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◀ CET ▶

**A core library of  
software for FE  
students with  
moderate learning  
difficulties**

By Peter Fowler, Project Coordinator,  
FE and Special Needs Project.





## INTRODUCTION

The CET/EEC Project, "The Use of Information Technology with students with moderate learning difficulties in Further Education Colleges", runs from September 1985 to August 1987.

It involves 10 FE Colleges, each of which has a Lecturer seconded by the relevant LEA to work on the Project.

The Project is co-ordinated by Peter Fowler who can be contacted at 285, Buxton Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7ET (0625 20051).

Termly Reports are issued on the Project and these are obtainable from Mary Hope, MESU Special Needs Co-ordinator, CET, 3, Devonshire Street, London, W1N 2BA on receipt of an A4 stamped addressed envelope.

Please feel free to photocopy this document. Further copies are obtainable by sending £1 (cheques made payable to CET or cash please, no invoices will be issued) to Mary Hope, address as above.

## CORE LIBRARY OF SOFTWARE FOR STUDENTS IN FE COLLEGES WITH MODERATE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

### A NOTE OF CAUTION

Before using this guide, Lecturers should be aware of the dangers in the "listing" of computer software.

First, software should always be used within a curriculum context and not slipped into a disc drive to provide a one-off lesson for a particularly troublesome student.

Second, the use of software is entirely dependent on the way the individual Lecturer uses it. Thus, whilst those programs listed here have been used successfully, within the curriculum, by at least one Lecturer in one FE College, this is absolutely no guarantee that they will be similarly successful in any conceivable context.

Third, the information provided here is necessarily minimal. If you would like more information on the software listed, the names of the college/s which have used it to good effect are listed and you should contact them.

Fourth, the list is, of course, not exhaustive. Software is being continually produced and therefore makes such a listing quickly obsolete - this list was compiled in December 1986. Also, it could well be the case that older software has not been evaluated by the 10 involved colleges and is therefore not included here: we would welcome response from any users of this guide to highlight possible programs we have missed.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

It is our belief Lecturers teaching on FE courses for those with moderate learning difficulties should concentrate on as few programs as possible.

With many of the programs listed, a considerable amount of teacher time is required to derive the maximum benefit from the software. It is best, then, to concentrate on those programs which have the most potential simply to make the task in hand manageable.

Such programs are likely to be "open-ended" - that is, they are open to all kinds of uses within many areas of the curriculum; they are open to adaptation by the individual teacher (an adaptation which requires no knowledge of programming); their use can be tailored to meet the requirements of either an individual topic area or the needs of an individual student and they are not specifically tied to one particular use.

The "computer expertise" point needs stressing - we are not interested here in the world of computer studies as a subject area. We are

interested in using the computer as a resource within the classroom and believe its potential to be tremendous with the students we teach. Yes, tapping that potential requires teacher time - but it does not require the Lecturer to have any kind of esoteric knowledge about how the computer works or how programs are written. There is absolutely no reason to feel intimidated by the micro.

## THE SOFTWARE

Some 30 or so programs are listed here. We would recommend, for those starting using the micro, particular emphasis being placed on certain categories. These are:

### (a) wordprocessing.

The use of a wordprocessor is a considerable boon to the students we teach. For your weakest students, you should obtain PROMPT3 (freely obtainable from your LEA adviser) which utilises the concept keyboard. For others, you should buy any one of the wordprocessors listed. For those with BBC Model B's, WORDWISE PLUS is probably the best buy. For those with B+'s or Masters, INTERWORD is better.

### (b) databases.

Databases are proving especially useful in the work we are doing. The most useful we have found is FIND produced by HUMMEC. As a starter, or for those with lower ability, the freely copiable LISTS (MESU) is ideal.

### (c) software to be used with the concept keyboard.

This guide does not dwell on hardware - we assume you have access to at least one BBC micro, with a disc drive, a monitor and an Epson or Epson compatible printer (a "work station"). However, for those students not ready or not able to use the normal QWERTY keyboard, the alternative Concept Keyboard (A4 or A3 size) is a tremendous asset. These cost about £125 and are supported by some quite excellent software. TOUCH EXPLORER and the already-mentioned PROMPT3 are freely copiable and utilise the concept keyboard to the full.

## THE CORE LIBRARY

The programs are listed alphabetically.

