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# ECHO

No 1/1988

## SESAME

Energieforschungsprojekte über MINITEL

ECHO bietet Videotex-Nutzern eine neue Datenbank an: SESAME enthält Forschungsprojekte im Bereich „Neue Energiequellen“, die von der Generaldirektion XVII der Kommission gefördert werden.

Es wird derzeit geprüft, ob diese Datenbank auch Nutzern anderer Videotex-Systeme wie z.B. BTX angeboten werden wird.

## SESAME

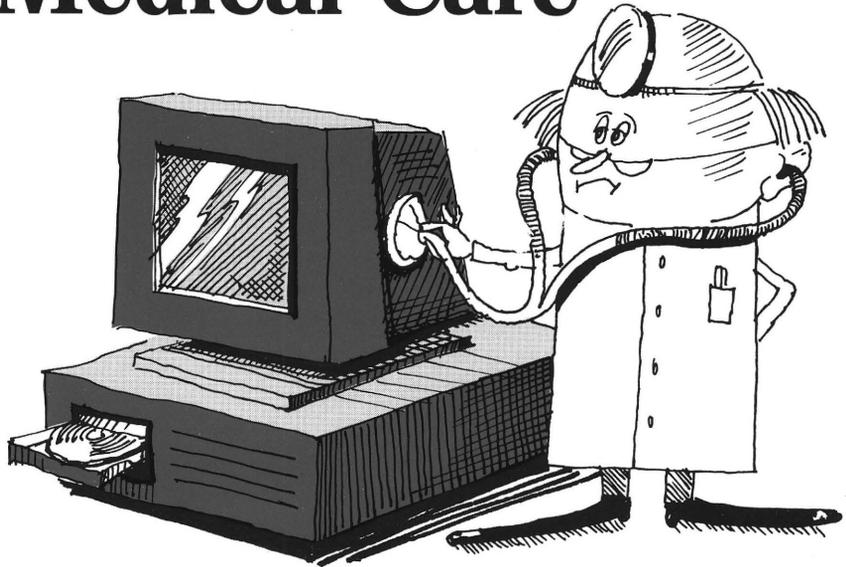
The European Community's database for research and development demonstration and technology projects

The SESAME database was created in 1982 by the European Commission's Information Directorate, the Directorate General for Science, Research and Development and by the Directorate General for Energy, to facilitate the continued evaluation of, and improve access to, information and results emerging from European Community funded R & D, Demonstration and Technology projects. SESAME was also structured to accommodate information on projects funded by Member States of the European Community and now that transfer procedures have been set up with Member States, Sesame is the centre of an ever growing information network.

The purpose of the SESAME database is four-fold:

- constitute a reliable information system
- optimize the use of available information
- permit an ongoing appreciation of the projects
- enlarge the audience to whom information can be made available.

## 'The Challenge in Medical Care'



After a mainly evolutionary advance in health care, recent decades have seen a considerable acceleration driven by scientific and technological progress as well as a strong and lasting commitment of large resources to this objective. Some of the new means already available and the potential of the coming decades may well revolutionize health care.

This is of obvious social consequence but it is also of considerable political and economic importance. Europe can pride itself on a leading role in some areas of health care and the related scientific domains. However, as the need increases for concentration of efforts, skills, facilities and financial resources for R&D in related domains such as biotechnology and medical informatics, so Europe is rapidly falling behind. Cooperation between scientists, research centres and increasingly with industries is becoming a necessity to engage and stay in this high-technology domain.

For a more cost-effective approach to the challenge in health care and related technological R&D, flexible and effective frameworks for

concertation and cooperation are required which permit the sector actors to make their respective contributions within a consistent perception of objectives, thereby avoiding redundancy where it is wasteful and focussing resources on central objectives.

European Heads of State and Government have agreed that medical care and work in related technological areas represents a priority area for European cooperation. This includes, as one specific line of action **the exploitation of the advances in information technologies, telecommunications and broadcasting** to improve medical care and support the underlying technological efforts in medicine and biotechnology.

CEC - XVII/57

Health is next to food and shelter one of the basic human needs. Conscious of the high priority of health care and of the growing possibilities, but also of the cost constraints, the Community needs to optimize its efforts towards this common objective. Leading experts have joined the Commission in identifying actions which are suited to exploit the technological advances in Medical and Bio-informatics so as to bring the maximum care to the patient while staying within reasonable limits of individual and collective expenditure.

