

CD-ROM Collaboration: Formation of Action Group

The CD-ROM Standards and Practices Action Group was launched at a recent gathering of some ten CD-ROM application developers.

Overall objective of Group:

to identify and promote International Standards, to devise and recommend codes of practice and pro tem standards as necessary, applicable to the use of CD-ROM based systems for information handling for the benefit of the user community. Further, to have reached a point in this endeavour to render the Group's continuing existence unnecessary.

The Group's overall objective to be subdivided into a number of specific tasks, to be tackled by three Task forces, reporting to a Steering Committee.

Membership:

Open to CD-ROM application developers, able to influence the adherence to standards of their services and the participation in any agreed codes of practice.

Observers:

Observer status to be open to other interested companies or organisations.

Generally, member organisations will bear the cost of the involvement of their personnel in the Group. Specific projects may from time to time require some financial contribution from members.

The Chairman and Secretary initially to have responsibility for recruiting members amongst CD-ROM application developers, and observers, to the Group. It should be noted that all meetings are likely to be held in London, and all proceedings will be held in English, but membership from overseas will be welcome.

In order to facilitate progress three Task forces have been set up. Their areas of activity are as follows:

Task Force Number 1, —Technology Oriented —

1. To identify those industry standards bodies which exist.
2. To identify those international industry standards or codes of practice which exist or are in the making.
3. Where standards or codes of practice are desirable but do not currently exist, to recommend a pro tem solution.
4. To make relevant hardware and software suppliers aware of any problems relating to their practices, as experienced by CD-ROM application developers.

Task Force Number 2, —User/Marketing Oriented —

1. To record and classify CD-ROM user problems arising from conflicting installation or operation procedures in publications, software or hardware from different suppliers.
2. To identify areas where standards or codes of practice are desirable or are not yet specified.
3. To disseminate problem summaries to other members of the Action Group, possibly via a bulletin board.

4. To act as a channel of communication to and from CD-ROM users, via established user groups as appropriate.

**Task Force Number 3,
—Public Affairs Oriented—**

1. To ensure recognition of the Group for consultation purposes by national and international standards bodies.
2. To inform industry standards bodies of the views of the Group as a widely representative group of practitioners.
3. Actively to promote the interests of the Group to relevant Government bodies, interested international organisations, and the media.

Contacts:

Phil Holmes (CD-ROM SPAG Chairman)

Jordan & Sons Ltd.,
Jordan House,
47 Brunswick Place,
LONDON N1 6EE.
Tel: 071 253 3030.

Sally Whitaker (CD-ROM SPAG Secretary)

J Whitaker & Sons Ltd.,
12 Dyott Street,
LONDON WC1A 1DF.
Tel: 071 836 8911.

Bala Hatvani

Silverplatter,
10 Barley Mow Passage,
Chiswick,
LONDON W4 4PH.
Tel: 081 995 8242.

Robin Williamson

Context Ltd.,
Tranley House,
Tranley Mews,
LONDON NW3 2QW.
Tel: 071 267 7055. □

Periodicals Price Index

1990

Made available by courtesy of Blackwell's Periodicals Division.

Analysis by Country of Origin	N° of Titles Sampled	Increase Over 1989 (%)	Index (1970= 0)	Av. Price 1990 (£ Sterling)
Great Britain	879	12.68	1452.70	127.52
USA & Canada	698	14.46	1173.42	170.10
Other Countries	430	9.49	1597.93	182.39
Total	2007	12.52	1359.79	154.08

