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***The Invisible Web: Uncovering Information Sources Search Engines Can't See.*** By Chris Sherman and Gary Price. Medford, N.J.: Information Today, 2001. 439p. \$29.95 (ISBN 1-55938-510-3) LC 2001-028818.

The popularity of Internet search engines belies their weaknesses as tools for information discovery; using one is like panning for gold, combing through a scoopful of wet sand for a few valuable nuggets. While the unmanageable size and bewildering variety of search results are obvious to—and taken in stride by—most search-engine users, the fact that the large preponderance of Web-based content is beyond the reach of the Internet search services is much less apparent and unsuspected by many. This is the phenomenon of the invisible Web, which experienced searchers and webmasters Chris Sherman and Gary Price seek not only to make us more aware of, but also to equip us to use effectively. In a nutshell, this book sets out to do three things: (1) define the invisible Web; (2) show the would-be searcher how to access the information it contains; (3) present a “starter’s kit” collection of representative invisible Web resources.

For the most part, Sherman and Price handle the first two tasks very well indeed. Chapters 1 through 8 are a model of pedagogical technique. The

authors start by providing basic concepts and necessary background, continue by defining the invisible Web in relation to the Web and the Internet in general, show how a searcher can tell whether a site is likely to be “visible” or “invisible,” list the types of information likely to be found on the invisible Web, and use case studies to show how the invisible Web can be successfully exploited by novice as well as experienced searchers. Organization is clear and logical, categorical analysis is used to good advantage, strategic repetition reinforces key concepts, and well-placed sidebars clarify important terms and puncture myths as they surface. The style is relaxed and informal while maintaining a high level of focus.

However, this relaxed approach is not without a few problems. One is that the authors’ definition of “invisible Web” is not as clear and consistent as it could have been. The definition encapsulated in the book’s subtitle is lucid enough and is admirably fleshed out in the discussion of the various types of invisibility. Resources likely to be invisible to search engines include databases, sites that require registration, and the deeper pages of an unusually large site. The authors muddy the waters, however, when in some places they refer to “opaque” pages that are indexable by search engines, but not indexed, as part of the invisible Web but elsewhere exclude them from that category. Definition of terms sometimes sacrifices clarity and rigor in favor of casual readability, most egregiously in the glossary definition of “precision,” which lacks a key final phrase from the definition used in the body of the text. Even with such minor defects, however, the first third of the book provides an effective and engaging guide to Web searching in general as well as the relationship between invisible Web resources—especially databases—and the Web as a whole.

The remaining two-thirds of the text consists of a classified, annotated

directory of about 1000 selected invisible Web resources. It comprises 18 subject or genre categories and 127 subcategories and appears to be a thin and very eclectic sampling of the types of “invisible” resources being discussed. Annotations—either composed or cut and pasted from a self-description—are provided for most resources; the rest are attached to annotated entries as “related resources.” Wherever possible, URLs are provided for both a site’s search form and home page.

This directory is also on the Web at [www.invisible-web.net](http://www.invisible-web.net), but it is disappointing to find, some five months after the book’s August 2001 printing date, that despite the authors’ stated intention to expand and update their directory, this has not happened so far. The online content does not go beyond that of the book, and there are more than a few broken links. Even so, this directory is well enough organized and offers a sufficient variety of quality sites to give any novice searcher valuable learning experience with the invisible Web. While it seems questionable to devote so much print to a reference feature that is sure to become dated quickly, and which is both available and much more usable online, the directory does advance the purposes of the book by serving as an artist’s rendering of what the invisible Web has to offer. The “Web guide” section of the book, it should also be noted, contains descriptions of several directories and specialized search tools the authors have found handy for locating invisible Web resources; this is one of the book’s more useful features.

Part how-to manual, part compilation of sites, part background briefing paper, *The Invisible Web* is both more and less than what it appears to be. Its stated objective is to provide a “map” of the vast reservoirs of Web-based content inaccessible to the major search engines. While this metaphor may have energized the authors’

efforts and will likely pique the reader's interest, it may also raise expectations this book cannot fulfill. Nevertheless, if what was meant was a conceptual map of the invisible Web—and the authors do not state this—the effort has succeeded handsomely. The wealth of useful concepts, distinctions, and examples, and the carefully organized way they are presented, make Sherman's and Price's book a remarkably valuable field guide for anyone seeking content on the Web.—Gregory Wool (*gwool@iastate.edu*), Iowa State University, Ames.

