teria used to evaluate reference works to Internet sources. An article on the relationship between libraries and the National Research and Education Network policy based on interviews with five Washington experts is oddly placed in this section.

The section on “Progress with the Internet” focuses on the involvement of librarians in the design and development of local gateways to Internet resources and campuswide information services. Peggy Seiden and Karen Nuckolls’ article, “Developing a Campus-Wide Information System Using the Gopher Protocol: A Study of Collection Development and Classification Issues,” reports their research on the design and content of 100 Gophers, where they identify five Gopher models, analyze various subject classifications used in Gophers, and offer valuable guidelines for the development of collection development policies and menu design. Jill Perkins’ article, “The First Mile Down Internet I: Development, Training, and Reference Issues in the Use of an X-Windows Interface for Internet Access,” focuses primarily on the technical details of development and only minimally addresses impact on reference services. “Providing and Accessing Information via the Internet: the Georgetown Catalogue of Projects in Electronic Text” appears to be the only article solely authored by academic computing center staff. Michael Neuman and Paul Mangiafico offer an insightful look at the problems of developing and maintaining a data resource on dual platforms, INGRES and Gopher. Carol Parkhurst and Myoung-ja Kwon provide the technical details of the design, development, and implementation of a front-end “menu engine” gateway in “The Nevada Academic Libraries Information System: An Application of Internet Services.”

Despite the limited usefulness of this book as a current resource on Internet tools and information resources, it does offer numerous articles that provide instructive examples of how librarians have incorporated Internet-based information resources and search tools into their traditional services. The somewhat uneven, scattered feel of this book is undoubtedly a reflection of the various ways in which different reference librarians were dealing with the Internet in 1993, when they responded to Kinder’s call for articles. As Kinder observes in the Introduction, “this volume is simply a point in time” (p. 2). The articles do offer an interesting historical look at how reference professionals dealt with the initial impact of the Internet on their identities, roles, and activities. Although the book may be useful to librarians in the initial stages of exploring the Internet’s potential for library services, it will be of limited use to more experienced Internet users.

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References


Given the constantly evolving nature of the HIV epidemic and changing nature of service provision, delivery, and funding, there has always been a desperate need for comprehensive directory information presented in a useful format. Such information could be clearly focused on one geographic area or type of service and still be of great benefit. Along comes the National Directory of AIDS Care, 1994–95, claiming to meet this need. This directory bills itself as “the authoritative reference for health care providers, community support systems and consumers” and as “the professional desk reference.” Unfortunately, this work fails to meet this need in many ways.

Presented in a perfunctory manner, with little work done but providing the entries cited, this book lacks the imagination, scope, and comprehensiveness needed to make it truly useful to those it purports to serve. The first section gives a set of listings for national organizations and hotlines that provide HIV/AIDS-related services. Each entry provides, in alphabetical order, the name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and contact person, if available, for each organization. Generally, a very brief description of the services that each organization provides follows each entry.

This section is actually even less useful than it first appears. It is less than the pages in its entirety and has no index for type of services provided. It also has a number of serious omissions. Recognized groups, such as Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC), National Association of People with AIDS, and the Physician’s Association for AIDS Care, are not listed. Also not listed is the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, a paid subscriber to this publication. The service descriptions lack any uniformity, with the National Cancer Institute listed as providing “Protocols for HIV” and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease listed as
providing “Research.” There are two entries for a number of organizations, with no clear delineation between them. For example, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has two entries with different phone numbers, both having to do with AIDSLINE. A number of groups have no description at all, such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The second and main section of the book provides entries for AIDS service organizations, first for each state and then for each county within a state. Preceding these entries is a poor-quality map that does not function effectively as a visual aid. The quality of the information provided and its relative completeness are, to put it mildly, less than adequate. This writer can only comment on those geographic areas I am familiar with, which limits it to the epicenter of the epidemic, New York City. There the lists are in no way complete, with many important groups omitted, like the Brooklyn AIDS Task Force and GMHC. Many groups are included for no apparent reason, such as for-profit home care services, pharmacies, and other groups, whose actual level of services provided to those affected by HIV/AIDS is not readily apparent.

The entries are grouped under large headings such as “medical services,” “home health care,” and “community services,” which provide a degree of additional access. But, as in the first section, the entry details can be misleading or wrong. The AIDS Treatment Data Network is simply listed as “Network.” The telephone numbers provided for the anonymous testing sites run by the New York City Department of Health are incorrect. There are no entries for either Staten Island or Dutchess County, areas with which this writer has enough familiarity to know that there are organizations that provide services in these locations.

The remainder of the book purports to provide a list of federal agencies and programs and of clinical trial and research sites. These sections suffer from the same faults as the preceding sections. The entries are cursory in nature and provide no information other than name, address, and telephone number. The State and City of New York receive a large amount of funding under the various provisions of the Ryan White CARE Act, so a further breakdown of responsibility and services provided would have been helpful. Although Margaret Hamburg, M.D., Commissioner of the Department of Health of the City of New York, is the person in charge of Ryan White Title 1 monies in the city, I do not think that she is the appropriate contact person for general inquiries, as she is listed here.

The remaining section provides nothing more than a list of clinical trial sites, a task much better accomplished by the AIDS/HIV Treatment Directory [1], compiled and published by the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) or the Experimental Treatment Guide [2], published by the AIDS Treatment Data Network for the New York metropolitan area. The entries in the National Directory of AIDS Care, 1994–95 again are seriously incomplete and do not provide any information as to drugs currently being tested, protocols for trials, criteria for eligibility, or persons to contact, as do the AmFAR directory or the Experimental Treatment Guide. This section would not be helpful to the majority of people seeking clinical trial information.

Although there is a desperate need for the type of publication that the National Directory of AIDS Care, 1994–95 aims to be, it falls so short of the mark as to not truly be useful. Given the quality of the information presented here, I would be hard pressed to recommend its purchase, especially for general reference use. The average reader may not understand that this is not a definitive resource, and, given the reluctance some readers may have in discussing their HIV information needs, they might not be helped by using this publication. The better solution, especially for health sciences librarians, is to insist that NLM stay as up to date as possible with the information contained in the AIDSDRUGS, AIDSSTRIALS, and DIRLINE databases and to make them far more readily available, given that they are free, and to use the directories available.

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References


John Shaw Billings dominated every field of endeavor in which he was engaged. He is not only the “patron saint” of the organization and retrieval of medical information but has an acknowledged primacy in the development of the new modes of medical education, participating in the establishment of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine at the end of the nineteenth century; the modernization of hospital design; the development and application of machine methods of census tabulation; the