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[Review of] Motif-index of Folk Literature: New Enl. and Rev Ed.; CD-ROM Ed.

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CD-ROM

Thompson, Stith. **Motif-index of folk literature: new enl. and rev ed.; CD-ROM ed.** Indiana, 1993. \$395.00. ISBN 025335994, 0-253-35994-5 1 disc. User manual.. System requirements: IBM-PC, DOS 2.0 or higher; 512K RAM; hard disk.

This electronic version of Thompson's classic *Motif-Index of Folk-Literature* makes available in nonbook form the 1955 revised and enlarged six-volume edition. Purchase price includes network licensing "at a single location" that "includes all sites within the geographic boundaries of the Licensee." The disc has a 90-day warranty. The on-line text is identical to the paper copy except for the advantageous correction of several cross-reference errors discovered in the conversion process. Installation of the CD is simple for even a low-end DOS-machine (the search engine runs off the CD); both a floppy version and the CD-ROM data and search software can be loaded on a hard drive. The search and display software, Folio VIEWS, uses a windows-style display and 150,000 hypertext links to give users access to more than 69,000 screens of folk motifs from folktales, ballads, myths, fables, and other sources.

The initial window provides a number of options through a table of contents to the "Introduction to the Electronic Edition," "How to Use the Groups" (i.e., fields), "How to Use the Links" (i.e., hypertext triangular symbols), "Introduction to the Printed Edition," the "Bibliography," the "General and Detailed Synopsis" (the Thompson classification scheme) with links to the alphabetically coded outline, the "Index," and a "Note on Unrepresentable Characters." The bottom of the screen gives basic instruction for viewing linked information, searching, and window manipulation. In addition, the top of the screen directs users to function key access to help; there are, as well, file, search, and option pull-down windows (although users must consult the manual to learn that ALT and the first letter of each window option must be keyed to pull down the windows). Control key commands are also available for the commands listed in these pull-down windows. Initial users unfamiliar with Folio will need to work through the help screens (which often lack examples) or the comprehensive manual to become comfortable with the commands and displays; the display windows are sometimes hard to distinguish because of the sameness of their appearance.

Searching permits Boolean AND, OR, and NOT application (although a space or an ampersand must be used for the AND operator, a "/" for the OR operator and a "^" for the NOT operator) and nested, proximity, and phrase searching of the entire text as well as main entry, cross-reference, index, and motif classification fields. The search windows provide access to an alphabetically arranged basic index. Cross-references can be accessed via the hypertext links (this reviewer found two blind links in several hours of searching). Each entry provides a brief reference to a bibliographic source, with a complete citation listed in a separately accessible bibliography. It was disappointing to find no hypertext links from the brief references to the complete citation. Text can be sent to a printer or disk. A customer service phone number is available during regular business hours, and an Internet address is provided as well. Overall, a major improvement over the paper version, providing broader and faster access to this rich resource. Useful for undergraduate, graduate, and faculty research.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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