

1986 美國生活 百科全書

第 27-29 冊

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第 27 冊

美國暨世界大全

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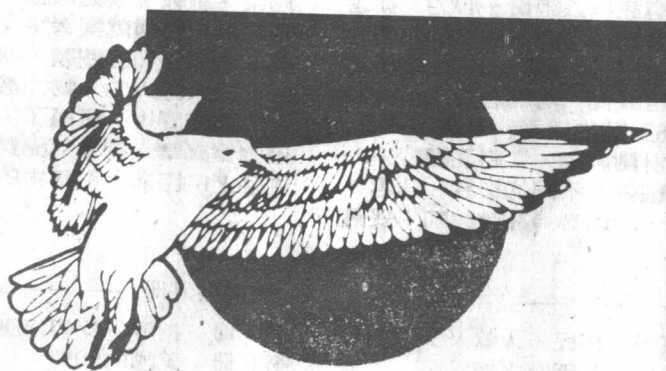


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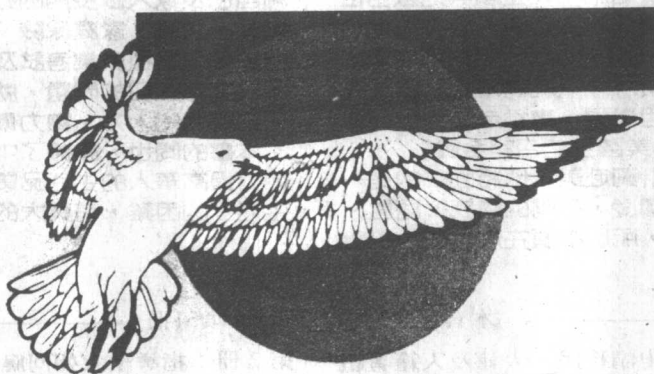


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1986 美國生活 百科全書

序

華人赴美，無論是移民、留學、創業、就業，或是貿易、旅遊，往往因面臨語言、種族、生活、文化等的差異問題，而造成精神、金錢，甚至生命的損失。

諸如子女教育、置產投資、生活適應、法律保險、移民法規等等的問題，因缺乏完整的了解而無所適從，却道聽途說，反造成許多無謂的延誤，難以彌補的遺憾！

為此，旅美僑界人士集合了洛杉磯、舊金山、紐約、休士頓等地數百位中美權威專家投入鉅資、心力，從企劃、收集資料、訪問、翻譯到編輯、檢排、設計……，耗時兩年，終於完成這套舉世矚目，專為赴美人士而編印的“1986美國生活百科全書”

如果您計劃赴美，您將面臨的是一個陌生的國度，不同的種族、語言、文化背景，所以必須在赴美前，妥善

安排如何去適應新的環境，了解美式生活的一切；知己知彼，有備而去，將可及早適應美國的生活。抵美後，馬上又必須應付各種生活上的瑣碎問題——如何安排子女的教育，全家居留的問題，乃至於考駕照買車……等等生活上無法避免的食、衣、住、行、育、樂各項細節。如果您一無所知，您將付出加倍的精神與金錢，却可能造成更多的錯誤。

生活料理妥當後，您必須進一步的為自己及家人做長期的打算——如何去創業、求職、家庭保險、報稅、及如何去參加各種就業考試及執照考試。解決您這一切的問題，就是我們投入如此龐大的人力、物力最重要的目的。本書的問世，震撼了中美人士，咸信對提高華人的生活品質、解決華人生活上的困難，有莫大的貢獻！

本套百科全書共分12大項51冊

第1冊：如何申請移民、入籍及入籍考題
第2冊：駕駛手冊及駕照考題
第3冊：工卡·社會福利·老年問題
第4冊：美國的各種保險
第5冊：如何在美置產
第6冊：在美生活須知

第7冊：指導子女如何應付各種中、大學考試
第8冊：美國的50州
第9冊～第10冊：全美重要號碼手冊
第11冊～第26冊：求職及考執照系列
第27冊～第38冊：美國暨世界資料大全
第39冊～第51冊：美國政府百科

