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Computer-Based Information Services on Asia: Some Comparative Searches on China and Indonesia

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The origin of this study lay in the Australian National University Library's recent decision to extend its on-line computer-based information services, taking advantage of the lower telecommunications costs which now apply in Australia for direct links with overseas information retrieval services. Staff of the Asian Studies Division of the Library were unaware of any attempts to assess the relative value of these databases for study and research on Asia, either through articles in the professional literature or through personal contact with Asian specialists who had made use of them for their own research. It was therefore decided to devise a study in the Library which would attempt such an assessment of the quality, extent and depth of coverage of databases which purported to be relevant sources, particularly those offered by the Lockheed DIALOG service in California, U.S.A.

Funds for the project came from the Library's own annual budget for 1980, and it was decided that expenditure should be limited to a maximum of A$1000. As the terminals were not yet up and working at the ANU Library, and the staff were still undergoing training in search techniques, it was agreed to use the facilities of the Australian National Social Sciences Library (ANSOL) at the National Library of Australia, where the service had been operating for several years and the staff were experienced searchers.

The general approach was to tackle the problem on a broad front and choose topics from a wide range of subject fields in the social sciences and humanities, as the aim was to produce findings which would if possible have general application. Several broad fields were chosen, as representing those subject areas in which research is in progress or has taken place recently at the ANU. Time did not permit collaboration with Library users in the study, but it would obviously be desirable to involve them, and it is hoped that a later stage of the project will be the evaluation of specific searches by specialists. The following broad fields were chosen from which more specific topics would be identified:

Section A: Economics (including Agricultural Economics); Development; Demography

Section B: History; Archaeology

Section C: Anthropology
A decision was made to limit the topic searches to China and Indonesia. This decision was partly motivated by the fact that more research at the ANU has so far concentrated on these two countries than on any of the other Asian nations, as well as for the obvious reason that they represented the largest countries in two separate regions of Asia, i.e., East and Southeast Asia. To provide some sort of comparison between the geographical coverage of the databases, topics were chosen which could be applied both to China and to Indonesia.

From the above-listed six broad subject fields a list of 27 topics was prepared, to a large extent related to specific research projects of academic staff at the ANU. It was hoped that thereby the results would have more than just academic interest to librarians and information scientists. This initial list of 27 was pared down to a final list of 16 topics (these are listed in Appendix I), which included such questions as the effects of technological change on labour absorption, comparison of rice yields and labour requirements, choice of industrial techniques, changing birth and death rates, changing attitudes toward women, rural poverty and village studies, patterns of urbanisation, political attitudes as revealed in contemporary literature, nationalist movements, resurgent Islam, and others.

The next step was to decide which databases should be searched for each topic. This was finalised at a meeting held between three staff members of the Asian Studies Division and three members of ANSOL. A total of twelve different databases was finally selected for searching on one or more questions. A full list of the 16 questions chosen, listed under the six broad categories which they represent, is attached as Appendix I. (See also Note 1, at the end of the text of this paper). A list of databases searched, with descriptive notes, is attached as Appendix II. It will be seen that none of these databases is Asia-oriented. No such databases are offered by the Lockheed service at present. (See Note 2).

It should be noted that the study was not designed to assess particular databases; it was rather to attempt to determine how well Asian studies are at present covered by computer-based services in general. Searches were made on a number of databases for each topic. Any assessment of results must take into consideration the fact that they are dependent to a large extent on the choice of databases for the particular topic, a subjective choice. We can only say in this regard that the selection was made by ANSOL staff who are experienced in the use and interrogation of the databases covering the social sciences and humanities.

A further word on the databases selected. As ANU Library users are concerned largely with academic research, we requested that the database Comprehensive Dissertation Abstracts (CDA) be searched in the case of every topic. In addition, we eliminated all databases which indexed newspapers and magazines. For example, National Newspaper Index was not
included, even though several topics lent themselves to searching in indexes which cover weeklies and similar periodicals dealing with current affairs.

This study did not attempt to analyse the technical and administrative aspects of the services, such as availability of the databases for consultation, accessibility from Australia, (e.g., the efficiency of MIDAS—the service providing the Australia-U.S. satellite link), turn-around time, or even the breakdown of costs for the various components of each search, although it may be noted that the time between ANSOL's receiving the 16 written requests and the delivery of the print-out was about three weeks. The study was essentially concerned with area/subject retrieval rates.

