February 2000

Testdriving CD-ROMs-Fluid Mechanics: An Interactive Text and African-American History and Culture

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Recommended Citation

Desmarais, Norman (2000) "Testdriving CD-ROMs-Fluid Mechanics: An Interactive Text and African-American History and Culture," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 12: Iss. 1, Article 24.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3422>

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TestDriving CD-ROMs - Reviews of CD-ROM Products

Fluid Mechanics: An Interactive Text and African-American History and Culture

Column Editor: **Norman Desmarais** (Acquisitions Librarian, Phillips Memorial Library, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918; ph: 401-865-2241; fax: 401-865-2823) <normd@providence.edu>
<http://www.providence.edu/pml/pmlhp1.htm>

Fluid Mechanics: an interactive text by **James A. Liggett;**

David A. Caughey American Society of Civil Engineers

1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4400

tel.: 1-800-548-ASCE (2723), 1-703-295-6300

FAX: 1-703-295-6211 email: marketing@asce.org

ISBN: 0-7844-0310-4 Price: \$100.00; \$75.00 students and ASCE members. Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows NT; 30 MB available disk space, 16 MB RAM; 4X CD-ROM drive; VGA graphics (640 x 480 256 colors); Microsoft-compatible mouse or pointing device. Macintosh System 7.5, including QuickTime 2.0 or later; 30 MB available disk space, 16 MB RAM; 4X CD-ROM drive; 640 x 480 or better monitor with support for 256 colors.

Reviewed by **Norman Desmarais** (Providence College)
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Fluid Mechanics: an interactive text is the CD-ROM version of **Liggett and Caughey's** textbook, *Fluid Mechanics*. The CD runs under Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows NT, or Macintosh. It covers basic considerations, fluid statics, integral and differential descriptions, dimen-

sional analysis and similitude, laminar and turbulent flows, incompressible pipe flow, potential flow, boundary layers, flow past bodies, compressible flows, open channel flows, fluid machinery, and transport. It also includes an extensive glossary and many illustrations.

The book won **Choice's** Outstanding Academic Book award. This award already attests to the high quality of the text; so we shall not pursue it any further here. Instead we shall concentrate on the features of the CD-ROM. The material is organized into three text levels. The basic level, level 1, deals only with very simple mathematics. Level 2 adds quantitative information to help solve most problems in fluids engineering at an introductory level. Level 3 adds more specialized information aimed at a more technical audience and details regarding derivations of many of the equations presented in level 2. The authors hope that level 1 readers will skim through the material at other levels a) to get a better understanding of the behavior of fluids and see what the mathematics

continued on page 56

TestDriving CD-ROM
from page 55

can and cannot do for us. It is important for students of any subject to have a basic appreciation of what they do not understand as well as what they do understand; b) readers can change the text level at any time without changing the default level selected in user preferences. There are ample examples, figures, graphs, tables, equations, and formulae to illustrate the points thoroughly. There are also about 100 movies which are mostly animations with no audio. Students can view the table of contents of either the book or the figures. They can also search for particular text or figures by selecting one or more chapters to search. However, while the results of a text search remain easily accessible, the results of a search for figures disappear upon selection of a figure for viewing. One must go to the Contents button on the toolbar and select Find Figures to get back to the results.

The toolbar has two very helpful buttons: Data and Tools. The Data button provides a number of tables and utilities to illustrate concepts and to facilitate computations. These include airfoil characteristics; drag coefficients for cylinders, spheres, and miscellaneous shapes; Hagen Williams coefficient; Manning's n for pipes and channels and rivers; Molec prop gases; an interactive Moody chart; pipe data; SAE viscosities; standard atmospheres; surface tension; vapor pressure; and properties of water. It also contains a fluid properties console that shows the conductivity, density, and viscosity of several common gases and liquids at standard conditions.

The Tools button provides several computational utilities to calculate area flow, axial flow, boundary integral equation, channel capacity (circular, trapezoidal), channel profiles, dimensional analysis, and pipe flow. It also includes EPANET, a program to calculate flows and pressure in pipe networks; a plotter; an integration solver; a transcendental solver; and worksheets to calculate frictional flow, pipe flow, Prandtl-Meyer function, and heat addition. There's also a conversion screen to convert units of mass, force, length, and time.

By making these tools and utilities available on the toolbar, the CD lets students access all kinds of data without having to fumble through tables and appendices or locating a calculator to perform the math.

The text is clearly designated in outline form both in the table of contents and in the screen headers. However, there is no indication of the length of each section or chapter. A red slider bar appears at the bottom of the screen to indicate one's relative position in a chapter; but most readers, accustomed to the slider bar along the right margin, will overlook it.

