

Gale Directory of Databases
V.2 (A)

GALE

DIRECTORY

OF

DATABASES

**Volume 2: CD-ROM, Diskette,
Magnetic Tape, Handheld, and
Batch Access Database Products**

March 1999

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Editor

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The Gale Group

DETROIT • SAN FRANCISCO • LONDON • AUSTON • WOODBRIDGE, CT

GALE

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Highlights

Formed by the merger of Gale's *Computer-Readable Databases* and Cuadra/Gale's *Directory of Online Databases* and *Directory of Portable Databases*, the *Gale Directory of Databases* continues the comprehensive coverage of the electronic database industry established by its predecessors. This March 1999 issue contains contact and descriptive information on more than 12,700 databases, more than 3600 producers, and more than 2400 online services and vendors/distributors of database products—easily making it the most complete guide to the electronic database industry worldwide.

Consolidation Shaped by Advisory Board

The *Directory* was developed in conjunction with an advisory board of prominent information industry professionals to ensure that this consolidation would meet user needs. The *Directory* combines the best features of its predecessors, incorporating the easy-to-use format of the Cuadra/Gale directories and the detailed coverage of *Computer-Readable Databases*. Features include:

- Comprehensive scope
- Producer contact information included in database entries
- Easy-to-use entry format
- Detailed description of database subject coverage
- New and revised entries highlighted
- Comprehensive producer and online service/vendor/distributor listings

Two Volumes Organized by Medium

The *Gale Directory of Databases* is published in two convenient volumes, which are revised and updated every six months:

Volume 1: Online Databases. Profiles nearly 5500 online databases made publicly available from the producer or an online service.

Volume 2: CD-ROM, Diskette, Magnetic Tape, Handheld, and Batch Access Database Products. Profiles more than 7200 database products offered in "portable" form and through batch processing.

Arrangement and Indexes

Each volume of the *Gale Directory of Databases* contains three sections of descriptive entries and three indexes:

Online Databases (Vol. 1) and **Product Descriptions** (Vol. 2): Features complete descriptions of electronic database products.

Database Producers: Includes contact information for database producers and a list of products they produce.

Online Services (Vol. 1) and **Vendors/Distributors** (Vol. 2): Provides contact information for vendors and distributors, conditions of use, and a list of the products they offer.

Geographic Index: Lists the database producers, online services, and vendors/distributors by headquarters country.

Subject Index: Classifies products within more than 1800 specific subject terms and cross-references.

Master Index: Lists all databases and related product and organization names in a single alphabetic sequence.

Gale Directory of Databases Available Electronically

The *Directory* is available on a subscription basis through GaleNet, Gale's online information resource that features an easy-to-use end-user interface, powerful search capabilities, and ease of access through the World Wide Web. For more information, call 800-877-GALE.

The *Directory* is also available online through ORBIT•QUESTEL and DataStar, replacing the Cuadra file on these services; additionally, the *Directory* is accessible through DIALOG. A CD-ROM version of the *Directory* is now available from SilverPlatter Information, Inc. Diskette and magnetic tape versions of *GDD* are available from The Gale Group.

Acknowledgments

The editors would like to thank the numerous users of Gale's *Computer-Readable Databases* and *Cuadra/Gale's Directory of Online Databases* and *Directory of Portable Databases*, who shared their suggestions and comments with us. Their assistance enabled us to determine that the needs of our users would best be served by the merger of these three titles into the *Gale Directory of Databases*.

Gale Directory of Databases Advisory Board

An advisory board comprising information industry, business, and library professionals representing all types of organizations and the electronic information industry media was formed to shape this publication. Members of the Advisory Board completed a detailed survey covering scope, organization, entry content, indexing, and other issues, and made themselves available for follow-up questions.

The editors would like to extend sincere thanks to the following members of the *Gale Directory of Databases* Advisory Board for their guidance, recommendations, and suggestions during the ongoing development of this title:

Reva Basch

President, Aubergine Information Services, The Sea Ranch, CA

Angela Bowie

Head, Cleveland Research Center, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, OH

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President, Database Services International, Gleneden Beach, OR

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Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Martha E. Williams

Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

(The organization names are included to identify the individuals and do not imply endorsement of this product by the organizations represented.)

