

# Computer-Assisted Anthropology News

James Dow, Editor

Rodney Kirk, Associate Editor

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## CAAN Has a New Associate Editor

*James Dow*  
*Editor, CAAN*

We are pleased to have the able editorial assistance of Rodney Kirk, Professor of Anthropology, at Central Michigan University, who has joined CAAN as Associate Editor. His presence removes the constraint on the amount of news and articles that we can publish. Please continue to send in your news, abstracts, articles and whatever relates to the use of computers in anthropology. While I am on leave doing research in Mexico, Rod will be actng editor. Between June and November 1989, please send disks, other submissions, and all editorial correspondence to him at the Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48859. We can't be sure how well the electronic mail forwarding connections will be working during this time, so please use regular mail for secure contact. Please keep us informed. We still can use the help of other people who would like to contribute in other ways.

# Commercial Bibliographic Databases Relevant to Anthropology

*Diane Geraci  
Social Science Librarian,  
Bartle Library, State  
University of New  
York at Binghamton.*

Commercial bibliographic databases have proliferated from the early 1970s to the present. Originally offered to researchers through online search services in academic libraries, commercial database searching in the United States has become firmly established and even accessible to any individual with a computer, a modem, telecommunications software, the requisite fiscal resources, and the tenacity to master varied search protocols and databases with widely different structures and controlled vocabularies.

These databases predominantly include citations to journal articles and, to varying degrees, citations to technical reports, monographs, government publications, conference proceedings, book reviews, research-in-progress, and dissertations. Since databases are relatively recent creations and since it is costly to transform the written record into electronic format, commercial databases do not often cover periods before 1970.

The fee structures for accessing each database are as varied as the databases themselves. A few vendors offer access to most of the bibliographic databases. Charges may differ between vendors as well as between databases. There is a telecommunications charge, an on-line connect charge to the host computer, a charge for actually viewing citations on your computer screen, and a fee for printing citations off-line. The later is usually less expensive than downloading citations as they scroll on the screen. A government-subsidized database may only incur a charge of \$ .50 a minute connect

time and \$ .14 for an off-line print of a citation while another database may be less 'generous' and charge \$2.00 a minute connect time and \$ .46 for printing a citation.

To further assure nonconformity, the controlled vocabularies or subject terms assigned to each citation differ from database to database. Thus searching for a controlled term may only work well in one database and not in any other. One has the option of avoiding assigned subject terms altogether and employing free-text searching of all searchable fields; i.e. title, abstract, author, descriptor (assigned subject term), etc. However, this strategy has the potential for spurious results. Who would surmise that the term "followership" would elicit an article on the social relationship of dairy cows in a psychology database? Similarly, some terms are simply verboten in certain databases making searching across several databases with the same search strategy particularly difficult, e.g. politics in a political science database.

This brings us to the crux of the matter of searching for anthropology literature online – where to look. Not surprisingly, there is no one database which covers anthropology, frequently requiring searching several databases. As one would imagine, this is more successful for some research topics than others and often causes the duplication of a small number of citations. There is no mechanism for screening out already retrieved citations in one database from the next database you search. Yes, this means you pay twice for the same information.

An online bibliographic search can be most useful when beginning research on a subject which is peripheral to one's primary area of expertise or when exploring how researchers in other disciplines are handling a certain topic. Often commercial databases have print counterparts – indexes and abstracts with which we are already familiar. The advantage of the online search is not only in the speed of access to a vast array of literature, but also in the ease of combining several concepts in one search strategy and in the potential for electronic output.

The range of research materials relevant to the sub-fields of anthropology is enormous. Relevant information can be found in databases oriented towards the humanities and

sciences, as well as the social sciences. Although there is not one anthropology database, there are many databases which have something to offer researchers in social and cultural anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and biological and physical anthropology.

Libraries offer online searching as a standard service. Some libraries offer end-user search services where you do your own searching. Such services are frequently limited to nights and weekends at off-hour rates. Some services utilize front-end software which allows you to use one set of search protocols for more than one vendor and translates your request into the terms used in several databases. However, there may be a trade-off here between ease of searching and relevance and comprehensiveness of your search results.

