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## MICROSOFT ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF BOOKSHELF '94 FOR WINDOWS AND MAC; Most Significant Upgrade Ever to Popular Microsoft Reference Library

REDMOND, WA -- Microsoft Corporation has announced the availability of Microsoft Bookshelf 1994. The new version, announced earlier this year, is the most significant upgrade ever to Microsoft's popular multimedia CD ROM reference library and will be available in separate versions for the Microsoft Windows operating system and Apple Macintosh computer. The release also continues the momentum for the Microsoft Home brand of consumer multimedia software.

Bookshelf '94 features the complete texts of seven best-selling, newly updated reference books on a single CD ROM disk. Bookshelf '94 goes beyond printed reference books to offer rich multimedia, such as 80,000 dictionary pronunciations, each spoken in a human voice, and more than 60 animations and video clips of scientific concepts and historical events. It also contains more up-to-date material than is possible in printed works, as well as powerful new tools that make it easier to access information and to facilitate fast searches across all of the books in Bookshelf '94.

"Consumers are increasingly demanding about the quality of their multimedia software; they want the comprehensive content available from print titles, along with stimulating and informative sights and sounds," said Richard Tait, general manager of the family reference business unit at Microsoft. "Bookshelf provides information in a way not possible with printed reference material. Best of all, with one-click access to best selling reference information from within any program, Bookshelf '94 is the new way to look it up. The continued and expanding popularity of Microsoft Bookshelf proves that we are meeting this high consumer standard."

Bookshelf '94, the most significant upgrade since Microsoft introduced the pioneering multimedia CD ROM software title in 1987, redefines the way people can work with reference information. For example, the all-new QuickShelf information retrieval tool gives users one-click access to each of the seven reference works in Bookshelf from within any other software program for the Windows operating system or Macintosh computer. Because the books are integrated, users can also double-click any word in Bookshelf to see its definition and hear its spoken pronunciation instantly.

Because users depend on reference information when creating presentation and reports, Bookshelf '94 works well with other programs for windows and the Macintosh. Users can copy and paste facts, quotes and even pictures into their word processors, spreadsheets or presentation programs.

Four of the reference volumes in Bookshelf '94 are completely new: The American Heritage Dictionary, Third Edition; Roget's Original Thesaurus of Words and Phrases; The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations; and The People's Chronology. Bookshelf '94 also includes newly updated versions of The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, Hammond Intermediate World Atlas, and World Almanac Book of Facts

1994.

#### Pricing and Availability

To bring Bookshelf '94 within reach of the rapidly expanding market of multimedia computer users. Microsoft is making this new version available for the suggested retail price (SRP) of \$99 through December 31, 1994. Licensed users of previous versions are eligible for a \$30 in-box rebate. The Windows-based version of Bookshelf '94 is available now. The version for the Macintosh is scheduled to be available in June '94.

For users of Windows, Microsoft Bookshelf '94 requires a multimedia PC or compatible with a 386SX or higher microprocessor, 4MB of RAM, at least 2MB of available hard disk space, a CD ROM drive, a VGA display, an audio board, headphones or speakers, and a mouse or similar pointing device.

For users of Macintosh, Microsoft Bookshelf '94 requires a color Macintosh or PowerBook computer with System 7 or higher, 4MB of RAM, at least 2MB of hard disc space, and a Macintosh compatible CD ROM drive.

The Microsoft Home brand is a broad range of consumer software products targeted at the rapidly expanding market of home software users. The Microsoft Home brand has been created in response to customer demand for a line of useful and enjoyable products for the entire family. Under the Home brand, Microsoft offers software in the categories of personal productivity, kids, games, educational entertainment and reference and will continue to expand these categories throughout the year.