Search Technique

Having decided on the topics and the databases to be searched, the specialist area librarians provided the searchers with as full a description as possible of the topic, providing alternative terms, synonyms, jargon, and phrases that could be searched. As Social Sciences Citation Index was to be searched in some cases, each topic was accompanied by paraphrases and explanations, in addition to descriptive terms, and the details of at least one reference to an authoritative work on the topic which it was anticipated would have been cited in other works.

The search topics and details were filled in on ANSOL Search Request Forms, and the searches were then carried out from this information only. The initiators of the requests (the present writers) were not present during the on-line searches, so there was no discussion on the spot and no development of the strategy while the search was actually being performed. This study does not attempt to assess the search strategy; it is assumed that this was reasonably competent, as it was carried out by staff experienced in database searching.

Analysis of Search Results

Table I below shows comparative figures for China and Indonesia in respect of the total number of "hits", the number and percentage of these which were regarded as relevant, and the percentage breakdown by language of the relevant references.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total number of &quot;hits&quot;</th>
<th>Relevant &quot;hits&quot;</th>
<th>Language of reference (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent of total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>2,369</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The first point that may be noted from Table I is that the total number of "hits" for China was three times that for Indonesia, and the total number of relevant "hits" for China was 2.5 times that for Indonesia. This result tended to confirm our previously held notions as to the relative quantities of material likely to be found.

One cannot, of course, conclude from these results that coverage for China is necessarily better than for Indonesia. They are more likely to indicate simply that much more is being published on China than on Indonesia, particularly in the types of publications covered by the relevant databases, a point which is discussed in more detail later. It may be noted that there are a few specific instances where a particular database produced a relatively high yield on Indonesia, but these are a small minority of cases and do not significantly influence the overall comparative results.

On the question of criteria for relevance, this was a subjective matter, the decisions being those of the area specialist librarian in each case, and it could be argued that results would vary with different individuals' approaches. The amount of variation in detail included in specific references is a further variable which could affect decisions. However, the fact that there was a fairly high degree of correlation in the relevance rates (23 percent for China compared with 27 percent for Indonesia) seems to suggest that criteria were similar.

A second point is that the average relevancy rates (23 and 27 percent) appear to be relatively low, and as an overall result these rates do not appear to be cost-effective. However, there are considerable variations in the results for specific questions. It is not known whether there are any standards established for relevancy rates in computer-based searches, or indeed if it has been accepted that there can be such standards, but it is the authors' view that the rates would need to be a good deal higher than the findings of this study for searches to be considered cost-effective.

It could perhaps be argued that, although the National Library's search analysts were experienced users of the particular databases, they were not sufficiently familiar with their content from an area point of view, and that this is a further dimension which is needed in preparing search strategies if these services are to be used efficiently for area studies.

A third point is that of the languages of the material indexed in the computer-based services. As will be seen from Table I, and as would be expected, all services are heavily biased in favour of English-language sources, with over 90 percent of relevant references for both China and Indonesia in English. The complete (in the case of China) or almost complete absence of sources in the languages of the countries themselves is perhaps the most serious weakness in those databases which claim to be comprehensive in their coverage of particular subject fields. For example, regarding Historical Abstracts, the descriptive notes on the service issued by the database suppliers state that it "is a reference service that abstracts and indexes the world's periodical literature in history and the related social sciences and humanities". They further state that it "covers the history of the world from 1450 to the present... Articles are abstracted from more than 2,000 journals published in 90 countries in some 30 languages."
claims to be "a multidisciplinary database indexing every significant item from the 1,000 most important social sciences journals throughout the world". At least insofar as Asia is concerned, the findings of this study quite clearly fail to support these claims. On the credit side, it can be said that some databases do cover a considerable number of journals in European languages other than English, and some useful references were found on certain topics. They also provide the additional service in most cases of giving the details in English, which is convenient for English-speaking users. An obvious deficiency, however, is what appears to be a complete absence of Russian sources from most databases.

Availability, Location, and Languages of Journals Cited

Table II shows the numbers of journals cited in the relevant references to journal articles, the language breakdown of these, and their availability in the ANU Library, the National Library of Australia, or other Australian libraries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location in Australia</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Other European</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Total, all languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian National University Library ......</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Australia .................</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other libraries ..........</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not available ............</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total journals ...........</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch.
2. Indonesian, Japanese.