Search results undoubtedly differ as a result of the searcher's knowledge of the subject matter, the disciplinary jargon, the idiosyncrasies of the databases searched, various search protocols and strategies, and, regrettably, fees charged for the search. The bottom line is that commercial database searching can be a costly endeavor. Proficiency in search strategies and knowledge of specific database features gained through training and experience can produce cost-effective and efficient searches.

Libraries widely differ in the costs they charge their users. Some offer searches on a cost-recovery basis thereby passing all charges to their patrons. Others subsidize their searches and only pass on a portion of the search fees to the requestor. Still others finance searches completely. Fiscal realities warrant accessing one's local situation before plunging into uncharted territory, i.e. the realm of do-it-yourself searching. Searches may range from a rare \$5 to look for a specific bit of information to easily \$100 to thoroughly comb a number of databases for citations on an interdisciplinary topic.

One strategy to defray search costs is to routinely write the potential costs for commercial database searches into research grants. This has become standard for researchers in the sciences and less often exercised by researchers in the humanities and social sciences. One reason for this is that databases in the sciences are generally more

developed and therefore have become more central to meeting research needs. Also, some disciplines are more dependent on very current information than others.

As in any field, numerous articles and books on on-line search strategies and the contents and structure of these commercial databases have been written. Likewise, vendors provide their own written manuals on how best to use their search software and provide search aids for each database - all for a fee of course. However, any academic and research library that routinely provides online searching should also provide access to their documentation if you choose to do your own searching. Contracts and passwords may be obtained directly from each vendor.

Unfortunately, the largest benefit of retrieving citations electronically is yet to be fully-realized. Downloading large search results can be prohibitively costly compared with having them printed off-line. Even though more and more databases allow for tagged output to be imported into another software package, this requires purchasing at least one if not two software packages to successfully convert output from an online database into your database manager for creation of a bibliography. Often a certain amount of 'cleaning up' is required before a file is ready to be imported. The bottom-line here is more costs and more time. Several software packages which are useful in this area are Notebook II and its companion program - Convert; Pro-Cite and its companion Biblio-Link products; and Excel.

Being aware of the scope of many of the databases available is important in constructing an online search request whether you execute the search yourself or prefer that it be performed by a librarian. I have had the benefit of several years of experience searching for topics as diverse as the impact of tourism on cultural identity, gender differences in the expression of emotions cross- culturally, land settlements in Central America, agricultural workers movements in southern Portugal, rock art in Africa, and the effect of nursing home design on the elderly.

Following is an annotated list of databases that I have found useful in searching for anthropology topics online. The

databases are available from the two most widely used vendors for online bibliographic information in libraries in the United States - BRS Information Technologies and Dialog Information Services, Inc. There are other vendors, some of which include European databases, and a variety of noncommercial databases that are not covered here.

The list is broken down into loose categories for ease of presentation. Clearly, there is overlap between the subfields within anthropology and I have taken this into consideration in most cases. The list is not inclusive of all databases offered by these two vendors. I have omitted very general databases which provide access to newspaper articles, book reviews, biographies, etc. and several very specific databases on topics such as health administration. Also note that update frequencies and currency vary from database to database.

The designation (B) and (D) appearing after the dates of coverage for each database listing indicates the vendor(s) which provide access to that database.

BRS Information Technologies (B) 1200 Route 7 Latham, New York 12110 800-345-4BRS	Dialog Information Services, Inc. (D) 3460 Hillview Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94304 800-3-DIALOG
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## **Annotated List of Commercial Bibliographic Databases**

*General (more than one  
subfield of anthropology)*

### **AGRICOLA**

- 1970-present (B,D)
- covers agriculture in broadest sense including agricultural economics, human nutrition, rural sociology
- includes U.S. Department of Agriculture and some Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) publications from the United Nations

**AGRIS**

- 1975-present (D)
- produced by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation
- covers world agricultural literature; all contributing sources are non-U.S.
- geography, economics, development, rural sociology, human nutrition, etc.

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES SEARCH**

- 1980-present (B,D)
- covers archaeology, folklore, language, linguistics, religious studies, etc.

