UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Office of Information Technology

Information Technology
Newsletter

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& more

F-Prot: Macro Virus Protection for Windows and DOS

For Departments *and Individuals, Too*

In our April newsletter we announced that we've acquired an F-Prot Professional site license and can distribute the software to departments for a small fee. We're currently distributing version 2.27.1 of F-Prot Professional, an upgrade from the version we announced in April. Version 2.27 features improved scanning for Microsoft Word macro viruses. Figure 1 contains the version 2.27 release notes posted at <http://www.commandcom.com>.

Personal Copies

Our agreement with Command Software, Inc. (which has a license with DataFellows, F-PROT's vendor) also allows us to distribute a personal copy to individuals. One result of this agreement is that we plan to include F-Prot Professional on the CD version of our Internet Kit.

Students, faculty and staff can also make their own copy of F-Prot Professional. To do this they currently need to bring three floppy disks to any Microcomputer HelpLine. (Future versions may require more disks.)

Macro viruses are created using the built-in macro language of products such as Microsoft Word. This Word plus macro language package enables people to create viruses that will infect other Word documents— but don't infect products that don't use the same macro language.

DataFellows distributes a limited version of F-Prot as shareware to individuals, allowing them to make a personal copy of the software. We're already including this version on our Internet Kit CD. To get this limited shareware version individuals can also visit the DataFellows web site <http://www.DataFellows.com/vir-info/>. For more information about this version, read the F-Prot FAQ at <http://www.DataFellows.com/f-prot/support/faq.htm>.

F-Prot and Macro Viruses

F-Prot Professional has a product that automatically disinfects Microsoft Word macro viruses, a relatively new kind of virus that infects documents by hitching a ride with certain kinds of macros. Macros allow people to save text and/or a sequence of keystrokes and menu choices to be reused whenever they're needed; people assign the macros a name and use the macros with many documents.

About Word Macro Viruses

Word macro virus are created using the built-in macro language of Microsoft Word. This Word plus macro language package enables people to create viruses that will infect other Word documents — but don't infect products that do not use the same macro language, including older versions of Word. The Microsoft macro language is actually a programming language (Word Basic). The macros coupled with Word's template feature let people create "documents" that will automatically execute a set of instructions when they are opened; they create a mini program.

Microsoft called the initial occurrence of this virus the Prank Macro. It's now more commonly called the Concept virus. For more information about how the Concept virus spreads, you can read "SR News: Macro Viruses" <http://www.stiller.com/Vmacro.htm> from Stiller Research (the Integrity Master vendor).

Figure 1: F-PROT Professional Release Notes for Windows 95 v2.27

Note: the Release Notes for Windows 3.1, NT, and Netware contain similar F-MACRO functionality notations.

PRODUCT ENHANCEMENTS
New virus signatures have been added for this release.

F-MACRO functionality is now integrated into the main scanner used in F-PROT Professional for Windows 95 and in DVP [Dynamic Virus Protection]. It is therefore unnecessary to use the separate F-MACRO.EXE scanner. Additionally, you can now copy updates of the MACRO.DEF file to F-PROT for quick and easy updates of macro virus signatures. The MACRO.DEF file is updated frequently on our Web and FTP sites to provide maximum protection.

There is a new option, "Remove all macros if variant is found", now available for scan tasks and for DVP. If this option is selected, all macros are removed from any file containing a new or modified variant of a macro virus. The "Remove all..." option is located in the Properties dialog box, directly below the Scan method,

and in the Active Protection (Preferences | Active Protection | Dynamic Virus Protection) dialog box. This new option is only available when the Action to take is "Disinfect" or "Disinfect/Query". If this option is not selected, and the Action to take is "Disinfect" or "Disinfect/Query", files that contain remnants or are variants of macro infections are renamed. This option works the same way as the /REMNANTS switch in F-MACRO.EXE.

For Administrators: There are 3 new settings available in the SETUP.INI file. [ScanHMA, InstallFNET, and PrevReq— *editor's note:* details are in the readme file.]

