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ComdisDome: Communication Sciences and Disorders Information Service (Review)

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DATABASE & DISC REVIEWS

EDITOR: CHERYL LaGUARDIA

ELECTRONICALLY SPEAKING...we asked, and we received: Sage gave us easy review access to the rest of its Full-Text Collections, and it was worth the wait; a new World Bank Group file will pique the interest of business researchers; and two files targeted at specialized audiences will likely be invaluable to the libraries that serve them.

WEB **COMDISDOME: COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS INFORMATION SERVICE**

ContentScan, Inc. (858-452-1264, x102; sales@contentscan.com, www.comdisdome.com)

Date reviewed: 8/17/03

Price: Negotiated by site.

ComDisDome is a one-stop shopping index for speech-language pathologists and audiologists. It provides access to books, journal articles, dissertations, authors, web sites, and institutions. Coverage includes hundreds of monographs, nearly 100 journal titles, and all the dissertations for which ProQuest's UMI assigns the subject headings audiology or speech-language pathology.

Contributing publishers include Allyn & Bacon, Cambridge University Press, Elsevier Science (Academic Press, Butterworth-Heinemann, Mosby, Saunders), Lawrence Erlbaum, MIT Press, and Thieme Medical Publishers. Journals indexed include *American Annals of the Deaf*, *The American Journal of Otolaryngology*, *Brain and Cognition*, *Current Opinion in Otolaryngology & Head and Neck Surgery*, *Hearing Research*, *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*, *The Laryngoscope*, and *Noise and Health*. Content is updated continually.

ComDisDome delivers exactly what it promises. It saves researchers time by searching multiple content sources in a single search, it provides access to high-quality relevant information, and it connects to full-text purchase options. Content has been culled from reputable sources in the field of communication sciences and disorders (for detailed information visit www.comdisdome.com/selectionprocess.html). Content is chosen "based both on objective statistical analysis of citation records and keyword frequencies as well as expert editorial input from leaders in [the] profession."

The basic search form is a straightforward fill in the blank, but the Ad-



vanced Search form enables greater precision by supporting keyword searches within specific fields. The choices here are title, author, ISSN, and ISBN. It would be helpful if in future versions users could search by subject or by keywords in the abstract.

The result screen displays as a series of tabs (reminiscent of Windows). Each tab is labeled with the type of resource (e.g., books, articles, dissertations, etc.) and the number of hits within each category. A search for the word "stuttering" found 118 monographs, 974 articles, 249 dissertations, 91 scholars working in the field (with their contact information), and 1,957 web resources. A link at the bottom of the result screen makes it easy for users to save information with the "My folders" feature. There is also a handy button for exporting citations to EndNote, RefManager, or ProCite. Something this resource offers that most online catalogs can't is the full table of contents and a full resource bibliography for each book, in their entirety. This is a great way for researchers to "browse" a book online before deciding whether to attempt to locate it.

Librarians may appreciate the Topic Guide, a Yahoo-style list of general topics that can expand into "more" and "more specific." This well-organized list is also a nice framework for beginning students of communication disorders. The full text of the complete *Dictionary of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology* is also included (although it isn't easy to find; a link to it from the results page would be helpful in future versions).

While full text is not provided, **ComDisDome** does offer an SFX-style quick connection to any databases (free or pay services) to access the article. It also

links to a list of "select" libraries owning the paper copy. However, libraries are not listed logically (neither alphabetically nor geographically) so it is necessary to scroll or do a "find in page" to locate a specific library. It is advisable to make sure your library is represented in the "select" list before you subscribe. **ComDisDome** promises, and delivers, at least one link to a provider for every item.

The "Help Center" is excellent. Not only is there a helpful online manual, but there is an effective animated tutorial. The online manual also gives researchers tips on the Save and Share feature that allows users to set up a folder with other users.

The Bottom Line: Relatively easy to use, and chock-full of more information about book contents than most online records, this file is highly recommended for medical libraries, academic, and public libraries serving health science researchers.—*Elizabeth McKeigue, Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.*

WEB **GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE (GDF) ONLINE**

World Bank Group (800-645-7247; books@worldbank.org)

publications.worldbank.org/eresources

Date reviewed: 7/25/03

Price: \$400.

The **Global Development Finance (GDF) Online** database is the electronic version of the World Bank's statistical directory of developmental country finance (before 1997 it was available for many years as *World Debt Tables*). It makes available a wealth of historical as well as current data on the debt and financial flows for 138 countries.

The change in title marks a shift in the number of these investments that are made. The typical source of funding today is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), a more important source of finance for developing countries than private lending. These are the sorts of trends that can be tracked from the data in this database. So the focus here is on country investment data as well as the credit valuation of a country, necessary to assess investment prospects.

Full commentary and tables from the annual yearbook are not available in this database but are available for the current and last year at the World Bank web site. Consequently, those needing to archive the commentary should be careful about eliminating the print subscription in case these archives are not perpetuated at the web

LEGEND

Web-based Database

CD-ROM

Cheryl LaGuardia is the Head of Instructional Services for the Harvard College Library, author of *Becoming a Library Teacher* (Neal-Schuman, 2000), and winner of the 1996 Louis Shores-Oryx Press Award for Excellence in Reviewing