**CAB ABSTRACTS (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux)**

- 1972-present (B,D)
- covers international agriculture in broadest sense and is strong on development issues, economics, sociology, and human nutrition
- contains Rural Development Abstracts, World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts, and Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews

**CURRENT CONTENTS SEARCH**

- weekly updates of tables of contents of journals (B,D)
- multidisciplinary and corresponds to various print counterparts

**DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS ONLINE**

- 1861-present (B,D)
- covers all American institutions, some Canadian and abroad

**GEOBASE**

- 1980-present (D)
- covers world literature on geography, geology, ecology, and related subject areas and includes all citations appearing in GEOGRAPHICAL ABSTRACTS and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ABSTRACTS

**GPO MONTHLY CATALOG**

- 1976-present (B,D)

- covers U.S. public documents of relevance to social sciences, agriculture, sciences, medicine, humanities, public policy, etc.

#### **NTIS (National Technical Information Service)**

- 1964-present (D); 1970-present (B)
- covers U.S. government sponsored research and reports prepared by non-U.S. governments and exchanged with U.S. federal agencies; USAID is one of the many agencies covered
- materials from both 'hard' and 'soft' sciences including agriculture and food, behavior and society, health planning, medicine and biology, natural resources, etc.

#### **POPULATION BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1966-1984 (D)
- produced by Carolina Population Center of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- covers international literature on population topics including demography, migration, population and development, fertility, family planning, and abortion with particular emphasis on socioeconomic aspects although some biomedical aspects are included
- coverage is extensive on Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Southeastern United States

#### **SOCIAL SCISEARCH**

- 1972-present (B,D)
- covers anthropology, archaeology, area studies, demography, ethnic studies, linguistics, etc.
- unique in that database allows you to see who has cited whom

#### **SSIE CURRENT RESEARCH (Smithsonian Science Information Exchange)**

- 1978-February 1982 (D)
- covers research-in-progress or completed in the time period covered and NRPs (Notice of Research Projects)
- social sciences, behavioral sciences, biological sciences, medical sciences, etc.

*Biological and Physical Anthropology*

**BIOSIS PREVIEWS**

- 1969-present (B,D)
- comprehensive coverage of English-language research in the life sciences
- human biology, human genetics, human nutrition, human physiology, etc.

**EMBASE**

- 1974-present (B,D)
- comprehensive index to world's literature on human medicine and related disciplines
- human genetics, development biology, human physiology, infectious disease, etc.

**ENVIRONMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1973-present (D)
- broad coverage of environmental sciences including human ecology, nutrition, and health

**FEDERAL RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

- current research (D)
- covers federally-funded research projects in the physical sciences, life sciences, and engineering
- U.S. agencies which contribute summaries include the National Institute of Health, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Agriculture, etc.

**GEOARCHIVE**

- 1969-present (D)
- covers all aspects of pure and applied geoscience including paleontology, stratigraphy, sedimentology, paleogeology ,

**GEOREF**

- 1785-present (North American materials) (D)
- 1960-present (worldwide) (D)
- produced by the American Geological Institute and covers paleontology, stratigraphy, geochronology

**LIFE SCIENCES COLLECTION**

- 1978-present (D)

- covers worldwide research literature in major areas of biology, medicine, ecology, and some aspects of agriculture

#### **MEDLINE**

- 1966-present (B,D)
- covers every aspect of biomedicine including human nutrition, human anatomy, human physiology, population and reproductive biology, etc.

#### **SCISEARCH**

- 1974-present (D)
- covers biomedical sciences, biology, earth sciences, environmental sciences, genetics, etc.

### *Linguistics*

#### **ERIC**

- 1966-present (B,D)
- includes language and linguistic studies as well as any topic of even remote relevance to education

#### **LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE BEHAVIOR ABSTRACTS**

- 1973-present (B,D)
- anthropological linguistics, applied linguistics, descriptive linguistics, sociolinguistics, structural linguistics, etc.

#### **MLA BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1964-present (D)
- theoretical and descriptive linguistics, comparative and historical linguistics, Indo-European linguistics, Asiatic linguistics, African linguistics, Afro-Asiatic linguistics, American Indian linguistics, non-verbal communication, etc.