FIXES
SPECIAL NOTES
The task that is used to create a custom configuration for using the right mouse feature has been renamed. The new name is r-mouse.fpt. The instructions given in the 4/17 release have been modified to reflect this change.

F-Prot to the Rescue

F-Prot Professional uses a scanning engine to find many Word macro viruses, such as DMV, Concept, Nuclear, Colors, Hot, and Wazzu and provides frequent updates to their macro disinfector. The DataFellows' web site currently lists nearly 800 different macro viruses <http://www.DataFellows.com/macro/> that F-Prot Professional can disinfect. (800 is a sobering number for anyone who uses e-mail to exchange Word documents.) You can link to their update service from that web site.

F-MACRO for DOS

The limited free version of F-Prot that DataFellows distributes does not automatically disinfect macro viruses. However you can download F-MACRO, a stand-alone DOS application that can disinfect macro viruses known to it. This program searches Word 6.x and 7.x documents and Excel 6.7 and 7.x documents. F-MACRO is available from the DataFellow's FTP site: <ftp://ftp.europe.datafellows.com/pub/f-prot/tools>. The F-MACRO documentation is available on-line at <http://www.DataFellows.com/macro/f-macdoc.htm>.

■ Mary Kelleher, Phil Kachelmyer, Academic and Distributed Computing Services

What about Macintoshes?

Our Microcomputer HelpLines distribute Disinfectant 3.6, freeware virus detection software; but Disinfectant does not find macro viruses. Currently the Office of Information Technology does not have a site license for virus scanners for the Macintosh that searches for macro viruses.

Microsoft Office users can visit Microsoft's "Macro Virus Protection Tool" site and download protection software <http://www.microsoft.com/word/freestuff/mvtool/mvtool2.htm>; Microsoft's solution is discussed in an accompanying article. Mac users can purchase commercial virus scanner software that searches for macro viruses from various vendors, such as McAfee—and can download a trial version from McAfee at this web site: <http://www.mcaffee.com/down/index.html>.

A few macro viruses have been written in HyperTalk; these can infect HyperCard stacks. To learn more about these viruses visit the HyperCard Virus Compodium at <http://www.hyperactivesw.com/Virus1.html>.

Query Microsoft about Macro Viruses

Office 97

Virus scanning tools are built into Word 97, Excel 97, and PowerPoint 97; they are not built into older versions of the software. For a table that lists Application, Version, and Tool (including new protection links), visit the Microsoft Office Anti-Virus Protection Information site at <http://www.microsoft.com/office/antivirus/>.

Word Virus

Microsoft provides an overview of Word macro virus protection information on this site: <http://www.microsoft.com/word/freestuff/mvtool/virusinfo.htm>. When we looked at the site it was last updated on March 3, 1997. Here's the opening paragraph:

> Since macro viruses began spreading after Microsoft shipped Word 6.x and Word 95, these versions of Word have no built in protection against macro viruses. If you have Word 6.x or 95, you should visit the Macro Virus Protection Tool Information Page for information about the Macro Virus Protec-

tion Tool (MVTOOL), a free Word add-in that displays a warning dialog whenever it detects macros in the file being opened. Due to limitations in the services Word provides to MVTOOL, it is unable to detect macros in documents dragged and dropped onto Word or in mail attachments. To protect users from these infection scenarios and eliminate the need for an add-in, Microsoft built macro virus protection into Word 95a and Word 97.

The site has tips for those who are upgrading to Word 97, and steps to determine whether or not you have Macro virus protection turned on in Word 95a and Word 97.

Microsoft's Knowledge Base has a FAQ about Word macro viruses. Here's one Q&A from that web site <http://www.microsoft.com/kb/ articles/Q163/9/32.htm>.

Q10. My version of Word doesn't have the built-in macro virus warning feature. Does Microsoft provide a tool that will give me that functionality?