The text appears as an image which means that students cannot select text portions for copying or printing; but they can create and manage bookmarks and personal notes. Selecting the print option prints a screen image, including icons, buttons, etc. Students can toggle very easily between the text and any graphics, notes, or related material.

Fluid Mechanics: an interactive text makes very good use of the CD-ROM medium and enhances the contents of the book. Except for the limitations on printing and copying and the likelihood that a reader might have difficulty determining one's relative location in a topic, this is a well-executed CD. It capitalizes on the medium, offers easy navigation, and locates desired material quickly.

African-American History and Culture: CD-ROM Encyclopedia
Facts on File, Inc. 11 Penn Plaza New York, NY 10001-2006
tel. 212-967-8800 fax: 212-967-9196

<http://www.factsonfile.com> ISBN: 0-8160-3898-8 \$299.95;
\$599.95 (lab packs of 5 CD-ROMs and network, up to 10 users)

Reviewed by **Norman Desmarais** (Providence College)
<normd@providence.edu>

African-American History and Culture: CD-ROM Encyclopedia contains a vast amount of material on African-American history and culture. The main menu offers the following features: timeline,

biographies, encyclopedia, historical documents, history books, gallery, maps and charts, audio and video, and **W.E.B. DuBois's Exhibit of American Negroes**.

The timeline is a hyperlinked timeline that covers the major events in the past five centuries of African-American history. It serves as the main organizational structure for the CD as most of the entries on the main menu are subdivided by historical eras: 1400s-1775, 1776-1819, 1820-1860, 1861-1865, 1866-1876, 1877-1928, 1929-1940, 1941-1954, 1955-1971, and 1972-. Readers have the option of selecting a particular era or all entries.

The biographies section includes 1600 biographies of historical and contemporary figures selected from twenty-two **Facts on File** print titles. The encyclopedia contains 400 entries, definitions and descriptions of terms, events, and topics culled from *The Encyclopedia of Africa-American Heritage* and other **Facts on File** print titles.

Historical documents includes 150 primary source documents, such as the **Supreme Court's** decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, The Reconstruction Acts, and Sojourner Truth's speech. It even includes the closing arguments in the O. J. Simpson trial (September 26B28, 1995). Many of these documents come from **Facts on File's Landmark Documents in American History CD-ROM**. History books include the full text of thirteen **Facts on File** books. These books do not seem to be arranged in any particular order. They are not in alphabetical order by title or in chronological order by date of publication.

The gallery contains 770 photographs, paintings, cartoons, portraits, and other images that depict key figures and events. A caption explaining its historical significance accompanies each image.

Maps and charts includes 130 annotated graphs, tables, maps, and charts that present geographical and statistical data about the past and present African-American population.

The audio and video section includes twelve audio clips and seventeen video clips of significant historical and cultural moments. There's the expected "I have a dream" speech as well as four excerpts from **Thurgood Marshall's** November 10, 1966 speech at a symposium on "the role of the Negro lawyer in the context of social change" and four clips of **Louie Armstrong**. The video clips include the famous **Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling** fight (June 22, 1938), **Jesse Owens** and **Cornelius Jordan** at the Berlin Olympics (1936), and two clips of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. However, we could not get the videos to play properly and sometimes encountered erratic performance problems when attempting to do so.

W.E.B. DuBois's Exhibit of American Negroes is an archival reconstruction of **W.E.B. DuBois's** exhibit on American blacks at the 1900 **World's Fair**.

The product uses the **Logos Library System** as its search engine and interface. This is a powerful text engine that was designed for biblical studies. The toolbar consequently has View options (*Bible* Reference Browser and Sync Browser which allows viewing several Bible versions simultaneously and synchronizes scrolling of the text to keep all the versions in sync) that don't make any sense with this product. Also, the Tools option lists Unlock Books or Collections which was designed to control the licensing and use of biblical concordances, dictionaries, histories, commentaries, etc. Logos Library System supports interactivity between all books in a library when searching and linking across multiple books. Because it uses Unicode, it also supports Eastern and Western languages and the embedding of

continued on page 60

Best Sellers in Anatomy & Physiology 1999

by **Françoise Crowell** <FCrowell@YBP.com>

Column Editor: **Bob Nardini** (YBP) <rnardini@YBP.com>

We are not sure which is the bigger mystery on YBP's list of 50 best-selling titles for 1999 in Anatomy and Physiology—why we've sold one copy more of *Comparative Hearing: Fish and Amphibians* than we have for *Comparative Hearing: Insects*, or why this pair of Springer-Verlag titles landed on the list in the first place.

