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 source.

The subject index is quite detailed; however, the assignment of subject categories is sometime suspect. For example, under the category, "Managed 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 edi-
Book reviews

The apparent subject omissions from the Core Collection actually are integrated into other subject areas. For example, Critical Care appears under "Anesthesia" and "Intensive Care" and Toxicology appears under "Pharmacology" and "Therapeutics."

The Core Collection lists 249 journal titles, which suggests greater depth of coverage than the 1995 Brandon/Hill list's 141 journal titles. The Core Collection includes ninety journal titles from the 1995 Brandon/Hill list. These overlapping titles focus upon primary care medicine with representation from most specialties, especially cardiology, pathology, internal medicine, and surgery.

We congratulate our British colleagues on the successful publication of the second edition of this resource intended to meet the distinct needs of British medical library users. The inclusion of ninety journal titles and sixty-eight books from the Brandon/Hill list leads to speculation about the relevance of the Core Collection as a selection tool for U.S. medical librarians. In subject categories such as Complementary Medicine and Palliative Care, the Core Collection will prove useful.

International collaboration among physicians who work with new technologies such as Laparoscopy and Magnetic Resonance Imaging or newly-discovered infectious diseases such as AIDS tends to ignore national boundaries. Publications in these fields reflect this international scope. More tradition-bound specialties or those areas of health care more directly defined by nation-specific public policies tend to rely almost exclusively upon books and journals published in their respective countries. We predict that as standards and practices span national boundaries more and more in the years ahead, resources such as the Core Collection will have increased relevance to U.S. medical librarians.

In the meantime, collection development librarians at academic health sciences libraries in the United States are advised to become more familiar with the Core Collection of Medical Books and Journals.

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References
4. HAGUE, op. cit.


Morton and Moore's second edition of their bibliography is an updated and expanded index of different works on medical and biomedical biography. The number of physicians and scientists covered has been expanded from 1,200 in the first edition to 2,368. The monograph starts off with the introductions to the first and present editions of the work, which briefly point out the rationale for creating this bibliography. The main body of the work consists of an alphabetically arranged individual bi-