc. This disc is very different in nature to Domesday. The Ecodisc simulates a real nature reserve in South Devon. The users take on the role of nature reserve manager. They have to study the current state of the reserve and make plans for the future.



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