RLIN – Research Libraries Information Network

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Description

RLIN is the information management and retrieval system of The Research Libraries Group, Inc. It includes an online bibliographic database cataloging the holdings of well over one hundred research libraries, archives, and special collections—a total of over forty million records in August 1990. Entries are divided among eight files: books, serials, archival materials (e.g., personal papers, governmental records), maps, music scores, sound recordings, visual materials (e.g., films and photographs), and computer files. Smaller subject-oriented databases contain citations for articles in art and architectural periodicals; eighteenth-century English-language publications; art sales catalogs dating from the 1500s to the present; and research in the humanities scheduled for publication within the next two years.

Users search RLIN with command-line searches rather than from a menu, by specifying index terms. Indexes available include title, subject, author, conference or corporation, ISBN, LC number, and many more; some are specific to the file being searched (such as the index to music publishers' unique numbers on sound recordings and scores). Search results can be further restricted by language, date of publication, publisher, terms found in notes fields, etc.

Network Access

RLIN is available to subscribers over the Internet. It can also be dialed into through the public packet network, SprintNet. A private packet network supports RLIN users who maintain entries in the database.

Who Can Use RLIN

Charges for Internet access:
>   For individuals: $119 for 10 hours connect time
>   For libraries: $200 one-time start-up fee plus per-search charges ranging
>   from 50 to 80 cents.

Subscribers for RLIN searching receive an account ID and password, descriptions of RLIN and its files, step-by-step directions for accessing the system, and assistance from the RLIN Information Center via a toll-free service number: 1-800-537-7546 (537-RLIN).