### *Archaeology and Sociocultural Anthropology*

#### **AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE**

- 1964-present (D)
- American studies, cultural history, ethnic studies, folklore, oral history, prehistory, popular culture

**HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS**

- 1973-present (D)
- areas studies, cultural history, social sciences with historical perspectives

**MIDDLE EAST ABSTRACTS AND INDEX**

- 1980-? (D)
- covers interdisciplinary materials relating to the Arab world/Middle East region including anthropology, archaeology, Islam, religion, agriculture, Arab-Israeli conflict, etc.
- countries which are included are Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

**MIDEAST FILE**

- 1979-present (D)
- produced by Shiloah Centre for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University and Learned Information Ltd.
- anthropology, Islam, history, law, population, etc.
- countries included are: Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the Gulf States

**PAIS INTERNATIONAL**

- 1972-present (PAIS Foreign Language Index) (B,D)
- 1976-present (PAIS Bulletin) (B,D)
- covers all social sciences including social anthropology, demography, sociology

**PSYCINFO**

- 1967-present (B,D)
- covers worldwide literature in psychology and related behavioral and social sciences
- culture, ethnology, religion, social structure, social roles, personality, psycholinguistics, etc.

**RELIGION INDEX**

- 1949-1959, 1975-present - periodicals (B,D)
- covers all religions and theological points of view

- history of religion, Middle Eastern archaeology, mythology, sociology and religion, ancient religions, Islam, culture, anthropology and ethnology, etc.

#### **SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS**

- 1963-present (B,D)
- corresponds to print index of same name and SOPODA (Social Planning/Policy Development Abstracts)
- covers world literature in sociology and related disciplines
- culture and social structure, social change and economic development, rural and urban sociology, demography and human biology
- SOPODA portion of database covers Third World development including women's roles and impact of western technology; impact of modernization on peasant and tribal societies; population issues including famine, food shortages, birth control, and health care education

## The Anthropology Toolkit

*James Dow*

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Rochester, MI 48309 U.S.A. -  
dowjw@vax.secs.oakland.edu*

An obvious problem for anthropologists is finding computer programs that are particularly useful in their line of work. Anthropologists can learn about software through the ordinary sources of information about computers, such as computer centers, magazines, computer stores, advertising, etc. Some anthropological work is similar to that performed in related sciences, so anthropologists utilize sources of computer information developed in other fields. However, there are many tasks that are special to anthropology and for which there is no good source of software information. In many cases, software developed for some other purpose or

for general use is adequate for the anthropological use; yet no one has catalogued it and labeled it for that purpose. It may go unnoticed because it takes a great deal of time to investigate the potential use of software not specifically designed for a particular use.

A solution to this problem is to develop a data base of information on software that is **indexed by the anthropological use of the software**, thus connecting a need to the software that can meet it and saving time searching. CAAN can help to develop such a data base, and I see no reason why it should not. Thus CAAN is issuing a call for contributions to what will be called the **Anthropology Toolkit (A-Tk)**. It will be a data base on software for all types of computers and for all types of anthropological applications. It will highlight information on the performance of the software in accomplishing an anthropological task. Contributors of the information may or may not add their names to the information. The information will be published in CAAN when it is received and added to a master database that will be distributed later.

Contributors should submit additions to the database electronically, via disk or network. If the software already exists in the toolkit, just submit the extra information on the new anthropological application, otherwise use the complete form that follows. Please do not hesitate to include common software, such as Lotus or Jazz if it has been used in some non-obvious way peculiar to a field of anthropology. Please do not submit information about a program that you have not used successfully for the purpose indicated. The information need not be long or detailed. The main goal of the **A-Tk** is to connect tasks to software, not to document the program..

When users submit software that they themselves have written, but can not distribute, it is suggested that the software be placed in an anonymous FTP directory on an Internet computer. Submissions of information to the **A-Tk** will not imply any support of the software or its application by the person making the submission. Readers of the **A-Tk** will normally be on their own in using it, but it is hoped that they will feedback their experience to the **A-Tk**.

## Anthropology Toolkit Submission Form

Please insert the information in place of the label appearing between < and >.