Introduction

The *Gale Directory of Databases, Volume 2: CD-ROM, Diskette, Magnetic Tape, Handheld, and Batch Access Database Products* continues the comprehensive coverage for which its predecessors—Gale's *Computer-Readable Databases* and Cuadra/Gale's *Directory of Portable Databases*—were known. The *Directory* provides detailed descriptions of databases available in portable formats or through batch processing throughout the world. This March 1999 issue provides descriptive and contact information for more than 7200 database products of all types and in all subject areas produced worldwide that:

- Contain a collection of data or a body of information that is organized for rapid retrieval via a computer
- Are issued on CD-ROM, diskette, magnetic tape, and/or handheld form, or available through batch processing
- Are made publicly available

Advisory Board Helps Shape the Directory

An advisory board of prominent information industry, business, and library professionals was selected to help the *Directory's* editorial staff develop this publication. The board has provided ongoing recommendations on scope, content, arrangement, indexing, and frequency to ensure that user needs are met by the *Directory*. Consult the "Acknowledgments" on page vii for a complete list of advisory board members.

Directory Combines Best Features of Predecessors

The *Gale Directory of Databases, Volume 2: CD-ROM, Diskette, Magnetic Tape, Handheld, and Batch Access Database Products* combines the best features of *Computer-Readable Databases* and *Directory of Portable Databases*. Users of either of these two former publications will note that the *Directory* features the easy-to-read format of the Cuadra/Gale database directories and the comprehensive coverage of *Computer-Readable Databases*. Highlights include:

Comprehensive scope. The *Directory* covers electronic database products in all portable media, including handheld database products such as those issued for use with the Sony Data Discman or self-contained units providing access to a dictionary or other body of information, and databases accessible only through a search of the database conducted by the producer or dedicated batch operation.

Producer contact information listed within database entries. The producer address, telephone number, toll-free number, fax number, email address, URL, and specific contact information are included in the entry to provide one-stop access to information on the database producers.

Database entries use easy-to-read format. For easy access to specific pieces of information within a database entry, rubrics have been organized as follows:

- organization information
- descriptive information
- accessibility information

Detailed "Subject Coverage" rubric. This paragraph provides a detailed look at the subject coverage of a database based on available producer or vendor information.

Symbols indicate "New" and "Changed" status of database entries. A closed star (★) indicates that the database entry appears in the *Directory* for the first time. A closed triangle (▲) indicates that the database has undergone significant changes in one of the following items: name, producer, scope, language, or availability.

Comprehensive Database Producers and Vendors/Distributors listings. Entries in these two sections now include, if appropriate, the former name of the organization and branch office contact information, offering access to all information on producers and vendors in a single place.

Catchwords facilitate access. Catchwords have been added to the top of each page in the outer corner inside the guide number to facilitate locating a specific database listing by name in the Product Descriptions, Databases Producers, and Vendors/Distributors sections.

Consult "Using the Directory" following this introduction for more detailed information on these and other features of the *Gale Directory of Databases, Volume 2: CD-ROM, Diskette, Magnetic Tape, Handheld, and Batch Access Database Products*.

Chart Tracks Continued Industry Growth

The overall growth in the "portable" database industry over the past 9 years can be traced through the statistics shown in the chart below. The retrospective statistics are based on the number of entries published in the former *Directory of Portable Databases* since its inception in 1990.

Year	Number of CD-ROM Products	Number of Diskette Products	Number of Magnetic Tape Products
1990	409	66	108
1991	737	418	350
1992	934	545	430
1993	1278	659	572
1994	1648	781	600
1995	1949	903	653
1996	2371	1049	701
1997	3743	1299	804
1998	4408	1326	795
1999	4600	1313	800

In addition to the listings in the above product categories, this issue covers 113 handheld and 457 batch access products.

For further statistical and trend analysis of the electronic database industry as a whole, consult Martha Williams' "The State of Databases Today: 1999." The analysis appears following the "Using the Directory" section.

Arrangement and Indexes

The *Directory* is arranged into three sections containing descriptive entries and three indexes that speed access to the listings sections:

The **Product Descriptions** section covers some 7283 database products, including 368 newly listed products, arranged within five chapters: CD-ROM Products, Diskette Products, Magnetic Tape Products, Handheld Products, and Batch Access Products. Also covered are approximately 475 database products that are no longer available.