ANU = Australian National University Library. ANL = National Library of Australia.

one of the purposes of the study was to attempt to determine the availability and accessibility of material cited to potential users at the Australian National University. It was not feasible to do a systematic check of monograph material, but a search was done on all journal titles from which relevant references were cited. All journals cited were checked first against the ANU Library's catalogue. Of a total of 217 journals, 76 percent were held by the ANU. (See Note 3). Of the remainder, a further 11 percent were

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held by the National Library of Australia, making a total of 87 percent which were available in Canberra. About four percent were held in other Australian libraries, and the rest were not listed as held by any Australian library. From the point of view of document availability, it was felt that the results were quite satisfactory for the ANU user, insofar as journals were concerned.

It was further noted that 33 out of the total of 217 relevant journals cited, or 15 percent, were specialist "area" journals, while the remainder were general or discipline-oriented. This fact was felt to be significant, in that most of the journal material indexed was outside the area-studies field. Depending on the nature of the topic, there would be a varying degree of familiarity with such journals, but it seems likely that the database services are covering a much broader range of Western-language publications in particular disciplines than the average Asian specialist would normally scan or search for manually through printed indexes and bibliographies.

As to the languages of the journals cited, again the emphasis is overwhelmingly on English sources, although the percentage of other European languages is higher for journal articles than for the totals as shown in Table I (17 percent, as against 8.8 percent of all references on China and 4 percent of those on Indonesia). As for Asian-language material, again it is virtually non-existent. Only 7 out of 217 journals cited were in Asian languages.

Comparison with Manual Searches

It was recognized that considerable caution was needed when attempting to draw conclusions from the analyses of results obtained from the computer-based searches. Some factors which may influence results have been mentioned, such as the subjective element in determining relevancy; others include the random nature of choice of topics, the choice of databases, the varying period and language coverage of different databases, and the varying amount of detail provided in the bibliographic references. However, the study was conceived as a preliminary survey rather than a rigorous and controlled research project which would not have been feasible without much greater financial support. The latter concept was seen as a possible later stage of the study, when appropriate evaluation procedures had been agreed upon for database searches in the ANU Library.

In the meantime, however, it was agreed that it would be useful to carry out a small pilot study on three of the sixteen topics chosen at random, comparing the results of the machine search with those of a manual search, using a traditional reference service approach to all relevant printed bibliographic sources available in the ANU Library.

It was decided to confine the exercise to Indonesia only, and three area-oriented bibliographies covering roughly comparable periods to those of the eight databases used in the machine searches were chosen for the manual searches. These were:

(i) **Bibliography of Asian Studies**, 1970-1976
(ii) **Index of Indonesian Learned Periodicals**, 1972-1976
(iii) **Excerpta Indonesica**, 1976-1979
The following table shows the comparative results of the searches:

### Table III.--Comparative results of machine and manual searches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question number*</th>
<th>Databases searched</th>
<th>Relevant &quot;hits&quot;</th>
<th>Printed bibliographies searched</th>
<th>Relevant &quot;hits&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.3 ................</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.1 ................</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.4 ................</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For text of these questions see Appendix I.

It is worth noting that the printed bibliographies which were used are not regarded by specialists as being exhaustive. However, the results show quite dramatically the contrast between the usefulness of the machine-readable databases and existing printed sources for these particular topics. Since each of the topics was from a different broad subject area it seems reasonable to infer that this pattern would be repeated in other subject fields.

The absence of Asian-language sources in the computer-based services has already been mentioned, and this omission would account for a significant proportion of the difference in the results in the case of two of the printed bibliographies, i.e. *Index of Indonesian Learned Periodicals* and *Excerpts Indonesian*, which both include vernacular language references. Comparing the relevant "hits" for the *Bibliography of Asian Studies*, which includes only Western-language sources, with the database searches, the results varied from 25 percent lower in one instance to 100 percent higher in another.

This still supports the view that area-oriented bibliographies are providing far more relevant references.

**Summary of Findings**

The main findings of the study may be summarised as follows:

1. The number of "hits" for China was three times that of Indonesia.
2. The proportion of relevant "hits" was 23 percent for China and 27 percent for Indonesia.
3. Relevancy rates were probably too low to be cost-effective.
4. All databases are heavily biased towards English-language source materials.
5. Other European-language sources are included but are very limited in coverage. Russian sources are not covered.