1986 美國生活 百科全書

美國暨世界 資料大全 編輯說明

您想獲得世界及美國有關政治、事業、經濟、教育、人文、科學……等最新的詳細資料嗎？

本系列有您意想不到的豐富內容，由此，您可以感受到西方文化的馥郁，同時還可接觸到科學、技術的最新發展，國際局勢的最新演變，以及當代活躍各界之人物，盡多收錄介紹，

而能正確的反映世界現狀，這份資料，現已成為美國各家庭必備的熱門萬有全書。

為此，不論您將赴美移民、留學、創業，或是貿易、旅遊、就業，只要再三細讀本系列，您就有如一套活生生的百科全書。

—— 本系列共分12冊 ——

- 第1冊：近年的大事記・商業和經濟
・選舉・急救。
- 第2冊：營養和健康・大事年表・稅捐・國際經濟報告。
- 第3冊：世界列國誌
- 第4冊：曆書和節慶・加拿大・天文學・科學・太空・聯合國・度量衡・人口問題。
- 第5冊：宗教・旅行・軍事・建築物・大災難・能源・地理・氣候和天氣・世界地圖・寫作手冊。
- 第6冊：環境・郵政法規・拼字遊戲

- 不求人・航空・美國的社團・傳播媒體・免費查詢電話・其他的參考資料來源。
- 第7冊：人物名人錄・美國的歷史和政府。
- 第8冊：獎・美國的土地・美國各州和各大城市。
- 第9冊：教育・美國的大專院校・美國的城市。
- 第10冊：美國統計資料・藝文。
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SPECIAL FEATURES

錄放影機購物指南

A Consumer's Guide to VCR's

Source: "Video—Your New Window on the World" published by the Electronic Industries Association/Consumer Electronics Group.

錄放影機 (VCR)

The Video Cassette Recorder (VCR)

It happens to all of us. There's a program on television that we want to see, but we can't watch it. We're not home, or it's aired too late, or maybe we're even watching another program at the time. Until the advent of the VCR we were out of luck. But the VCR gives us the ability to "timeshift," to record a program at one time and play it back at another. Almost all video cassette recorders have the necessary tuner/timer either built-in or available as an accessory.

Another advantage of the VCR is the large selection of prerecorded tapes that is available to the consumer. They include everything from tennis and golf lessons to speed reading and cooking courses. There are thousands of older films available and an increasing number of new films are being offered for sale to the VCR user.

機 型 Formats

There are several different formats of video cassette recorders available, each with its own combination of features and benefits. The different VCR formats use different tape cartridges, or cassettes.

Most home VCR buyers will make their choice between the two major half-inch (named for the width of the tape) formats—BETA and VHS.¹ Tapes used on the BETA system cannot be run on the VHS system and vice versa. Here is a brief run-down of some of the key features available in both systems:

Multiple speeds. Most decks can be set to run at two or three different speeds. At slower speeds, recording time is extended—up to three or six hours with standard videocassette tape, five to eight hours with thinner tape. Why include faster speeds then? Picture and sound quality can be somewhat superior at the faster speeds. Even at the slowest speeds, however, picture quality has been judged as more than acceptable.

Picture search-and-scan. On a tape that lasts as long as five or eight hours, it can be tough to find the part you're looking for. That's why search-and-scan features are so desirable. They let you whiz through the tape at high speed, while the picture remains visible. You'll see some interference lines on the screen during the high-speed search (which can work in both forward and reverse directions) but the lines don't get in the way of this feature's

¹The JVC-developed VHS format is currently outselling the Sony-developed Beta format by about three to one. Sony was the first manufacturer to introduce video home recorders to the public in the late 1970s.—Ed.

function—to make it possible for you to find quickly the section of the tape you're looking for.

Tuners/Timers. All home VCR's except portables have tuner/timers built-in. They let you set the machine to record any available station at the time you select, operating much as the clock in a clock radio. To save weight and reduce their size, portable, battery-operated VCR's usually don't have built-in tuner/timers. For these units, a separate tuner/timer is usually available, and most often packaged in one carton as a complete system. The tuner/timer has a power supply to recharge the portable's battery and to run the deck on regular AC wall-outlet power when it's used indoors at home.

Programmable Tuner/Timers. More sophisticated than standard units, these let you preset your machine to record several different programs at different times, on different channels. You can set the machine from one day to two weeks or more in advance, and then take off on vacation, knowing that all your choices, up to the capacity of the tape and speed you've selected, will be recorded while you're gone.

