

Book Reviews

More Joy of Contracts: An Epicurean Approach to Negotiation, by Kevin Hegarty. Tacoma, Wash.: Tacoma Public Library, 1981. 66p. \$10. Order from: Administrative Offices, Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Ave. South, Tacoma, WA 98402.

Hegarty's book, the second edition of his original *Joy of Contracts* (American Library Association, Dallas, Texas, June 1979), has both strengths and weaknesses. The basic strength is one heck of a lot of information about how to negotiate and write a contract that will assure a library that it gets what it pays for from a turnkey automation system. The weaknesses involve the organization of the text, the writing style, the specific focus on automated circulation systems, and the physical format of the document.

First, the author has clearly fought his way through a contract negotiation for a turnkey "Computerized Library Circulation System." The first edition of this book was produced soon after that negotiation was completed. This second edition seems to be augmented on the basis of experience gained in living with the contract. The main text walks the reader through each element of a contract (e.g., terms of agreement, specification of governing law, schedule, acceptance testing, etc.), provides sample contract language and adds comments and recommendations for how to cope with specific problems (e.g., negotiation of system reliability standards, p. 3-4).

While the contract structure and the specification of contract elements may be useful, the real value of the book lies in the comments (e.g., the difference between two percent downtime and five percent downtime over one year is a system that is disabled for 140 additional hours). The practical value of these comments may be measured in wasted dollars, wasted staff hours, or frustrated library patrons. The section on system maintenance (p. 13-15)

alone, may be worth the cost of the book.

On the negative side of the ledger, the book is somewhat difficult to use, because of its organization. It is composed of a primary section—in outline form—on the elements of a contract between a library and a vendor, and seven secondary sections, including examples of plans, sub-agreements, and schedules (and a seventeen-item bibliography). That is all that appears in the table of contents and there is neither an introduction, an overview, nor an index. It is very difficult to find a specific topic of interest without skimming through the text itself.

Second, the body of the text is a mixture of sample (or recommended; it isn't clear) contract language (identifiable by use of the word "shall"), comments on the language of particular portions of the contract (sometimes labeled "comment" and sometimes not), and cross-references within the book itself (sometimes labeled "Note:"). The mixture of different elements—contract language, narrative, etc.—are sometimes confusing. Moreover, there are a number of small grammatical garbles which are slightly distracting. A bit of professional editing would make this document both more readable and more useful.

Third, Hegarty focuses on (or uses as an example; it isn't clear) automated circulation systems. This would be very useful if that is what the reader intends to buy. However, with a variety of other turnkey automated systems and sources for libraries on the market or soon to be made available (e.g., acquisitions, book fund accounting, cataloging, online bibliographic access), some language about how the contract should be redesigned or revised to account for different systems and services would have made the book more immediately useful to more readers.

Last, the book comes as a photocopy of a typed original, with a velo binding. The binding of the reviewer's copy broke apart

the first time it was opened. However, it should be possible to rebind or staple it together if this turns out to be a persistent problem.

On balance, for those about to negotiate a contract with a vendor of automated systems and services, the strengths of *More Joy of Contracts* probably outweigh the weaknesses. One gets what a contract says one will get; any help in writing a thorough, comprehensive, and airtight contract will be of use!—*Donald Thompson, University of California Systemwide Administration, Office of the President, Berkeley, California.*

Computer Science Resources: A Guide to Professional Literature. Compiled and edited by Darlene Myers. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, 1981. 346p. \$59.50 (ASIS members: \$47.60), paperback. ISBN 0-914236-80-6.

This comprehensive guide to the English-language literature of computer sciences

covers books, journals, technical reports, indexing and abstracting resources, directories, dictionaries, handbooks, newsletters, software resources, proceedings, programming languages, and publishers. Its appendixes give information relating to career and salary trends, societies and associations, academic computer-center libraries, commercial fairs and shows, and Myers' draft of a proposed expansion of the Library of Congress classification for the computer sciences. As Meyers states in the preface, "The work is designed to serve the needs of researchers, managers, librarians, consultants and systems analysts in academic, corporate and governmental data processing centers."

Computer Science Resources, divided into ten main sections with five appendixes at the back, is on the whole easy to use. Since the book does not have an index, its table of contents becomes the key to information access. Its wide margins together with fairly large print make it very readable. However, its unconventional arrangement of entries—letter by letter ignoring conjunctions and prepositions instead of word by word—can be misleading. For instance, "Computers and Urban Society" is arranged ahead of "Computer Survey." The word "and" and spaces between words are ignored; resulting in *Computersurban. . . filing before Computersurvey*. This practice does not follow the traditional library principle "nothing files before something." The explanation of the idiosyncratic entry arrangement is only given in the preface. When people use a book for quick reference, they usually skip the preface and the introduction; some users will probably miss many terms as a result.

The book is international in scope, relatively up-to-date, and informative. English titles published overseas, foreign publishers, and trade fairs and shows pertaining to the computer industry are included in the directory. Most titles mentioned have been published since 1970 and many citations are as recent as 1980. The annotations for each entry in "Indexing and Abstracting Resources," "Directories, Dictionaries, Handbooks," and "Software Resources" are very informative. It would have been ideal

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if titles in the "Current Books" and "Computer-Related Journals" were also annotated to aid users in selecting the materials.

Subject headings and cross-references used in various sections of the book are not always consistent. For example, in the section "Current Books," there is a see reference from "A.I. (Artificial Intelligence)" to "Cybernetics/Artificial Intelligence/Robots," but none from "Artificial Intelligence." However, in the section "Computer-Related Journals," the heading is "Artificial Intelligence" with a see also reference to "Cybernetics; Robots," but no reference from "A.I. (Artificial Intelligence)." In the "Current Books" section, "Careers/Vocational Guidance" is used as a subject heading. In the "Computer-Related Journals" section, "Employment" becomes the subject. There is no cross reference from either heading to the other in either section.

In the "Computer-Related Journals" section, preceding and succeeding titles are linked by cross-references. The history of title changes is outlined whenever applicable under the entries for the current titles. This information is invaluable especially for librarians in identifying variant journal titles. Although there are see references under most former titles to current titles, some entries are omitted for previous titles. For example, *Infosystems* was formerly called *Management and Business Automation* and later changed to *Business Automation* with the merging of *International Business Automation* and *International Edition Business Automation*. Then there was *Business Automation News Analysis Edition* published

as a supplement to *Business Automation*. Surprisingly there are no see references under "Business Automation" and "International Edition Business Automation" to "Infosystems." Maybe it is because "Business Automation" is quite similar to "Business Automation News Analysis Edition" and "International Edition Business Automation" is similar to "International Business Automation" and would have appeared close together if not adjacent to one another. Again some users may miss the links to the current titles. It might have been better to include a separate list for ceased journals.

Computer Science Resources is the result of monumental effort and years of thorough research and careful planning. Its compiler and editor, Darlene Myers has been very active in the computer and information science field, and is the manager of the Computing Information Center at the University of Washington. The wealth of information in the book and the currentness of cited materials are the prominent strengths. The flaws mentioned earlier are minor if users read the preface and the introduction in each section first. This reference tool is strongly recommended for computer industry libraries as well as for medium-sized and large public and academic libraries. Although more current, it does not wholly supplant Ciel Carter's *Guide to Reference Sources in the Computer Sciences* (New York: Macmillan, 1974). Carter's entries are all annotated, and some of the citations are not included in the newer work.—Frances Lau, *Blackwell/North America, Beaverton, Oregon.*