It's no surprise at all, though, that the predominant topics on the list reflect our customers' interests in sexual differences, mind and memory, and aging, all universal areas of human concern, of course, which far outnumber topics such as the musculoskeletal system, or NMR spectroscopy, or cellular signal transduction. The American Psychological Association's *Male, Female: The Evolution of Human Sex Differences* has been our top-selling Physiology title for the year, edging out, again by a margin of one copy, Houghton Mifflin's *Woman: An Intimate Geography*.

We hope this best-seller list, which we've arranged in descending sales order,

helps readers of ATG to identify a few titles useful to their own collections.

Geary, David C. *Male, Female: The Evolution Of Human Sex Differences*. Amer Psych Assn 1998 \$49.95 Cloth 1557985278

Angier, Natalie. *Woman: An Intimate Geography*. Houghton Mifflin 1999 \$25.00 Cloth 0395691303

Squire, Larry R. *Memory: From Mind To Molecules*. Scientific American 1999 \$34.95 Cloth 0716750716

Fruton, Joseph S. (Joseph Stewart), 1912- *Proteins, Enzymes, Genes: The Interplay Of Chemistry And Biology*. Yale Univ Press 1999 \$45.00 Cloth 0300076088

Biochemical Pathways: An Atlas Of Biochemistry And Molecular Biology; Ed. By Gerhard Michal. Wiley-Liss 1999 \$115.00 Cloth 0471331309

Kirkwood, Tom. *Time Of Our Lives: The Science Of Human Aging*. Oxford Univ Press 1999 \$27.50 Cloth 0195128249

Allman, John Morgan. *Evolving Brains. Scientific American* 1999 \$34.95 Cloth 0716750767

Spitzer, Manfred. *Mind Within The Net: Models Of Learning, Thinking, And Acting*. MIT Press 1999 \$27.50 Cloth 0262194066

Watkins, James, 1946- *Structure And Function Of The Musculoskeletal System*. Human Kinetics 1999 \$49.00 Cloth 0880116862

From Brains To Consciousness?: Essays On The New Sciences Of The Mind; Ed. By Steven Rose. Princeton Univ 1998 \$29.95 Cloth 0691004692

Jouvet, Michel. *Paradox Of Sleep: The Story Of Dreaming*. Translated By: Laurence Garey. MIT Press 1999 \$25.00 Cloth 0262100800

continued on page 61

Q & A Copyright Column from page 53

the institution may sell the presentation (depending on the agreement between the school and the faculty members). However, if one looks at the starwars.com Website and reads the terms of use, commercial use of the images and sound is prohibited. So, while use for the workshop presentation may have been fair use, selling the presentation makes it commercial. If there is broad distribution, even if the sales price is only cost recovery, the best course is to contact Lucasfilm and seek permission.

QUESTION: The X corporation libraries want to harmonize the way they maintain interlibrary loan records. Corporate counsel has advised that only loans between the corporation and outside libraries are defined as interlibrary loans. Further, librarians have been told that it is not necessary to keep records of photocopies obtained from any of the 13 X corporation libraries as these are covered by its Copyright Clearance Center

agreement. The same instruction was provided as to not keeping any records of photocopies obtained from an outside, for-profit photocopy vendor. Complicating this issue is the fact that some of these libraries work with vendors that send itemized bills showing separate copyright payments, while other libraries work with a vendor that has sent a letter saying that they will pay the royalties to the CCC. So, is it necessary to keep ILL records?

ANSWER: The only records that must be kept are ILL for which none of the corporation X libraries pays royalties, that is, library to library loans. If the copies come from a vendor that pays the royalties, no records are necessary. This activity is not ILL and royalties are paid. However, it is a good idea to use only authorized document delivery services that pay the royalties for the copies.

If the library obtains a photocopy from a university library, then that is an ILL. If the corporation pays royalties for all ILL also, then no records are required, but libraries may want to do so to provide documentation of compliance. It is a corporate decision.

TestDriving CD-ROM from page 56

words and phrases of right-to-left languages like Hebrew into left-to-right text such as English. The very powerful search engine locates words or phrases anywhere on the CD and highlights the results.

A topic browser window appears to the left of the main window. It is organized both by era and by topics, with entries listed beneath the topic window. The installation recommends setting a screen resolution of 800 x 600; but the 9-point type can appear too small for easy viewing. One can change the font by editing the user preferences; but this does not change the size. One can change the size from the View option on the toolbar or use Control-Shift-< and Control-Shift->. One can also use the product at 640 x 480 resolution and close the topic browser window. It can be activated at any time and overlays the main window.

African-American History and Culture: CD-ROM Encyclopedia is a thorough subject encyclopedia in coverage. Many entries are brief; but the synergy of all the various components from a variety of sources and the links between related entries provide students and researchers with a rich web of information. The powerful Logos Library System search engine is a good selection for this well-executed product.