

# VIATEL

## What is it?

VIATEL is the name of Telecom Australia's public videotex service, offering a public database and a gateway to external databases. The transactions possible include . . .

- purchasing and ordering goods
- hotel bookings
- home banking
- requesting or sending information
- making suggestions.

A wide range of information is planned to be provided, including initially . . .

- stock market information
- exchange rates
- trade fairs
- airline schedules
- commodity prices
- world economic indicators
- company reports
- restaurant and theatre guides
- consumer advice
- news deadlines
- weather reports
- travel and holiday information
- games
- shopping information

in fact, all day-to-day information required by the business or private sector.

The service will permit umbrella information providers and closed user groups.

## When will it be available?

The end of 1984 is the target date for availability of the service.

## How can it be accessed?

A user will require a videotex terminal (or a videotex adaptor for an existing television set) and a normal telephone service.

An information provider will require, in addition, a full alpha-numeric keyboard.

The system is to have the ability to work with the current Prestel-based terminals and databases already established in Australia, and will be expanded to meet the needs of other videotex standards as soon as practicable.

## How much will it cost?

For the user . . .

- **equipment:** \$1,000-\$1,700 purchase of a videotex terminal, OR \$300-\$600 purchase of a videotex adaptor, OR rental or lease

- **telephone:** normal Telecom installation and rental charges
- **use charges:** annual subscription to be registered on the service as a user standard telephone call fee, when the service is initially dialled up, which is to be a low, fixed fee for each call regardless of the location of the caller in Australia a charge for the time connected to the VIATEL computer a charge for the information accessed, set by the information providers and collected for them by Telecom.

For the information provider not using an umbrella information provider . . .

- equipment
- telephone
- an annual subscription to be registered on the service as an information provider
- an annual charge for each frame reserved
- a charge for the time connected to the VIATEL computer during editing
- the standard telephone call fee when the editing computer is dialled up.

For the information provider using an umbrella information provider . . . the annual subscription is avoided, pages being sub-let as required.

For the information provider using the closed user group facility . . . an additional subscription may be levied in order to restrict access to nominated users.

For the external database operator connected through the gateway . . .

- an annual subscription to be registered on the service as an external database operator
- a charge based on the volume of data passed through the gateway
- standard charges for use of Telecom leased line or AUSTPAC services
- a charge for the time that the connection to the gateway is in use.

## Is it relevant to libraries?

Yes, libraries can be both users of the information provided and information providers.

## Need more information?

Then contact VIATEL Marketing, Telecom Australia, on (03) 606 7296.

*Louise Jones*

Member, AACOBS/LAA Joint Committee on Information Technology  
27 April 1984

# NICEM sold to Access Innovations

EARLY in April, Access Innovations, Inc., of Albuquerque, New Mexico, signed an agreement to purchase the National Information Center for Educational Media (NICEM) from the University of Southern California.

NICEM collects information on non-print instructional media. The centre indexes information on films, slides, filmstrips, videotapes, records, audio tapes, overhead transparencies, and motion cartridges. The information is available through print indexes and online through the Dialog Information Services system.

Access Innovations plans to continue producing the traditional print products and the online file. The 8th edition of the 16mm film index was printed in April, 1984. Access Innovations will also make the online file current.

Each new update to the Dialog file will correspond with a new edition of a print index. The 1984 schedule of production is as follows:

16mm film index	April 1984
Videotape index	July 1984
Filmstrip index	September 1984
All other media	November 1984

After November, Access Innovations plans to introduce a number of special products and services that will complement products and services NICEM has traditionally supplied. These will include special subject indexes and custom cataloguing for audio-visual libraries. Access Innovations plans to solicit information from the users to help identify new products and services. The company plans to introduce a videotape index with online ordering capabilities, and an index to educational software, as well as other special products.

NICEM, which was established in 1966 by the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, currently has bibliographic information on over 500,000 titles to educational audio-visual media. NICEM presently publishes 29 titles (consisting of 36 volumes) which are used by approximately 16,000 organisations worldwide.

Access Innovations began as a database service company six years ago. The company's list of clients includes some of the largest information suppliers in both the corporate and government information industry. Access Innovations has produced seven files that are currently up on the Dialog Information Services system. Many of these files are also available on other information systems.

Until the company purchased NICEM, all the files that were designed, constructed and updated by Access Innovations, were owned by clients. The company is confident that it can improve, develop and enlarge the overall capabilities of NICEM by bringing in the expertise of staff that have worked extensively in the area of database production.

The company plans to use educational media consultants to assist in the editorial process to ensure accurate and comprehensive coverage of all educational media. Access Innovations intends to work closely with the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) in marketing and assuring quality and professional integrity of the information.

*Jay Ven Eman*  
NICEM

## LAA HANDBOOK

The 1984 edition of this invaluable guide to the LAA, including membership directory, is available now! \$15 to non-members, \$10 to LAA members, from the LAA office only.

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