Freeze-Frame Stills. This feature allows you to freeze the on-screen picture for closer study.

Slow Motion. Anyone who watches TV sports knows what a slow motion replay looks like. With this feature, VCR's give you the ability to see any scene in slow motion. Some units with this feature let you vary the speed of the slow motion, from slow to very slow, to freeze-frame stills.

Fast Motion. With this feature the picture runs at two or three times normal speed. It can be used for humorous, "Keystone Kops" effects and, more seriously, when someone wants to "get the message" in one half to one third the time (especially good for sports events). This should not be confused with picture search-and-scan features that are much faster, speeding the picture at speeds which can be ten or twenty times normal.

Remote Control. Most VHS and BETA VCR's come with a remote pause control, to momentarily stop the machine during record or playback, from a dis-

tance. But many models have remotes that do much more. Some of these let you control most or all of the special effects listed above from your easy chair.

如何於 BETA 和 VHS 之間做選擇 Choosing Between BETA and VHS

Because both are excellent designs, it's hard to go wrong with either. Both systems offer a similar roster of attractive features and excellent performance. However, there are differences between the two formats, just as there are differences between units of the same format, depending upon the manufacturer. Check with your dealer to determine the best combination of features for your needs. And actually try operating different models to see which is most comfortable for you.

Incidentally, people often wonder why tapes from VHS and BETA formats are not interchangeable, since both formats use one-half inch tape. The answer is that the cassettes have different physical dimensions, and the electronic recording and playback characteristics of the two formats differ as well.

Keep in mind, though, that if you have two machines available, you can copy or dub a tape made on one format to the other. For example, your VHS machine can be hooked up to a friend's BETA deck so that a VHS tape played on your machine can be transferred to a BETA tape inserted into your friend's deck. Of course, the reverse is also true.

其他的 VCR 機型 Other VCR Formats

Besides BETA and VHS, there are several other formats available for home video. While these are not compatible with the more widely used one-half-inch formats, and playing time is usually shorter, these formats do offer unique advantages of their own. Quarter-inch tape systems, for example, are available in portable systems that are smaller and lighter than one-half-inch units.²

買帶子 Buying Tapes

It's important to avoid off-brand and no-name tapes. Inside your machine, the tape heads rotate against the tape at hundreds of revolutions per minute. Any imperfections on the tape can clog these fast-moving heads. Tape oxides, if not properly bonded to the backing, can flake off and clog moving parts. The extra slow speeds and special effects on the new VCR's put greater demand on the tape. Reputable tape manufacturers take extra care to insure that their product is reliable and dependable, and won't harm the VCR. Fly-by-night, off-brand manufacturers don't take this care. Most tape purchasers know this and look for well-known brand names. Because of this, some unscrupulous tape makers have actually produced counterfeit tapes—bearing well-known brand names, but of markedly inferior quality. How to protect yourself? Look at the packages closely. The counterfeit tape usually looks imperfect, with sloppy printing and flimsy packaging.

²In March 1983, electronic and tape manufacturers agreed on a quarter-inch tape format as the common standard for the industry. These tapes can be played for 60 or 90 minutes. In the near future, the half-inch format will continue to coexist with the quarter-inch tapes. It is expected that the quarter-inch format will be used mainly for movie making.—Ed.

輕便手提式錄影

Portable Video

Just think, you can make hours of "video movies" for the cost of a single video cassette—under twenty dollars. Old fashioned home movies, including film and developing, can cost up to fifty times as much for the same running time—up to a thousand dollars! And cost isn't the only benefit to video movies. Unlike film, you see the results right away, no waiting days for the film to be developed. In fact, you can check the results right in the field; many TV cameras let you play back the picture you've recorded through their mini-TV set viewfinders.

Another advantage of video over film is convenience. There's no fumbling with projectors and screens, and no darkened rooms are needed. Just pop the video cassette into the deck and watch your home video movies right on the TV.

使用錄放影機之訣竅

Tips For Getting the Most From Your VCR

1. If you're using your VCR with cable TV, be sure to let your dealer know. You may need a special but simple hookup to retain the ability to tape one channel while watching another.

2. One VCR can easily serve two TV sets in different rooms, with little, if any, picture degradation. Ask your dealer for a two-set coupler or A/B switch and cable.

