

The Serials Directory: An International Reference Book, 5th ed. EBSCO Publishing Staff. EBSCO Publishing, Birmingham, AL (1991). li + 5448 pp., \$319/set, ISBN 0-913956-51-1.

With this edition, the *Serials Directory* has expanded to include more than 130,000 periodical, annual, and irregular serial titles. Information for the directory is derived from the CONSER database, EBSCO's own internal file, and responses to publisher questionnaires. Updates are published twice annually to maintain currency in cessations, new titles, title changes, price, frequency, and other pertinent information.

The directory is compiled in an easy-access three-volume set. Volumes 1 and 2 are arranged first by subject and then alphabetically by title. Volume 3 is an index arranged by title, ceased title, and ISSN. A list of subject headings is provided for quick orientation, and a subject cross-reference guide is available to facilitate searching. Title listings include, among other standard bibliographic data, varying forms of titles, variant access titles, publishers' names and addresses, telephones, fax numbers, and editors. The LC classification, Dewey Decimal classification, NLM classification, CODEN designation, inclusions in indexes and abstracts, peer review, advertising, and book review information appears when relevant. Entries may also include alternative physical format availability, such as CD-ROM, online, and microfiche.

The *Serials Directory* provides easy-to-read, comprehensive information for U.S., Canadian, and some foreign language titles. It is an excellent companion to *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory* (1991), and it should prove to be a valuable resource tool for most libraries.

REFERENCE

R.R. Bowker Staff. (1991). *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory, 1991-1992*, 30th ed. New Providence, NJ: R.R. Bowker.

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CONDICT GAYE STEVENSON

Keyguide to Information Sources in Online and CD-ROM Database Searching. J. Cox. Mansell, London and New York (1991), xiv + 247 pp., £45.00, ISBN 0-7201-2093-4.

Cox has written a guide to the literature of online and CD-ROM database searching that includes both the print literature and selected databases that cover sources such as ERIC, LISA, and PTS PROMT. In the introduction and the first chapter, Cox gives a sketch of the origins and early development of online information systems and the more recent development of CD-ROMs. He compares and contrasts online and CD-ROM development. While this is a brief section, it covers the basics well.

The main text is divided into three parts: Part One consists of five chapters which survey the literature of online and CD-ROMs. These chapters characterize the literature from several points of view including languages, type of publication (book, journal, etc.); they also cover database directories and corporations and nonprofit organizations in the database field. Cox surveys books, journals, directories, conference proceedings, and reports, and he gives a brief but informative bibliometric analysis of the literature. While he includes databases covering online and CD-ROMs, he generally excludes the publications of online hosts, database producers, and CD-ROM vendors. Many of the works discussed in this section also have individual annotations in the second section. The introduction and the first five chapters constitute the strongest part of the book; they give an intelligent overview of the literature of database searching.

The second section is a selected, annotated, 450-item bibliography organized around standard major topics: "The Database Industry," "Downloading," "End Users," etc. The author states that "The emphasis throughout is on publications which serve as introductions, overviews, pointers to further information or continuing sources of news or analysis of developments" (p. 112). Each entry consists of a number, a complete citation, and an annotation. The annotations generally read well and tell what is pertinent about each work. They may be as brief as a single sentence or as long as a substantial paragraph, depending on the complexity and importance of the work discussed. The entry numbers are used to make cross-references to related works (as, cross-references between print and online versions of the same work). The coverage is heavily English language, but a few non-English publications are included. While Cox has attempted to choose sources that will have relatively long-term value, this section will still tend to become outdated rather quickly. Even so, it is a good source