MICROS
AND
PRIMARY
EDUCATION

GENERAL
INFORMATION
FOR
MEMBERS

August 1988

Sources of Software for Primary Schools

There are many companies competing for a share of the primary market. This list is a selective one, and includes those companies whose products are generally acknowledged to be educationally sound and valuable. If we have omitted any of which you are aware, our apologies; this does not mean that their products are unsound, but just that for the sake of brevity, we are unable to make the list too long!

In many cases, companies will make special arrangements for local authority licences, or give substantial discounts for bulkpurchase. Before contacting any of the companies directly do check with your local authority computer centre or IT adviser to find out whether or not the package in which you are interested is available at a special price.

Logotron Ltd
Dales Brewery
Gwydir Street
Cambridge
CB1 2LJ
Tel: 0223 323656

esm
Duke Street
Wisbech
Cambridgeshire
PE13 2AE
Tel: 0945 63441

Cambridgeshire Software House
The Town Hall
St Ives
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE27 4AL
Tel: 0480 66805

4mation Educat'l
       Resources
Linden Lea
Rock Park
Barnstaple
Devon
EX32 9AQ
Tel: 0271 45566

RESOURCE
Exeter Road
Off Coventry Grove
Doncaster
South Yorkshire
DN2 4PY
Tel: 0302 63800

Sherston Software
Swan Barton
Sherston
Malmesbury
Wiltshire SN16 0LH
Tel: 0666 840433

Acornsoft
Vector Services Ltd
13 Denington Road
Wellingborough
Northamptonshire   NN8 2RL
Tel: 0933 228953

Shell Centre for Mathematics
The University
Nottingham NG7 2RD
Tel: 0602 506101

Tedimen Software
PO Box 23
Southampton SO9 7BD
Tel: 0703 473774

Fernleaf Educat'l
   Software
Fernleaf House ·
31 Old Road West
Gravesend
Kent
DA11 0LH
Tel: 0474 359037

LTS Ltd
Haydon House
Alcester Road
Studley
Warwickshire
B80 7AN
Tel: 0386 792617

BBC Software
PO Box 234
London
SE1 3TH
Tel: 01 576 054

NORICC
Resources Centre
Coach Lane Campus
Coach Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE7 7XA
Tel: 091 270 0424

For one catalogue which includes most of the previous ones
and a few more besides, (but is only in black and white and
isn't as attractive!) write to:

Rickett Educational Media
Ilton
Ilminster
Somerset
TA19 9HS   Tel: 04605 5152

Hardware suppliers

If you are thinking of buying additional computers, printers, concept keyboards, turtles or any other peripherals for use in school, then DO contact your LEA adviser first. As with software, many authorities have arrangements with manufacturers through which schools can buy equipment at a considerable discount. It may also be the case that technical support is only available for equipment purchased through your local authority.

Microcomputers

The two makes of machine in common use in British primary schools are Acorn and Research Machines. Both companies have comprehensive catalogues of software for their machines available on request.

Acorn Computers Ltd
Fulbourn Road
Cherry Hinton
Cambridge
CB1 4JN
Tel: 0223 245200

Research Machines
Mill Street
Oxford
OX2 0BW
Tel: 0865 249866

Concept Keyboards

The Star Microterminals Concept Keyboard, in A3 and A4 sizes, can be obtained through:

AB European Marketing
Wharfdale Road
Pentwyn
Cardiff CF2 7HB   Tel: 0222 733485

Floor Turtles

Jessop Ralph
Unit 5
7 Long Street
London E2 8HN
Tel: 01 739 3232

Valiant Technology Ltd
Gulf House
370 York Road
Wandsworth
London SW18 1SP
Tel: 01 874 8747

Other organisations, or, All About Acronyms!

MESU

When the Microelectronics Education Programme (MEP) came to an end in 1986, it was replaced by the Microelectronics Education Support Unit (MESU). MESU has recently merged with the Council for Educational Technology (CET) and become NCET (National CET). MESU/NCET has an information unit which will answer queries of a general nature in connection with micros in schools. The brief of MESU is somewhat different from that of MEP (see MICROSCOPE 23) but whilst it is not producing software in any quantity, its Special Needs Software Unit has produced a handful of excellent, inexpensive packages for the BBC micro. Don't let the title "Special Needs Software deter you - these packages are more than suitable for use in mainstream primary schools.

