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On the Street

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Albert Simmonds



Born when and where: I'm a boomer and I spent the first four days of my life in Tyler-town, Mississippi. Then I moved back to the small town near New Orleans where my mother grew up.

Current residence: For the last eleven years I've lived in the Chelsea section of Manhattan, right around the corner from the offices of *Library Journal*, *School Library Journal* and *Publishers Weekly*. I share a tiny New York apartment with a 17-year-old black cat named Gus.

Education: My undergraduate work was at Amherst College where I was an English major, my doctorate is from the University of Memphis.

Summary of job experiences: While I was in graduate school, I worked as the Assistant to the Academic Dean at LeMoyne-Owen College. Then I moved to New York and went to work in 1984 as an Assistant Editor for *Books in Print*. Currently, I'm the Director, Standards/Development at Bowker.

Favorite accomplishments: I really get a kick out of gaining a new insight into how standards for the communication of information improve the relationship between publishers, librarians and booksellers.

Pastimes: The first thing I do after I get home is tune in to the best jazz radio station in the world, WBGO in Newark. I can remember when I was a child standing outside Preservation Hall on Bourbon Street listening to the old timers play Dixieland, and I still haunt the jazz clubs in downtown Manhattan.

Single most important piece of advice: Never misuse an ISBN.

On The Street



CD-ROM Products

by **Barbara C. Dean** (Fairfax County Public Library), **Linda Albright** (Winthrop University), **Eamon T. Fennessy** (The Copyright Group), **Anne Jennings** (Sinkler & Boyd), and **Kathern J. Miraglia** (Catholic University of America)

We continue our look at CD-ROM products this month in an effort to more clearly understand how access is provided to patrons. A special thanks goes to **Tom Gilson** at the **College of Charleston Library** this month. He suggested these questions. Twelve people responded to the survey. The questions and responses follow.

1. Does your library make CD-ROM products available on a network, on a standalone, and/or by circulating them?

Seven of the librarians contacted said they provide access via networks; 10 offer standalone access, and four circulate CD-ROMs. Two institutions that don't have CD-ROMs on a network said they were planning to offer networks in the future. In one case, the librarian said the library was too small to provide access to CDs any way other than on standalone machines. Two libraries qualified their answers by saying the only CDs circulated are those accompanying books. Two of the institutions offering networks see the CD-ROM format of limited use and expect publications offered online will be the wave of the future. Those who have extensive inventories of CD-ROMs complain that storage is a problem.

2. If more than one of these options is available, what criteria is used to determine how a specific product will be made available?

The one criteria shared in common by all the libraries answering this question is frequency of use. If something is or probably will be used frequently, it is more likely to be offered on a network. Other criteria include cost, producer — for example one library circulates government documents, subject, user group, and hardware requirements.

3. Does your library have to use the same standalone workstation to provide access to more than one CD-ROM product?

Six libraries answered "yes" to this question. Some tried to dedicate standalone stations to specific CD-ROM products, such as **ERIC** or **PsychLit**, but as more titles became available on CD-ROM, these libraries had to allow the dedicated workstations to be used with multiple CD-ROMs. Another library mentioned only some products are used on the same standalone workstation.

4. Does your library offer remote access to any CD-ROM products?

Six libraries said "yes". Two said they offer 12 products this way while two others said they offered between two and four products this way. One library provides campus-wide access while another purchased search coupons for patrons to use for FirstSearch enabling patrons to dial-in on telnet with a password. The coupons allow between 25 and 50 searches. The FirstSearch coupons were easy to use and inexpensive, but the librarians worry that the service for searches may decline, depending upon the vendor.

5. Is your library now providing access to some products via the WEB which were formerly available on CD-ROM?

The answer in four cases was "yes". In some cases access is limited to the staff or only available at the reference desk. One person said **Infotrac** was the product now offered over the WEB in their library.

We owe our thanks to everyone who took the time to answer our questions. This group includes the following people.

Alex Bloss, University of Illinois-Chicago
Susan Davis, State University of New York-Buffalo
Beverly Geer-Butler, Trinity University
Diane Geraci, State Univ. of New York-Binghamton
Carry Kyzivat, State Univ. of New York-Purchase
Mark Langston, Univ. of Massachusetts-Amherst
Arthur Lichenstein, Univ. of Central Arkansas
Robert G. Pillow, Univ. of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN)
Thomas A. Saudargas, College Ctr. for Libr Automation (FL)
Kitty Simmons, LaSierra University
Tom Smith, Livermore National Laboratory