

In conclusion, then, an interesting book with a somewhat misleading title whose general points remain valid even though much of the statistical data is by now rather long in the tooth.

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Book notices

Computer-readable databases: a directory and data sourcebook. 6th ed. Edited by K.Y. Marcaccio. Detroit: Gale, 1990. 1379 pp. ISBN: 0-8103-2944-1

The sixth edition of this well-known database directory, formerly edited by Martha Williams, lists 4,800 databases produced by nearly 2,000 organisations and available through 200 commercial online and CD-ROM vendors. It covers publicly-available electronic databases: online databases, transactional services, bulletin boards, CD-ROMs, offline files available for batch processing, and databases available on magnetic tape and diskette. The main section of the directory comprises an alphabetical listing by databases title. For each database the following information is provided: producer (with address and telephone number); coverage; alternate names/acronyms; type of database; language; year when first made available; timespan; size; update frequency; update size; subject coverage; input sources; record structure; indexing; user aids; availability; online vendor, CD-ROM vendor, etc.; print/microform equivalents; contact name. There are also alphabetical lists of database producers and database vendors, listing addresses, telephone numbers and the names of the databases for which they are responsible. A CD-ROM product index provides an alphabetical list of databases on this medium and a subject index uses 956 terms to which relevant databases are assigned. A master index includes database names, acronyms, variant and former names, keywords within database names and any corresponding/related print or microform titles. The volume is prefaced with an essay by Martha Williams on 'The state of databases today: 1990'.

Clare Jenkins and Mary Morley, eds. Collection management in academic libraries. Aldershot, Hants: Gower, 1991. 320 pp. GBP 42. ISBN 0-566-03635-5.

This is a collection of 12 chapters written by eminent librarians in the United Kingdom and USA. The introductory chapter by the editors explains the meaning and

importance of 'collection management'. The remaining chapters are entitled as follows:

The organization of collection management in academic libraries;

Finance and budgeting;

Performance measurement and performance indicators;

The impact on collection management of automated systems and services;

The role of suppliers: a North American perspective;

The influence of the library user on collection management;

Management of serials collections;

Management of collections of non-book materials;

Stock revision, retention and relegation in US academic libraries;

Cooperative collection development: progress from apotheosis to reality;

The view from the British Library.

A glossary is also included.