**%Program:**<*name of the program*>

**%Operating system:**<*name of the operating system for the program*>

**%Computer:**<*the type of computer on which the program runs*>

**%Source availability:**<*“yes” if the source code is available, “no” if it is not available*>

**%General description:**<*Explain very briefly – if possible in one sentence or less – what this program does.*>

**%Anthropological use:**<*Tell in what kind of anthropological work you have used this program.*>

**%Keywords:**<*List keywords and combinations thereof describing the anthropological work done by this program.*>

**%Available from:**<*Tell how one can get a copy of this program. If it is available only on a limited basis to researchers in the same field or is under development and will be available later, please say so.*>

**%Contributor:**<*Name, address, and electronic mailbox of contributor*>

**%Contributor contact:**<*“yes” if you want your name and address in the data base, “no” if you don’t want your name and address in the database*>

Please send this form for publication to: CAAN at the editorial address appearing at the end of this issue. We would prefer to receive it in electronic form, either on a microcomputer disk or via network mail. Contributors will receive a copy of the issue in which their computer tool is published. The toolkit will be indexed by anthropological application.

# KBPAK

*A-Tk entry submitted by Russ Bernard*

*Anthropology, 1350  
Turlington, Univ. of Florida,  
Gainesville, FL 32611.*

UFRUSS@NERVM.BITNET

*The appearance of software in the A-Tk implies no commitment to maintain or distribute the software by CAAN or by the person making the contribution.*

Keyword(s): **network analysis**

Program **KBPAK** runs on an **IMB or compatible** under the **MS-DOS** operating system. General description: Uses rank-order data, supplied by respondents, about respondents' communications/interactions with others in a group. Produces a network analysis picture of the structure of communications in the group, based on perceived interactions.

Anthropological use: network studies of organizations, both formal and informal. Source code is available.

## Computer Solutions to Anthropological Problems

A symposium devoted to computer applications in anthropology was held in November 1988 at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. The symposium was organized by Gurcharan S. Khanna and Michael D. Fischer. The papers presented were *An Anthropology of Computing Anthropologists: Computers and Social Anthropology at the University of Kent* by Jeremy S. Eades (Univ. of Kent); *Kinsfolk and Honest Neighbours* by Janet Bagg (Univ. of Kent); *Towards an Integrated*

*Graphical System for Archaeological Excavation* by Nick S. Ryan (Univ. of Kent); *Modeling Folk Knowledge as Expert Systems* by Dwight Read (UCLA) and Clifford A. Behrens (UCLA); and *Computer Assisted Ethnography: Arranging a Marriage in Pakistan* by Michael D. Fischer (Univ. of Kent).

Abstracts of some of the papers are printed below.

BAGG, Janet (Kent, Canterbury) KINSFOLK AND HONEST NEIGHBOURS This paper describes research into social relations in an early modern English village over a period of a hundred years. Particular attention is paid to the importance and spheres of kin and co-villager relationships examined within the context of life-cycle and gender. Problems concerning the feasibility of reconstructing relationships from several types of documentary source are explored and the status of the models built is examined critically. Approaches to computer use in data organization and model building which have a wider relevance within social anthropology are considered.

RYAN, Nick S. (Kent, Canterbury) TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED GRAPHICAL SYSTEM FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION Stratigraphic sequence diagrams provide information about the physical structure of excavated sites and act as keys to further information about excavated contexts and materials. They are valuable components within manual information retrieval systems. This paper examines how they may be incorporated in a computer-based information retrieval system for archaeological excavation. An interactive graphical tool is used to generate two and three-dimensional representations of stratigraphic sequences. Interaction with these diagrams provides access to textual and graphical representations and enables examination of site models at any stage of excavation.

READ, Dwight and BEHRENS, Clifford (UCLA) MODELING FOLK KNOWLEDGE AS EXPERT SYSTEMS We note the convergence in concepts between what cultural anthropologists call "folk knowledge" and what artificial intelligence researchers call "expertise." The suggestion that culture is "rule-based" points to the possibility of production rules and expert systems for representing knowledge embedded in culture. This paper explores the

potential of integrating ideas from anthropology with artificial intelligence by analyzing existing expert system models of native decision-making. It seems that anthropology can contribute knowledge organization structures to expert systems research, whereas expert systems research offers software tools for representing folk knowledge.

FISCHER, Michael D. (Kent, Canterbury) COMPUTER ASSISTED ETHNOGRAPHY: ARRANGING A MARRIAGE IN PAKISTAN Arranging a marriage is an important activity for the residents of Greentown, a community in Lahore, Pakistan. It is a complex and risky enterprise with no obvious 'correct' or unique solution. This is a preliminary report on the construction of a computational model in the field that represents some of the knowledge underlying arranging marriages; constructed interactively and incrementally, with supervision by indigenous consultants. The paper addresses some of the limitations and the horizons of computer use in the field.

