

Who's Who 1897-1998

An **easy-to-search** century's-worth of who was, and who is, who.

If you use the original CD-ROM version of Who's Who on Windows 95 and plan to upgrade to 98, be prepared to lose your temper — under Windows 98 you will only be able to run this latest version of Who's Who, and it will cost you £300.

Still, at least this new edition, Who's Who 1897-1998, does contain all the latest information. The previous version of the CD-ROM incorporated all nine editions of Who's Who,

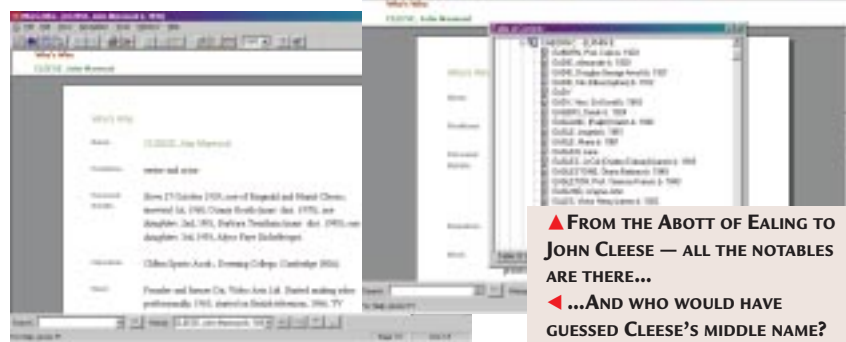
from 1897 to 1995. This one incorporates all that information, plus Who's Who 1998 and information not available elsewhere about those who died in the intervening years. Otherwise, the look and feel is as before.

It's easy to use, and finding the information you require is a doddle. In fact, the search facility is the main

strength of this CD-ROM. You can search by virtually any criteria to locate people by date, profession or interest, and how many liked salmon fishing or those who have some sort of association with Jack the Ripper (playwright Ray Cooney, actors Michael Caine and Peter Ustinov, and author Colin Wilson among others).

There are over 110,000 biographies of people who have in one sense or another contributed to the political, economic, scientific, social and artistic life of Great Britain during the past century. This CD is an essential for any researcher.

PAUL BEGG



▲ FROM THE ABBOT OF EALING TO JOHN CLEESE — ALL THE NOTABLES ARE THERE...
 ▲ ...AND WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED CLEESE'S MIDDLE NAME?

PCW DETAILS

★★★★★

Price £293.75

Contact Oxford University Press
 01865 267979

System Requirements Windows 3.1 or later (95 recommended), 33MHz 486 minimum, 4Mb RAM, 20Mb disk space, VGA graphics, mouse, quad-speed CD-ROM drive.

Hamlet

No **winter of discontent** here.

Hamlet is the latest addition to the award-winning BBC Shakespeare on CD-ROM series which so far includes Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Julius Caesar, and The Tempest. When compared to videos, audio cassettes and books, these CDs, costing more than £100, are a significant investment for any school or home budget. They do contain a lot of information, however, and it's wrapped up in a way that makes Shakespeare palatable, even to those who can't tell their Rosencrantz from their Guildenstern and who don't really want to — which in itself is an achievement.

The CD contains the whole of the play in audio (which unfortunately doesn't work on an audio player), the full text of the play (the Alexander Edition, as recommended by many examining boards), and 20 minutes of video from the BBC production of the play. There is also extensive background information: the life and times of Shakespeare, the



◀ YOU COULD GET TO KNOW POOR YORICK BETTER THAN EVEN HAMLET DID BY THE TIME YOU'VE EXHAUSTED THIS CD'S WEALTH OF INFORMATION ▼

themes and language of his plays, a full study and commentary of the play and plot, and information about actors, acting, sets, scenery, costume, music and art.

In addition, there's a range of critical opinions and interviews with various actors. Among them are Kevin Kline and Richard Briers discussing Hamlet, and Derek Jacobi, who plays Hamlet in the BBC production. If Hamlet is on your course this year, this CD-ROM could represent money excellently spent.

PAUL BEGG



PCW DETAILS

★★★★★

Price £117

Contact Collins Educational
 0181 741 7070

System Requirements Windows 3.1 or later, 66MHz 486 or higher, 8Mb RAM minimum, 16Mb recommended, VGA graphics, mouse, sound.

Cosmopolitan - Virtual Makeover

Bored with your make-up? Unhappy with your hair? Load up a picture and **try before you dye**.



