and "the null hypothesis" (p. ix). There are, of course, the standard references covering evaluation of the research literature for the health sciences professional, coping with the medical literature, or reading the literature, all of which incorporate biostatistical concepts. Although many of us have acquired these reference sources over the years, this book is unique in its clear, concise, and creative presentation of the concepts of epidemiology and biostatistics linked to the critical analysis of the current published medical literature.

From the beginning chapter, entitled "Tasting an Article," a unique writing style is apparent: this contributes to the enjoyment of learning or relearning epidemiology and biostatistics, which can be a rather daunting task. A quote from Francis Bacon sets the stage, but each chapter begins with a clever quote metaphorically illustrating topics of discussion. "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested" (p. 1). The underlying purpose of this book is always clear: to provide criteria for accurately discriminating among the overwhelming book and journal literature.

After an opening chapter on validity, reasons to read, and ways to approach an article, Dr. Gehlbach follows with four chapters on study design, including general considerations and the case-control, cross-sectional, follow-up, and experimental approaches. Next is a chapter on measurements, followed by six chapters on interpretation, covering distributions, averages, and the normal; statistical significance and statistical tests; sensitivity, specificity, and predictive value; risk; and causes. The concluding chapters are devoted to case series, editorials, and reviews.

Throughout this book, concepts are concisely defined with examples from the literature, along with tables graphically illustrating the concepts. Summaries of important information to be remembered are provided at the completion of each chapter for additional reinforcement. Further memory assistance is provided with thought-provoking questions to be considered in evaluating each kind of study. These reinforcing methods significantly enhance the learning process, another unique feature that sets this book apart from others in this genre. Moreover, Dr. Gehlbach accentuates how statistics can be misused when they are actually meaningless. One excellent example follows:

In an article on the prevention of injuries to children in automobiles, a series of 200 roadside observations was made of safety practices and their relationship to other "characteristics of the journey." A positive relationship was found between children riding in the rear seat (a good safety practice) and the number of adults riding in the automobile. This finding is reported as statistically significant at the \( P < .001 \) level. Impressive! But at second glance, it is hardly an insight likely to revolutionize highway safety. The percentage of children in the back seat rises as the number of adults in the automobile increases. Children have to sit somewhere, and since adults usually lay claim to the front seat, the kids get displaced to the back. Attaching a fancy \( P \) value to trivial observations does little to enhance their importance [p. 158].

As one can perceive from the above quote, the pithy writing style is indeed entertaining to read, but the book is also well documented, with the numerous references used as examples cited after each chapter and coupled with an excellent index offering direct access to each of the epidemiological principles. The author's credentials include an M.D. and an M.P.H., and he is dean and professor of the School of Public Health at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Earlier editions are similar; the examples of the literature used have changed. Examples related to HIV/AIDS and other more timely topics have been substituted for literature on issues that are no longer of current interest.

Of special interest to librarians is the author's advocacy of seeking the help of a medical librarian rather than relying on the "undocumented recollections of our colleagues" when collecting experience on a clinical need, as we have all tried to convince our medical faculty (p. 233–4). He also advises caution in the use of review articles and that "finding all the research reports on a topic is not easy." Dr. Gehlbach further assists librarians in warning of the inherent risks of lack of absolute comprehensiveness in one computerized source and encourages consultation of more than one source (p. 244).

Finally, this book speaks to medical librarians as well as to medical students and clinicians. Many of our research activities concentrate on areas in the health sciences, and, currently, we are becoming involved in outcome studies as a result of curriculum reform. A solid knowledge of epidemiology and biostatistics is essential.

With this third edition, Dr. Gehlbach has contributed a superb addition to the books in this ever-increasing critical arena of literature evaluation. Interpreting the Medical Literature provides the key for anyone who is struggling to unlock the mysteries surrounding epidemiology and biostatistics in discerning what is truly "digestible" in the medical literature.

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Librarians face copyright issues every day. Because of legal ramifications, it is essential that librarians understand the rights of their users and prepare policies that support those rights as well as provide protection for their institutions. The advent of electronic access and publishing adds complexity to the already complicated law of copyright.

The authors of Libraries & Copyright Law have designed a work to answer specific questions and situations that occur in libraries. The book is well written and easy to read, with a minimum of legal jargon. The authors, both practicing librarians, are well qualified. Bielefield is director of the Public Library at East Hampton, Connecticut, and holds a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Cheeseman is the supervising law librarian at the Connecticut Judicial Department.

The format of this work will be useful to librarians seeking quick answers. The book is divided into two parts. The first deals with the history and legal background of copyright and begins with a chapter dispelling some of the myths about copyright. Although only eleven pages long, this brief introduction responds to such statements as “Copyright law relates only to photocopying” (p. 12) and “If it does not have a copyright notice on it, it is not copyrighted and can be freely copied” (p. 15).

The other chapters of part 1 are “Historical and Legal Background,” “Copyright Law in the United States,” and “International Copyright Law,” a topic that can often be difficult for librarians in this country. Especially useful is the chapter on U.S. copyright, with its brief outlines of the U.S. statutes from 1790 through 1976. The section on the current (1976) law provides a good overview of the changes made from earlier laws; for example, elimination of the distinction between published and unpublished works, recognition of copyright without a notice affixed, and extending copyright protection to all original works of authorship. Included also are the subsequent amendments to the 1976 act: Computer Software, Phonorecords and Computer Software Rentals, Berne Implementation Act, Copyright Remedy Clarification Act, and the Moral Rights.

