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BOOK REVIEW

Not collected centrally: problems of finding and using health statistics
Alan H. Jamieson

Reviewed by Paul Moorbatch

All librarians must have had the problem of where to find health statistics. Sometimes figures cannot be found. Sometimes they do not exist! This book aims to tell where figures can be found or can't. For example, on page 48 the lack of information on costs per patient are explained. The book explains how to hunt for material and how to respond constructively to inquiries. Jamieson does point to Hansard being a source of statistics not available elsewhere. This is interesting but not many librarians would have time to hunt through it. Perhaps more prominence could have been given to relatively easily obtained sources such as *Cancer statistics* or *Mortality statistics* and community care plans. The book is necessarily complicated because the figures are hidden amongst a range of incompatible publications. The difficulties of using databases is also pointed to. Overall this is a most important book and should be purchased by every librarian in the medical area.

*Available from IFM Healthcare, PO Box 19, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle,
Cheshire SK8 6DJ Price £12 incl.p&p*