

To obtain these benefits -- diversity, accessibility, searchability and timeliness -- it is necessary to have the proper equipment and training. However, these are no longer exorbitantly expensive or time consuming to acquire. While this Directory can not provide a detailed guide to acquiring the necessary equipment or skills, it does include a short outline of some basic concepts and equipment requirements in order to assist the reader to gain access to the electronically available information sources described.

This Directory seeks to provide an overview of relevant electronic information sources in the fields of arms control and disarmament and of Middle East studies. It is intended to assist officials and researchers in identifying potentially useful sources for their research interests. Because of the changing nature of many of these sources, there can be no guarantee about the accuracy of the entries in this Directory. The authors have endeavoured to make it as current as possible to the end of May 1996.

It is our intention to transmit a copy of this Directory over the ACRS Communication Network, which is being maintained by the Netherlands as mentor of the Communication Working Group. We believe that the Communication Network can provide a valuable channel for the transmission of background documentation of this type as well as operational information, which ACRS participants may wish to share.

The views contained in this Directory are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade or of the Government of Canada.