The listings include a brief description and comments. They also highlight, when applicable, the CPVE Core Area in which the program is most useful and the college/s which have used the program to good effect. An explanatory key is provided at the front of the listings.

A cross-reference is provided at the end of the listings for those wishing to examine software relevant to particular curriculum areas.

## KEY

### (a) Curriculum Areas

We have used the 10 CPVE Core Areas as our curriculum base. These are coded thus:

- 1 Personal and Career Development
- 2 Communications
- 3 Numeracy
- 4 Social Skills
- 5 Industrial, Social and Environmental Studies
- 6 Science and Technology
- 7 Creative Development
- 8 Practical Skills
- 9 Problem Solving
- I Information Technology

### (b) Colleges

The Colleges which have used the software mentioned are coded thus:

B Bournville FE	Contact: David Harvey 021-476-8211
D Derby FE	Contact: Garnet Wood 0332-372146
E Enfield FE	Contact: Pat Holliday 01-443-3434
H Percival Whitley, Halifax	Contact: Helen Poole 0422-58221
K Kelsterton FE, Clwyd	Contact: Alan Nevitt 0244-812013
P Peterborough Technical College	Contact: Ernie Pepper 0733-312003
S Richmond FE, Sheffield	Contact: Ann Andrews 0742 392621
T Trowbridge College	Contact: Jane Cox 0221-466241
W Metropolitan, Wirral	Contact: Stan Spencer 051-3274331
U Dudley College of Technology	Contact: Andrew Homer 0384-53585

### (c) Other Codes

DB	Database
WP	Wordprocessor
Ad	For use in Course administration, student assessment, the production of curriculum statements and profiling.

NAME ANNUAL REVIEW PUBLISHER MESU

DESCRIPTION Database designed for Annual Review of statemented pupils in schools.

COMMENTS Excellent management system for any special needs course providing information is already processed under clear headings and in checklist form. Material presented in QUEST can be loaded in.

CPVE Profiling  
COLLEGES TP

NAME BUDGETING PUBLISHER COIC

DESCRIPTION Decision making giving plenty of practice in independence skills

COMMENTS Good graphics, interesting program. Runs like a continuous story with decisions needed to be taken along the way

CPVE 3 5 9  
COLLEGES PT

NAME CARGO PUBLISHER ACORNSOFT

DESCRIPTION Suite of "real life" programs aimed at helping Life Skills, mainly practical maths.

COMMENTS Provides the basis, with other inputs, of a good series of classes.

CPVE 2 3 4 5 9  
COLLEGES TP

NAME COINS PUBLISHER ESM

DESCRIPTION Menu option of several programs dealing with coins

COMMENTS Deals with equivalent values; coins to a given value; fewest coins to a given value; giving change. A very useful diagnostic tool which will lead to many spin offs. Can be used with EARO Pop-it Keybox.

CPVE 3  
COLLEGES S P

NAME DARTO (for use with Turtle and LOGO) PUBLISHER AUCBE

DESCRIPTION Programming the Turtle to carry out instructions.

COMMENTS Excellent for group activity - excellent for issuing of instructions, logical thinking, programming, teaching of angles, drawing, estimating length. Students can handle this comfortably.

CPVE 2 3 4 5 7 9  
COLLEGES TH

NAME DARTS PUBLISHER AVP COMPUTING

DESCRIPTION Darts playing simulation, practice at subtraction from 301.

COMMENTS Oddities in the program spoil its undeniable potential - the student cannot "aim" the dart, the computer deciding which number they hit. However, greatly enjoyed by students.

CPVE 3  
COLLEGES E

NAME DRAGON WORLD PUBLISHER 4MATION

DESCRIPTION Adventure program

COMMENTS Aimed at younger age groups, but good with many FE students. They might need help. Excellent educationally and backed up by superb set of "other programs" (mazes, music). The Music is especially good.

CPVE 2 3 4 7 9  
COLLEGES TH

NAME EDWORD2 (ROM) PUBLISHER CLWYD TECHNICS

DESCRIPTION Word processor

COMMENTS Superbly simple to use: simple introduction. WYSIWYG and aided by recent applications pack including Jumbo Print, Mail Merge.

CPVE 2  
COLLEGES PK

NAME FIND PUBLISHER Hummec

DESCRIPTION Database with graphics facilities

COMMENTS Printed charts and graphs are full page size and extremely clear. This feature alone makes it worth obtaining. Its general "user friendliness" and attractive lay out make FIND an indispensable Database.