A. For Microsoft Word versions prior to Word 7.0a, Microsoft provides the ScanProt tool for the following versions of Word:
- Microsoft Word for Windows 6.0, 6.0a, 6.0c
- Microsoft Word for Windows 95, version 7.0
- Microsoft Word for Windows NT, version 6.0
- Microsoft Word for the Macintosh, versions 6.0, 6.0.1, 6.0.1a

The Microsoft Virus Protection Tool (ScanProt) scans only for the Concept virus and will remove it from your system. It does not detect nor remove other macro viruses from your system. However, it does install its own macros to warn you when you are opening a file that contains macros....Please note that Microsoft does not provide a ScanProt tool for Word versions prior to Word 6.0.

Microsoft Word 97
Word 97 users can visit the Macro Virus Trouble-shooter site to help answer questions about their problems and to obtain a list of troubleshooting steps: <http://www.microsoft.com/support/ tshoot/virus.htm>.

Macro Virus Growth: August 1995 – April 1997

a DataFellows Graph <http://www.DataFellows.com>
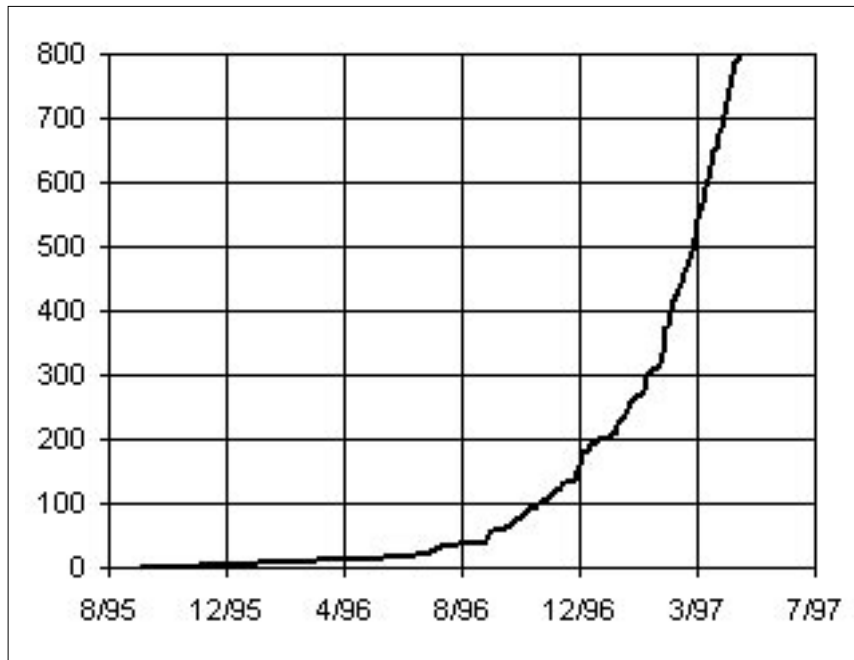

More ScanProt Problem Issues
Microsoft's Knowledge Base identifies some problems with the ScanProt tool, such as: If you have an autoopen macro that protects a document for forms, and you choose not to disable the auto macros, the template opens unprotected.

You can read the entire article on this web site <http://www.microsoft.com/kb/articles/q138/8/ 68.htm>. Microsoft also states:

Please note that the Macro Virus Protection Tool and Word version 7.0a are intended as interim tools only. For a permanent solution to macro virus problems, install anti-virus software that is specifically designed to detect Word macro viruses. Such software is available from several third-party companies.
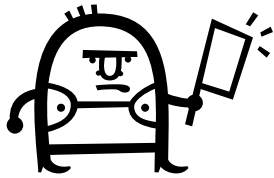
The Microsoft Virus Protection Tool (ScanProt) scans only for the Concept virus and will remove it from your system. It does not detect nor remove other macro viruses from your system.

Excel Virus

Laroux, an Excel Macro virus was discovered in the summer of 1996. Microsoft distributes an add-in tool for eradicating this non-destructive virus from Excel. Laroux appends a macro sheet to workbooks but does not affect data in the workbook. A version is available for Excel 97; a different version works with Excel 5.0 and Excel 95.

