Editorial

Aslib – The Association for Information Management – has become increasingly active in recent years. It now has over 2000 Corporate Members in 70 different countries and operates from offices in the City of London.

The first article in this issue is the result of editing and reprinting a series of articles which previously appeared in *CD ROM and Online Review*, published by Aslib. I must thank Sarah Blair, Head of Publications, for allowing me to reprint them here, and Monica Blake for efficiently editing that publication. They previously appeared in 1998 to December 1999 issues. Re-published here in their original sequence, they are a light-hearted review of the passing scene and I hope you will find something of interest in this collection.

Originally there was a small amount of repetition which has been removed. "A new way of learning" appeared in three issues of *CD ROM and Online Review*, now condensed into one article. It describes a major component of the proposals for a nationwide network. The comments made some time ago by Diana Laurillard, Professor of Educational Research at the Open University, still seem to be true today:

> "It is a sad fact of research and development funding in educational technology that the focus is always on a particular medium or method. Vast sums are made available to investigate the best way of using computers, where the subject matter taught is incidental. The more rational approach, seldom adopted, is to offer vast sums to investigate the best way of teaching a particular topic, and through that to fund the use of computers as an incidental part of the strategy".

Tony Cawkell
Editor