3. When setting your VCR's timer be sure to note whether you're setting AM or PM. On programmable timers, double check which day (and, on some models, which week) you've selected. Simple advice, but worth heeding. Timer setting errors are the leading cause of failure to tape the show you want.

4. Unless you're running short of time on a tape, it's a good idea to set the timer to record for a few minutes longer than the show you want to tape. That way, if a news bulletin or technical malfunction causes a show to run long, you won't miss the ending.

5. Similarly, TV station schedules tend to be less accurate during the late-night time periods. If you're recording a late movie by using the timer, it's a good idea to set it to start recording a few minutes early and continue recording five minutes after the show is supposed to end.

6. Do you have a video game hooked up to your TV? Well, you can record your highest scoring games if you wish.

Playing the software—Using the Hardware

7. Don't leave tapes in the stillframe mode longer than necessary. The rotating tape heads go over and over the same track on the tape in this mode. Clogged heads and damaged video tape can result from overlong use of stillframe (Most machines automatically take the machine out of stillframe/pause after a few minutes for this reason.)

8. The counter on your deck reads in arbitrary digits rather than minutes. But you can make a chart that will convert the number into minutes. Just set the counter to zero, start a tape, and note the counter reading every five minutes. If you do this at the slowest speed, you can multiply the time reading to make the chart accurate at faster speeds too.

9. Portable VCR batteries last between one and two hours on each charge. It's a good idea to get

an extra battery pack to extend the recording time. You can charge one battery while using the other.

10. In a portable VCR and camera combination, the camera takes the most power, especially if it has an electronic viewfinder. To extend battery life on each charge, turn the camera off between scenes. Some cameras have a standby switch for this purpose.

11. When dubbing a video tape (or disc) to another tape machine, the best results will be obtained by going from the direct video and audio outputs (found on most machines) to the direct inputs on the second machine. Results will be superior to an R.F. output to tuner input hookup. Your dealer has the inexpensive direct hookup cables you'll need.

12. TV cameras are rugged devices but don't point them directly at a bright source of light. If you do, you may "burn" the pickup tube, causing a dark spot or streak to appear in the picture where the point of light shone. In many cases, where the light source was not too strong, and exposure brief, the burn will disappear in a few seconds or minutes. In serious cases, for example pointing the camera at the sun, the damage will be permanent.

Caring For Your VCR and Camera

13. VCR's can't function properly with too much moisture in the air. Most have a DEW light to signal excessive moisture. The machines won't play when the DEW light is on.

14. Don't leave a portable VCR or camera in a car trunk. Summertime temperatures in a trunk can reach 130° F, which can damage equipment and tapes.

15. Tape used over and over again can, as it wears, shed some of the oxide coating and gum up the head assembly. When reusing tapes for timeshift recording and viewing, discard them after about 200 recording/playback cycles to avoid

possibly clogging or damaging the video head assembly.

16. Just as phonograph cartridges may wear out and require replacement at intervals, depending on usage, so the VCR head mechanisms may require cleaning or replacement from time to time. Unlike the phono cartridges, however, the VCR head assembly is not designed for user maintenance or replacement. This should be done only by a manufacturer's or distributor's authorized service facility.

Using and Caring For Tapes

17. Keep video cassettes, both blank and prerecorded, in their jackets and stored upright. Dust and dirt are a video cassette's Number 1 enemy.

18. When not in use, keep one of the blank video cassettes with your machine so you are always ready to record. That way, if you're called away from the TV while watching a program, the VCR can be turned on immediately so you don't have to miss the rest of the show.

19. How do you edit material from a tape after it's been recorded? Speed search features let you skip through unwanted portions of a tape in a hurry. But to permanently eliminate material, use two decks (your home unit and portable, for example, or your deck and a friend's). Copy the tape from one deck to another, pausing the second deck while the unwanted material goes by. That's the way to edit video tape. Don't even think about cutting the tape.

20. You can transfer your old home movies to video tape with a telecine adapter that fits between your film projector and video camera. Or, for an even easier transfer, there are commercial services that do the job for you. The service is available for 35-mm slides too. Costs are very reasonable for these services.