Have you ever thought a certain hairstyle would suit you, then had the chop and realised that it didn't? Or have you ever been for a cosmetic makeover, had tons of the wrong-colour foundation and lipstick caked over you, and then had to thank the beautician through a tight, false smile as she tells

to try as many hairstyles, lipsticks and eye shadows as you like. Be a blonde, cut it short, wear it up, try the new cocoa-colour lipstick... or the red? With over 150 different styles, 20 hair colours and many different shades of cosmetic, you can change your image as many times as you like. This CD keeps up with the ever-

you how lovely you look? With the Cosmo Virtual Makeover, you need not suffer any of these

dramas. Just scan a photo or take a digital picture of yourself, load it, and you are at liberty

changing world of beauty and fashion, too. Users can visit the virtual makeover web site and download the latest styles, makeup colours and beauty tips.

Having sold over 300,000 copies already in the US, Virtual Makeover is also a hit with the male population. Men can try out new haircuts or judge whether a moustache or beard would suit them. This CD is great fun to use and will certainly generate a few laughs — how do I look, folks?

ETELKA CLARK

PCW DETAILS

★★★★

Price £29.99

Contact Roderick Manhattan Group
0181 875 4444

www.virtualmakeover.co.uk

System Requirements Windows 95/3.1, 486DX-66MHz or higher, 2X CD-ROM.

Britannica CD 98 Standard Edition

You may have to **search carefully** to get exactly the answers you want.

This latest version of Britannica on CD contains some 44 million words within 72,000 articles, including all the text of the multimedia edition and some beyond the latest printed version. The emphasis is firmly on text. There's little to illustrate it beyond some diagrams and photos, and it's reminiscent of the previous, CD97 edition — it, too, uses a Netscape interface, unlike the Internet Explorer-based multimedia edition.

As you'd expect, the standard way of navigating the disc is by a choice of Boolean or natural language searching.

PCW DETAILS

★★★★

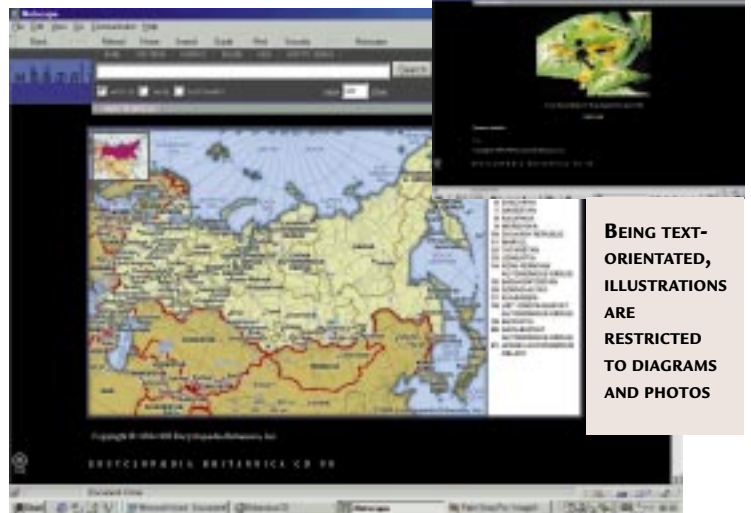
Price £99

Contact Britannica 0800 282433

System Requirements 486/25MHz processor minimum (486/33 or higher recommended). Windows 95, Windows NT 3.51 or 4.0, or Windows 3.x (3.1 requires the Win32s update), or 16Mb RAM is recommended 16Mb free hard-disk space 640 x 480 resolution.

The absence of the ? wildcard from searches shouldn't be a problem in the encyclopaedia but might prove awkward when querying the integral Websters dictionary. Britannica also offers the Compass, where you click on a map to learn about countries, or the Spectrum, which is ten broad categories of knowledge.

All the options are simple to use and the content is almost beyond reproach, but I was not impressed by the natural language searching. All responses are evaluated for their relevance to your



BEING TEXT-ORIENTED, ILLUSTRATIONS ARE RESTRICTED TO DIAGRAMS AND PHOTOS

question, but ask how an inkjet printer works and you will be rewarded with the biography of Geoffrey Tory, printer to the King of France, born 1480, died 1533! The CD-ROM performed reasonably fast on our P233MMX but you may find it a bit slow on a lesser-specced machine.

JOHN SABINE