

**A Directory
of Library and
Information
Retrieval Software
for Microcomputers
4th edition**



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for Microcomputers
4th edition**

compiled by

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and

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Software packages – Directories

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Introduction

This updated directory aims to provide a single source for details of microcomputer software for library and information work. Software which is specifically designed to provide the following functions is included:

Acquisitions, including: printed and online orders, receipts, fund accounting and stock preparation

Administration, including: budgets and financial control, statistics and management information

Archive control

Catalogues, including: cards, printed, COM and online catalogues, links to union/co-operative catalogues and retrospective conversion

Circulation control, including: borrower registration, control of issue and return, overdue notices and fines

Communications software including: access to online hosts (online search aids), auto-logon, stored passwords and search strategies, downloading

Information retrieval, in the form of text, numbers or images. This category includes some general purpose filing systems, but concentrates on text retrieval software and other IR packages written with the librarian/information specialist in mind.

Indexes and thesaurus control

Interlibrary loans

Integrated library housekeeping systems, which offer at least cataloguing and circulation control, if not also acquisition.

Media control, including: catalogues and software and hardware lending

Reference management, for example: abstracts, accessions lists, bibliographies, bulletins and reading lists

Serials control, including: subscriptions, check-in, routine, financial control and union lists.

User education: software designed specifically for library user education or which may be adapted

Viewdata: packages to assist in accessing remote systems or to create an inhouse viewdata system

Many libraries have successfully automated their libraries using "business" software, such as word processing, spreadsheet, database management and file management systems. Such software is largely excluded because information about it is readily available in major software directories. Desk Top Publishing software and teaching software of the kind developed or adapted by library schools for use in their teaching programs is also largely excluded. Details of teaching software, available in the UK, may be traced through CALLISTO, a bibliography available from:

Joan Day, School of Librarianship and Information Studies, Newcastle Polytechnic,
Lipman Building, Sandyford Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ST
Telephone: 0632 612181 extension 12.

For details of CD-ROM databases, readers are directed to other sources, such as:

ARMSTRONG, C. and LARGE, A.
CD-ROM Information Products: An evaluative guide and directory.
Aldershot: Gower, 1990.

Coverage is international, but no attempt has been made to be comprehensive in the coverage of software originating outside the UK or US.

The details provided for each package are culled from trade literature, the professional press and the supplier, and while every effort has been made to avoid errors and mistakes, the validity and accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed. Prices and specifications may change without notice, and the compilers cannot accept any responsibility for decisions made on the basis of the information provided. The purpose of the directory is as a guide to potentially suitable software, and it is recommended that further information is sought from the supplier. Many of the entries have been written by the suppliers or composed from recent information supplied by them. Suppliers' opinions are their own. Where it was not possible to confirm details with the suppliers, entries have been marked with an * to the right of the software name.

The entries, which are in alphabetical order of package names, are indexed by:

- the supplier
- the application(s) the software has been designed to perform
- the hardware which is required to run the package, or if no specific model is specified, the operating system

and contain the following details:

- name
- supplier(s)
- operating system
- hardware
- price and currency
- a brief note about the item
- reference to relevant articles in the literature
- application index terms

In view of the constantly changing software marketplace, it is intended to continue to update this directory annually or as major changes dictate.

Notes on software selection

Faced with the bewildering array of software that is currently available, the librarian or information manager needs to weigh up several factors in order to choose a package suitable for his/her needs. Some points which should be considered are outlined here as a brief guide.

- **Analysing the system to be automated** is the first stage. It is important to:
 - ensure that automation is the best or only solution to the problem
 - define the objective of automation (i.e. to save time, save money or improve the service).
 - analyse the functions required and rank them in order of importance (for example, rapid searching may be important or ease of input and editing of data).
 - identify the data elements (fields) needed
 - calculate the maximum size of fields and records (the maximum record is the **sum** of all the maximum fields). When calculating size spaces, punctuation, letters and numbers should all be counted.
 - estimate the total storage capacity required. To do this, multiply the number of characters in the records by the estimated number of records, allowing for growth. The record size should be the **average** number of characters where variable fields are to be used, the **maximum** for fixed fields.

Having defined the system, the following questions may be asked of each package:

1. Does it do what you want? Will it perform the functions you require and help you to achieve your objective? The Library Technology Centre at the Polytechnic of Central London provides useful lists of functions which should be offered by different types of software.
2. Does it accommodate your maximum field, record and file sizes?
3. Is it easy to use? Many of the simpler packages are easy to learn, but cumbersome in use. Ask existing customers (the supplier should be able to supply you with a list) about their experience, looking especially at:

Data Entry. How easy is it to input data and to edit errors made on input? Is it possible to copy data from one record to another to reduce repetitive typing? The amount and type of data to be entered and the staff who will input the data should be considered.

Validation. Are incorrect data such as dates or ISBNs indicated on input?

Editing. Is it easy to amend existing data? Some line editors, for example, are slow and difficult to use.

Changing Modes. How easily and quickly is it possible to switch between functions, such as inputting, editing, searching and printing?

Commands. How easy are the commands to remember and to use?

Help. Is online help available, for which functions and how informative is it?

Implementation. How difficult and time consuming is it to set up the system? Many packages which offer sophisticated facilities require considerable effort to make them perform successfully. How much training and support is available, how good is it and how much will it cost?

