

texts and ubiquitously networked document readers, tend towards the hyperbolic, on the whole the balance is quite appropriate. The authors tell us, for various reasons, that electronic publishing is not a panacea, and that issues related to cost, accessibility, archiving, and intellectual property, are not merely artifacts of print publishing; they are more fundamental to scholarly communication than we might think.

This book is indispensable to anyone who has interest in the evolving world of scholarly communication, from technologists to librarians, from publishers to scholars, from scholarly societies to policy makers; *Scholarly Publishing* provides an excellent starting point for further investigations into electronic scholarly publishing. While not all of the answers are here, one would be hard-pressed to find a better survey of the questions confronting those who think about the nature of publishing in the electronic environment.

Sage Publications/SRM Database of Social Research Methodology on CD-ROM, Scolari Software, Sage Publications, 1995. \$750 (stand alone version), \$1125 (network version) (ISBN 07619-0084-5).

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This is an odd product, because it never says what it *is*, an assertion that will become clearer as the review progresses. The publication consists of two parts. The first is a large bibliographic database on social science research methodology, with an accompanying search engine. The second is a list and description of more than 1500 data files held by the Steinmetz Archive and available for analysis by social researchers, with the same search software. These will be discussed in turn following an overview of the software and its requirements.

The system is DOS-based, running on an IBM PC/AT or compatible, requiring MS DOS 3.0 or higher, 640K internal memory, and 3 MB of hard disk space. A version is also available for the Apple Macintosh with SOFTAT or SOFTOPC. For purposes of this review the DOS version was tested on a Pentium PC clone running Windows 95, on which it performed flawlessly. The product comes with a skimpy manual (15 pages with much white space). Setup procedures are provided in the manual; these worked in a straightforward manner, and no installation problems were encountered.

The bibliographic database consists of about 34,000 books and journal articles on aspects of social science research, about 30% of which are books (more than 600 titles published by Sage and Wiley). Neither the documentation nor the system itself identifies the source or anything else about the bibliographic data used to construct the database, although from an acknowledgments screen it can be inferred that the journal citations came from *Psychological Abstracts* and *Sociological Abstracts*. If these were the sole sources of the data, they define a much more narrow view of social research than that implied by the title of the product. Browsing in the publication date field reveals that the database includes materials from 1970 through 1995, with a single 1965 article on factor analysis. Nearly all the works included have short descriptive abstracts. Most of the citations listed are to English publications (29357), however

there are also works in three other languages: French (509), German (2117), and Dutch (2057).

All data fields can be browsed by reviewing the alphabetically arranged list of words present in the fields. This is the method I used to learn or infer several of the facts I cite in this review. Truncation and Boolean operators can also be used to search each field or a combination of fields. For example, there are exactly 59 articles in the database that include the roots *librar** or *inform** in the "periodicals" (journal name) field. Retrieved records can be browsed, printed, or exported to a file.

The selection criteria for including articles and books in the database are unstated and unclear. Attempts to infer these succeeded only in mystifying still further. For example, my online searching text published by Academic Press is included in the database but not my research methods book, written with Charles Busha, by the same publisher. Of the several articles in the October 1993 issue of *Library Quarterly*, the entire issue of which dealt with qualitative research methodology, only one article is included. The bibliometric literature, which uses a set of methods invented mainly by the field of library and information science, is hardly touched upon. There are 22 items with the word "citation*" or "bibliometric*" in the free text fields (title and abstract), but nearly all of these are by Dutch bibliometricians. There is nothing by Blaise Cronin, Henry Small, Derek Price or Belver Griffith, and only two articles authored by Eugene Garfield. In general, coverage of the LIS literature is spotty and extremely sparse.

A detailed thesaurus of 1139 social research methodology terms was used to index the items in the database. The descriptors can be browsed alphabetically, but looking at the thesaurus in the form in which it would normally appear in print is impossible; at any one time only one term and the descriptors to which it is related can be viewed. Alone among the functions of the search engine, the thesaurus is clumsy and cumbersome to learn and use. It is too bad that a printed copy was not provided by the publishers, since it appears to be well conceptualized and quite rich.

The second part of this product is a description of the contents of the Steinmetz Data Archive, consisting of more than 1500 datasets of (primarily Dutch) social science research. According to the documentation, these are available at the Archive in machine readable form. The database is searchable in the same ways as the bibliography.

Quite detailed information about the Steinmetz datasets is provided in these records, though I was unable to print or export them successfully to a file. The file descriptions include, among other fields, identification of the type of data, populations, sampling methods, research instruments, number of respondents, background variables, and abstract. Inexplicably, the documentation does not state what the Steinmetz Archive is, its address or telephone number, what its sale or loan policies are, what the range of its rates might be, or anything else about this organization. The Steinmetz file seems to be included on the CD-ROM almost as an afterthought.

If the reader can live with the idiosyncracies and unknowns identified above, this CD-ROM is a potentially valuable acquisition. As noted, its specific applications to library and information science research are limited, since little of our field's pertinent work is included. As an interdisciplinary resource tool for the social sciences more generally, it has much more potential, with the caveats noted.