1985年最吃香的行業

Some Top Career Opportunities for 1985

The following employment information was taken from *The Guidance Information System™*, a product of TSC Division, Houghton Mifflin Company, the U.S. Bureau of Labor, and *Information Please Almanac* Questionnaires to trade associations.

Keep in mind that no one can predict future employment with perfect accuracy. This listing is only a selection of careers with good employment potential and is not intended to be complete.

Because salaries not only vary widely from small businesses to large organizations, but also in different geographic locations of the United States, they are to be taken as a comparative guide.

會計師

Accountants and Auditors

Accountants and auditors prepare, analyze, and verify financial information and reports. This includes auditing contracts, orders, and vouchers, and preparing balance sheets to reflect a company's assets, liabilities, and capital.

Estimated employment: Over 800,000. About 40% are women. More than 200,000 are certified public accountants.

Average starting salary in private industry with an accounting degree: \$15,000 to 19,000. Beginning auditors average \$18,700 a year.

Qualifications: Most employers consider a bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field as the minimum entry level requirement. Obtaining a CPA certificate is useful. A master's degree may be preferred. Familiarity with computers and their applications in accounting and internal auditing is desirable.

For Additional Information: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036.

Institute of Internal Auditors, Inc., International Headquarters, 249 Maitland Ave., Altamonte Springs, Fla. 32701.

銀行高級職員和經理

Bank Officers and Managers

Bank officers and managers supervise and oversee operation of bank services and departments. They direct the bank within the policy structure set by the board of directors and existing laws and regulations.

Estimated employment: Over 400,000. Almost 50% of these positions are held by women. Average starting salary: \$21,000 to 28,000. Master degree holders generally higher.

Qualifications: Bank officer and management positions are filled by management trainees, and by promotion from within the company from outstanding bank clerks and tellers who demonstrate the potential. College graduation is usually required for management trainees. A business administration major in finance or a liberal arts curriculum, including accounting, economics, commercial law, political science, and statistics serves as excellent preparation for trainee positions. Knowledge of computers and their applications is also important to managerial skills.

For Additional Information: American Bankers Association, 1120 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036.

電腦操作員

Computer Operating Personnel

All computer systems require specialized workers to enter data and instructions, operate the computer, and retrieve the results. **Computer operators** monitor and control the computer to process business, scientific, engineering, or other data according to operating instructions. **Computer-peripheral-equipment operators** use peripheral machines to transfer data from one form to another, print output, and read data into and out of a distant computer. Also watch the machine operation for malfunctions. **Data entry operators** or **typists** operate a special-purpose electric typewriter to convert alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic data into coded form on punch cards or tapes. Proofread and correct typed copy.

Estimated employment: Over 500,000. About one out of seven data typists works part-time. Average starting salary: Computer operators, at least \$14,781; peripheral equipment operators, at least \$14,800; and data entry typists, at least \$10,893.

Qualifications: Most employers recruit workers who already have some of the necessary skills to operate the equipment, especially in data processing. A high school education is required. Specialized training in private vocational and business schools and in junior colleges may be preferred for computer operators and some peripheral-equipment operators.

For Additional Information: American Federation of Information Processing Societies, Inc., 1899 Preston White Drive, Reston, Va. 22091.

電腦程式設計員

Computer Programmers

Because computers are machines that cannot think for themselves, computer programmers must write detailed instructions called programs that list in a logical order the steps the machine must follow to organize data, solve a problem, or do some other task.

Estimated employment: Over 250,000. About one third of programmers are women. Average starting salary: \$19,000 to 23,000 per year.

Qualifications: There are no universal training requirements because employer's needs vary. Job prospects are best for college graduates with a bachelor's degree who have computer-related courses. A graduate degree is required for some advance positions. Graduates of two-year colleges, or less than a two-year degree, are expected to have more difficulty in finding employment than in the past.

For Additional Information: American Federation of Information Processing Societies, Inc., 1899 Preston White Drive, Reston, Va. 22091.

電腦維護技師

Computer Service Technicians

Computer service technicians keep computer systems operating efficiently. They perform necessary maintenance. They repair computer equipment when it breaks down. Technicians often help install new computer equipment.

Estimated employment: About 55,000. Estimated median earnings: Over \$22,000 a year.

Qualifications: Most employers require applicants to have one to two years post-high school