INTRODUCTION

This Directory lists useful sources of information that can be accessed through electronic means[1] and that relate to arms control and disarmament (ACD) or to the Middle East. For the purposes of this Directory, ACD is defined as international efforts to limit, reduce or control the implements of war.

The Directory is divided into two sections. Part A includes those databases that are available through a commercial vendor, or distributor, and can be accessed through two different electronic means: online; or CD-ROM. Part B is an attempt to identify the sites, mostly non-commercial, that are available on the Internet which would likely be of interest to researchers of arms control or on the Middle East.

Within both Parts A and B, entries are arranged alphabetically by title. Subject access is provided by means of an index. The record format varies somewhat between the two parts.

Part A includes:

- the title of the database;
- the name and address of the producer;
- a short description of the database vis-à-vis its coverage of ACD;
- how far back in time the information goes;
- the options for electronic access;
- the frequency with which the database is updated; and
- assigned keywords.

Part B includes:

- the title of the Internet site;
- the name and location of the information provider (individual or organization responsible for the content and/or maintenance of the service);
- its uniform resource locator, or URL;
- the designated contact, (e-mail address) if available;
- a short description of the site's scope; and
- assigned keywords.

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[1]To use electronic sources effectively, one should understand the underlying technology (CD-ROMs, gopher, world wide web, etc.) In order to assist those not yet familiar with this technology, several appendices have been included. See **Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms,** for a definition of some of the terms used in this Directory; **Appendix 2: A Brief Introduction to the Internet,** for an explanation of some key concepts; or **Appendix 3: Getting Connected,** for the basics of what is needed to gain access to both the commercial databases and the Internet.