The Community initiative in Medical and Bio-informatics (MBI) is to be seen as part of a concerted effort in related domains, both medical and technological, on which it builds and of which it forms a specific action to re-inforce progress and draw systematically on the benefits of collaboration on a European scale in the form of greater cost-effectiveness and a faster propagation of the best practices. (1) The conception and development of new health care technology and services calls for an optimal use of human resources, facilities as well as financial means and the participation of all the main sector actors. Broad consensus and participation is a key requirement for success and progress in this domain where social and human considerations are of outstanding importance.

Based on exploratory work in 1985/86 involving 150 leading experts (2) a programme of cooperation in MBI has been developed.

The global objective is to serve the concertation of European efforts towards

**sustained improvement in health care in the Community for the 1990's within economically acceptable limits by exploiting the potential of Medical and Bio-informatics.**

1) In particular the Medical Research Programme, ESPRIT, RACE and the work on standardization and certification  
2) BICEPS Planning Exercise and Exploratory Investigations in 1985/6

The Sesame database contains information on projects which have been subdivided in three sectors:

### 1. Research and Development projects

- recycling of industrial and urban waste
- raw materials
- textiles
- environment
- energy saving

### 2. Demonstration projects

- energy saving
- renewable sources of energy
- liquefaction and gasification
- substitution of hydrocarbons

### 3. Technology projects

hydrocarbon technology  
Information on each project includes:

- a reference number
- a title, a definition of sectors covered by each project, its objectives, description, state of advancement, results and location.
- details of the contractor, project leader and project financing.
- details of the main equipment suppliers to the project.

The operational, technical, administrative and financial data stored in SESAME is updated regularly upon attaining:

- research and development milestones.
- demonstration project construction, installation and monitoring phases.
- publication of final report and close of contract file.
- commercialisation and further development of the technology relative to a project.

Data are introduced on-line or through gateways from internal and external data bases. By the end of 1988, information on over 2000 Community and National funded projects will be available.

Further information may be obtained from:

**1. 'SESAME'**  
Directorate General for Energy  
Commission of the E.C.  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 BRUSSELS

## 2. Office for Official Publications of the E.C.

Sales Department  
2, rue Mercier  
L-2985 LUXEMBOURG

or

### ECHO HELP DESK

B.P. 2373  
L-1023 LUXEMBOURG (G.D.)

## ECHO training

### INTRODUCTORY

These courses are designed for new or existing ECHO customers who are either new to online searching or to the GRIPS/DIRS 3 retrieval language. They treat GRIPS/DIRS 3 (Common Command Language) and general searching principles. The day-long course starts with an introduction to online searching followed by simple searching with the basic commands of the system and develops during the afternoon to cover more detailed searching techniques.

### ECHO INFORMATION DAYS:

Hamburg	8 March 1988
Rome	23 March 1988
Stockholm	5 May 1988
Athens	23 May 1988
Vienna	31 May 1988
Barcelona	7 June 1988
Madrid	9 June 1988
Paris	14 June 1988

### ECHO CCL DAYS:

Hamburg	9 March 1988
Rome	24 March 1988
Dublin	30 March 1988
(for CII members)	
Stockholm	6 May 1988
Athens	24 May 1988
Vienna	1 June 1988
Barcelona	8 June 1988
Madrid	10 June 1988
Paris	15 June 1988
Amsterdam	7 Sept 1988
(translators only)	
Amsterdam	8 Sept 1988

### ECHO DATABASE DAYS:

Hamburg	10 March 1988
Rome	25 March 1988
Athens	25 May 1988
Vienna	1 June 1988
Zurich	24 June 1988
Amsterdam	9 Sept 1988

## EURODICAUTOM QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Which version of Eurodicautom are you currently using?

- a) CCL/GRIPS ( )
- b) Guided ( )

2. Are you familiar with both versions of the database?

yes( )                  no( )

If yes, which database version has given you most satisfaction and why?

3. How often do you use EURODICAUTOM?

( ) daily      ( ) weekly      ( ) monthly      ( ) other: ( )

4. Which section(s) of the database do you most frequently use? :

( ) terminology      ( ) abbreviations      ( ) both

5. a) CCL-GRIPS version of EURODICAUTOM:

Are you satisfied with the current database structure ? Yes ( ) No ( )

Can you recommend any changes?

b) GUIDED version of EURODICAUTOM:

Are you satisfied with the current database structure? Yes ( ) No ( )

Can you recommend any changes?

6. What do you feel are the strong and weakpoints of EURODICAUTOM?

a) Guided version:

b) CCL version

7. Is there any information that you would like to have omitted from/added to the database records? If yes, what?

8. Which source and target languages do you use most frequently?  
english/french/spanish/portuguese/danish/german/italian/dutch

source language:

target languages:

9. Do you feel that some language sections can be improved upon? Yes ( ) No ( )  
If yes, which languages?

10. Would you object to having your name communicated to the database producer?  
Yes ( ) No ( )

NAME : .....