## November Symposia

Symposia are being planned for the next meeting of the American Anthropological Association which will take place from November 15 through 19, 1989, in Washington, D.C.

### **Computer Based Solutions to Anthropological Problems**

Symposium Title: *Computer Based Solutions to Anthropological Problems*. Organizers: Michael Fischer, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Kent, and Dwight Read, Dept. of Anthropology, UCLA.

ABSTRACT: Anthropologists have recognized that many anthropological problems can be handled more easily with the assistance of computers. Too often, however, anthropologists are unaware of the extent to which computers can be applied, or how others have applied them. Papers in this symposium address computer applications in historical anthropology, archaeology, ethnographic fieldwork, the modelling of folk knowledge, and the role that computing anthropologists may take in shaping the future of the discipline. It serves as a forum in which anthropologists of all levels of technical experience can discuss their computer solutions, or the need for solutions, to anthropological problems.

### Expert systems

Oswald Werner (Northwestern) and David Guillet (Catholic University) were also planning to organize another session on the use of expert systems in anthropology.

## More on ASKSAM

*Frank J. Sanders*  
*Professor Emeritus,*  
*Towson State University*

Mr. Kling's article (CAAN 3(1)) "Brief Reviews of three text database management systems (with commentary)" would be helpful to a good number of people searching for a good TDBMS. However his comments on ASKSAM are based on Version 3 of ASKSAM, which was superseded in September 1987 by Version 4 and subsequently by Version 4.1. I have communicated with Mr. Kling to that effect and given him replies to several of his criticisms. Previous to acquiring ASKSAM, I used NOTEBOOK. It was a good

program, but for my purposes ASKSAM 4.1 was just what I had been looking for.

1. When one is entering material in ASKSAM, i.e. typing it in (as opposed to importing from a file), and reaches the last line, one simply EXPANDS the document and it will add another (or as many as you wish) “screen” of 20 lines. For example, in a bibliography I may have a FIELD named COMMENT into which I enter 20 or more lines of text, when I reach the end of the page I EXPAND and continue entering material, etc. One may import material from another file (ASKSAM or NON-ASKSAM) into that same FILE. AskSam Systems has developed utilities for importing DBASE, comma delimited, or fixed position files into askSam. You can either download these utilities from the Bulletin Board (whose number is 904-584-8287) or order them from AskSam Systems.

2. To the objection “program records are mixed in with all other data records in a data file” etc. It is true PROGRAMS are right in the data files but I have not had any trouble on that score. Programs begin with a colon and then the name of the program, which distinguishes them from data records or documents. In one 185K file I have at least 4 programs which access and output the material in several different ways, and ASKSAM never has confused data with programs. ASKSAM’s new version HELP screens are very extensive and easily accessible without leaving the file on which one is working.

3. Text fields can be as long as one requires, a page of text may easily be expanded to add as many screens as one wishes, and may be “OUTPUT” beyond 20 lines using a label/loop in the program. Size of a database does not seem to be a problem for ASKSAM. It may be a problem for the hardware one has, size of memory, etc. I have several databases of 140 to 180 K and with ASKSAM’s GLOBAL/HYPertext can search for a word, phrase, name, etc. and access over 1 MB of material in a variety of formats (bibliographies, book lists, address lists, research notes, grade program, a tickler file, etc.).

4. A program will have to be changed to change the output. But that is simple enough to do. In rewriting

a PROGRAM, I generally use ASKSAM's easy editing or copying ability, copy from the old program into a newly named (let us say :SAMPLE2) program within the same file and then make the necessary changes and still retain the old program. One could create an ASKSAM file which would contain all PROGRAMS for output and simply copy from it. Be creative!

5. With ASKSAM's copying or moving ability, not only may one move text within a record or field, but may easily move text to another record or indeed another file.

Within ASKSAM's QUERY or UPDATE mode one may browse through an entire file and REMEMBER whatever records one wishes for later OUTPUT to DISK or PRINTER. This feature is somewhat akin to NOTEBOOK's "views".