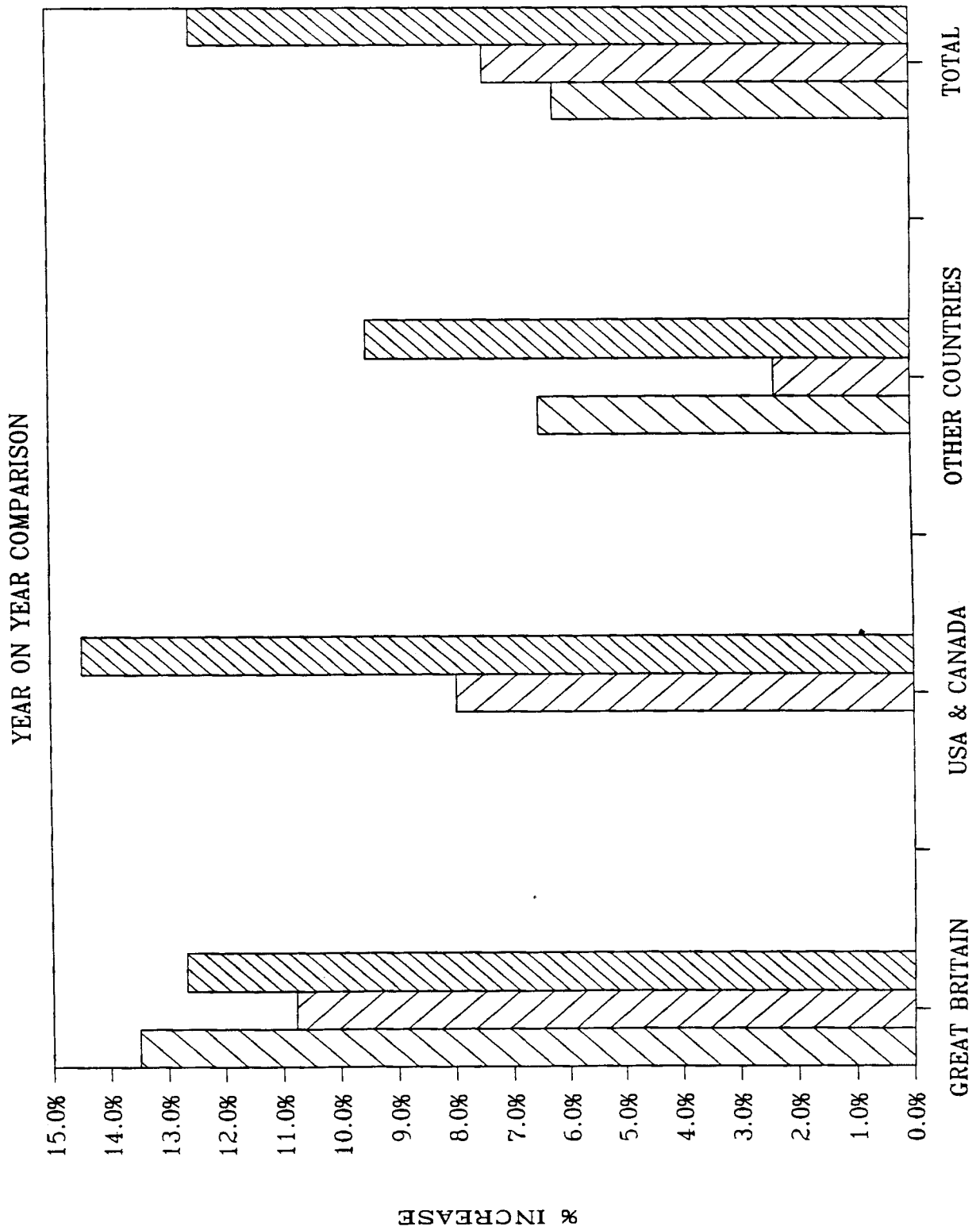
Analysis by Subject Category	N° of Titles Sampled	Increase Over 1989 (%)	Index (1970= 0)	Av. Price 1990 (£ Sterling)
Humanities & Social Sciences	842	11.86	1072.92	57.86
Medicine	203	13.45	1309.70	139.38
Science & Technology	962	12.54	1447.73	241.41
Total	2007	12.52	1359.79	154.08