ORGANISATION : .....

ADDRESS : .....

.....

.....

TEL:

TLX:

FAX:

Please return your completed questionnaire to the address below:

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**L - 1023 LUXEMBOURG**

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# QUESTION MARK

## The Universal Information Workstation?

Over the last ten years or so the means available to handle information have undergone a number of revolutions. First, the computer handling of databases has been improved to the point where many of the routine functions of data organization are now automated. It is hardly conceivable to-day to create a data collection without computer assistance.

Coupled with this development has been the advent of the personal computer or PC, the (almost) universal desk aid for the executive of today. The PC has brought many people into contact with data organization and with information handling. It has also, of course, enabled them to make contact with the wider world of information via telecommunications.

One of the complaints that has been heard is that, despite these developments, the means available to the individual to organize his or her information have not improved to the same extent. To a certain extent this is true, the PC world for example, has tended to be populated by specialists, people who are very familiar

with all the techniques. The 'average' information user has had to be content with following along, adopting the improvements which the manufacturers or service suppliers have offered.

Today, things are beginning to change. The cost of, for example, storage capacity on a microcomputer is no longer a significant element in the overall price. Optical storage media (video discs, compact discs) are making it feasible to have large quantities of data available on the desk top. Integrated programs using pointer devices instead of keyboard input are improving the user interface. Software capable of handling complex data structures is beginning to appear on the market at

reasonable prices. In short, the era of the personal information workstation is at hand.

So what should such a device look like and what should it contain? We here at ECHO have been experimenting recently with the idea of a universal demonstration device, a machine which we should be able to take to exhibitions and show people how an integrated information handling tool operates.

As the basis of the workstation we took an AT compatible PC with an 80286 processor and 640k of RAM (i.e. one of the latest Intel microprocessors and the maximum configuration of working memory possible, for the non technical). The machine also had a 30Mbyte hard disk (i.e. a permanent storage device with a capacity of 30 million characters). To this base we added a CD-ROM drive, which has the capability to read the discs now coming on the market from people like Pergamon, Bertlesmann and others, containing whole data collections. A CD-ROM (compact disk read only memory) disk has a capacity of approximately 500Mbytes or 500 million characters or 200,000 A4 pages. With all this we are in position to illustrate



many forms of information handling. However, we felt that this was not sufficient for an information workstation so we added a special card or printed circuit board which enables us to connect the machine to the telecommunications networks and while we are there to 'pretend' we are a Minitel or a Prestel videotex terminal. In addition of course the card enables us to act like a 'normal' terminal. The card has a built in modem and auto dialling capabilities.

So there we are, our universal information workstation is complete. Everything we have used is available on the market, we didn't get anything made specially. We have the capability to read large databases locally, to integrate information from them into documents we are creating with the word processing software,

to include some of the data in (private) databases we have created with the information management software, to access external databases and to transfer information externally. In other words we have all the technical capabilities. Do we have universal information handling capability? as the man said 'do we h...', the true story is that only somebody as persistent as ourselves, who are after all in the information industry, would have persevered to try to create the possibilities.

At present, the state of the art in information workstations development is very much a victim of the lack of universal standards. It is, as stated above, possible to connect together the various components but it does require considerable 'inside' knowledge both of the technology and of the information.

What is already clear is that, in order to have the benefits of the technologies we presently have or will shortly have, applied to information systems and services there needs to be a significant rethink on information structures. Present day databases are still conceived, largely, for the printed page output. As such they are relatively inflexible in structure and are not easily adapted to individual information needs. The next big breakthrough we need in the path to the universal information workstation is the universally adaptable data structure in which text, graphics and even sound and vision become separate information elements which can be adopted and adapted by individuals for their particular needs.

If this sounds like a far fetched idea, think what you would have said in 1980 if someone had told you you would be able to store the equivalent of 250,000 A4 pages on a 12cm disc in five years time.

**ECHO**

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If you would like to receive "ECHO News" on a regular basis, or if you have had a recent change of address, please fill in the section below and return it to ECHO at the address above.

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Former address (attach incorrect address label)

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**New subscriber**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Diary dates

ECHO will be represented at the following workshops, seminars and exhibitions over the coming months:

**London 15-17 March 1988**  
Information Showcase

**Hannover 16-23 March 1988**  
CEBIT '88

**Hannover 20-27 April 1988**  
HANNOVER FAIR

**Brussels 21 April 1988**  
Exportservice

**Frankfurt 3-5 May 1988**  
INFOBASE '88

**Athens 16-20 May 1988**  
EURINFO

**EURONET DIANE  
WORKSHOPS:**

**Athens 19-21 April 1988**