In the 4.1 version, HELP is available anywhere, anytime by pressing F1, and, using their HYPERTEXT, easily flows to related topics. While I use it, I much prefer a new manual a (4.1) wherein I might make notations, etc. ASKSAM has very good technical support and a Bulletin Board with a variety of useful programs and files, such as Election Returns, Bibliography programs, Grade Programs - yes, ASKSAM does some number crunching too. A DEMO Disk of Version 4 is available from the board or directly from ASKSAM. (Bulletin Board number is listed above.)

If I may of any help or anyone wishes to discuss other possibilities send a note to Frank J. Sanders, Professor Emeritus, c/o Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Towson State University, Towson, Maryland 21204, or E7H4SAN@TOWSONVX.

# National Collegiate Software Clearinghouse

The National Collegiate Software Clearinghouse is distributing new data and software of interest to anthropologists. The following can be obtained from them at the address below.

**Ethnographic Hypertext** (Douglas R. White, University of California, Irvine, ed.) Two disks of tutorials. Disk 1, created as a class project, is "Four Cultures", on LA gangs, hippies Hispanics, Arawak Indians. Disk 2 is a set of ethnography lessons by Duane Metzger and Karol Ortiz, created as a part of U.C. Irvine fieldwork in Tijuana, Mexico. Created with and illustrates class use of PC-Hypertext (see listing under "Education and Authoring Systems"). Ver. 1.0 \$23. (UG)

**HRAF Research Series in Quantitative Cross-Cultural Data** The data on these volumes are formatted to be compatible with SAS, SPSS, SYSTAT, and many other micro and mainframe statistical packages allowing fixed-format data. The data disks come in 6 formats: Lotus 1-2-3, dBASE, SPSS/PC, comma-delimited ASCII, Standard Data Format (a.k.a., column-aligned or fixed format ASCII, used by many mainframe applications), and DIF. Codebooks included. Newly released: Volume III: Magico-Religious Practitioners and Trance States (by M. Winkelmann and D. White, UC.Irvine; ed. by D. Levinson and R.A. Wagner). Data on 260 variables on 115 magico-religious practitioners from 45 societies, including coverage of health, economics, propitiation, altered states of consciousness. Ver 1.0. \$40.(UG)

**Paleontology and Anthropometry** (Kenneth L. Beals, Courtland L. Smith, and Stephen M. Dodd, Oregon State University) Data on human fossils, dates, and their characteristics, and on contemporary populations and their anthropometric characteristics, edited by Douglas R. White for World Cultures. Comes with a menu-driven system for data

retrieval, listing, world and zoom mapping, cross-tabulation, and saving output to disk. Ver. 1.0. \$28.(UG)

The NCSC represents some 80 faculty software authors from a wide range of institutions of higher learning and, in addition, develops its own software and makes available selected user-supported packages. A free catalog is available from NCSC, Duke University Press, 6697 College Station, Durham, NC 27708; 919-737-3067.

## *Product Announcements*

# BIB, The Anthropologist's Bibliography Manager

BIB was originally written by a graduate student in anthropology to circumvent the tedious task of typing in formatted bibliographies. The proximate cause for writing the program was a submission to *American Antiquity* being turned down (due to an apparent failure of the refereeing process), necessitating the conversion of the bibliography to another journal's style. Copies of the original program were passed out to a number of friends and colleagues who found it useful, and it is due to their urging that a somewhat expanded version is now for sale.

The main use of BIB is to enter bibliographic references painlessly (by being prompted) and later to have them dumped to an output file formatted for an anthropological journal. The output file is then attached to the body of a paper, either with the DOS COPY command or by reading it in with a word processor. Bibliographies already entered into a word processor can also be read into BIB, after they've been edited a bit and converted to plain ascii.

Some database functions have now been added to BIB. Errors can be easily corrected, and entries can be deleted. Keywords can be attached to references, and one can do limited keyword searches. Control characters can be used if your word processor requires them. In creating output files, references can be selected individually, or output can be selected automatically.

The program is intended to be a handy and cheap way for anthropologists to manage their bibliographies. True bibliographicists interested in full-featured databases are referred to Wachtel's review <sup>1</sup> of five bibliographic programs ranging from \$195 to \$678.