6. Asian-language sources are, for all intents and purposes, excluded.

7. A high proportion of journals containing relevant citations were held either in the ANU Library or the National Library of Australia.

8. Specialist "area" journals comprised only a low percentage of the total number of relevant journals covered by the databases.

9. The databases cover a broad range of general or discipline-oriented sources which would probably not be regularly monitored by the Asian specialist.

10. Printed specialist-area bibliographies were shown to contain two to eight times as many relevant references as the computer-based service when searched on three different topics.

Conclusions

While absolutely precise comparisons between results for China and Indonesia, and between machine searches and manual searches, were not possible in this study for reasons which have been mentioned earlier, there seemed to be sufficient evidence produced to draw certain conclusions.

The advent of greatly reduced telecommunications charges for direct links with United States computer-based information services has provided Australian users with the possibility of gaining access to significantly expanded bibliographic information services in many fields. It appeared certain that many of the databases being offered through these services would contain references of Asian interest. What was not known was the extent to which these services were likely to be useful to those working in the field of Asian studies, particularly, in this case, on China or Indonesia.

It seems fairly clear from the findings of the study that the range of subject/discipline-oriented databases now available from major database suppliers in the U.S.A. are not particularly useful for Asian studies users. The most obvious deficiency is the non-coverage of Asian-language sources, and it appears that even Western-language sources are not well covered when results are compared with searches of published area-oriented bibliographies covering the same subjects.

Further study and evaluation of the various general and discipline-oriented databases is needed from the area specialist's viewpoint, in order to identify which, if any, of those being offered is likely to produce cost-effective results. For example, those containing wide coverage of European-language material other than English may provide some useful references which would otherwise be too difficult or time-consuming for the Asianist to trace.

In general, however, it seems that satisfactory results are not likely to be achieved from computer-based services until a number of area-oriented databases have been developed by area specialists. The BISA project at the University of Sydney is an example of such a database. Machine-readable versions of national bibliographies as they become available in various Asian countries will also be important databases for Asian studies in the future. In the meantime, further time studies of a more rigorous nature
comparing machine searches with manual searches, preferably of the same databases, and more detailed studies of language/area/subject content of specific databases would be useful in achieving a systematic appraisal of these services.

Notes:

1. This paper was presented at the 1980 meeting of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians, in Manila, the Philippines, on August 22, 1980. As presented at the Manila conference, the original paper contained eleven pages of tables as Appendix I. These tables showed the total number of "hits", the number of "relevant hits," and the percentage of "relevant hits" found for each question, under each country, in each of the databases surveyed. The Editors of the CEAL Bulletin regret that space does not permit the reproduction of these eleven pages in their entirety. The conclusions to be drawn from these tables, however, seem to be fairly summarized in the text of the article; and if sufficient interest is expressed, we shall seek to reproduce the tables in a future issue of the Bulletin.

2. The question of the possible use of BISA (Bibliographical Information on Southeast Asia), a special area-oriented Australian database, was discussed, and it was decided not to include it in the study, for the reason that there was no equivalent database covering China or East Asia, and it was felt that the inclusion of BISA would therefore create an obviously skewed result overall, insofar as assessment of the other databases and comparison between the two areas were concerned. The BISA project, however, is a particularly interesting and important one for Orientalist librarians. It is sponsored by the Department of Indonesian and Malayan Studies at the University of Sydney and directed by Mrs. Helen Jarvis.

3. The Australian National University Library's collection of journals in the social sciences and humanities at present totals approximately 11,000 titles.
APPENDIX I

List of topics searched: 16 questions selected from the original 27

Section A: Economics (including Agricultural Economics); Development; Demography

1. Technological change in Indonesian/Chinese agriculture and its effect on labor absorption.
2. Comparison of traditional and high-yielding rice varieties with special reference to labour requirements and yields per acre.
3. Choice of technique in Indonesian/Chinese industry.

Section B: History; Archaeology

1. Portuguese in China/Indonesia (or S.E. Asia).

Section C: Anthropology

2. Rural poverty; village studies; village politics; local elites; local bureaucracy (especially Java).
3. Patterns of urbanisation.

Section D: Language; Literature; Arts; Theatre

1. Language and spelling reform.
2. Political attitudes in 20th century Chinese/Indonesian literature.

Section E: Politics; Government

1. Relations between central Governments and regional authorities.
2. Indonesia-Australia relations. China-Australia relations.
3. China and the ASEAN countries. Indonesia and the ASEAN countries.