4. Is the manual helpful? Look for one which is easy to understand and to use. A good index is essential.
5. Does the software operate at a satisfactory speed? Two programs performing the same task will operate at different speeds, as will the same program on different machines. It is as well to see the software operating on the type of hardware you intend to buy with a realistic size of database, to ensure a satisfactory response time. In particular, how long does it take to update the file? Information retrieval systems which offer fast retrieval, often take longer to update.
6. How reliable is the company? You need to know that you will be offered support; what would happen in the event of either the software developer or the supplier ceasing to trade?
7. What do other customers think about the product and the company? If possible, obtain a **full** list of customers from the supplier.
8. Can you afford it? In addition to the cost of the software, there may be extras, such as the manual, implementation, training, support and maintenance.
9. Is it compatible with other software? If links to other software, such as word processing or online search software are required, will the two packages work? Will it work on existing hardware and, if necessary, operate with an existing printer?

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A-V HANDLER *

Supplier: Media Logic Co.

Operating System: CP/M; MS DOS

Hardware: CP/M Micros; MS DOS Micros

Price: 2,450 US dollars, 50 US dollars demo kit

Notes: A-V HANDLER was designed to manage both rental films and media materials. The package will schedule equipment, handle inventory and maintain a complete non-print catalogue of owned materials. A menu guides the user to the five main functions of: rental film control; rental film vendor management; booking/distribution equipment scheduling; media catalogue; and equipment inventory control. There is also a reports capability.

Descriptors: Media control

ACCUMULATOR II

Supplier: Southern Micro Systems

Operating System: Apple DOS

Hardware: Apple II Plus; Apple IIc; Apple IIe

Requirements: Printer

Price: 99 US dollars

Notes: Database program which provides 20 information fields with 320 characters per field, editing, deletion, and sorting capabilities.

Descriptors: Database management; Information retrieval

ACQ350 ACQUISITIONS PROCESSING SYSTEM *

Supplier: OCLC

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC; OCLC M300

Notes: A microcomputer based library acquisitions system which communicates with the OCLC online system. All bibliographic formats and order types can be handled, and a fund accounting package is included. Libraries may establish their own processing schedules and activity levels. Order communications may be printed locally or remotely by OCLC. A single file is maintained for all stages of the acquisitions procedure: pre-order, in-process and post-receipt.

Descriptors: Acquisitions

ACQUEST *

Supplier: Central Information Service

Operating System: MS DOS; CP/M

Hardware: MS DOS Micros; CP/M Micros

Price: 750 pounds sterling

Notes: The system is built around a main file consisting of bibliographic records with fields for supplier, order number, dates of order and receipt, source of information, requester, fund, number of copies, price, currency and comments. One record relates to one or more copies of an item identified by the ISBN or ISSN. "Status" codes are assigned to indicate which stage the item has reached in the acquisitions process. The system can generate reports in tabular, bibliographic and card formats.

Descriptors: Acquisitions

ACQUISITION MANAGER

Supplier: Professional Software

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM XT; IBM AT; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: 256K RAM, hard disk and 132 column printer

Price: 495 US dollars

Notes: An acquisitions package which features: a consideration file; placement of orders and/or requisitions; recording of receipts, returns and cancellations; tracking of overdue items; fund control and analysis, and listing of recent acquisitions by subject or by department.

Descriptors: Acquisitions

ACQUISITIONS CONTROL

Supplier: Right On Programs

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles

Price: 99 US dollars

Notes: Prints orders to paper or preprinted forms (supplied with program). The user can encumber the price and then change that price when the item is received. Facilitates budget control and fund accounting.

Descriptors: Acquisitions

ACSESS *

Supplier: International Coffee Organisation

Operating System: DRX 2; DRX 3

Hardware: ICL DRS 20

Requirements: Communications ports

Price: 99 pounds sterling

Notes: External databases may be accessed through dial up and single key entry to up to 10 different hosts. The software can be tailored to speeds of either 300 or 1200 baud. Search results may be displayed on the screen and directed to a disk file for subsequent offline editing and printing using ICL's DTM (Distributed Text Manager) word processing software.

Descriptors: Online search aid

ACTA CRYSTALLOGRAPHICA INDEX SYSTEM *

Supplier: Acta Crystallographica

Operating System: OASIS

Hardware: Oasis Micros

Price: On application

Notes: Package developed for Acta Crystallographica, but could be used for other applications by arrangement

Descriptors: Book indexes; Indexes

ADLIB2

Supplier: Databasix Computer Services Ltd

Digital Design

Operating System: UNIX; XENIX

Hardware: ICL; IBM AT; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: 1 Mb RAM, 20 Mb hard disk

Price: From 1,000 pounds sterling

Notes: The catalogue is the foundation of the system. Data is entered on formatted screens and authority control is provided. An online public access catalogue is available, and catalogue lists, reports, search listings etc. may be generated from the catalogue in user defined formats. Free text catalogue searching and thesaurus management are available. Acquisitions, serials control and circulation control modules are also features of the system. The software is menu driven.

Review: Entry in Library Systems: A Buyer's Guide edited by Juliet Leeves, published by Gower.