Humanities & Social Sciences	N° of Titles Sampled	Increase Over 1989 (%)	Index (1970= 0)	Av. Price 1990 (£ Sterling)
Accountancy & Finance	19	16.55	1262.43	54.08
Architecture & Town Planning	34	12.69	1569.69	99.74
Art	28	7.79	646.15	45.25
Classics & Archaeology	30	11.84	823.74	42.13
Commonwealth, Oriental & African Studies	19	9.20	1147.58	52.02
Economics & trade	63	10.14	1101.43	84.59
Education & Child Psychology	70	17.03	1194.26	55.08
English Language & Literature	38	8.44	787.67	30.51
Entertainment - Theatre, Film, Ballet	23	10.06	893.87	35.45
European Language & Literature	57	9.27	1071.23	45.70
General & Popular	29	7.02	843.57	44.26
Geography	34	15.05	913.87	50.09
History	50	9.83	1009.07	40.68
Law & Criminology	35	9.80	1038.01	75.94
Librarianship & Documentation	37	11.72	954.15	94.72
Management	40	18.28	1296.41	72.37
Music & Recording	19	7.77	760.02	30.23
Philosophy	27	12.37	1312.97	44.93
Photography	5	1.94	968.34	44.66
Political Economy & Politics	38	10.22	1179.16	45.94
Psychology	32	13.31	1309.68	127.79
Religion & Theology	47	9.17	1010.00	35.36
Sociology	49	11.45	1089.72	58.77
Sports & Pastimes	19	20.57	1048.60	28.89
Total	842	11.86	1072.92	57.86

Medicine	N° of Titles Sampled	Increase Over 1989 (%)	Index (1970= 0)	Av. Price 1990 (£ Sterling)
Dentistry, Ophthalmology, Ausiology	17	14.37	1209.82	129.46
General Medicine	27	15.78	993.85	93.98
Neurology, Psychiatry	25	12.89	1438.30	144.30
Pathology & Clinical Medicine	52	12.04	1271.19	149.44
Public Health, Nursing, General Practice	26	12.84	1273.18	72.35
Surgery, Anatomy, Physiology	20	17.32	1922.82	244.51
Pharmacology	21	12.90	1260.97	182.29
Veterinary Medicine	15	7.66	1015.84	105.15
Total	203	13.45	1309.70	139.38

Science & Technology	N° of Titles Sampled	Increase Over 1989 (%)	Index (1970= 0)	Av. Price 1990 (£ Sterling)
Agriculture	46	10.45	1284.82	89.26
Anthropology	16	14.40	1198.31	90.89
Astronomy, Astrophysics	13	12.76	1738.53	244.65
Biology	32	12.52	1299.60	380.48
Biophysics, Biochemistry, Microbiology	26	9.77	1645.21	606.66
Botany	25	14.68	1847.95	170.74
Chemistry	66	11.96	1472.13	594.61
Civil Engineering	26	14.63	1427.17	113.79
Computers, Automation & Control	37	14.07	1394.19	186.50
Electronics, Electrical Engineering, Aeronautics	73	14.53	1244.78	214.43
Food, Soap, Cosmetic Industries	36	11.98	1100.45	106.79
General Science	25	9.28	1127.65	166.21
General Technology	33	9.95	1449.91	284.89
Geology, Mineralogy, Geophysics, Meteorology	44	10.65	1260.94	182.17
Glass, Ceramics	20	8.58	1247.92	108.30
Heating, Lighting, Ventilating	13	6.91	880.61	41.02
Industrial & Engineering Chemistry	22	11.30	1056.80	159.54
Mathematics & Statistics	51	12.74	1514.44	209.60
Mechanical Engineering	30	18.47	1231.33	144.03
Metallurgy	36	8.29	1032.41	125.31
Nuclear Science & Technology	30	10.72	1532.83	518.45
Petroleum & Fuel Technology	22	16.85	1616.62	144.89
Physics	57	14.62	2009.84	509.49
Polymers, Paint, Rubber, Plastics	48	15.95	1380.99	250.47
Printer, Paper Packaging	20	10.06	1473.38	124.55
Production Engineering & Operational Research	28	15.67	1263.60	113.07
Textiles, Leather, Dyeing	22	12.50	1030.63	73.80
Transport	25	14.47	1863.93	95.92
Zoology	40	11.39	1590.80	147.31
Total	962	12.54	1447.73	241.41

ANALYSIS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



ANALYSIS BY SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION

YEAR ON YEAR COMPARISON

