
Links in the Information Chain

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IN recent years, national bibliographic services have become more and more an important element of the information world. There are different reasons: the increasing number of publications requires an early and precise survey of book production, and an effective instrument for selection by libraries, booktrade, documentation centres, etc. The development of book production is going to be even more voluminous and more complicated in future — by new forms of production (desk top publishing), by new media (electronic publishing), and by new forms of distribution.

National bibliographic services today are no longer limited to a bibliographic record, for example in form of a printed bibliography, but they themselves have become part of the electronic development, and they

present themselves through electronically produced and distributed services or information. The electronic medium is changing the static role of yesterday into a dynamic service of information by reason of the possibility of easy manipulation, of precise selection, of different presentation and of varied technical distribution. Bibliographic services may be distributed on different carriers, like magnetic tape, or CD-ROM up to international telecommunication networks; they may be adapted to different groups of users by partial selection and by different functions to assist selection and acquisition activities, cost-effective cataloguing, information searching and retrieval for document supply. The economic effect of national bibliographic services is impressive. As literature supply and literature demand are border