Descriptors: Acquisitions; Catalogues; Catalogues: online public access; Image retrieval; Integrated library housekeeping system; Issue system; Serials control; Thesaurus control

AFIS *

Supplier: Autofile Ltd

Hardware: DEC MicroVAX

Notes: AFIS is designed for libraries which do not need some of the more esoteric functions of information retrieval, but nevertheless require a fast, cheap and easy-to-use package. AFIS automatically carries out all keywording, character compression and lower case conversion on the text entered, making it simple to learn and quick to use. Subsequently, data can be located when only one word is known. The user has flexibility to define each database, specifying the information about each field including length, type and whether they are to be linked for searching.

Descriptors: Information retrieval

AIM

Supplier: Dawson Technology Ltd
Leicester Polytechnic Library

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM XT; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: XT or equivalent plus printer

Price: Dawson's customers 750 pounds sterling
Non-Dawson's customers 1,250 pounds sterling p.a.
Maintenance and support 150 pounds sterling p.a.

Notes: Software package designed to administer borrowing and lending between the user library and BLDS or any other loans facility. The system also covers: management information; security procedures; print facilities and communications.

Descriptors: Interlibrary loans

ALEPH

Supplier: Ex Libris Ltd

Operating System: MS DOS; OS/2; VMS

Hardware: DEC MicroVAX; IBM PC; IBM PS/2; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: PC: 286, 640K RAM, 20 Mb Disk

Price: 5,000 - 25,000 US Dollars

Notes: Software operates on Micros and VAX Minis. Information Retrieval according to CCL, ISO 8777.

Descriptors: Text retrieval

ALEX

Supplier: Southdata Ltd

Hardware: Included

Price: From 11,500 pounds sterling including hardware

Notes: ALEX is an advanced Optical Character Recognition (OCR) system. An OCR automatically copy-types printed or typewritten documents into the computer. ALEX is a sophisticated product that is capable of recognising a large number of different fonts, weights and styles of type. It can be taught a virtually unlimited number of new letters by the user (you can even teach it foreign languages like Russian or Hebrew). Unlike many low-cost OCR systems, it is not necessary to predeclare the font to be read, nor does any sort of session training have to be done once ALEX has learned that font. All fonts that ALEX has learned can be read in the same document.

Descriptors: Data entry

ALPHA-BASE

Supplier: Clares Micro Supplies

Hardware: Acorn

Price: 49.95 pounds sterling

Notes: ALPHA-BASE is the successor to Beta-Base on the 6502 BBC computers. The database is ready to run as soon as you receive it, with no need for programming skills. It configures itself to use as much memory as is available and with a four megabyte machine you can have over 50,000 records in a search list or index.

ALPHA-BASE includes the following features: WIMP environment using icons and mouse: free format screens can be painted, and input limits set on each field; multiple display and entry forms, user defined field order for entry of data; plain English entry of search criteria, and super fast sort routine with plain English definition. There are also offsets allowing you to sort on words within a field, and sort a whole file which can be stored in the sorted order. There are five data types including formula and date. This is Winchester compatible with an install program.

Descriptors: Database management; Text retrieval

ALPHA/THREE *

Supplier: Alpha Software Corporation

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC

Requirements: Hard disk recommended

Price: 395 US dollars

Notes: A database package which also offers report writing and data transfer facilities. Up to five indexes provide flexible access to the database. Database searches can be conducted with the help of up to twenty-six search criteria, including functions such as data matches and greater-than and less-than relationships. Users can select from a variety of printed output forms.

ALPHA/THREE is a single file database but can join, import and export records thus combining several files.

Descriptors: File transfer; Report generation; Text retrieval

ANSWERING QUESTIONS LIBRARY STYLE

Supplier: Learnco Inc.

Operating System: Apple DOS 3.3

Hardware: Apple II Plus; Apple IIe; Apple IIc

Requirements: 48K RAM, and one disk drive

Price: 39.95 US dollars

Notes: Students use a microcomputer simulation to practice locating and answering questions in non reference library materials. A step-by-step search allows the identification of key topic words, practice in using the card catalogue, locating the right book, using the index and finding the right information.

Descriptors: User education

ANYWORD

Supplier: Shareware Marketing

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: Hard disk

Price: 7.99 pounds sterling; US - 35 US dollars registration fee

Notes: An indexer program that creates special files that are used by a finder program for instantaneous recall of passages by keyword in your text files. Works on ASCII text files of up to 1 Mb. Total of index files are about the size of your original text. The indexing takes time and works best on a RAM disk.

Descriptors: Text retrieval, unstructured

APPLE TELEX

Supplier: Apple Computer UK Ltd

Operating System: Apple Macintosh

Hardware: Apple Macintosh 512K; Apple Macintosh Plus; Apple Macintosh SE; Apple Macintosh II

Notes: The product comprises a software application and a hardware telex manager. This allows a Macintosh to act as a full function telex terminal. There are two versions of APPLE TELEX - a single-user version and a multi-user version and both versions run as a Macintosh desk accessory.

Descriptors: Communications; Telex

APPLESHARE PC *

Supplier: Apple Computer Inc.

Operating System: MS DOS 3.1 +

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: 384K RAM, Local Talk PC Card and Local Talk Connector Kit

Price: 149 US dollars

Notes: AppleShare PC, Apple Computer's new desktop communications software, bridges the gap between the MS-DOS operating system and the AppleShare File Server. AppleShare PC lets users of an IBM PC or compatible computer share information stored on an AppleShare LaserWriter printer. With AppleShare PC, users can integrate MS DOS documents into Macintosh documents for applications such as desktop publishing, productivity, and business management. IBM PC users gain access to the AppleShare File Server by using a pop-up menu modelled after a Macintosh chooser. The memory-resident program lets MS DOS users choose servers and printers; obtain and change file and folder information, and control folder access privileges from within applications.

