

BOOK NOTICES

***Who's who in the UK information world 1988/89.* Compiled by Hilary Lambert. London: TFPL, 1988. 284 pp. £35. ISBN 1-870889-05-3.**

This biographical dictionary includes information about 2500 individuals actively involved in the UK information sector for at least five years or else currently running a library or information unit. The biographical details were collected from questionnaires and therefore represent the opinions of the biographees, not the compiler. For most entries the following information is provided: full name; qualifications; position; business address, telephone number, telex number and fax number; membership of professional bodies; number of years' experience; previous positions; and activities. Biographees were asked under 'activities' to list not only their work but also their leisure activities, presumably to provide somewhat more readable and lighthearted entries than otherwise might be expected in this kind of publication (although only some of the respondents were drawn to confess their recreational pursuits). As the compiler admits, 'Inevitably, in the first edition, there will be key people we have missed out and regrettably, there were a few who specifically asked not to be included,' but it is planned to capture these renegades in a second edition. Quite a few entries are also incomplete, giving only name, qualifications, position and organizational address. The work is arranged alphabetically by biographee with indexes to organization and to subject orientation of current employer (but not directly to subject expertise of biographees).

***Thesaurus of information technology terms.* Compiled by Silvina Peniston. London: Taylor Graham, 1988. 410 pp. £50. ISBN 0-947568-36-0.**

This *Thesaurus* was developed over two years and completed in February 1988. It is intended to reflect current information technology and excludes obsolete technology like 'punched cards.' Even so, it lists 3092 terms. A systematic display of the seven main areas with narrower terms, related terms and use for terms, and a similar display for the seven fringe areas (acoustics, economics, group dynamics, industrial relations, linguistics, organizational dynamics and statistics) is followed by the thesaurus itself. The structure is original to this work and not based on any other thesaurus or classification. As well as the printed version, this *Thesaurus* can be obtained in machine-readable form to run on IBM PCs (or compatibles) under MS DOS with a 10 mbyte hard disk.

***CD-ROMs in print 1988–1989: an international guide.* Compiled by Jean-Paul Emard. London: Meckler, 1988. 164 pp. £22.50. ISBN 0-88736-274-5.**

This is in effect a second edition of the original work which was published in 1987. It provides information on 239 CD-ROM products, each entry extending to half a page. The following information is given: title; data provider; ROM producer/distributor; ROM drive; search software version; software producer; computer; memory; update; price; type (reference, full-text, numeric, bibliographic, public access catalogue, demo disk, graphic); subject; and a brief description. The entries are arranged alphabetically by CD-ROM title with supplementary lists (wrongly described as indexes) of acronyms, data providers, ROM producers and software producers (in each case with address and telephone number). There are also indexes listing the CD-ROMs which will run on particular ROM drives and under particular software packages, together with an index to CD-ROMs by type. Such a guide, inevitably, is out of date by the time it is published and in such a rapidly developing area it is not always easy to verify information about the availability of products, pricing, memory requirements, etc. In a few cases, the entry against price says 'call for details,' 'to be announced' or 'call for quote.' Memory information can be misleading (in the handbooks accompanying the products as well as this guide) as on investigation it may be found that more memory is required than is stated if full use of all the facilities is to be obtained.

Martha E. Williams, ed. *Annual review of information science and technology.* Volume 23. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1988. 361 pp. \$79.50. ISBN 0-444-70543-0.

This volume follows the pattern set in preceding volumes and is again edited by Martha Williams. Its purpose is 'to describe and to appraise activities and trends in the field of information science and technology,' substantiated by references to the literature. This volume covers the following topics: The US Government as a publisher; Information policy issues in science and technology; Information marketing for libraries; Optical disks and CD-ROM: Publishing and access; Quality control in online databases; Psychometric measurement and information retrieval; Information systems and the law; Office automation; and Information and information technology management. These chapters are allocated to three sections, each of which is prefaced by a brief introduction from the editor. The volume also contains a detailed subject index. Finally, a keyword and author index to the chapters in all 23 volumes of the series is included. All the authors are American except for a lone Australian (and she is only a joint author), although this is perhaps not surprising as the *Annual review* is published on behalf of the American Society for Information Science.