Section F: Religion

1. (Resurgent) Islam in Indonesia/China.
CAB ABSTRACTS, January 1973 - present, 966,000 records, monthly updates (The Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Farnham House, Farnham Royal, Slough, SL2 3BN, England)

CAB ABSTRACTS is a comprehensive file of agricultural and biological information containing all records in the 26 main journals published by Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux. Over 8,500 journals in 37 languages are scanned, as well as books, reports, and other publications. In some instances less accessible literature is abstracted by scientists working in other countries. About 130,000 items are selected for publication yearly; significant papers are abstracted, while less important works are reported with bibliographic details only.

The following journals are included in CAB ABSTRACTS: Animal Breeding Abstracts; Apicultural Abstracts; Dairy Science Abstracts; Field Crop Abstracts; Forest Products Abstracts; Forestry Abstracts; Helminthological Abstracts (A & B); Herbage Abstracts; Horticultural Abstracts; Index Veterinarius; Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews (A & B); Plant Breeding Abstracts; Protozoological Abstracts; Review of Applied Entomology (A & B); Review of Medical and Veterinary Mycology; Review of Plant Pathology; Rural Development Abstracts; Rural Extension, Education & Training Abstracts; Rural Sociology Abstracts; Soils and Fertilizers; Veterinary Bulletin; Weed Abstracts; and World Agricultural Economics.

$35 per online connect hour, 25¢ per full record printed offline or typed online File 50

COMPREHENSIVE DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS, 1861 - present, 648,000 citations, monthly updates (Xerox University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI)

COMPREHENSIVE DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS is a definitive subject, title, and author guide to virtually every American dissertation accepted at an accredited institution since 1861, when academic doctoral degrees were first granted in the United States. In addition, CDA serves to disseminate citations for thousands of Canadian dissertations and an increasing number of papers accepted in institutions abroad. Professional (e.g., M.D., L.L.D.) and honorary degrees are not included. All subject areas are covered.

Individual, degree-granting institutions submit copies of dissertations or lists of dissertations completed to University Microfilm International (UMI). Citations for these dissertations are included in the database and in University Microfilms International printed publications: Dissertation Abstracts International (DAI), American Doctoral Dissertations (ADD), and Comprehensive Dissertation Index (CDI).

DAI lists abstracts of dissertations from American, Canadian, and foreign universities. (Copies of most of these dissertations are available from University Microfilm International). ADD supplements DAI by adding citations for other American dissertations written each year; CDI is a comprehensive index for both DAI and ADD. A complete listing of sources consulted in compiling this database can be found in the preface to any volume of Comprehensive Dissertation Index.

$55 per online connect hour, 12¢ per full record printed offline File 35
ECONOMICS ABSTRACTS INTERNATIONAL, 1974-present, 89,000 citations, monthly updates (Learned Information, Ltd., London, England)

ECONOMICS ABSTRACTS INTERNATIONAL provides coverage of the world’s literature on markets, industries, country-specific economic data, and research in the fields of economic science and management. The ECONOMIC ABSTRACTS INTERNATIONAL database corresponds to portions of two printed indexes: Economic Titles/Abstracts and the Key to Economic Science and Managerial Science. Approximately 1800 journals in addition to books, directories, and reports are abstracted to provide information on all areas of economics including international economics. ECONOMICS ABSTRACTS INTERNATIONAL also contains information on specific industries and provides data on the investment climate, import regulations, distribution channels and economic structure for markets worldwide.

$65 per online connect hour, 20¢ per full record printed offline

$55 per online connect hour, 15¢ per full record printed offline

Historical Abstracts, 1973-present, 54,000 citations, quarterly updates (ABC-Clio, Inc., Santa Barbara, CA)

HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS is a reference service that abstracts and indexes the world’s periodical literature in history and the related social sciences and humanities. The database corresponds to the two companion publications, Historical Abstracts Part A, Modern History Abstracts (1450-1914); and Historical Abstracts Part B, Twentieth-Century Abstracts (1914 to the present). HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS covers the history of the world from 1450 to the present, excluding the U.S. and Canada, which are covered by AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE (File 38). Articles are abstracted from more than 2,000 journals published in 90 countries in some 30 languages.

