

CD-ROM and multimedia publishing in 1993

TFPL's *Facts and Figures 1993* charts the growth of an industry

The latest edition of TFPL's *Facts & Figures* shows that while 'multimedia' may be on every enthusiast's lips, it is only just starting to be realised in practice. The beneficiaries of CD-ROM technology so far have been the information specialists and hard-core professional users in fields such as finance, medicine and law.

Facts and Figures covers not only CD-ROM, but also the various formats that have been developed subsequently, e.g., CD-ROM XA,

CD-I, CDTV, VIS and Electronic Books. It shows that the area that recorded the highest rate of growth in the last year was in fact multimedia—a trend likely to continue as more consumer-oriented companies enter the business of providing entertainment.

CD-ROMs only really began in 1986, most of them costing in the hundreds or thousands of dollars. Now the pressure is to bring them below the US\$100 mark, and in America some retail stores are re-

fusing to stock low turnover items costing more than \$50.

TFPL is currently listing nearly four thousand commercially available titles, roughly four PC titles to one Macintosh or other platform. The largest category is text, followed in order by images, multimedia, bibliographic, reference and others. The discs cover all subject fields, with 'general interest, leisure and recreation' now outstripping all others but with 'education, training and careers' coming up strongly. Multimedia, starting from almost zero in 1990, already claims over eight hundred titles.

Facts and Figures 1993 may be only 18 pages long, but there is food for thought on every page. It is available from TFPL Publishing in London at £25.00, or from TFPL Publishing in Washington, DC for \$49.00 (incl p&ch). ■

Ag.ROUND—Australian agriculture on CD-ROM

Lea Giles-Peters is proud of this new CD from CSIRO

Ag.ROUND is a new CD-ROM product produced by the CSIRO Information Services Branch on behalf of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management. It covers plant and animal husbandry and protection, rural economics and sociology, agricultural engineering, the rural environment, food technology, forestry and fisheries.

Ag.ROUND offers anyone with a CD-ROM drive linked to an IBM compatible PC access to over 63 000 bibliographic references to the Australian agricultural literature in the Australian Bibliography of Agriculture (ABOA), and to 4 300 research project descriptions in the Australian Rural Research in Progress database (ARRIP).

The 1991 edition of the *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* is also included in Ag.ROUND in full-text images for direct viewing or for accessing from the ABOA database via hypertext links.

Ag.ROUND will be released twice a year. An annual subscription of \$525 includes the current version and one six-monthly update. There are special terms for multiple orders and networking arrangements. For further information, contact Tony Ermers or Joy Sutton at CSIRO ISB, PO Box 89,

East Melbourne 3002; telephone (03) 418 7333, fax (03) 419 0459 or AARNET jcs@isb.csiro.au.. ■

National Preservation Office Director appointed

Jan Lyall takes on this important new responsibility

The National Library of Australia has appointed Dr Jan Lyall as Director of the newly established National Preservation Office (NPO). The Office has been

set up to initiate a co-operative national preservation strategy for documentary heritage materials held in libraries throughout Australia.

Jan has an international reputation in the field of preservation. As head of the NPO she will also serve as Director of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Preservation and Conservation Regional Centre, initiating and coordinating a range of preservation activities in the Southeast Asia/Pacific region.

Jan was head of the National Library's Preservation Services from 1985 to 1992 and has worked in a number of countries including Canada and Japan. ■



Dr Jan Lyall (photo NLA)