CPVE 2 3 4 5 9  
COLLEGES H

NAME FLEET STREET EDITOR PUBLISHER MIRRORSOFT

DESCRIPTION Newspaper creator



COMMENTS Its sophistication may deter many of our students and its slowness, compared with AMX Pagemaker, is frustrating. The inability to work on a whole page at once is a distinct drawback. However, the excellent graphics library is a distinct plus.

CPVE 2 7 4  
COLLEGES DB

NAME FRONT PAGE EXTRA PUBLISHER MAPE

DESCRIPTION For production of simple newspaper.

COMMENTS Easy to use, creates a "front page" out of students text. Pages can be saved and edited. Graphics facility poor. A popular program and an excellent "starter" for those Lecturers thinking of producing newspapers with their students.

CPVE 2 4  
COLLEGES TBDKWHU

NAME GRASS PUBLISHER NEWMAN SOFTWARE

DESCRIPTION Data Base

COMMENTS Looks like Quest on first use, which is a draw back in its dullness. Graphics facilities, though, make it more than useful.

CPVE 234569  
COLLEGES D

NAME HAPPENINGS PUBLISHER Toxteth TecS

DESCRIPTION Twenty different three or four sentence story lines appearing on the screen at a rate decided by the user. Each story has pages on gap filling ("cloze" procedures), true/ false statements, comprehension, wordpuzzles and anagrams.

COMMENTS "This program has been the most popular of all those used by the students on our Special Needs course"(Richmond College, Sheffield). "Data free" section gives scope for extension.

CPVE .2  
COLLEGES TKES

NAME IMAGE PUBLISHER CAMBRIDGE

DESCRIPTION Art program with lots of features.

COMMENTS Rivals AMX Super Art in its range of facilities and has good choice of alternative inputs - can be used with concept keyboard, joystick or mouse. "The use of the joystick with this program makes it the best of all art packages for our students." (Derby)

CPVE 7  
COLLEGES D

NAME INTERWORD (ROM) PUBLISHER Computer Concepts

DESCRIPTION Comprehensive word processor

COMMENTS The successor to Wordwise Plus which will prove the most useful of all wordprocessors currently on the market. WYSIWYG, very easy to use, superbly easy print options, multi-column formats.

CPVE 2  
COLLEGES

NAME LET'S EXPLORE LONDON PUBLISHER CAMBRIDGE

DESCRIPTION Simulates journies on the London Underground

COMMENTS Good for problem solving, map reading. Excellent resource, though the inability to change the data statements restricts its use to those in the London area.

CPVE 3 4 9  
COLLEGES E

NAME LISTS PUBLISHER MESU

DESCRIPT DATABASE

COMMENTS Storing and retrieving information. User friendly, LISTS can be used at a very basic level and is, at the same time, reasonably comprehensive. An ideal first Database.

CPVE 1234569  
COLLEGES TPDUKWHSEB

NAME LOGO PUBLISHER LOGOTRON

DESCRIPTION Programming language with many uses, especially in Maths, Problem Solving and Graphics

COMMENTS Excellent tool for uses across the curriculum - programming best achieved using LOGO. Can power turtles/buggies and superb for group activities.

CPVE 23479  
COLLEGES PTSHDUK

NAME MAGIC SWORD PUBLISHER HOLLIS

DESCRIPTION Adventure Game

COMMENTS Enjoyable...fun way of practising N,S,E,W.

CPVE 2 3 4 9  
COLLEGES T

NAME MICROFAX PUBLISHER DERBYSHIRE ED SOFTWARE

DESCRIPTION Student can prepare Ceefax like page to illustrate topic work

COMMENTS Many uses: can be used as "bulletin board" in classroom

CPVE 2 4 5 7  
COLLEGES HD

NAME MICROMAP PUBLISHER LONGMANS

DESCRIPTION Program allows you to make a map of any area.

COMMENTS At first, needs lengthy teacher input. But, once the map is created, can be extremely useful. Map can, for example, be of local area. "Students with no previous idea of maps and map references have taken to this with ease and are extremely well motivated." (Derby)

CPVE 2 3 4 5 8 9  
COLLEGES D

NAME PAGEMAKER PUBLISHER AMX

DESCRIPTION Creating Newspaper

COMMENTS Excellent results but needs much teaching and practice. Beyond range of some Special Needs students but facility to load in Wordwise files makes it an essential buy. Excellent graphics facilities.

