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New CD-ROMS

Diskrom Australia has recently released the New South Wales Statutes on CD-ROM. The New South Wales government has waived Crown copyright in the statutes. The CD-ROM contains consolidated NSW principal acts and regulations. Annual subscription is \$1,750 and updates will be monthly.

The Law Book Company has recently announced its move into publishing in CD-ROM format with two services, *The Australian Digest* and *The Laws of Australia* on CD-ROM, utilising Folio software. The two CD-ROM services are to be released in July/August this year and for more information contact Anthony Notaras, Product Manager on (02) 886 6305.

Internet Resources: West's Legal Directory

Law firm librarians may find this resource of great interest, particularly if their firm has an international presence or United States offices or clients.

West's Legal Directory, a compilation of law firms, government offices, corporate law offices and individual lawyers from all 50 states of the US and its territories is now available as a searchable database through the Washburn University Law Library Information Server, Washlaw (see my column in the previous issue of this journal). It contains over 675,000 profiles of United States law

firms and branch offices and includes biographical records of individual attorneys in each firm listed.

The directory is WAIS indexed. WAIS stands for Wide Area Information Server and is an implementation of the Z39.50 protocol which is slowly inching its way to becoming a standard in the United States for computer-to-computer communication. The idea behind Z39.50 was to allow people to search remote databases using the software of a local database with which they were familiar and thus doing away with the need to learn many different database search commands.

The *West's Directory* on the Internet has all the normal search functionality most of us have become accustomed to with either CD-ROMs or external commercial databases. Boolean connectors and proximity operators can be used and there are many searchable fields such as LO for law office, NA for personal names and GEO for addresses. Three particularly useful fields are PRA for practice area (when you need to find a lawyer with expertise in a particular area), BIO for biography, which allows identification of practitioners with special skills such as foreign languages, or their representative clients and representative cases, and NT for narrative-text, a field which describes major areas of practice within a law firm. Various other searchable fields are also available.

There is a SEARCH TIPS file which you can e-mail very easily to yourself with the stroke of a few keys, following the straightforward instructions on the screen.

You invoke the self-e-mail function by pressing the P key while you are actually reading the file.

You can access the *Westlaw Directory* in a number of ways

Telnet to : acc.wuacc.edu

Login as : Washlaw or Lawnet

Choose the menu item : "Virtual" Law Reference Desk and space bar through the next level of menu choices until you come to the segment headed NEW REFERENCE SOURCES. The *Directory* is directly under this heading.

Alternatively, if you prefer to point your gopher client, the details are :

Type = 1

Name = *West's Legal Directory* via WAIS

Path = :dir/wld

Host = wld.westlaw.com

Port = 70

On the other hand if you are fortunate enough to have access to a World Wide Web browser such as Mosaic or Cello, then your navigation details are :

URL : gopher://wld.westlaw.com:70/1 dir/wld

Lexis Stop Press News

EDUPAGE, an Internet newsletter, has relayed snippets from the *New York Times* and the *Toronto Financial Post* to the effect that Mead Data Central is about to sell Lexis/Nexis. Possible buyers are cited as the Canadian-based Thomson Corporation, Reed International PLC, New York Times Co or AT & T. By the time you read this column the sale may have been finalized.

Civil Procedure ACT

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Civil Procedure ACT, the first looseleaf service tailored to the needs of practitioners in the Territory, will publish in May 1994.

The work provides, in one volume, the essential legislation for both the Supreme Court and Magistrates Court, with expert annotations.

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