

## BOOK NOTICES

**Malcolm Bain et al. *Free text retrieval systems: a review and evaluation*. London: Taylor Graham, 1989. 120 pp. £19.50. ISBN 0 947568 42 5. (A report of the Free Text Retrieval Working Party of the Inter-University Software Committee.)**

Three software products capable of organizing, storing, retrieving and displaying large quantities of free text data in a multi-user environment were extensively tested to ascertain the usefulness in an academic computing environment. Of the packages which were initially selected, ASSASSIN, CAIRS, INFO-TEXT, MIMER-IR and SUPERFILE were rejected for various reasons listed in an appendix. The selected products, BASIS, BRS/Search and STATUS, were mounted on different sites but similar machines, and were tested against a standard set of tasks. The evaluative criteria included: interfaces; text structure; retrieval functions; terminology control; updating; security; monitoring, together with general considerations such as documentation; supplier support; costs; and hardware requirements. An appendix lists details of individual test procedures and a bibliography of 19 items is provided.

**David W.E. Cabell, ed. *Cabell's directory of publishing opportunities in education*, 2nd ed. (2 volumes). Beaumont, TX: Cabell Publishing Company, 1989. 1055 pp. \$59.95 (US), \$69.95 (elsewhere). ISBN 0-911753-03-6.**

This directory, whose objective is to help authors identify the most suitable outlet for their work, lists over 400 journals in the field of education, arranged alphabetically by title. In addition to basic information such as frequency of publication, publisher, subscription rate, editors and their addresses, the directory includes such information as the number of external and internal referees, acceptance rate and percentage of solicited articles. If guidelines for the preparation of manuscripts are published, these, too, are included in the directory. Volume II includes an index to all the journals arranged under broad subject headings.