



VIDEOTEX?

Videotex is a relatively new technology which. although still in its infancy, is already beginning to dramatically affect the way people, businesses and organizations conduct their affairs.

Essentially, videotex uses computer communications techniques to provide two-way communications directly to a TV set or computer terminal. Standard means of transmission such as telephone lines, cable TV, or satellite are used. Because it is interactive, it opens up the whole world of direct-to-the-home

services, including, in the case of the travel sector, such services as direct airline reservations, rent-a-car bookings, hotel and resort accommodation and many other travel-related services. Because it is computer-based, videotex can perform all of the traditional functions of a travel computer such as providing information, verifying availability and scheduling, making transactions, offering alternatives and even billing the customer. But because it provides exciting colour graphics, it can also be used as a very effective advertising medium. It is unlike any other medium ever before conceived. And some say it will have as profound an effect as print itself had three hundred years ago.

Of course, travel and tourist-related services are only some of the thousands of applications for videotex, which is why it is suddenly becoming so popular. Videotex makes possible such services as banking and shopping at home, the electronic encyclopedia, the electronic magazine, computer-based classified ads, targeted advertising, educational and training programs, games . . . the list ends at the frontiers of imagination itself.