Information about the virus and links to download sites are available from <http://www.microsoft.com/excel/productinfo/vbavirus/emvolc.htm>. This site also provides steps for detecting and cleaning Laroux and Laroux B; the steps are shown in Figure 1.

Which Versions of Excel?

The following Q&A is from Microsoft's Knowledge Base <http://www.microsoft.com/kb/articles/Q154/1/31.htm>.

Q: What versions of Microsoft Excel are affected by Excel Macro/Laroux?

A: This virus is able to operate under Microsoft Excel 5.x and 7.x under Windows 3.x, Windows 95 and Windows NT. It also works under localized version of Microsoft Excel (for example, versions of Microsoft Excel translated to French or German). This virus does not work under any version of Microsoft Excel for the Macintosh or Microsoft Excel 3.x or 4.x for Windows.

Note: Excel 97 has a new protective feature. It alerts you when it encounters workbooks that contain macros and lets the user disable the macro. The feature cannot distinguish between safe and unsafe macros.

▬ Mary Kelleher, Phil Kachelmyer, Academic and Distributed Computing Services

Figure 1: How to manually determine if you have the Excel Laroux virus.

from the Microsoft site <http://www.microsoft.com/excel/productinfo/vbavirus/emvolc.htm>

1. Start Microsoft Excel.

2. Click Macro on the Tools menu.

3. Infection is likely if the following macro names are listed:
   - Auto_Open
   - Check_files
   - PERSONAL.XLS!auto_open
   - PERSONAL.XLS!check_files

4. If you have any infected workbooks open in the background, you may also see the following names listed:
   - 'bookname'!auto_open
   - 'bookname'!check_files
   - (where 'bookname'! is the name of the open workbook)

5. Before disinfecting your files, confirm the existence of the macro by clicking Unhide on the Window menu and unhide the Personal.xls file. This should make the sheet visible. Presence of the virus is indicated by the word "laroux" in the sheet tab.

Viruses – Be Aware. Be Careful.
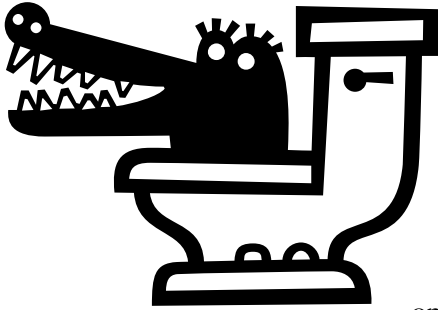
Generally viruses are just an annoyance. Like human viruses computer viruses are aggressive opportunists; they infect, multiply, irritate, and generate symptoms along the way. Computer viruses can do anything from writing a simple statement on your monitor, slowing down your system or erasing a hard disk.

Most viruses infect system files and program files, leaving the documents you create undamaged. Viruses come from all over the world. Potentially, any microcomputer, workstation, or mainframe is vulnerable to a virus attack. Most computer problems are not related to viruses. If your computer begins to act strangely, we recommend that you check the standard problem areas before looking for a virus.

Common Virus Types

The Stiller Research web site describes these seven common virus types • DOS Boot Sector • Partition Sector • DOS FAT (File Allocation Table) • Polymorphic • Resident • Stealth and • Macro virus, which is discussed in articles in this month's newsletter. To read the full descriptions go to <http://www.stiller.com/common.htm>. IBM's Glossary of virus terms is also a useful reference that defines terms such as boot and stealth; it's on the web at <http://www.av.ibm.com/InsideTheLab/VirusInfo/Glossary/>.

Keeping up-to-date

You can sign up for an e-mail service that alerts you to releases of new versions of popular virus protection software, such as McAfee, F-Prot for DOS and Windows, Disinfectant for Mac, Norton and Symantec. To reach the free service run by Hitchhikers Internet Services, visit their web site at <http://www.hitchhikers.net/up-form.shtml> (shtml is correct).

