

This would be slightly lower with a 2400 or 9600 baud modem and averages around \$31 if offline prints (\$.25 per record) are substituted for online types. The annual cost of SilverPlatter's PsycLIT multiuser subscription is roughly equivalent to 145 to 165 DIALOG searches per year. End-users in Hamilton Library's busy CD-ROM reference area perform more than 165 searches per week. However, since most libraries charge their patrons for online searches, the end-users are saving the money, not the libraries.

SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

Sociological Abstracts is available online on several online systems including DIALOG and on SilverPlatter CD-ROM. The CD-ROM version is known as *sociofile*. Like Psychological Abstracts, the online and CD-ROM versions have some notable differences. *Sociological Abstracts online* (DIALOG File 37) includes journal articles, book reviews, monographs, conference papers, dissertations, and other miscellaneous document types. It is updated five times per year and covers 1963 to the present. *sociofile* is a subset of Sociological Abstracts that includes only journal articles and dissertations. The CD-ROM is updated thrice yearly and covers 1974 to the present [10]. (Both the DIALOG file and the *sociofile* disk include a second database, the Social Planning/Policy and Development Abstracts, *SOPODA*.)

DIALOG charges \$69 per hour for Sociological Abstracts, plus telecommunications network charges, and \$.45 per full record **TYPED** online or **PRINTED** offline. The annual cost of SilverPlatter's *Sociofile* is \$2995 for a networked/multiuser system or \$1950 for a single user system.

Sociofile was searched on the University of Hawaii's LAN. We did the online searching on a 2400 baud modem to see if the response time variations noted in the psychology searches would be greater at that speed.

Strategies

We obtained six sample DIALOG search strategies from Sociological Abstracts, Inc. and translated them into equivalent SilverPlatter search statements (see Appendix beginning on page 49). The strategies use search capabilities common to both systems. All the

searches use field limiting to one or more fields. As discussed above, DIALOG has the advantage since it allows multiple field limiters per concept, while SilverPlatter allows only single field limits. Thus, on SilverPlatter, the set must be limited to each field separately and then these sets must be

ORed. For example, in searches V [divorce mediation] and VI [intervention programs for pregnant teens], the searches were limited to the Title, Descriptor, and Index Phrase fields.

For some complex strategies DIALOG has another advantage since the strategy may be entered as one statement, while

Comments Regarding Update Discrepancy

I would like to clarify the issue of updating PsycLIT, which cited my findings with the response of the database producer in an Editor's Note. I think that the reason for discrepancy between us is the interpretation of the concept of update date versus availability date.

The publisher indeed enters records *each month* into a database, and this is obvious from browsing the date of update (UD=) field of PsycLIT. However, this is rather the date of entry, as the CD-ROM version is updated only *every third month* (this is the closing date on the external label of the CD-ROM). The production and the delivery of the CD-ROM database add another few weeks of delay.

For users the real time-lag is the time elapsed from the date of publication of the source document to the date when the CD-ROM database is received. The enclosed figure shows the date of entry values (update dates in PsycLIT balance), the closing dates and the dates when a new issue of PsycLIT was received at the Hamilton Library of the University of Hawaii. In the best case, i.e., if a record carries an UD=8903 field, it reached users by May, 1989, i.e., only a two-month delay relative to the update date, but records with the UD=8904 field were available to users only in August, 1989, i.e., a four-month delay relative to the update date.

When calculating the real time-lag, one should add approximately three months to the update date to arrive at a realistic number. This is like sales tax, and shipping and handling costs. Even if net price is quoted, the customer has to write the check for the gross price including tax and S&H charges. Quoting both gross and net time-lag figures may spare any ambiguity and serve the users best.

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The Dates Game

Date of entry update(?) date	Quarterly closing date	Receipt date
8705		Subscr. begins for Univ. of Hawaii in the first quarter of 1989
8706	June, 1987	
.....		
.....		
8812	Dec., 1988	
8901		
8902		
8903	March, 1989	
8904		
8905		05-11-89
8906	June, 1989	
8907		
8908		08-01-89
8909	Sept, 1989	
8910		10-25-89
8911		
8912	Dec., 1989	
9001		01-03--90
9002		
9003	March, 1990	
9004		
9005		05-08-90
9006	June, 1990	
9007		
9008		08-01-90
9009	Sept, 1990	
9010		
9011		11-14-90
9012	Dec., 1990	
9101		
9102		02-10-91
9103	March, 1991	
9104		
9105		05-07-91