CPVE 2 4 7  
COLLEGES T

NAME PENDOWN (ROM) PUBLISHER LOGOTRON

DESCRIPTION Wordprocessor

COMMENTS Beautifully easy to use with many useful facilities - different type sizes, scrolling, font design, dictionary (which can be added to) and Planner section for working out text.

CPVE 2  
COLLEGES S

NAME PROMPT3 PUBLISHER MESU

DESCRIPTION A simple word processor which can be used with the



Concept Keyboard.

COMMENTS Open ended and flexible. A good introduction to word processing for the less able student. Many other uses comprehensively dealt with in the excellent manual. Time needed for preparation of overlays, but an invaluable resource.

CPVE All  
COLLEGES TBDUEKWSPH

NAME QUEST PUBLISHER AUCBE

DESCRIPTION DATABASE

COMMENTS Can be used by both staff and students to record skills and progress made. Information well presented and easily accessed. Ideal for student profiles, which they can update and handle with ease.

CPVE Profiling  
COLLEGES T

NAME STARSPELL PUBLISHER FISHER MARRIOTT

DESCRIPTION Practice sets of letters

COMMENTS Has the advantage of being able to enter own list which can be saved.

CPVE 2  
COLLEGES TUPS

NAME SUPER ART PUBLISHER AMX

DESCRIPTION Art package

COMMENTS Good coordination needed, but excellent system well worth trying with Special Needs students. The MOUSE is a MUST°

CPVE 7  
COLLEGES TE

NAME TOWN PUBLISHER CAMBRIDGE

DESCRIPTION Can be used for either planning a town (drawing street plans) or as a game with a variety of levels for finding directions to find symbols on a map.

COMMENTS Gives practice in estimation, direction and vocabulary: this program could play an important part in a project on map making.

CPVE 2 3 4  
COLLEGES S

NAME TOUCH EXPLORER PUBLISHER MESU

DESCRIPTION Utilises overlays for use with the Concept Keyboard.

COMMENTS Open ended: the teacher (or the student) can create overlays on any kind of subject area. Useful across the curriculum and accessed by all ability levels.

CPVE A11  
COLLEGES TDUBWKEPSH

NAME VIEW (ROM) PUBLISHER ACORNSOFT

DESCRIPTION Wordprocessor

COMMENTS Despite its unfriendly manual, this comprehensive and excellent wordprocessor is not beyond the ability of many of our students. If you use it, try it out with the students. If you have it lurking in your BBC Master, give it a try...it's easier than the manual suggests°

CPVE 2  
COLLEGES E

NAME WORDWISE PLUS (ROM) PUBLISHER COMPUTER CONCEPTS

DESCRIPTION Word Processor (ROM based)

COMMENTS A comprehensive word processor which is nevertheless easy to use for FE Special Needs students. Needs a simple reference book creating by teacher until student is proficient. Most-used word processor.

CPVE 2  
COLLEGES TUWKBS

THE CORE LIBRARY : SUMMARY

NAME	PUBLISHER	COLLEGES
ANNUAL REVIEW	MESU	TP
BUDGETING	COIC	PT
CARGO	ACORNSOFT	TP
COINS (ESM)	ESM	S P
DARTO (for use with Turtle)	AUCBE	TH
DARTS	AVP COMPUTING	E
DRAGON WORLD	4MATION	TH
EDWORD2 (ROM)	CLWYD TECHNICS	PK
FIND	Humberside	H
FLEET STREET EDITOR	MIRRORSOFT	DB
FRONT PAGE EXTRA	MAPE	TBDKWHU
GRASS	NEWMAN SOFTWARE	D
HAPPENINGS	TOXTETH TECS	TKES
IMAGE	CAMBRIDGE	D
INTERWORD (ROM)	Computer Concepts	
LET'S EXPLORE LONDON	CAMBRIDGE	E
LISTS	MESU	TPDUKWHSEB
LOGO	LOGOTRON	PTSHDUK
MAGIC SWORD	HOLLIS	T
MICROFAX	DERBYSHIRE ED SOFTWARE	HD
MICROMAP	LONGMANS	D
PAGEMAKER	AMX	T
PENDOWN (ROM)	LOGOTRON	S
PROMPT3	MESU	TBDUEKWSPH
QUEST	AUCBE	T
STARSPELL	FISHER MARRIOTT	TUPS
SUPER ART	AMX	TE
TOUCH EXPLORER	MESU	TDUBWKEPSH
TOWN	NORTHERN MICROMEDIA	KS
VIEW (ROM)	ACORNSOFT	E
WORDWISE PLUS (ROM)	COMPUTER CONCEPTS	TUWKBS



