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## **PUBLISHING IS GOING ELECTRONIC**



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Current estimates show that there are more than 2,000 publicly available databases in the United States and another 500 in Canada. These range from special-purpose databases serving the law, health or scientific communities, to the large general purpose databases such as The Source, CompuServe, the New York Times, Dow Jones News/Retrieval and many others. Estimates are that there will be a 20 per cent growth rate in the number of publicly accessible data banks at least until 1990. The rise of electronic publishing is unmistakable.

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## **ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING IS GOING 'NAPLPS'**

While the majority of databases currently operate under the ASCII or similar alphanumeric protocols, many of the newer public databases are planning for combined text and graphic capability, and many existing text-only bases are planning to convert. The writing, or should we say the graphic, is on the wall. For many purposes, the use of graphics is an indispensable way to organize and display data meaningfully, or to quickly indicate trends. Graphics communications for business purposes is one of the hottest industry trends today, and it's not difficult to see why.