The University of Hamburg's Virus Test Center site has a section on macro viruses: <http://agn-www.informatik.uni-hamburg.de/vtc/eng.htm>. The list they maintain is updated monthly and can be downloaded from an FTP site: <ftp://agn-www.informatik.uni-hamburg.de/pub/texts/macro>. The list includes AmniPro and Lotus 123 macro viruses.

Virus Alert Calendar

McAfee maintains a Virus Alert Calendar at <http://www.mcaffee.com/support/techdocs/vinfo/july.html>; it tracks virus activity that takes place on certain dates. You can also view activation sorted in different ways, for example by system type or day of the month by visiting their Payload Activation Date site at <http://www.mcaffee.com/support/techdocs/vinfo/actdate.html>.

Hoaxes

Even virus hoaxes wreak minor havoc by consuming time that could be used in productive pursuits. Concerned e-mail messages about the Good Times and other virus hoaxes have been circulated at the University.

If you receive a warning, we recommend that you remain calm and avoid passing on the warning without investigation. You can forward the message to our general help address at <help@tc.umn.edu> or call 626-4276 to talk to a consultant. You can also get information on-line anytime from the Computer Incident Advisory Capability (CIAC) web site <http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>. This site gets updated as new hoaxes appear and currently describes hoaxes such as PKZ300, Irina, Good Times, Good Times Spoof, Deeyenda, Ghost, PENPAL GREETINGS!, Make Money Fast, NaughtyRobot, and AOL4FREE.

Disable Automatic AutoMacros

Microsoft Word version 6 and above has the ability to automatically start up macros. This "no human intervention" feature is a welcome way to perform many tasks; it is also fertile ground for macro viruses. One virus prevention strategy is to disable the automatic execution feature. Word's "Normal"

template holds global macros that are always available to Word. This "Normal" template is called NORMAL.DOT in Windows and just Normal on the Macintosh.

The instructions shown below step you through creating a new macro named AutoExec. This macro disables Word Basic auto macros and will protect you from some widely distributed macros. The instructions are from a UC Berkeley "perspective" site about Word macro viruses: <http://wss-www.berkeley.edu/virus/wordmacro.html>. Figure 1 also shows the new macro.

> To turn off auto-execution of "auto macros," which are triggered when documents are created, opened, or closed; or upon quitting the Word application...
>
> Create a new macro (using Word's "Tools" menu, "Macro..." command) named "AutoExec". This will create a special macro that will be executed whenever the Microsoft Word application is launched.
>
> This macro contains the WordBasic command "DisableAutoMacros", which will disable all four WordBasic "auto macros":
>
> Sub MAIN
>
> `DisableAutoMacros`
>
> `MsgBox "AutoMacros are now turned off.", "Virus protection", 64`
>
> End Sub
>
> Make sure that you save this macro to the Global (Normal) template. (Typically, this should be the template into which Word will automatically suggest that you save this macro.)

This macro contains two WordBasic commands:

1. DisableAutoMacros, which will disable all four WordBasic "auto macros".

2. MsgBox, which displays an informational dialog. Its appearance and content is irrelevant to the protection provided by the DisableAutoMacros command. You can make this message less obtrusive, causing it to appear in the Word status bar, by changing the number 64 above, to -1. You could also remove the MsgBox command outright, although you would not then receive confirmation each time that you launch Word that auto macros are still disabled, or have any indication whether your modified AutoExec macro might have been deleted or tampered with.

Some macro viruses do not rely on auto macros to replicate themselves or to perform their destructive actions. Disabling auto macros will nonetheless protect against several of the common Word macro viruses in existence today, including Concept, DMV and Nuclear.

Also note that turning off auto macros in Word's AutoExec macro does not confer permanent protection. A macro virus might be able to replace your protective AutoExec macro with its own AutoExec macro, for example.

