cies. A partial list of the agencies represented in this book includes the National Institutes of Health; Food and Drug Administration; National Institute on Aging; and the National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute. This publication is designed to facilitate easy identification and to provide materials for photocopying, eliminating much time that would otherwise be spent in identifying and locating these resources (p. vii).

The documents are arranged according to body system and then arranged alphabetically by title within the broad category. Rees has identified the document source for all items and in many instances gives the publication date for the document. Many of the documents include glossaries and other resources that could be consulted. At the end of many of the documents, Rees does cross references to related documents in the book—a real benefit to the reader. In addition to the documents, Rees includes useful appendices—PDQ, Health Hotlines, and State Agencies on Aging. Rees does not reveal how he selected these particular appendices or the documents themselves for inclusion. Like the Consumer Health Source Book, the author, title and subject indexes are thorough and easy to use. The book's layout is very attractive and indicates that much effort was spent in making the documents appear the same to give the book an integrated unified presentation.

It is impossible for a book like this to be exhaustive; certainly there will be users of this book who will be disappointed. But this book will easily and quickly satisfy a large number of health consumers and the librarians helping them. It would be a very good investment for most medical collections.

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Critical pathways, practice guidelines, practice parameters—these words are all too familiar to most medical librarians. Locating these resources can consume countless hours of valuable time. ECRI has made that task less grueling with Healthcare Standards.

As described in the foreword, this directory is very broad in scope, including references to policy statements, guidelines, resolutions, standards, consensus reports, technology assessment reports, state and federal regulations, and various other documents intended to guide appropriate health care delivery. These standards are issued by medical and professional societies, government agencies, and other health-related organizations (e.g., Rand Corporation, ECRI).

The directory is organized into five major sections. The first section includes a keyword index and a list of the keywords used. Under each keyword, the various standards are listed under the name of the issuing organization. If the standard was published in a periodical, the citation is given here; otherwise, the reader is referred to another section for additional information. The second section is a list of abbreviations of organizational names that were used in the keyword index.

The third section is the heart of the book. All standards, with the exception of state and federal regulations, are listed under the issuing organization according to the document type (e.g., policy statement, standards, technology assessment). The address, telephone number, and name of the chief official of the organization are given at the beginning of the entry. Prices are noted in some cases; however, in most cases the user is referred to the issuing organization for current costs. The fourth section lists state and federal regulations. Regulations are listed by subject within the appropriate geographic area.

The scope of organizations included is very broad, including American, British, Canadian, and Australian medical and professional societies, insurers, federal and state agencies, and a variety of other groups such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), World Health Organization (WHO), the Alzheimer's Association, and other voluntary health organizations. The coverage is thorough, and the index is well done with appropriate cross referencing.

Of course, standards are constantly being revised, created, or withdrawn, and no monographic publication can be more than a snapshot of the field. To answer these concerns, ECRI offers a free updating service. By using the telephone numbers listed in the volume, subscribers can get updates on new or revised standards, price changes, withdrawn standards, or changes in organizational addresses or telephone numbers. Despite its hefty price, Healthcare Standards would be a valuable addition to any health sciences collection, particularly in a hospital library setting.

Health Industry QuickSource consists of three sections listing available CD-ROMs, online databases, and periodicals. The coverage seems to be very thorough, including both major and minor producers of CD-ROM and online databases and a comprehensive selec-
tion of English language periodicals in the field. Both clinical medicine and health care management resources are included.

A comprehensive subject index is provided at the front of the book covering all the sections. Each section includes a list of producer and publisher addresses. The CD-ROM and online database sections provide information on producers and vendors, coverage, update frequency, features, general description, and subject categories covered. The periodicals section also provides pricing information, ISSN, circulation figures, and a telephone number for advertising. Information on indexing sources is not provided.

The entries are nicely formatted and easy to read, especially when compared with sources such as Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory with its flimsy paper and small type. However, the paperback format is not appropriate for a volume of more than 1,000 pages. The review copy already has a broken binding and certainly would not stand up to hard reference use.

Despite all of the information, the individual entries are not always accurate, consistent, or comprehensive. There is great variation in the features and descriptions sections. In some cases, the descriptions of the CD-ROM and online databases will specify the type of information included (i.e., full-text, bibliographic, directory) and in others it simply describes the subject coverage. The description of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), a CD-ROM product, states, "Every aspect of the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology is covered. Fields include chemistry, external radiation biology, radioisotope effects and kinetics, applied life sciences, health, radiation protection and environment, nuclear medicine, isotopes, radiation sources, and radiation applications, and

more" (p. 54). Is this full-text or bibliographic?

In the printed periodicals section, the features listed include advertising, peer review, letters to the editor, editorials, commentary, and meeting announcements. The entry for JAMA (p. 715) lists advertising and peer review, but does not mention letters, editorials, comments, or meeting announcements. The New England Journal of Medicine (p. 799) lists only advertising. These are only the most obvious example of a lack of comprehensive and consistent information. The publisher's introduction indicates that the information contained was obtained from publishers, producers, and vendors. Perhaps these sources were not sufficiently inclusive in their responses; however, this raises questions about the value of the information contained in the QuickSource.

The subject index is quite detailed; however, the assignment of subject categories is sometime suspect. For example, under the category, "Managed Health Care & Outcomes Research," (p. S1-40) eleven databases are listed. The list does not include either MEDLINE or Health Planning and Administration.

Given the cost of this publication and its shortcomings, it is not recommended for purchase in health sciences libraries. The cost would be prohibitive to smaller libraries, and the information is probably too limited for larger libraries. For periodicals, a source such as Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory certainly provides more thorough coverage of a broader range of titles, albeit at a greater cost. Directories of online databases and CD-ROM titles are certainly harder to find; however, the rapid growth in these areas make any directory quickly obsolete. Perhaps the best source of information about new developments in these fields is the professional literature—our own and our clients'—and the MEDLIB listserv on the Internet!

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The Core Collection serves as the British counterpart to the Brandon/Hill "Selected List of Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library" [1]. British hospital librarians utilize the Core Collection primarily for selecting those "standard works" most likely to be needed by health care professionals in a clinical environment. Some British medical librarians also use the Core Collection for preparing budgets and for accreditation reviews of hospitals that support postgraduate medical education.

The fifteen member Medical Information Working Party (MIWP) sponsors production of the Core Collection every two years. The MIWP consists of librarians, booksellers, publishers, and periodical agents. Only medical librarians, however, can make selection decisions. Compiler Howard Hague makes the final selection decisions, though he relies heavily upon his librarian colleagues for their subject expertise. Some non-librarian MIWP members check the accuracy of the bibliographic citations; others, such as booksellers and periodical agents, distribute the Core Collection to their customers [2].

The Core Collection strives to offer a more international perspective than the Brandon/Hill list in its selection of English-language books and journals. The first ed-