Descriptors: Communications; File transfer

APT *

Supplier: APT Systems Ltd

Operating System: MS DOS; UNIX

Hardware: IBM AT

Notes: APT is a desk top publishing system. The key is the style-sheet. This is a tabular description of how the particular publication is to be made up. The style-sheet is created by answering a series of forty questions concerning point sizes, typefaces, pitches, column width and number indents, and so on. Once created, the sheet is stored for re-use. An unlimited number of sheets can be put together. Once the appropriate sheet is chosen, text is read in and the system produces the output in the pre-determined form. Initial output is to a laser printer via a digitising interface which just makes sure that the printer operates as efficiently as possible. The laser output is meant to be a galley (pre-publication) proof prior to making a printing plate or bromide. For short-run work however, laser output is more than adequate. (Source: Computers and Libraries, June 1988).

Descriptors: Desk top publishing

ARCHIVIST

Supplier: IRL Press Inc.

IRL Press Ltd

Operating System: MS DOS 2.0 +

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM XT; IBM AT; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: Hard disk recommended

Price: 47.50 pounds sterling; 95 US dollars

Notes: ARCHIVIST is a bibliographic database management system aimed at the individual analyst, specialist manager or administrator and R&D user who has to abstract and report on information available from published sources. Its four pre-defined record types: paper-in-journal, paper-in-book, book, and free-format record types can all be included in the same database. The paper-in-journal record has fields for author(s), title, date of publication, volume, page number and abstract. Book records have fields for

author(s)/editor(s), title, date of publication, city, publisher and abstract, supplemented by chapter author(s)/editor(s) and chapter title fields in the chapter-in-book record. A further 22 record structures can be user-defined and also included in the same database. ARCHIVIST puts no restriction on its field sizes. Each field is variable in length - up to the maximum 16Kb character (approx 2Kb words) limit on each record. ARCHIVIST can be used to store entire articles, papers, or lecture notes by splitting them into two thousand word chapters in free-format records. For manual entry and editing of information, ARCHIVIST has an integral, moderately-comprehensive word processing facility that is WordStar command compatible. ARCHIVIST uses a conventional pull-down menu interface and function keys. It automatically indexes each record entered or imported, making its searches both fast and flexible. Searches can be directed at entire records, or narrowed to individual field. Searches can be widened (AND), narrowed (OR), or restricted (NOT). Wild card characters can be used to widen searches on root terms, and ARCHIVIST also provides a user-definable list - which extends the search facility - and 'fuzzy' searching for sound-alike words. The results of a search are held in a 'Found' list for further pruning or browsing. For output to a printer or disk file, selected records can be formatted according to Harvard or Vancouver conventions, or to any user-defined convention. *Review:* Einon, G. *Archivist. PC User*, 12-25 April 1989, p 111
Descriptors: Reference management

ARCTFS

Supplier: Textcellence
Hardware: Acorn Archimedes 305 and above
Notes: ArcTFS is dedicated particularly to research, educational and literary use and is essentially a 'free form text' database. It will allow cross-reference, filing and, later, the collation of irregular items of textual data of up to 7,700 characters in length related to a common subject or theme. Items can be imported ASCII files, or typed directly. ArcTFS also has the facility to create text files formatted for the word processor, so that sorted collated subjects of text can be dumped without the need for reformatting or retyping. ArcTFS is ideal for those who need word processing together with a research function for handling irregular textual data. Among its current uses are: filing excerpts from the minutes of business meetings to allow for rapid search and collating; filing data for the composition of any document; filing data on any list of events which need to be re-assembled. Up to 2,000 items of 650,000 characters are possible on one 800K disk. ArcTFS also features its own mouse driven horizontal menu which is fast and accurate. Text subjects can be exported to 1st Word Plus.

Descriptors: Text retrieval, unstructured

ASCOM IV *

Supplier: Dynamic Microprocessor Associates
Operating System: MS DOS 2.0
Hardware: IBM PC; IBM XT; IBM AT; IBM PC compatibles
Requirements: 256K RAM minimum and a standard serial port
Price: 195 US dollars
Notes: Menu driven communications software which permits the user to connect and logon to commonly used databases and time sharing services. There is an online help facility. Terminals emulated include DEC VT100, DEC VT52, ADDS Viewpoint, Televideo 912, IBM 3101, LSI ADM3A, Hazeltine 1500. There are more than 60 commands and a built in editor.
Descriptors: Communications; Online search aid

ASK-IT

Supplier: Shareware Marketing
Operating System: MS DOS
Hardware: IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles
Requirements: 512K RAM, hard disk highly recommended
Price: 7.99 pounds sterling; 70 - 490 Australian dollars registration fee
Notes: This free-text retrieval system is a paragraph-oriented database using b-tree indexes that can be used for legal case research, catalogue organisation, dictionary searching, lexicons, etc. Handles multiple files up to 10,000 paragraphs per file and roughly 20,000 indexed words. Ignores noise words and you can mark paragraphs not to be indexed. The rudimentary soundex search capabilities, search macros, and the capability to write selected paragraphs to disk make it a very powerful tool. The indexing is quick. It makes an index dataset that is about the same size as your text.
Descriptors: Text retrieval, unstructured

ASKSAM

Supplier: Asksam Systems
North American Software GmbH
Operating System: MS DOS 2.0 +
Hardware: IBM PC; IBM XT; IBM AT; IBM PS/2; IBM PC compatibles
Requirements: 256K RAM and one floppy drive
Price: 295 US dollars
Notes: AskSam is an information storage and retrieval system designed to operate in the IBM PC and compatible environment, for use with both text and numeric information. Files consist of records that may contain free form text and/or variable length fields. Records can be linked to form unlimited length documents. Records may be updated at any time with a full screen text editor. It is possible to retrieve and sort on anything entered in a record, including a single character, wild cards, calendar dates and arithmetic comparisons.