The **Database Producers** section lists contact information for, and the databases organized or compiled by, 1558 organizations identified in the Product Descriptions section.

The **Vendors/Distributors** section lists contact information for, and the databases offered by 1371 vendors and distributors of the databases profiled in the Product Descriptions section.

The **Geographic Index** lists both database producers and online services by alphabetical country headings.

The **Subject Index** classifies the databases under more than 1800 subject terms and cross-references.

The **Master Index** is an alphabetical listing of all products covered in the five product

chapters and all organizations covered in the Database Producers and Vendors/Distributors section, including current, former, and alternate names and acronyms.

The index also cites the titles of corresponding information sources and includes inversions on significant keywords appearing in the product names.

Method of Compilation

Each issue of the *Gale Directory of Databases, Volume 2: CD-ROM, Diskette, Magnetic Tape, Handheld, and Batch Access Products* represents the complete revision and updating of entries that appeared in the previous issue. Information for both new and revised entries is obtained from materials provided by the database producers, vendors, and distributors themselves.

Available in Electronic Formats

Diskette/Magnetic Tape. *Gale Directory of Databases* is available for licensing on magnetic tape or diskette in a fielded format. The complete database may be ordered. The database is available for internal data processing and nonpublishing purposes only. For more information, call 800-877-GALE.

Online. *GDD* is available online as File GDDDB through The Dialog Corporation's DataStar service and as File GALE through ORBIT*QUESTEL. *GDD* (along with *Gale Guide to Internet Databases*) is accessible as File 230 through The Dialog Corporation's DIALOG service. For more information, contact The Dialog Corporation, DataStar, Haymarket House, 1 Oxendon St., London SW1Y 4EE, England, phone: 171 9307646; ORBIT*QUESTEL, 8000 Westpark Dr., McLean, VA 22102, phone: (703)442-0900, toll-free: 800-456-7248; or The Dialog Corporation, Dialog, 2440 El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040, phone: (650)254-7000, toll-free: 800-3-DIALOG.

GaleNet. *Gale Directory of Databases* is available on a subscription basis through GaleNet, Gale's online information resource that features an easy-to-use end-user interface, powerful search capabilities, and ease of access through the World-Wide Web. For more information, call 800-877-GALE.

CD-ROM. The *Directory* is available on CD-ROM through SilverPlatter Information Inc. The annual subscription includes the compact disc and six-month update disc, retrieval software, and user documentation. For more information, contact SilverPlatter Information, Inc., 100 River Ridge Dr., Norwood, MA 02062-5043, phone: (781)769-2599, toll-free: 800-343-0064.

GDD is also available as part of the Gale's Ready Reference Shelf on CD-ROM and through GaleNet.

Comments and Suggestions Welcome

Users are invited to send the editor any information for portable databases not currently listed as well as additional information on databases listed in the *Directory*. All editorial questions and comments should be directed to:

Gale Directory of Databases
The Gale Group
27500 Drake Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535
Phone: (248) 699-4253
Toll-free: 800-347-GALE
Fax: (248) 699-8069
Email: lisa.kumar@gale.com

Lisa Kumar

Using the Directory

Entries in the *Gale Directory of Databases, Volume 2: CD-ROM, Diskette, Magnetic Tape, Handheld, and Batch Access Database Products* are arranged in three text sections:

- Product Descriptions
- Database Producers
- Vendors/Distributors

Access to entries in these sections is facilitated by three indexes:

- Geographic Index
- Subject Index
- Master Index

Each of the text sections and indexes is explained below.

Product Descriptions

Each entry in the Product Descriptions section represents one or more databases available as a single product on a single medium. Databases available in multiple products and/or media are represented by separate entries for each product.

For convenience and ease of use, database product descriptions are organized within five separate chapters by product medium:

- CD-ROM Products
- Diskette Products
- Magnetic Tape Products
- Handheld Products
- Batch Access Products

Within each chapter, entries are arranged alphabetically by product name.

An entry in the Product Descriptions section of the *Directory* may contain up to 21 items of information, as shown in the following sample entry. Each numbered item in the sample entry is explained in the corresponding numbered paragraph that follows.

