The Public-Access Computer Systems Review

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Editorial

By Charles W. Bailey, Jr.

Welcome to the Public-Access Computer Systems Review. The PACS Review publishes articles about all types of computer systems that libraries make available to their patrons. These include catalog systems (e.g., online catalogs and public use of bibliographic utilities), CD-ROM databases, computer-assisted instruction programs, end-user search services (e.g., Knowledge Index), expert systems, hypermedia programs, local multi-user database systems (e.g., BRS/Search), microcomputer facilities, and other public computer systems. The PACS Review also publishes articles about new computer technologies that are utilized to implement these systems. The PACS Review does not deal with integrated library systems (e.g., NOTIS), except as these systems are used by library patrons.

The PACS Review is an electronic journal. Articles are stored as files on the PACS Forum list server. The Contents section is sent to all PACS Forum users, who can retrieve articles of interest from the list server by following the instructions contained in that section. It is anticipated that most users will want to print the retrieved article files using their institutional mainframe computers or, for downloaded files, their PCs.

I wish to thank the members of the PACS Review Editorial Board for their useful suggestions (and lively debate) about the potentials and problems of this electronic publishing venture. If such a thing is possible, I have taken a "middle-of-the-road" approach to this electronic journal, deliberately incorporating certain aspects of traditional journals (e.g., pages) that may be artifacts of the print medium. More radical approaches were discussed, but I decided to start off a more moderate initial strategy. Nonetheless, I feel this is a pioneering venture, and I look forward to receiving your comments and article submissions.

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