Multiple records may be updated using batch operations. Other features include: word processing capabilities and a command language; the creating and use of stored programs; passwords and encryption; proximity searching; a report generator; automatic phone dialler; hypertext facility; online context sensitive help, and an optional index facility; global scanning; dialogue boxes; shell to DOS; linkage of graphic images to text files, and the ability to spawn templates and program records to a new file. Output may be routed to the screen, printer or disk, and the import or export of ASCII files from other systems, including dBase, is supported. Applications available include bibliographic reports, inventories, and book ordering systems. A network version is available. Educational pricing is offered.

Review: Online, July 1987. Pruett, Nancy. "Using askSAM to manage files of bibliographic references", PC Magazine Jan 17, 1989

Descriptors: Hypertext; Information retrieval

ASSASSIN PC

Supplier: Associated Knowledge Systems

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM XT; IBM AT; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: Tallgrass winchester disk, 312K RAM

Price: 995 pounds sterling

Notes: Microcomputerised version of ASSASSIN. The software permits the storage and retrieval of free form text. Data entry features include prompted direct screen input, and a word processing interface. Items may be allocated to one of nine files and can be classified as confidential for security purposes. Personal names, words and phrases may be indexed. Full text and marked word indexing are possible within a single item. Search facilities include automatic synonym searches, nested Boolean logic, and search limitation by files or dates. There is a string search feature for words not indexed, and full or part display of selected items. Print facilities are available, and output may be to disk for incorporation into other documents. The system features online index maintenance including synonyms. The system has both "novice" and "expert" modes, and a "help" facility.

Descriptors: Hypertext; Information retrieval; Word processing

ASSIST *

Supplier: Userlink Communications Ltd

Operating System: CP/M; CP/M-86; MS DOS

Hardware: Apricot; Cifer, Columbia; Compaq; DEC rainbow; IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles; Sirius; Superbrain

Requirements: 64K RAM for 8 bit machines; 128K for 16 bit machines. All require an RS232 (V24) serial communications port

Price: 195 pounds sterling

Notes: ASSIST offers the following features: autologon and protocol storage to enable one key logon to remote computer system; text storage of more than 650 words and phrases and offline editing of text; full speed transmission of stored messages line-by-line or by randomly selected line; downloading and storage of text to disk which may be printed as received or after disconnection; function keys for frequently used commands. The system operates on full or half duplex with xon, xoff flow control of incoming information.

Communication and parity speeds are controlled by the user. Text Prestel is available on most versions.

Descriptors: Electronic mail; Online search aid; Viewdata: access to remote systems

THE ASSISTANT *

Supplier: Library Automation Products Inc.

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM XT; IBM AT

Notes: A library automation software package for microcomputers and local area networks. The ASSISTANT is a system of integrated functional modules including cataloguing, circulation, serials control, acquisitions and accounting.

Descriptors: Accounts; Acquisitions; Catalogues; Issue system; Serials control

ATHENE

Supplier: Southdata Ltd

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles

Notes: It would be of immense usefulness to many organisations to have their paper files stored on computer and made available to all their employees simultaneously. The necessary ingredients are: PCs with high resolution monitors able to display images of documents; Local Area Networks to distribute the data; Scanning hardware and software to capture the image of the document; OCR to read the printed and typewritten sections of the document; Powerful text indexing database software to retrieve the image from any combination of words in it. Southdata's ATHENE system will amalgamate all these to produce a powerful, and easy to use Document Imaging System. As well as the necessary hardware items that are now readily available, it will rely on two key items that are already in Southdata's armoury: ALEX advanced Optical Character Recognition system; COLOSSUS high speed, text oriented database manager. ALEX will automatically read all the typed and printed words in a document; COLOSSUS will use these words to index the image of the document, so that the user can retrieve it by searching on anything in it. The user can then type in comments on the document which are stored directly in the COLOSSUS database and are instantly available to all users of the system.

Descriptors: Document imaging; Text retrieval

AUDIO VISUAL CARD/DIRECTORY PROGRAM *

Supplier: Library Processes System (formerly Educomp)

Operating System: TRS DOS

Hardware: Radio Shack; TRS-80 Model III; TRS-80 Model IV

Requirements: 48K RAM, 2-disk drive, tractor feed printer for cards, 80 column printer for directory

Price: 225 US dollars

Notes: Library Processes System - AV CARD/DIRECTORY PROGRAM permanently stores entries on disk to allow several processes, including printing individual (up to 5) or full sets of catalogue cards; AV lists, inventories, subject searches, as well as Directories of AV software. Allows Dewey, LC or local cataloging; designates "type" (Kit, FS, etc.); adds and/or deletes entries. Has added FREE item which allows making of various kinds of labels, including name and address labels. Fully documented. ISBN# 0-918811-03-1.
Descriptors: Catalogues; media materials

AUDIO/VISUAL HANDLER

Supplier: Data Trek Inc.