This chapter outlines what cannot be copyrighted—ideas, procedures, concepts, and so forth—and the limitations on copyright, including fair use, the special rights granted to libraries. These rights are of vital importance, for they permit copying for archival purposes and for replacement of damaged or out-of-print works, outline how much may be copied from printed works and what is permitted in interlibrary loan, and describe the exemption from liability for the unsupervised use of copiers.

The tables accompanying this chapter are of special importance. In capsule form, the authors list what can be copyrighted, the duration of copyright, procedures for obtaining copyright, and the answer to what a copyright is in chronological order for the five U.S. copyright statutes. Librarians will find these charts a valuable reference source.

The second section of the book offers practical applications in the library for printed materials, audio- and videotapes, music, and the unique problems of academic and special libraries. In this era of electronic access and resources, it is surprising that a chapter on software is not included. The omission weakens the current usefulness of the work. Librarians are referred to the sections on use of software with respect to copyright in the revised edition of The Copyright Law and the Health Sciences Librarian, published by the Medical Library Association [1].

In the chapter on printed materials, the authors describe fair use and outline the uses that do not constitute infringement—criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. They cite a court case in which fair use is described as “the privilege in others than the owners to use the copyrighted material in a reasonable manner” without consent (p. 63). In fair use, the rights of the copyright holder must be balanced with the public's need for information.

Other specific library applications relating to library, archival, and classroom copying are described along with cautions in establishing cooperative relationships among libraries. The “Rule of Five” that applies to copying for interlibrary loan is noted along with the statement that the requesting library is responsible for keeping records of the transactions. Another useful paragraph treats the rights of copying and distribution of isolated and unrelated copies of the same material on separate occasions. Similar outlines of permitted use and copying are presented in the chapters on audio- and videotapes and music.

Worth noting in the chapter on academic and special library problems are the discussions relating to copying from manuscripts, letters, and other unpublished materials and on the use of materials for reserve collections. One of the best features of this work is inclusion of a variety of tables and indexes, bringing together in one volume the “Guidelines for Classroom Copying,” the official notice warning of copyright restrictions, section 108, the Copyright Remedy Clarification Act, the “CONTU Guidelines,” section 504: “Innocent Infringement by Library or Nonprofit Educational Institutions,” the Computer Software Rental Amendments, and the tables mentioned earlier. The focus on copyright issues as they relate...
to libraries makes this publication a useful addition to library collections.

While useful, there are two limitations that must be noted. First is the omission of a chapter devoted to issues of use and copying computer software. With the rapid advances in technology and the variety of electronic devices and resources now available, the omission is both puzzling and unfortunate. Second, librarians need support in advocating the rights of users. As Nina Matheson warns in a recent editorial, few of us “realize how we are docilely abandoning our fair use rights” [2]. Fair use is discussed by Bielefield and Cheeseman, but it is not emphasized. To get a better understanding of fair use, librarians should read The Nature of Copyright: A Law of Users’ Rights by L. R. Patterson and S. W. Lindberg [3].

Patterson and Lindberg challenge librarians to look to and act upon the rights we enjoy under copyright, rather than considering the restrictions as our guideposts. Bielefield and Cheeseman are more conservative. They suggest the two most important facts about copyrights are that you may do with copyrighted material anything for which you can obtain permission and that there is always the possibility of paying for use (p. 6). In my view, fair use should be the first consideration of libraries.

This book is recommended for purchase by health sciences libraries because of the valuable sections on the history and legal background of copyright law and its many tables and appendixes. It will be best used in conjunction with MLA’s Copyright Law and the Health Sciences Librarian and The Nature of Copyright: A Law of Users’ Rights.

### References


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Two books published in 1993 provide reference assistance for medical librarians and health care professionals. Alan Rees’s Encyclopedia of Health Information Sources (EHIS), now in its second edition, lists sources that can be utilized to find information on more than 350 health-related topics. The Healthcare Resource and Reference Guide (Guide) originates from questions raised and answers provided at the American Medical Association’s (AMA) reference and referral center. While EHIS points the reader to a variety of other sources for information, the Guide attempts to provide sufficient information to answer many of the questions raised by those health care professionals “without convenient access to a hospital library” (preface).

EHIS is essentially a tool for locating as many as fifteen different types of health information sources. Pointing to the need for a resource like EHIS, Rees observes, “As the information supermarket grows in size and complexity, the need becomes more urgent for an integrated shopping list” (p. ix). Because of its integration, EHIS is a useful collection development tool. In addition, its inclusion of professional associations and other organizations relevant to each topic makes EHIS a valuable tool for reference and referral services.

The organization of EHIS is alphabetical by health topic. A number of cross-references appear in the body of the book to assist the user. The “Outline of Contents” at the beginning of the work presents all topics covered, as well as the cross-references that have been made. Entries in EHIS have been arranged alphabetically by topic, then by source type, and, finally, by title or name of the organization. Covering more than 350 health topics, EHIS refers to 6,715 different sources of information.

The inclusion of fax as well as telephone numbers and the coverage of available CD-ROM databases are new and welcome features of the second edition of EHIS. The commitment to the coverage of electronic information resources is clear because EHIS is itself available from Gale in both print and electronic formats. Rees’s dedication to consumer health information is evident in his inclusion of several hundred popular works and newsletters. EHIS does not provide annotations for its entries. This absence of annotations is understandable, however, given the tremendous number of sources included. Those seeking more evaluative guides to health information sources may find Information Sources in the Medical Sciences [1] or Introduction to Reference Sources in the Health Sciences [2] to be useful. Unique to EHIS, however, is its coverage of relevant associations and organizations.

Future editions of EHIS will need to include information sources accessible through the Internet. Relevant listservs, electronic bulletin boards, and electronic mail ad-

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