◼ Mary Kelleher, Phil Kachelmyer, Academic and Distributed Computing Services

Figure 1: Disable AutoMacros
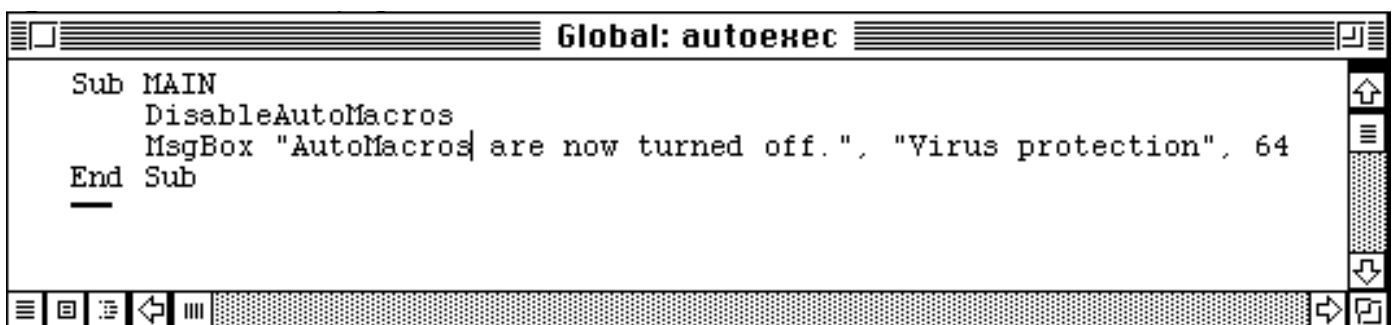
Eureka! A Look at Some Important On-line Databases (part I)

Nancy K. Herther, University Libraries

Research Libraries Group

The University Libraries offer current students, staff and faculty access to ten important research databases from the Research Libraries Group (RLG). In this column we will begin to take a look at these files, from their system called Eureka, and how they might be useful to you in your research. These, and all on-line databases, are available through the INDEXES option in LUMINA or the Libraries' web page at <http://www.lib.umn.edu>.

RLG is a not-for-profit membership corporation devoted to the mission of "improving access to information that supports research and learning." Founded in 1974 and incorporated in 1975 by Columbia, Harvard, and Yale universities and The New York Public Library, RLG became and is today a pioneer in developing cooperative solutions to the problems that research collections and their users face in the acquisition, delivery and preservation of information.

Today RLG is an international alliance of more than 155 members, including the University of Minnesota, along with other major universities and colleges, national libraries, archives, historical societies, museums and research collections and public libraries.

Why Eureka?

The University Libraries evaluates many different vendors in selecting licenses for our database offerings. Eureka provides a user-friendly interface, with menus and help screens, in addition to databases with significant research content. The Libraries will be switching to a web-based search interface for Eureka this summer, so watch for that change as you use our databases!

One word of advice: since many of the Eureka databases were developed for or from specific library collections (such as the Chicano Database and Hispanic American Periodicals Index), they may contain call numbers or other location information. These are *not* for our collections.

Whenever you use any of the commercial databases available through LUMINA, be sure to check our MNCAT collections to see that we own the documents and to get the correct call numbers and other location information. The only exception is for the Government Publication Index. This index gives users good advantage by giving you the SuDocs numbers — numbers used by government publications libraries to organize and locate these documents. For more assistance or advice, ask at any reference desk in the Libraries.

Quick Look at Important Eureka Databases

In this and future columns, we will take a quick look at some of the important Eureka databases and talk about how you might be able to use them in your research. There is no charge for using these databases at any LUMINA terminal in the University Libraries or by using your password and userid (for current students, staff and faculty). Let's take a brief tour of the Eureka databases!

Anthropological Literature File (ANTH)

ANTH includes records describing articles and essays in anthropology and archaeology of two or more pages in length from works published in English and other European languages. Subjects covered include: archaeology, art, biological and cultural anthropology, demography, economics, ethnohistory, folklore, genetics, geography, geology, physical anthropology, psychology and social anthropology. No abstracts are given. Figure 1 shows a sample file record.