1	• 207 •	2	BioDisc	3	★
4	Biological Information, Inc. 200 Main St. Chicago, IL 60606			Phone: (312) 555-1234 800-BIOLINE Fax: (312) 555-1236	
5	Contact: BioDisc Technical Support. Email: biodisc@net.com URL: http://www.bioinfo.com				
6	Coproducer: BioReSearch, Inc.				
7	Formerly Produced By: BioMed Research Ltd.				
8	Alternate Database Name: BioLit on Disc.				
9	Former Database Name: Biology CD.				
10	Type: Bibliographic. 11 Content: Contains more than 457,000 citations, with abstracts, to the world's periodical and other published literature dealing with all fields of the biomedical sciences. Covers periodicals, journals, books, conference proceedings, technical reports, and government documents. Corresponds to BioLit and to the online BioLine database.				
12	Subject Coverage: Biological sciences, including biochemistry, biotechnology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, and toxicology. 13 Lang.: English. 14 Geo. Coverage: International.				
15	Year First Available: 1990. 16 Time Span: 1972 to date.				
17	Updating: Quarterly.				
18	Vendor: SilverPlatter Information, Inc.				
19	System Requirements: IBM PC or compatible; floppy drive; hard disk; 640K memory; MS-DOS 2.1 or higher; monochrome or color monitor; CD-ROM drive. Apple Macintosh Plus, SE, or II series: hard disk recommended (two 800K floppy drives acceptable); 1MB memory (2MB recommended); System 6.0.2 or higher; AppleCD SC or compatible CD-ROM drive.				
20	Software: PC SPIRS (for IBM) or MacSPIRS (for Apple) from SilverPlatter Information, inc.				
21	Price: \$799 for an annual subscription.				

Parts of an Entry

- 1 Entry Number.** A sequential entry number precedes each entry and is used in the indexes to refer to an entry. To facilitate the location of an entry, the first entry number on each left-hand page and the last entry number on each right-hand page are provided at the top outer corner of the pages.
- 2 Database Product Name and Acronym.** The official database product name and acronym (if applicable). May include a trademark, registered, or service mark symbol.
- 3 New or Revised Symbol.** If a listing is appearing in the *Directory* for the first time, a closed star (★) appears at the end of the database product name at the right margin. If a listing has undergone significant changes since the last issue, a closed triangle (▲) appears at the end of the product name at the right margin. This symbol appears when a significant change occurs to any of the following pieces of information: database product name; producer name, address, or contact numbers; scope of content; language; and vendor availability. In addition, the triangle is used to indicate when a database product is no longer available.
- 4 Producer Name, Address, and Telephone Numbers.** The primary organization or individual responsible for gathering or organizing the information in the database product, along with its address, telephone number, toll-free number, and fax number. For a complete list of products offered by a database producer, consult the Database Producers section of the *Directory*.

- 5 Contact.** The name of the individual or department within the producing organization responsible for providing information about the database product. Includes electronic mail addresses when available.
- 6 Coproducer.** The name(s) of the organization(s) that coproduce the database product. For complete address and contact information, consult the Database Producers section of the *Directory*.
- 7 Formerly Produced By.** The name(s) of the organization(s) that formerly produced the database product.
- 8 Alternate Database Name.** The alternate name(s) and acronym(s) by which the database product is known; for non-English-language database products, provides the official English-language name and acronym of a product (if applicable).
- 9 Former Database Name.** The former name(s) and acronym(s) by which the database product was known.
- 10 Type.** The type(s) of information provided in the database product, classified by one or more of these categories:

Audio. A collection of sounds or speech.

Bibliographic. Citations to printed literature (i.e., journal articles, reports, patents, dissertations, conference proceedings, books, newspaper items, etc.); may include abstracts.

Dictionary. A collection of word definitions, a list of terms particular to a specific discipline or subject, or a thesaurus.

Directory. Contact information, often including descriptive profiles, for persons, organizations, publications, or other entities.

Full-text. Original publications (i.e., journal articles, reports, newspapers, legal materials, etc.) or original writings stored in a form that enables individual words to be used in retrieval.

Image. A collection of graphic materials, including graphic design aids, photographs, charts, figures, illustrations, representations of works of art, maps, or text in image form.

Numeric. A collection of numeric data, including stock quotations, prices, and other numeric data. Properties, statistical, and time-series data are excluded.