***Maps and Related Cartographic Materials Cataloging, Classification, and Bibliographic Control.*** Eds. Paige G. Andrew and Mary Lynette Larsgaard. New York: Haworth Information Pr., 1999. 487p. (ISBN 0-7890-0813-0) LC 99-51487.

If the editors had not included a section called “Those That Got Away” (xvii–xviii) in the introduction to *Maps and Related Cartographic Materials Cataloging, Classification and Bibliographic Control*, I would not have realized that some parts of the cartographic cataloging universe are not included in this impressive array of chapters by prominent members of the map cataloging community. This book includes everything from the basics of map cataloging to spatial metadata to retrospective conversion.

The book is a well-organized how-to guide for cataloging diverse types of cartographic materials. After the introduction and general information about cataloging maps, chapters on related topics are grouped into sections: “Cataloging Specific Material Types,” “Handling Early Cartographic Material,” “Digital Cartographic Materials,” “Classification and Subject Access of Cartographic Materials,” “Retrospective Conversion of Collections and Quality Control,” and “Cartographic Materials in an Archival Setting.”

The editors have preserved the tone of each chapter, which gives the reader a feel for the background and experience of the authors but results in inconsistencies within the text. For instance, some chapters include the AACR2 (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2d ed.) rule number references in the text, while others put the references in endnotes. Unfortunately, the authors' original comma usages are preserved; a few authors use commas so sparingly that sentences are puzzling until their context within the paragraph is understood. I found myself mentally inserting commas into sentences such as “Whereas titles of books are usually evident from the title page maps quite often provide more than one title from which to choose” (40).

Map cataloging is at a crossroads. One of the primary manuals, *Cartographic Materials: A Manual of Interpretation for AACR2* (1982), has been out-of-print for years, though one can buy an overpriced black-and-white copy printed on demand. A long-awaited revision is imminent. Similarly, the *Map Cataloging Manual* (1991), prepared by the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, is being revised. Neither manual could have anticipated the World Wide Web and the explosion of digital cartographic data. Neither manual adequately covers the cataloging of early maps. In effect, *Maps and Related Cartographic Materials Cataloging, Classification and Bibliographic Control* is the only current reference manual devoted to the bibliographic description of cartographic materials. The chapters are written in an organized, simple style ideal for the beginning map cataloger. Frequent references to the two older manuals and the primary tools of AACR2 and the MARC21 (Machine Readable Cataloging) format allow readers to look up the original citations and judge for themselves whether they accept the authors' interpretation of the best way to catalog the cartographic resources. Clearly, the authors

intend to provide a pragmatic and detailed supplement to the primary cataloging tools.

Even an experienced map cataloger will appreciate the chapters on the cataloging of special formats that they encounter infrequently. I recently referred to “Cataloging Aerial Photographs and Other Remote-Sensing Materials” in cataloging several photo-mosaic indexes of areas in Tennessee. Unsure of how to interpret some of the numbers on the photo-mosaics, I consulted *Maps and Related Cartographic Materials Cataloging, Classification and Bibliographic Control* and quickly found the information needed to determine date and scale. As is typical with other chapters in the “Cataloging Specific Material Types” section, the authors include background information on the map format and discussion of what is significant for cataloging. The text is accompanied by numerous photo-reproductions of the maps and examples of MARC records. The authors cite many references for additional information.

The number and quality of illustrations and catalog record examples vary from chapter to chapter. Those on aerial photographs and on early printed maps are among the best in providing illustrations and accompanying MARC examples. “Cataloging Geologic Sections” is invaluable for its illustrations of different types of geologic sections and explanations of cataloging technique, but contains not one example of a complete bibliographic record. Pictures of map series or atlases would add little to two of the most clearly written chapters in the compilation, “Cataloging Map Series and Serials” and “Cataloging the Contemporary Printed Atlas,” though all of the “how-to” chapters would be enhanced by full-level MARC catalog records, accompanied when practical by illustrations of the resources. In some cases, the catalog records seem to have been an afterthought because they illustrate pre-