This database has proven useful to students in the social sciences looking to understand other groups or societies and how they work. One graduate student in education used this to look at how other cultures view child rearing. An undergraduate in a health sciences class used this to look at how drug use is seen in different cultures.

```
                Figure 1:                              Figure 2: Sample AVERY record
  Sample Anthropological Literature File Record
                                               TITLE: Architectural research.
AUTHOR: Kirmayer, Laurence J.                  PHYSICAL DETAILS: photos., plans.
TITLE: Landscapes of memory:                   IN: Progressive architecture 1995 Feb.,
   trauma, narrative, and dissociation /          v.76, n.2, p.78-81, ISSN 0033-0752.
   Laurence J. Kirmayer.                        NOTES: Presents three studies in
IN: Tense Past: Cultural Essays in                environmental and behavioral research:
   Trauma and Memory — New York:                  wayfinding cues (Janet Carpmand and
   Routledge, ISBN 0415915627 1996,               Myron Grant), hybrid housing and
   pp. 173-197.                                    direct-supervision prisons
                                                   (Richard Wener) (Sherry Ahrentzen).
SUBJECTS:                                       SUBJECTS: Architecture
   Memory—Social aspects.                           —Research—United States.
   Child sexual abuse—Social aspects.            Prisons—Psychological aspects
   Holocaust survivors—Psychology.                  —Research—United States.
   Perec, Georges, 1936-1982                      Environmental psychology
      —Criticism and interpretation.                 —Research—United States.
```

- Producer: Tozzer Library, Harvard University.
- Language: Mostly English
- Scope: International
- Dates of Coverage: 1984 to the present
- Updates: Quarterly with about 2000 records added per update. Over 113,000 records in the database.

Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals

AVERY contains over 185,000 citations to articles from more than 700 architecture and related periodicals, emphasizing the fields of architectural design and history. Sources include more than 1000 periodical titles in all Western languages, including all major architectural magazines published in the United States, Great Britain, and the British Commonwealth, as well as most South American, European, and Japanese periodicals with English summaries. Corresponds to the information in the printed *Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals.*

Subject coverage includes Architecture in its broadest sense, including archeology, historic preservation, decorative arts, interior decoration, furniture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and environmental studies. No abstracts are given. Figure 2 shows a sample AVERY record.

- Producer: Getty Information Institute
- Language: English
- Scope: International
- Dates of Coverage: 1977 to present, partial coverage for earlier materials

- Updates: Daily, over 200,000 records now in the database

Chicano Database (CDB)

CDB contains over 42,000 citations, some with abstracts, to literature written by and about Chicanos (Mexican-Americans) and other Latinos in the United States. Corresponds to coverage in *Arte Chicano: An Annotated Bibliography of Chicano Art* (from 1965 to 1981), *The Chicano Anthology Index, The Chicano Index* (from 1989 to date), and *The Chicano Periodical Index* (from 1967 to 1988). Also includes the Latinos and AIDS database,

```
           Figure 3: Sample Chicano Database Record

AUTHOR: Solis, Julie.
TITLE: The status of Latino children
   and youth.
IN: UNDERSTANDING LATINO FAMILIES:
   SCHOLARSHIP, POLICY, AND PRACTICE.
   Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications,
   c1995, p. 62-81.
SUBJECTS: Family.
   Children.
   Socioeconomic Factors.
   Education.
   Youth.
   Academic Achievement.
   Employment.
   Poverty.
   Marriage.
   Parenting.
```

```
                         Figure 4: Sample DSA Record

AUTHOR: BOSCH, LOIS A. UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN.
TITLE: PARENT PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT: AN ANALYSIS OF PARENT
   REPRESENTATION ON ILLINOIS LOCAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCILS
   (INTERVENTION).
PUBLISHED: 1997.
PHYSICAL DETAILS: 158 p.
IN: Dissertation Abstracts International 57-12A.
NOTES: Source: Dissertation Abstracts International, Volume: 57-12,
   Section: A, page: 5295. Adviser: DAVID R. DUPPER.
   Thesis (PH.D.)—UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, 1997.

SUMMARY: This study examined the extent to which parent voting members of local
   interagency coordinating councils (LICs) represent the needs and interests of
   families within their local service area.  Current LIC parent voting members
   were surveyed regarding the nature of family representation on these councils.
   Demographic information from each survey respondent was compared with known
   demographic characteristics of the Illinois family population.  Results indi-
   cated that the LIC survey respondents had higher incomes and educational levels
   and were less likely to belong to an ethnic minority than the Illinois family
   population.  A substantial majority of survey respondents acknowledged support
   for the representation of other families.  However, these respondents reported
   they were only somewhat likely to actually represent other families.  While
   more than 85 percent of the respondents felt training was important to their
   role of representation of other families, over half of the respondents reported
   that they had received very little training.
OTHER AUTHORS: DUPPER, DAVID R., advisor.
SUBJECTS: Social Work.
          Education, Early Childhood.
          Education, Special.
          Sociology, Individual and Family Studies.
```