Properties. Numeric data representing the characteristics of a chemical or physical entity.

Software. A library of computer programs, including freeware and shareware, that can be downloaded for local use.

Statistical. A collection of quantitative, numeric data.

Time series. Original survey data and/or statistically manipulated representations of data, frequently organized to represent measurements (e.g., tons or dollars) over time for a given variable (e.g., production or shipment statistics for a given product or industry).

Video. A collection of animated images.

- 11 Content.** A description of the database product's scope and coverage. If a product covers more than one database, and/or if a database contains more than one file, each of them is separately named and described within the description. As applicable, includes uses of the software for retrieval and/or manipulation. The

original source(s) of the information, including references to corresponding products in other media, are also provided when known.

- 12 Subject Coverage.** potential use of the information contained in the database product in as much detail as provided by the producer or vendor.
- 13 Language.** The language(s) in which the database product is maintained and/or searched.
- 14 Geographic Coverage.** The geographic area to which the information applies or from which it was derived.
- 15 Year First Available.** The year in which the database product was first made publicly available.
- 16 Time Span.** The time period covered by the data.
- 17 Updating.** The frequency with which new or replacement data are provided for all or some part of the database product.
- 18 Vendor.** The organization that publishes or provides access to the database product. Not listed here are those companies distributing the database product through an agreement with the vendor. Consult the Vendors/Distributors section for vendor addresses, contact information, distributors, and a complete list of products offered.
- 19 System Requirements.** As applicable, the hardware and/or software (computer, operating system, graphic cards, monitor, or CD-ROM drive) required to use the database product.
- 20 Software.** As available or applicable, the name of the software (and/or the name of the software provider) included with the database product.
- 21 Price.** Costs and, as applicable, subscription options and discounts.

In addition to the above standard items of information appearing in an entry, a **Special Note** paragraph is used to indicate that a database product is no longer available. Entries containing a special note will appear in the text section for two issues.

Database Producers

The Database Producers section lists the organizations or individuals that are responsible for the gathering or organizing of the information used in the database products listed in the Product Descriptions section. Each entry is preceded by an entry number, which is used in the Master and Geographic indexes to refer to that entry. The numbering sequence continues from the Product Descriptions section.

Entries in this section provide the name, address, and contact numbers of each database producer, and a list of the database products it produces. When applicable, former organization names and branch office information are also provided. The section is arranged alphabetically by database producer name; database product names are arranged alphabetically under each producer name and address. The number following each named database product refers to the sequential entry number assigned to that product's entry in the Product Descriptions section. The entry number ranges for each product type appear at the top of each right-hand page, so that the product type can be quickly determined.

Vendors/Distributors

The Vendors/Distributors section lists the vendors and distributors of the database products listed in the Product Descriptions section. Each entry is preceded by an entry number, which is used in the Master and Geographic indexes to refer to that entry. The numbering sequence continues from the Database Producers section.

Entries in this section are arranged alphabetically by vendor or distributor name and include the address and contact numbers for each, followed by an alphabetical list of the database products it offers. When applicable, former organization name, branch office information, and the names of organizations that have agreed to distribute the listed database products are also provided. The number following each named product refers to the sequential entry number assigned to that database product's entry in the Product Descriptions section. The entry number ranges for each product type appear at the top of each right-hand page, so that the product types can be quickly determined.

Indexes

The *Gale Directory of Databases, Volume 2: CD-ROM, Diskette, Magnetic Tape, Handheld, and Batch Access Database Products* contains a Geographic Index, a Subject Index, and a Master Index. The indexes refer to listings by entry numbers in the sections, rather than the page numbers on which the entries appear.

Geographic Index. The Geographic Index arranges each database producer, vendor, and distributor by the country in which it is located. Citations are arranged alphabetically by country, and listed alphabetically by organization name. Each citation provides an organization's name and its corresponding entry number(s) in the Database Producers and/or Vendors/Distributors sections, as appropriate.

Subject Index. The Subject Index provides controlled subject access to entries in the Product Descriptions section. It contains more than 1200 alphabetically listed subject headings; database product names and entry numbers are listed alphabetically under one or more relevant headings. More than 600 cross-references are also included. The entry number ranges for each product type appear at the top of each right-hand page, so that the product type can be quickly determined.