Dawson Technology Ltd

Operating System: MS DOS; CP/M; MP/M

Hardware: MS DOS Micros; CP/M Micros; MP/M Micros

Price: On Application

Notes: AUDIO/VISUAL HANDLER provides media management, rental film control, booking file control, and equipment inventory control.

Descriptors: Media control

AUTHEX *

Supplier: Reference Press

Operating System: MS DOS 2.1 +

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM AT; IBM XT; IBM PC compatibles; Compaq 386

Requirements: Minimum 128K RAM, 2 floppy drives and printer

Price: 125 Canadian dollars

Notes: AUTHEX is comprised of modules to input, store and edit information; to build and maintain a file of subject headings and cross references; to print various proof reports and a headings thesaurus; to handle regular file backup and housekeeping, and to generate paged indexes with database elements in specified arrangements. The system incorporates an online authority file and permits the generation of subject indexes with multiple levels of sub-heading. The software is menu-driven and has a full screen editor. 32,000 Records of 4,096 characters each are supported per file.

Descriptors: Article indexing; Bibliographies; Indexes

AUTOBIBLIO

Supplier: Biosoft

Operating System: Apple Macintosh

Hardware: Apple Macintosh

Requirements: 2x400K drives or 1x800K (min), hard disk desirable, printer

Price: 125 pounds sterling (Demo 15 pounds sterling). 249 US dollars (Demo 25 US dollars)

Notes: AUTOBIBLIO stores references and enables their selection, recall and printing in required formats. You can create your own database of literature references and automatically incorporate those cited in your papers in the bibliography listing. AUTOBIBLIO modules are as follows: FindCite searches your manuscript disk and prepares alphabetised or number-order lists of references. MakeBiblio prepares the final bibliography in the format required by any chosen journal. EditRef prepares the database of references. ReadDB can read information from databases including Medline, BRS and Embase, or from your previous papers, directly into your AUTOBIBLIO.

Review: Biochemical Education, April 1988
Bulletin of Ecological Soc. of America 69 (3), page 173-4, 1988
Cabios. 4 (3) page 126, 1988

Descriptors: Reference management

AUTOMATED LIBRARY SYSTEM (FOUNDATION FOR LIBRARY RESEARCH)

Supplier: Foundation for Library Research Inc.

Operating System: MS DOS 3.3 +

Hardware: IBM PS/2; IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: 640K RAM, 20 Mb hard drive, graphics printer, colour display

Price: 995 US dollars. Multi user and barcode options 500 US dollars

Notes: Integrated library system offers catalogue and circulation functions. The catalogue module offers search by author, title or subject. The screen display is in the format of a traditional catalogue card, and catalogue cards can be generated if required. The circulation module allows check-in and out, reservation and overdue management. The system supports MARC and MicroLIF record data entry or keyboard entry. Maintains statistics and has a bibliography generator facility.

Review: Wilson Library Bulletin, March 1987

Descriptors: Bibliographies; Catalogue cards; Catalogues; Integrated library housekeeping system; Issue system; MARC interface

AUTOMATED LIBRARY SYSTEM (MICROPARAMETRICS)

Supplier: Microparametrics Inc.

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: 384K RAM, 10-30Mb hard disk, printer desirable but not required.

Price: 3,000 US dollars for single user version, 500 US dollars for each additional terminal or PC in a network environment.

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Notes: The AUTOMATED LIBRARY SYSTEM is a circulation and catalogue package. It permits 30 subject headings per volume and has circulation control built in. The online catalogue offers a browsing facility and permits searching by call number, title, author, accession number or subject area. A reference/bibliographic capability is also available.

Descriptors: Catalogues; Catalogues: online; Issue system; Reference management

AV CATALOG WRITER *

Supplier: Follett Software Company

Operating System: Apple DOS; TRS DOS

Hardware: Apple II Plus; Apple IIe; TRS-80 Model III

Requirements: 48K RAM and 80 column printer

Price: 89.95 US dollars

Notes: School library audio visual catalogue.

Providing searching on up to 3 subjects. Up to 1,000 items may be held on one disk. Shelf list and subject catalogues may be printed.

Descriptors: Catalogues: media; School libraries

AV INVENTORY *

Supplier: D and H Software

Operating System: Apple DOS

Hardware: Apple II Plus; Apple IIe

Requirements: 132 column printer

Price: 49.95 US dollars

Notes: Compiles statistics on the value of the equipment and total repairs, updates records when equipment is added or discarded and allows amendment of present records.

Descriptors: Media control

AVANT CARDS

Supplier: Addison Public Library

Operating System: Apple DOS 3.3; MS DOS

Hardware: Apple IIe; Apple IIgs; IBM XT; Amiga

Price: 250 US dollars

Notes: Program for catalogue card and label generation. Inserts prescribed AACR2 punctuation. Supports up to 8 subject headings and 8 added entries at a time, and 12 call number fields.

Descriptors: Catalogue cards

BASIL *

Supplier: Cristad

Notes: The BASIL software comprises 5 main programs accessed through a menu using natural language dialogue. The system offers an online help program, a connection procedures recording program, an intelligent text editor with line by line syntax analysis enabling the construction of search strategies. A further program is available for executing and modifying the strategy, recording the online session, and connection charge accounting. A fifth program enables the reformatting, sorting, paging and printing of search results.