produced by the Chicano Research Center at the University of California, Los Angeles, which provides about 200 citations to journal articles, books, and reports on AIDS as it relates to Latin-Americans.

Subjects covered include: all topics pertaining to the Chicano (Mexican-American) experience including information on other Latinos in the United States—including art, bilingual education, economics, folklore, health, history, labor, language, law, literature, music, politics, public policy, religion, sociology and women's studies. Figure 3 shows a sample record.

- Producer: University of California, Berkeley, Chicano Studies Library
- Language: English
- Scope: United States
- Dates of Coverage: 1965 to date

- Updates: Quarterly, database contains over 46,000 records

Dissertation Abstracts Online (DSA)

This database contains over 1.5 million citations, with abstracts (since 1980), to dissertations accepted for doctoral degrees by accredited North American educational institutions and more than 200 institutions elsewhere. The database corresponds to the coverage in *Dissertation Abstracts International* (DAI), *American Doctoral Dissertations* (ADD), and *Comprehensive Dissertation Index* (CDI).

Subjects include any topic potentially of interest or under study at the graduate/research level. This database covers all doctoral dissertations accepted at accredited American institutions in approximately 3000 subject areas. Masters theses and some
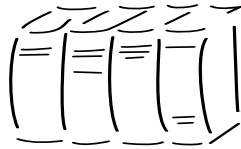
dissertations from Canadian and overseas institutions are included in the database.

If you need a quick overview of research in some new area or want to get a good, concise overview of the state-of-the-art in some subject field, a dissertation is often an excellent place to start. Most doctoral-level research will include some type of literature/research review, and this is generally presented as a chapter in the dissertation. Figure 4 shows a sample record.

- Producer: UMI, Inc.
- Language: English
- Scope: International
- Dates of Coverage: 1861 to date, DAI and ADD; 1962 to date, MAI
- Updates: 3500 DAI records a month; 3000 ADD records a year; 1000 MAI records added quarterly

More To Come

In upcoming issues of the newsletter, we will look at more of the databases available from Eureka through our LUMINA system. We hope that these brief descriptions are useful in helping you select databases for your research or teaching work. Some may just be fun to look at for recreational or informational purposes.

Libraries staff are constantly evaluating and re-evaluating our selection of databases for the University. If you have comments on these or any databases or ideas on databases that you feel would be useful, feel free to talk with any of the subject specialists or reference librarians on our staff.

Communications to the authors should be addressed to: Nancy K. Herther, Education/Psychology Reference Service, 108 Walter Library, East Bank; <n-hert@tc.umn.edu>; 624-2020. ▬

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❑ **Published monthly** by the Office of Information Technology, editor, Mary Kelleher, <oitnsltr@tc.umn.edu>. Subscriptions are free but are mailed only within the U.S. Electronic versions of each issue will be available as HTML (web) and PDF (Acrobat) documents. Look for them on the Office of Information Technology's web site at <http://www.umn.edu/oit/newsletter>.

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