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Innovations Affecting Us

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Innovations Affecting Us

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Microsoft to Donate \$2 Million of Free Software to Schools

A study by the Software Publishers Association reveals that information technology can have a big impact on how kids learn in school, from preschool through college. Students respond positively to software that arouses curiosity, offers multiple levels of difficulty and challenge, provides feedback and includes an element of fantasy and animation. Yet, the majority of schools in this country are severely underfunded to keep up with technology that can help kids learn.

Microsoft wants to help remedy this situation; so it has announced a Software for Schools Donation Program. For every

two Microsoft Home products purchased totaling \$100 or more, Microsoft will donate a free Microsoft Home product to the K-12 school of the customer's choice. The company expects to provide over \$2 million of free software (25,000 copies) to schools according to this program. The customer just fills in the name of the school and mails the coupon with the original receipt; and Microsoft will donate the Home product of the school's choice. The product line includes *Encarta*, *Works*, *Creative Writer*, *Bookshelf*, *Dangerous Creatures*, and *Fine Artist*.

The Microsoft Software for Schools Donation program will run from August 1 to October 15, 1994. Participating retailers include Egghead Software, Comp USA, Computer City, PC Connection, Electronic Boutique, and Computer Discount Warehouse. Teachers can call 1-800-508-8459 to receive an information kit which provides donation information and explains how teachers can alert parents in their school districts about the program.

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts offers Internet Journal Service

Beginning with the 1995 subscriptions, Cambridge Scientific has announced their new **Internet Journal Service**, which will permit print subscribers to have Internet access to an electronic version of their journal subscription. The electronic file will provide keyword access to both the current year's data, updated before the print journals go to press, as well as five years of backfiles information.

This value-added service will be provided at no additional charge to customers renewing their subscriptions for 1995 and at a nominal fee above the print subscription rate for new customers. Cambridge Scientific will authorize access from two workstations per subscription and will provide customized WAIS software to facilitate access.

The service is the result of a reengineering effort and analysis of the different delivery methods for their journals. Cambridge Scientific was a pioneer in CD-ROM and the first to publish MEDLINE in that format. In addition to their 35 journals in print (and via the Internet), they offer 31 databases which are available on tape to be loaded locally into integrated library systems including VTLS, IME, SIRSI and DataTrek.

Databases in five subject areas (Environmental Science and Pollution Research,

Engineering and Computers, Biological Sciences, Market Research, and Marine Biology) have been loaded with ten years of backfiles and are accessible through Dranet (Data Research), INNview (Innovative Interfaces), RLG (Research Libraries Group), OCLC and Nlightn (The Library Corporation).

Cambridge Scientific offers a free gopher which provides information on their

publications and can be reached at "gopher.csa.com". You can search "source lists" of journals scanned for their databases and periodicals or examine sample records.

A 30-day free trial can be arranged for Internet access and sample print copies sent on request. For additional information contact Marketing 301-961-6750 or market@CSA.com. ☛

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