Citations in the Subject Index include the database product name and, within brackets, information on the medium in which the product is made available, and the database type categories in which the product is classified. Medium and type information is represented by the following codes, as indicated in the legend that appears at the bottom of each right-hand page:

Medium: B = Batch Access
C = CD-ROM
D = Diskette
H = Handheld
M = Magnetic Tape

Type: A = Audio
B = Bibliographic
D = Dictionary
F = Full-text
I = Image
N = Numeric
P = Properties
R = Directory
S = Statistical
T = Time Series
V = Video
W = Software

Medium and type codes are separated by an em dash (—).

Master Index. The Master Index is an alphabetical listing of all database products covered in the five product description chapters and all organizations covered in the Database Producers and Vendors/Distributors sections, including current, former, and alternate names and acronyms. The index also cites the names of corresponding information sources and online databases and includes inversions on significant keywords appearing in the product names. The boldface entry number(s) following each citation refers to the main entry for the cited database product or organization. The lightface entry numbers denote all other references to databases, organizations, and corresponding products. The entry number ranges for each product type appear at the top of each right-hand page, so that the product type can be quickly determined.

original source(s) of the information, including references to corresponding products in other media, are also provided when known.

- 12 Subject Coverage:** potential use of the information contained in the database product in as much detail as provided by the producer or vendor.
- 13 Language.** The language(s) in which the database product is maintained and/or searched.
- 14 Geographic Coverage.** The geographic area to which the information applies or from which it was derived.
- 15 Year First Available.** The year in which the database product was first made publicly available.
- 16 Time Span.** The time period covered by the data.
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- 18 Vendor.** The organization that publishes or provides access to the database product. Not listed here are those companies distributing the database product through an agreement with the vendor. Consult the Vendors/Distributors section for vendor addresses, contact information, distributors, and a complete list of products offered.
- 19 System Requirements.** As applicable, the hardware and/or software (computer, operating system, graphic cards, monitor, or CD-ROM drive) required to use the database product.
- 20 Software.** As available or applicable, the name of the software (and/or the name of the software provider) included with the database product.
- 21 Price.** Costs and, as applicable, subscription options and discounts.

In addition to the above standard items of information appearing in an entry, a **Special Note** paragraph is used to indicate that a database product is no longer available. Entries containing a special note will appear in the text section for two issues.

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Subject Index. The Subject Index provides controlled subject access to entries in the Product Descriptions section. It contains more than 1200 alphabetically listed subject headings; database product names and entry numbers are listed alphabetically under one or more relevant headings. More than 600 cross-references are also included. The entry number ranges for each product type appear at the top of each right-hand page, so that the product type can be quickly determined.

Citations in the Subject Index include the database product name and, within brackets, information on the medium in which the product is made available, and the database type categories in which the product is classified. Medium and type information is represented by the following codes, as indicated in the legend that appears at the bottom of each right-hand page:

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Master Index. The Master Index is an alphabetical listing of all database products covered in the five product description chapters and all organizations covered in the Database Producers and Vendors/Distributors sections, including current, former, and alternate names and acronyms. The index also cites the names of corresponding information sources and online databases and includes inversions on significant keywords appearing in the product names. The boldface entry number(s) following each citation refers to the main entry for the cited database product or organization. The lightface entry numbers denote all other references to databases, organizations, and corresponding products. The entry number ranges for each product type appear at the top of each right-hand page, so that the product type can be quickly determined.

The State of Databases Today: 1999

Martha E. Williams

University of Illinois

Purpose

The database statistics herein date back to the early 1970s when I began collecting metadata about the database industry and publishing the statistics in an effort to understand and stay on top of the worldwide database industry. From 1976 through 1992 *Computer-Readable Databases* (CRDB) (which I founded in 1975, compiled and edited through 1985) was the major vehicle for distribution of the statistics. I have continued to update and expand the statistics and they are now included in the *Gale Directory of Databases* (referred to as GDD or the *Directory*). This article is a statistical analysis of data in the current issue of GDD together with comparative statistics on databases from prior years in CRDB, and then GDD. Some statistics date back as far as 1974; others start with later dates. All are continuously updated. "The State of Databases Today: 1999" includes text, tables, and figures. The figures effect quick presentation of data and visualization of trends; they relate to the contents of both volumes of the *Directory*.