BIB runs on IBM compatibles with at least 256K or RAM. It doesn't require a hard disk or co-processor. It has been beta-tested on IBM, Compaq, AT&T, Leading Edge, and several generic clones. However, on some clones you may encounter slight difficulties when the program is writing directly to the video buffer. When returning from BROWSE-EDIT mode to BROWSE mode, the keyword box might not reappear properly. Even if this happens, the program is still functional; but if you are dissatisfied with the appearance of the screen, write for a refund. BIB Version 3.2 works best with WordStar. It also works with WordPerfect and other major word processors with the exception of Microsoft Word.

BIB is available for \$30.00 US from BIB, Post Office Box 8143, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-8143.

*[Editor's comment: A copy of BIB has been received by CAAN and is available for review.]*

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<sup>1</sup> *Science* 235:1093. Also see *Science* 238:985

# “Computer Applications for Anthropologists” a New Book

A new book entitled “Computer Applications for Anthropologists” edited by Margaret S. Boone and John J. Wood is being published by Wadsworth.

It represents one of the first attempts to draw together in one book a variety of experiences by anthropologists who all use research designs that involve a modern mainframe or microcomputer. It is primarily a methodology text whose chapters illustrate applications of anthropological theory and method in problem-solving projects. Each project is set firmly on a foundation of anthropological theory and method, and each project shows how computers assisted legitimate research goals. Applications range from the simple use of a computer to store and display research results, to complex examples involving multivariate analysis. The contributors show how the use of a computer made their work less laborious, or more complex, or just different. They illustrate the ways in which computer-assisted methods can be integrated into the use more traditional anthropological approaches. All contributors are professional anthropologists (with the exception of the second author of Chapter 2, who is a telecommunications consultant).

Anthropological research projects on wide range of topics are included. Research subjects include Native Americans, Sri Lankans, farmers in Cameroon, inner-city Black Americans, and migrant farm workers. The chapters include topics in ethnology, archeology, and physical anthropology. There are two chapters on skeletal analysis, and one on an historic preservation project. Language use is also illustrated in the chapter on kinship analysis and the chapter on multi-dimensional analysis (which involves naming and perceiving). Most of the techniques for storage, display, analysis, and expert decision-making (artificial intelligence) can be used equally well in all of anthropology’s subdisciplines. The text

is also ideal for applied anthropology students since many chapters have a practical, applied component, and authors have taken pains to point out program and policy implications of their work. Audience

## Submitting Material to CAAN

CAAN publishes both articles and news relating to the use of computers in all branches of anthropology. Submit news and articles to The Editor, CAAN, Dept. of Soc. and Anth., Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48063, U.S.A. We prefer to have the articles submitted electronically either on disk or over a computer network. Articles should be submitted as plain ascii files. MS-DOS disks are preferred, but other disk formats including Macintosh are acceptable.

CAAN now has its own  $\text{\TeX}$  style. Paragraphs should be separated by blank lines. Formatting should be indicated by Plain  $\text{\TeX}$  commands or by the placement of ascii text. Italic font can be indicated by  $\{\text{\it <italicized text>}\}$  Macro forms have been set up for CAAN. When you want to include a special item such as a new section heading, Place it the bracketed area of a macro, in the case of a section heading, inside the brackets of the `section` macro. The CAAN macros are:

```
\caantitle{<title of article>}
\cannauthor{<author of article>}{<author's affiliation>}
\caanfoot{<footnote text>}
\section{<section title>}
\subsection{<sub-section title>}
\subsubsection{<sub-sub-section title>}
```

References and bibliographies should be in the style of the *American Anthropologist* and should make use of the macro form:

```
aabib{<author(s)>}{<year and rest of entry>>
```

# Subscribing to CAAN

CAAN costs \$6.00 US per volume of four issues for individual subscribers and \$12.00 US per volume for institutional subscribers. Back issues are available for \$1.50 US apiece for individuals and \$3.00 apiece for institutions. Please pay for subscriptions with a check drawn on a United States bank and payable to the Computer-Assisted Anthropology News. Subscribers who have not paid for a volume will receive invoices in one of the issues of that volume. They should mail in their subscription money to continue receiving the remaining issues of that volume. Please send all subscription money and subscription correspondence to the subscription address at the end of this issue. The subscription funds help to pay for the printing and mailing. Foreign subscriptions are welcome. At present, foreign subscriptions do not cost more; however the price of foreign subscriptions may go up without notice because the expense of mailing is much greater. At present CAAN is publishing two issues (half a volume) per year on an irregular schedule.

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