Descriptors: Online search aid

BASIS

Supplier: Information Dimensions

Hardware: DEC MicroVAX

Notes: BASIS was developed for storing and retrieving large volumes of textual information such as corporate records, technical reports, patent information, policies and procedures, manuscripts, correspondence, reference works, depositions, technical bulletins, contracts, transcripts, bibliographies, newspaper articles, and more.

BASIS begins with the word-handling capability of an office automation system and the flexibility of a DBMS. Over and above, BASIS adds a comprehensive array of indexing, searching, retrieval, and reporting capabilities. The system's simplicity and completeness enables a wide range of users at all organisational levels to extract highly-specific pieces of information out of vast volumes of text, instantly. System highlights include: Sophisticated Query Language - Boolean operators, Thesaurus control, Phrase searching; Refined Indexing - B-tree method, Inverted list; Elaborate Security - Five protection levels, Privileged codes.

Descriptors: Text retrieval, structured

BATCH UPDATE

Supplier: Southdata Ltd

Operating System: MS DOS; C DOS; XENIX

Hardware: MS DOS Micros; C DOS Micros; XENIX Micros

Price: 185 pounds sterling

Notes: BATCH UPDATE updates all records in a SUPERFILE database that conform to a user-defined model. Fields can be recalculated - for instance, to increase prices by 10%. Fields can also be split or selected characters changed within them. BATCH UPDATE needs Forms2 to run.

Descriptors: Database management

BIB-BASE

Supplier: Library Technologies Inc.

Small Library Computing

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM XT; IBM AT; IBM PS/2; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: 640K RAM, Minimum 10 Mb fixed disk drive, any serial/parallel printer.

Price: Varies with which modules are purchased.

Notes: BIB-BASE is a sophisticated database management and information retrieval system, developed and supported by librarians.

BIB-BASE's user interface and unified database structure serve as a foundation for the development of integrated, library automation modules for acquisitions, cataloguing, and catalogue access. Presently there are three major BIB-BASE application modules available: acquisitions (/Acq), cataloging (/Cat), and public access (/Public). Additional modules for circulation, serials control, and an advanced OPAC are in development. The /Acq module supports a

full acquisitions system, including purchase order printing, hierarchical fund accounting, report generation, and vendor address maintenance. Orders can be tracked from first consideration until fully catalogued. The /Cat module implements catalog card production and label printing. It also serves as a convenient online catalogue for staff of recently catalogued material. The /Public module offers patrons online access to the library's database. Records can be searched by author, title, series, subject, call number, LCCN, ISBN, ISSN, OCLC/RLIN control number, and a library defined field. Once retrieved, records can be reviewed, printed, or saved to disk as an ASCII file. Five subsidiary BIB-BASE modules are optional and can be added to BIB-BASE at any time. The /Multiuser module allows multiple users simultaneous interaction with a BIB-BASE database through a Local Area Network. File and record locking features ensure database integrity is not jeopardised. The /Cdrum module gives libraries access to the complete Library of Congress MARC database as published on CD-ROM discs by the Library Corporation. Retrieved records can be moved directly into the Library's BIB-BASE database. The /MARC module permits a library to load MARC records into BIB-BASE from OCLC "Save Screen" files, Bowkers's "Books in Print Plus" database, or other source records in the MARC communications format. It also exports BIB-BASE records to other MARC-based systems. The /Subject module provides access to the BIB-BASE database by subject headings. The /Bisac module supplements acquisitions by adding direct electronic transmission of order records to book suppliers.

Review: Information Technology and Libraries (v.8, no.2; June 1989; pages 222-232.)

Descriptors: Acquisitions; Catalogue cards; Catalogues: online; CD-ROM interface; Integrated library housekeeping system; MARC interface; Orders online

BIB/RITE

Supplier: Robert E Litke

Operating System: MS DOS 2.0+; PRO DOS

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles; Apple IIe; Apple II; Apple IIc; Apple II Plus

Requirements: IBM PC and compatible 246K RAM; Apple II series 32K RAM; 80 column cards, caps and lower case. Printer with underline capability (backspace and underline OK).

Price: Single user 46 US dollars; Multi user 150 US dollars (plus 2.50 US dollars shipping/handling)

Notes: BIB/RITE is first a stand alone program for formatting reference lists in standard forms and secondly a limited database. It was designed to prepare reference lists for papers prepared for professional journals, students' term papers, and theses and dissertations. It is also useful for preparing and for maintaining reading lists for classes or on special topics. Interpreted BIB/RITE

does not support annotated citations; compiled BIB/RITE allows about 240 characters annotations within the prompts. Formats currently available are: American Psychological Association, American Medical Association and the Modern Language Association. Features of the program include: prompts for variables in bibliographies, the ability to sort by author, to merge, edit and print. An installation utility allows the user to enter abbreviations to call full titles of frequently cited periodicals.

Descriptors: Bibliographies

BIB/SEARCH

Supplier: Informator Automation Ltd (IAL)

Operating System: MS DOS UNIX XENIX

Hardware: MS DOS Micros; UNIX Micros; XENIX Micros

Requirements: 256K hard disk recommended

Price: 550 pounds sterling including postage

Notes: BiB/SEARCH is an extremely fast and powerful self contained bibliographic text retrieval and maintenance package which automatically translates downloaded data from DIALOG, BRS, etc. into BiB format. It also has a report generator with menu selectable bibliographic styles. Manual data input has index assisted validation. Searching is fast and includes within phrase truncation and field searching. Online help, manual and command demonstrations.

