

D. A. Book (Aust) Pty Ltd

Australasian
DISTRIBUTORS AND STOCKISTS
of BOOKS and JOURNALS:

Sold at PUBLISHED prices

ELSEVIER SCIENTIFIC PUBL. CO.
ELSEVIER BIOMEDICAL PRESS
EXCERPTA MEDICA
NORTH-HOLLAND PUBLISHING CO.
SPRINGER VERLAG
KLUWER ACADEMIC PUBLISHERS:
— DR W. JUNK
— KLUWER LAW AND TAXATION
— MTP PRESS
— MARTINUS NIJHOFF
— D. REIDEL
— SIJTHOFF/NOORDHOFF
— UPDATE BOOKS

AKADEMIAI KIADO
ALDINE
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
APPLIED SCIENCE PUBLISHERS
BALKEMA
J. C. BALTZER
BAUVERLAG
BIRKHÄUSER VERLAG
CRC PRESS INC.
WALTER DE GRUYTER
GUSTAV FISCHER VERLAG
GORDON & BREACH
CARL HANSER VERLAG
HARWOOD ACADEMIC PUBLISHERS
ADAM HILGER
HANS HUBER PUBLISHING
DR ALFRED HÜTHIG VERLAG
INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS
S. KARGER (JOURNALS ONLY)
MOUTON
PAUL PAREY VERLAG
PHYSIK VERLAG
RAVEN PRESS
GEORG THIEME VERLAG
THIEME-STRATTON INC.
TRANS TECH PUBLICATIONS
VDI VERLAG
VERLAG CHEMIE
VIEWEG PUBLISHING

11-13 Station Street Mitcham 3132 Vic Australia
Telephone (03) 873 4411 Telex AA37911

Information Retrieval Developments

OVERSEAS

THE LAST two years have seen continued rapid worldwide growth in the number of publicly available online databases. The spring 1983 Cuadra Associates' *Directory of Online Databases*, lists approximately 1,600 databases available through 244 vendors.

The most significant aspects of information retrieval developments over the last two years have concentrated on the proliferation of personal or microcomputers. Major database vendors have been paying considerable attention to this emerging 'end user' market, and database producers have been preoccupied with considerations such as downloading and reuse of data.

In November 1982 Dialog introduced its Knowledge Index aimed at personal computer users with modifications to the twelve databases on offer, to simplify searching. At much the same time BRS introduced a similar service, 'BRS After Dark'.

Not only is searching of databases being simplified for end users, but access is being made easier with a number of front end products such as SDC's ORBIT Searchmaster. A floppy disk based system, it provides such features as automatic logon, offline creations of search strategies and facilities for postsearch editing and formatting.

The industry overseas is not only undergoing a reorientation, but some restructuring as well. A number of database producers have become vendors in their own right. For example, the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) now offers access to its own files, and Pergamon Infoline both produces and retails its Videopatsearch system. Videopatsearch is worthy of a mention as a significant development in its own right, combining as it does traditional bibliographic information retrieval techniques and new videodisc storage technology.

The issue of downloading and reuse of data facilitated by the growing use of high speed data lines and microcomputers is currently preoccupying database producers. The central question for database producers is whether downloading will cut into online revenues or open up new opportunities for expansion. It is impossible to monitor when downloading of data occurs, and because it is illegal, no one knows how much it is being practised or why.

More full text databases are gradually making their presence felt. The *Harvard Business Review* is now available on Dialog and Data Star as well as BRS, Mead's NEXIS offers the full text of major magazines such as *The Economist*, and wire services such as UPI and Reuters. From 1 June, 1983, the BBC and Datasolve have offered a full text news database, the World Reporter Service.

In both the United States and Europe, the debate concerning the relationship of public and private sectors in the information industry continues, with private sector organisations such as the Information Industry Association raising the question of unfair competition from public sector funded information services such as the National Library of Medicine's Medline.

AUSTRALIA

A number of new Australian databases have appeared in the last two years, and the Info-growth Directory currently lists 95 files. While not all are publicly available databases, this figure represents approximately 33% increase on the December 1981 total. Worthy of mention is the appearance of two business databases on AUSINET, the Australian Business Index launched in December 1981 and the Australian Financial Review database added in June 1982.

AUSINET has changed somewhat in character over the last two years, with the disappearance of all overseas databases and lesser used Australian databases. There are currently 18 databases available on AUSINET. The last two years have seen the introduction, in February 1982, and subsequent abolition in April 1983, of a \$100 monthly minimum charge for AUSINET.

There has been growth in financial and commodity databases with AAP-Reuters Economic Services and IP Sharp Associates offering access to commodity/financial and time series data respectively. AAP-Reuters' monopoly of these services in Australia is being challenged by the entry into the market of AP-Dow Jones Telerate service.

April 1983 saw the signing of contracts between Computer Power and the Victorian and New South Wales State governments for the creation of an Australian legal information retrieval system. The initial database consisting of statutes and recent case law of both States is scheduled to be available in early 1984.

Available figures indicate that per capita use of online databases in Australia compares favourably with overseas experience, being lower than the USA but substantially higher than Britain or Europe.

Diana Killen

Member

AACOBS LAA Joint

Committee on Information

Technology

Inserts in this Issue

All issues of *InCite* should contain an insert from the LAA Acquisitions Section about their forthcoming seminar.

Faxon. The Art And Science Of Serials Management.

Over 25 000 libraries around the world rely on the art of Faxon's customer service professionals and the science of Faxon's sophisticated computer systems to help them streamline their serials ordering, invoicing and claiming operations, simplify their payment procedures and record-keeping, generate valuable management reports, and much more.

If you'd like to find out how we can help you effectively manage the complex paperwork of periodicals and serials at a very affordable price, write or telex today. We'll send you our new, fact-filled brochure, without cost or obligation.



F.W. Faxon Co. Inc.
International Division
15 Southwest Park
Westborough, MA 01581 U.S.A.
Telex 95-1980

faxon

FLASH — A List of Australian Subject Headings, First Edition

Compiled by John McKinlay

Sydney: LAA, 1982.
ISBN 0 909915 881

Price: \$15.00, \$10.00 LAA members,
plus 70¢ postage.

Available direct from the LAA, or
through Bennetts and Mannings.