$65 per online connect hour, 15¢ per full record printed offline

$60 per online connect hour, 15¢ per full record printed offline

MLA BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1976-1978, 121,500 records, annual updates (Modern Language Association, New York, NY)

The MLA BIBLIOGRAPHY database provides the first online access to the distinguished and comprehensive bibliography of humanistic studies produced annually by the Modern Language Association. The MLA BIBLIOGRAPHY indexes books and journal articles published on the modern languages, literature, and on linguistics. Detailed coverage is provided of English, American, Medieval and Neo-Latin, and Celtic literatures and of folklore; as well as of European, Asian, African and Latin-American literatures. Comprehensive coverage of the fields of theoretical and descriptive linguistics, and comparative and historical linguistics is also provided, as well as information on specific languages including composite and derivative languages and other communicative behavior.

$55 per online connect hour, 15¢ per full record printed offline


PAIS (PUBLIC AFFAIRS INFORMATION SERVICE) INTERNATIONAL contains references to information in all fields of social science including political science, banking, public administration, international relations, economics, law, public policy, social welfare, sociology, education and social anthropology.

The PAIS database contains the records from the printed PAIS Bulletin and the PAIS Foreign Language Index. Over 800 English language journals and 6,000 non-serial publications are indexed each year in the Bulletin. The Foreign Language Index provides references in English to records indexed from French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish publications. PAIS provides comprehensive coverage on all issues of public policy regarding social, economic or political problems including information on such areas as accounting; municipal, state and federal administration; consumer attitudes; multinational corporations; and Congressional hearings. 25,000 citations taken from more than 1,200 journals and upwards of 8,000 books, pamphlets, government publications, agency reports, and other documents, are added yearly.

$60 per online connect hour, 15¢ per full record printed offline
POPULATION BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1966 - present, 47,500 records, bimonthly updates (University of North Carolina, Carolina Population Center, Chapel Hill, NC)

POPULATION BIBLIOGRAPHY is the world's largest single database covering monographs, journals, technical reports, government documents, conference proceedings, dissertations, and many unpublished reports on population. POPULATION BIBLIOGRAPHY is a principle source for information on abortion, demography, migration, family planning, fertility studies and all general areas of population research such as population policy and law, population education, and population research methodology. More comprehensive coverage is given to materials dealing with the socioeconomic aspects than the biomedical aspects of population, and emphasis is on developing countries and the United States.

$55 per online connect hour, 10¢ per full record printed offline  
File 91

SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS, 1963 - present, 99,600 citations, quarterly updates (Sociological Abstracts, Inc., San Diego, CA)


$70 per online connect hour, 10¢ per full record printed offline  
File 37

SOCIAL SCISEARCH® 1972 - present, 765,000 records, monthly updates (The Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia, PA)

The SSCI is a multidisciplinary database indexing every significant item from the 1,000 most important social sciences journals throughout the world and social sciences articles selected from 2,200 additional journals in the natural, physical, and biomedical sciences. The SSCI includes many important monographs as well. The SSCI covers every area of the social and behavioral sciences.

SOCIAL SCISEARCH offers a unique information retrieval technique. In addition to more conventional retrieval by title words of phrases, source authors, journal names, corporate source, etc., it is also possible to search by way of the author's cited references.

$70 per online connect hour, 10¢ per full record printed offline  
File 93

USPSD (UNITED STATES POLITICAL SCIENCE DOCUMENTS), 1975 - 1977, 12,500 records, irregular updates (University of Pittsburgh, University Center for International Studies, Pittsburgh, PA)

USPSD provides detailed abstracts and indexing from approximately 120 of the major American journals publishing scholarly articles in the broad area of political science. Coverage includes such specific areas as foreign policy, international relations, behavioral sciences, public administration, economics, law and contemporary problems, world politics, and all areas of political science including theory and methodology. This database will be of particular interest to the academic community in providing a central source from which to access significant research results in the political, social, and policy sciences.

$65 per online connect hour, 15¢ per full record printed offline  
File 93
LABORDOC. A database derived from the International Labor Office's documentation centre in Geneva, which is made available by Systems Development Corporation (SDC) through its ORBIT service. It claims to have "worldwide" coverage on economic development, industrial relations, etc., and covers the period from 1965 to the present.

WLN (Washington Library Network) A bibliographic database consisting of shared cataloguing records of the Washington State Library and some twenty other libraries participating in the network, as well as LC MARC records, added since 1972. Covers all subject fields and various languages.