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Book Reviews-From Print to Electronic

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Book Reviews

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From Print to Electronic: The Transformation of Scientific Communication. Susan Y. Crawford, Julie M. Hurd, and Ann C. Weller. Medford, New Jersey: Information Today, Inc, 1996. 117 pp. With index.
ISBN: 1-57387-030-7.

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The widespread use and acceptance of the Internet and the World Wide Web is changing the way the entire world communicates. Scientists were among the first to embrace the new electronic technologies to expedite and facilitate the dissemination of their research findings. In *From Print to Electronic: The Transformation of Scientific Communication*, Susan Crawford, Julie Hurd, and Ann Weller postulate just how drastic the traditional Garvey/Griffith model of scientific communication will change

in the future as a result of the electronic communication revolution. Crawford, Hurd, and Weller, all active science librarians, bring to the book an impressive list of credentials. These include the Noyes Award, the **Medical Library Association's** highest award (Crawford), head of the Science Library at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (Hurd), and member of the editorial board of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* (Weller).

The monograph begins with a forward by **Belver C. Griffith** himself. Then in chapter one the stage is set for the importance of electronic communication in science as the growth of "big science" is described. Library and information science scholars and students alike will appreciate the second chapter which provides an overview of the classic models of scientific communication. Additionally, chapter two takes this discussion one step into the future by suggesting new models which are augmented by electronic technology. The following three chapters focus on the scientific specialties: space science, high energy physics, and the human genome project, which extensively utilize electronic communication. The final chapter discusses the economic, political, and sociological implications of electronic communication.

The basic premise of *From Print to Electronic: The Transformation of Scientific Communication* is to propose how information technologies and global networks "might" transform the exchange

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of scientific information. The projects described are presented as models of possible future developments that the authors predict may spread to other disciplines and eventually transform the face of scientific communication. In essence, the authors are attempting to look into the future to foresee new applications of technology. They amusingly hope that their predictions will be more accurate than those of early advocates of microfilm but wisely realize that their suggestions may not turn out exactly as stated.

Crawford, Hurd, and Weller present "A modernized Garvey/Griffith model" that essentially eliminates any communication that is not electronic. Email replaces the submission process for manuscripts, "e-conferences" replace annual meetings and symposia, and the "e-journal" replaces the print on paper serial. Indeed, much of this is occurring today as evidenced by the prototypes described in the book as well as a visit to publishing houses' Web sites or a glance at any librarian's daily mail. However, the fate of the print journal is a topic that is constantly debated heatedly among both librarians and scientists. Crawford, Hurd, and Weller acknowledge this controversy in their closing chapter by noting that any change will be "evolutionary rather than revolutionary."

From Print to Electronic: The Transformation of Scientific Communication is an excellent primer for the study of the evolution of scientific communication. It is also useful for its descriptions of the modes of communication used in several scientific disciplines. Additionally, it contributes to the growing body of knowledge about how we as information professionals can be better prepared to deal with the explosion of electronic technologies. *From Print to Electronic: The Transformation of Scientific Communication* would be an asset to any library within a college or university that offers a Library and Information Science program plus it would be a worthy addition to any professional librarian's bookshelf.

Directory of Government Document Collections & Librarians, 7th Edition, 1997. Congressional Information Service.
ISBN: 0-88692-384-0, \$75.00.

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The Directory of Government Document Collections & Librarians, 7th Edition (1997, 0-88692-384-0, \$75.00), from Congressional Information Service, via ALA's Government Documents Round Table, contains an extensive listing of all libraries which are currently designated as depositories for federal documents. Also included are the non-depository libraries, agencies, and organizations that receive a substantial number of publications by the federal government, state governments, international organizations, and foreign governments. This edition is a major revision of the 1991 6th edition of the *Directory*. It now contains updated listings and a distinctive new feature; World Wide Web homepage listings for libraries and departments. Beyond this new technologically-aware inclusion, the 1997 *Directory* is as readable and useful as its 1991 predecessor.

The organization of the 7th edition is identical to the 6th edition: Each has a user's guide and an appendix wrapped around the ten sections of material. The main index is the first section of the *Directory*: Briefly, it is a guide to libraries, collections, and staff. It is in geo-alphabetical order and includes institution name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, collection information,

and staff information. Due to space limitations, this edition contains only full-time staff listings and no personal email listings, only institutional electronic addresses. The main index presents information on what collections the indexed libraries have, the scope and subject specialties of their collections, staff information, and basic details about public access, interlibrary loan, and circulation.

The three sections that follow, index the first main section but with different access points. There is an index by library name, by variety of depository (sub-divided by state, local, international, and foreign), and by special collections. Each of these indices leads the reader back to the first section which contains the complete directory information. The library name and variety of depository indices are clear and easy to use. However, the special collection index is best utilized after reviewing the appendix list of subject terms.

The last five sections of the *Directory* are devoted to special indices. These include a list of library instructors who teach government document classes, state document authorities, state data centers, a name index, and "Other Names to Know" (i.e., those in the government documents field). Although these indices may be too esoteric for the general public, nonetheless, they are invaluable for Document Librarians. The name index is a powerful tool to use when trying to locate colleagues who have moved from one side of the country to the other without providing their forwarding addresses. The "Other Names to Know" index, as presumptuous as it may sound, is also very useful in providing a variety of names and contact points such as major governmental agencies, the Government Document Round Table, and the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer.

I highly recommend this volume to any librarian or lay person interested in locating federal, state, international, and foreign document collections in the United States. For Government Document librarians, a copy of this volume is a must. 🌿

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