The *Gale Directory of Databases* was formed in 1993 by the merger of three database directories acquired by Gale Research, Inc.: *Computer-Readable Databases*, founded by editor Martha E. Williams in 1975 and acquired by Gale in 1987; the *Directory of Online Databases* founded by Cuadra Associates in 1979 and acquired by Gale in 1992; and *Directory of Portable Databases*, founded by Cuadra Elsevier in 1990 and also acquired by Gale in 1992. The three directories were merged into the *Gale Directory of Databases*, which is published twice a year in two volumes. The statistics presented in this article cover both volumes with duplications between the two volumes eliminated. They cover the worldwide database industry and are independent of the media in which databases are distributed and accessed unless specifically noted.

In the interest of maintaining continuity with prior database statistics, and in order to build a continuing comprehensive set of comparable database statistics, entries are coded specifically for this analysis even though these special codes do not appear in print. The statistics include figures indicating the growth of the database industry as represented by the increase in number of database records, online searches, databases, database entries in GDD, database producers, and database vendors. As in past analyses, I have looked at databases in terms of the geographic region and status of the producers, where producer status refers to the sector of society from which they come—Government, Commerce/Industry (for-profit), Not-For-Profit (NFP) which includes Academe, and Mixed sectors. I have also considered databases in terms of the form or representation of the data, the subject matter or intellectual content of the data in the database, and the medium for access and/or distribution. All data relative to prior years, and some of the current data, have been published previously by Martha E. Williams, though not in the exact same form, in a variety of papers and reports.

Growth in Database Records, Online Searches, Databases, Producers, and Vendors

This September 1998 issue of the *Directory* covers some 11,339 unique live databases and subfiles in 10,597 unique live entries. For purposes of this article an entry represents a given database regardless of the variety of media on which it may be provided. Some entries represent families of databases and sets of subfiles rather than single databases; databases are sometimes called files and members of families of databases are sometimes called subfiles. Some database entries appear in both volumes because a given database may be marketed as an online product, a CD-ROM product, and may also be in other media. There are 12,706 database-media entries (individual database product entries) across both volumes. Some several hundred of the entries are "obit" entries, meaning that the producer no longer maintains the file in a particular medium, the producer no longer makes it publicly available, the file is no longer available from a particular vendor indicated in the prior edition of the *Directory*, or, in a few instances, the status of the file and its producer could not be verified. Throughout the balance of this analysis database duplication is removed; the statistics relate either to the 10,597 unique database entries or to the 11,339 individual databases and subfiles rather than to the 12,706 database-media entries or products in the two volumes where multiple media for a database are presented in separate entries. Databases occurring in more than one medium are counted only once in this article.

Figure 1
Growth in Number of Vendors,
Producers, Database Entries, and Databases

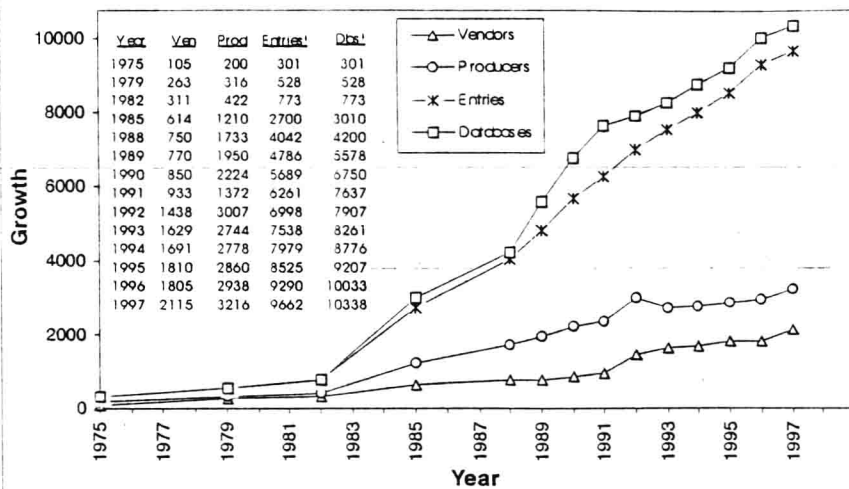


Figure 2
Number of Databases
and Database Entries by Year