Among the packages now available are:

PROMPT/WRITER: a disc-based word processor, with excellent facilities for using a Star Microterminals Concept keyboard, and 4 sizes of print. 3 discs, sample overlays and extensive documentation for only £3.

MOVING IN and SCENARIOS: best used with a Concept keyboard, these programs present children with a 'scene', such as a house, a toy cupboard or a fantasy landscape, into which items can be placed.

Due out in Autumn 1988:

TOUCH EXPLORER PLUS, an enhanced version of TOUCH EXPLORER, in which overlays of varied complexity can be linked,

CONCEPT, a utility program which will allow you to create overlays to accompany many existing programs, and

CAPTION, into which pictures and borders from other programs, such as IMAGE, can be imported. Once imported, areas into which text can be typed can be designated by the user.

For further details, write to:

MESU Special Needs Software Unit
Unit 6, Sir William Lyons Road
Science Park
University of Warwick
Coventry
Warwickshire CV4 7EZ   Tel: 0203 416994

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MUSE, BLUG and RMUG

MUSE is an organisation similar to MAPE but covers mostly secondary matters. They have a regular Magazine, annual conference and a catalogue of software available at reduced rates to members.

MUSE

PO Box 43
Houghton on the Hill
Leicester
LE7 9GX
Tel: 0533 433839

For anyone particularly interested in the use of LOGO in schools, there is the British Logo Users Group. Write to:

BLUG (membership)
PO Box 79
Walsall
West Midlands
WS5 3RW

For users of Research Machines there is RM User Group. For details, write to:

Steve Rochford
RMUG Membership Secretary

23 Wilmot Place
Hanwell
London
W7 3TZ

Useful magazines

A new magazine published by Judgevalid Ltd., and called KEY IDEAS has just been sent free of charge to all primary schools. Issue 2 is due out in September.

Not exclusively primary, but of interest to all educational computer users:

New Educational Computing
Redwood Publishing
141-143 Drury Lane
London
WC2B 5TF
Tel: 01 836 2441
(6 issues per year)

Of especial interest to those concerned with older children and network users:

Information Technology in Education
(formerly Network User)
LTS Publications
Haydon House
Alcester Road
Studley
Warwickshire
B80 7AN
Tel: 0386 792617

Research Machines publish regular newsletters for schools, whilst for BBC users there are a number of magazines, these being among the most popular. They also have education sections and, being monthlies, are also reasonably up-to-date on the hardware front, with many adverts for suppliers of hardware and peripherals etc..

A & B Computing
Number One Golden Square
London
W1R 3AB
Tel: 01 437 0626

Acorn User
Redwood Publishing Ltd
20-26 Brunswick Place
London N1 6DJ
Tel: 01 490 1444

Micro User, Database Publications Ltd,
Europa House, Adlington Park, Adlington,
Macclesfield, SK10 4NP

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MAPE TAPE NEWS

In response to many requests, a compilation of the best of
MAPE Tapes 1,2 & 3 is now available at a cost of £8.
MAPE Tape 4 is available at a cost of £6, and
MAPE Tape 5 - The Lost Owls Pack, costs £12.50, or
£7.50 to MAPE members

Further details from the MAPE Information Officer at Newman
College (see below).

You may not know that, as well as being the "home" of MAPE (it's
also the address to which you can send your next article for
MICROSCOPE) and originators of many of the programs on the
MAPE tapes, Newman College Software also markets other software.
Some useful packages for primary schools are;

GRASS - an easy to use information handling
program including graphing facilities.

GRASSHOPPER - a spreadsheet for primary children.

GRASSBANK - utilities for use with GRASS
and GRASSHOPPER.

FRONT PAGE SPECIAL EDITION - a rewrite of the
original program; a gateway into
DTP on the BBC Master.

For further details of these and other Newman Software
programs write to:

Roger Keeling
Computer Centre
Newman College
Genners Lane
Bartley Green
Birmingham B32 3NT
Tel: 021 476 1181

The information in this booklet was compiled by Chris Robson,
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