THE CORE LIBRARY: BY CURRICULUM AREA

CPVE	NAME	PUBLISHER	COLLEGES	SPARE
1234569	LISTS	MESU	TPDUKWHSEB	DB
2	HAPPENINGS	TOXTETH TECS	TKES	
2	WORDWISE PLUS (ROM)	Computer Concepts	TUWKBS	WP
2	STARSPELL	FISHER MARRIOTT	TUPS	
2	EDWORD2 (ROM)	CLWYD TECHNICS	PK	WP
2	PENDOWN (ROM)	LOGOTRON	S	WP
2	INTERWORD (ROM)	Computer Concepts		WP
2	VIEW (ROM)	ACORNSOFT	E	WP
2 3 4 5 7	DARTO	AUCBE	TH	
2 3 4 5 9	CARGO	ACORNSOFT	TP	
2 3 4 5 9	FIND	HUMMEC	H	DB
2 3 4 5 9	TOWN	NORTHERN MICROMEDIA	KS	
2 3 4 5 9	MICROMAP	LONGMANS	D	
2 3 4 7 9	DRAGON WORLD	4MATION	TH	
2 3 4 9	MAGIC SWORD	HOLLIS	T	
2 4	FRONT PAGE EXTRA	MAPE	TBDKWHU	
2 4 7	PAGEMAKER	AMX	T	
2 4 5 7	MICROFAX	DERBYSHIRE ED SOFTWARE	HD	
2 7 4	FLEET STREET EDITOR	MIRRORSOFT	DB	
234569	GRASS	NEWMAN SOFTWARE	D	DB
23479	LOGO	LOGOTRON	PTSHDUK	
3	COINS (ESM)	ESM	S P	
3	DARTS	AVP COMPUTING	E	
3 4 9	LET'S EXPLORE LONDON	CAMBRIDGE	E	
3 5 9	BUDGETING	COIC	PT	
7	SUPER ART	AMX	TE	
7	IMAGE	CAMBRIDGE	D	
All	PROMPT3	MESU	TBDUEKWSPH	WP
All	TOUCH EXPLORER	MESU	TDUBWKEPSH	
Ad	QUEST	AUCBE	T	Ad/DB
Ad	ANNUAL REVIEW	MESU	TP	Ad

PUBLISHERS

(a) Software

Acornsoft           Newmarket Rd, Cambridge, CB2 3JN  
AUCBE                Endymion Road, Hatfield, AL10 8AU  
AMX                  166-170 Wilderspool Causeway, Warrington, WA4 6QA  
Cambridge Software           Town Hall, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire  
Clwyd Technics       Antelope Industrial Estate, Rhydymwyn, Mold, Clwyd CH75JH  
COIC                 Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ  
Computer Concepts            Gaddesden Place, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 6EX  
Derbyshire            Contact Derby LEA  
ESM                  Duke Street, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2AE  
4Mation              "Linden Lea", Rock Park, Barnstable, Devon EX32 9AQ  
Fisher Marriott       9c, Abbey Hill, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1LW  
HUMMEC               From Resource, Exeter Road, off Coventry Grove,  
                      Doncaster, DN2 4PY  
Longmans             Longman Group Resource Unit, 33/35 Tanner Row, York YO1 1JP  
Logotron             Dales Brewery, Gwydir Street, Cambridge CB1 2LJ  
MAPE                 76, Sudbrooke Holme Drive, Sudbrooke, Lincs LN2 2SF  
MESU                 These programs may be freely copied for educational use  
                      from any LEA computer centres. Copyright is held by CET.  
Newman                Newman College, Bartley Green, Birmingham B32 3NT  
Northern Micromedia           Newcastle Polytechnic, Coach Lane Campus, Newcastle NE7 7XA  
Toxteth Tecs         16, Berbice Road, Liverpool, LI8 OHU

(b) Hardware

Concept Keyboards are obtainable from AB Euro Marketing, Forest Farm Industrial Estate, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF4 7YS

The AMX Mouse is obtainable from AMX (address above).