Review: Database, June 1989 Information World Review, December 1988

Descriptors: Downloading; Reference management; Reformatting; Report generation; Text retrieval, structured

BIBLIO-LINK

Supplier: Personal Bibliographic Software

Operating System: MS DOS 2.0+; Apple Macintosh

Hardware: Apple Macintosh Plus; Apple Macintosh SE; Apple Macintosh II; IBM PC; IBM XT; IBM AT; IBM PC compatibles

Requirements: Serial port and modem; 128K RAM, disk drive (double sided for Mac); IBM compatibles must be 100%

Price: 170 pounds sterling

Notes: BIBLIO-LINK is a set of companion programs to PRO-CITE. Each program converts records downloaded from an online database into a format acceptable to the database program. The various bibliographic elements, such as author, title, and publication date, are transferred into the appropriate fields according to document type. The downloaded records can then be merged with existing, manually entered records or stored in a separate PRO-CITE database. The BIBLIO-LINK programs work with downloaded references from hosts such as DIALOG and STN which are processed through the BIBLIO-LINKS into a PRO-CITE database. Input may also come from various CD-ROM products such as DIALOG's

Medline Ondisk. The new release of the BRS BIBLIO-LINK can now be used with ORBIT and Datastar online services.

Descriptors: Online search aid

BIBLIOFILE

Supplier: The Library Corporation

Operating System: MS DOS

Requirements: 640K RAM, 20 Mb or more hard disk, one or more CD drives

Price: 2,250 US dollars (one time charge for cataloguing, user documentation and installation support). Quarterly LC MARC subscription - 1,090 US dollars per year, Monthly LC MARC subscription - 1,690 US dollars per year. Other modules priced separately.

Notes: Bibliofile cataloguing is a software and database package to build and maintain a library catalogue for both current cataloguing and retrospective conversion. The MARC database of either LC or Sears records resides on CD-ROM. Retrieved records can be modified, deleted or saved on a local file. Original cataloguing can be done by creating and working with blank cataloguing templates. Cards and labels can also be produced in up to 99 different formats. The local MARC file can be loaded into the Bibliofile circulation module, the Intelligent Catalog or Bibecat, Bibliofile's Public Access Catalogs. An acquisitions package is offered, and serials control is under development.

Descriptors: Acquisitions; Catalogues; Catalogues; online public access; MARC Interface; Retrospective conversion

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Supplier: Pro/Tem Software Inc.

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM XT; IBM AT; IBM PS/2; IBM PC compatibles

Notes: BIBLIOGRAPHY is a companion to NOTEBOOK II that compares citations in a manuscript with entries in a master bibliography file and constructs a biography of all entries cited. It can also copy entries from the master bibliography to footnotes in the manuscript with numbers corresponding to their place in the bibliography.

Descriptors: Bibliographies; Reference management

BIBLIOGRAPHY GENERATOR*

Supplier: Educational Activities Inc.

MLA (Modern Language Association)

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC

Requirements: 256K RAM. Printer recommended.

Price: 59.95 US dollars

Notes: Aids the user in assembling a bibliography in the style of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The user is prompted to enter author, title and publisher information, and the program then assembles and sorts the citation. A complete

bibliography may be printed on its own or transferred through ASCII code to a word processor file. Master bibliographies may be maintained, edited and appended at any time. These master bibliographies may be used to assemble subgroupings that may be used for smaller and special bibliographies.

Review: Small Computers in Libraries, 6/87 CMC News Summer 87

Descriptors: Bibliographies

BIBLIOGRAPHY MAKER

Supplier: Right On Programs

Operating System: MS DOS

Hardware: IBM PC; IBM PC compatibles

Price: 99 US dollars

Notes: Permits the entering, editing and deletion of bibliographical references. The program will format the references per MLA rules.

Descriptors: Bibliographies

BIBLIOGRAPHY WRITER*

Supplier: Follett Software Company

Operating System: DOS 3.3

Hardware: Apple II Plus; TRS-80 Model III

Requirements: 48K RAM and 80 column printer

Price: Approx 69.95 US dollars

Notes: Allows for the creation of bibliographies which can be printed by author surname, title or call number. The author field has 20 characters for the last name and 10 for the first name. 78 characters are allocated to the title field and 12 characters to the call number field. Users may also add a city, publisher and copyright fields for periodicals. There are fields for source of publication and page numbers.

Descriptors: Bibliographies

BIBLIOTAX

Supplier: Pro/Tem Software Inc.

Operating System: Apple Macintosh

Hardware: Apple Macintosh Plus; Apple

Macintosh SE; Apple Macintosh II

Requirements: Hypercard 1.2 or higher. Hard disk recommended

Price: 59 US dollars (preliminary version)

Notes: Maintains bibliographies and automatically prints them in APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian and other forms. Bibliographic entries can be typed from the keyboard or imported from word processor files or online databases. Supports annotations of up to 30,000 characters and index words to quickly retrieve all entries on a particular subject. Can create formatted files for Microsoft Word 3.01 or higher. When used with other word processors, BiblioStax creates a plain text file to which underlining, etc. must be added.

Descriptors: Bibliographies; Reference management

BIOSUPERFILE II

Supplier: Biosis