

Glossary

In this report the expressions and abbreviations listed have the meanings given below: in other contexts they may have different meanings.

Bibliographic database	A database providing references to documents or other literature, sometimes with abstracts. It enables a searcher to identify relevant documents, providing a bibliography or reading list. Cf full-text database .
BIN	Business Information Network. An organization whose members are mainly public sector providers of business information services to small and medium-sized enterprises. Its members are users of historical on-line database services .
CDPA	Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.
CD-ROM	Compact Disc-Read Only Memory. A form of optical disc used for the distribution of digital data, including textual databases such as electronic copies of newspapers.
CICI	Confederation of Information Communication Industries. An association of organizations concerned with the UK information industry. Its aim is to develop and expand national and international markets for UK information products and services.
CIG	City Information Group. A group open to any individual with an interest in financial or business information. It is affiliated to the Institute of Information Scientists. The membership includes users (mainly, but not exclusively, from the financial services industry), suppliers and information brokers . It has around 600 members.
Database	A collection of information arranged and stored electronically. See also file . In this report, except where the context indicates otherwise, the term database has the same meaning as file .
Database service	A service which enables users to search and retrieve information stored in databases .
Data provider	See information provider .
Direct newspaper host	A host whose database service provides reference services and can be accessed directly by users.
EIIA	The European Information Industry Association, which was founded in 1989 by the merger of three European information industry groupings, namely EURIPA (the European Information Providers Association), EHOOG (the European Host Operators Grouping), and The European Videotex Industry Association.
File	A collection of similar information in electronic form. An on-line database service may give access to a number of files of data covering different topics (each of which could itself be described as a database).
Financial Times	The newspaper of that name which is published by The Financial Times Limited, a subsidiary of Financial Times Group Limited.
The FT	Financial Times Group Limited and its subsidiaries.

Full-text database	A database containing the full text of original documents, eg newspapers, allowing the searcher to consult the full text (as opposed to abstracts) of the publication on-line without having to obtain a copy of the printed publication. Cf bibliographic database .
Gateway	A facility which allows subscribers to the services of a gateway operator (which may itself be a host) to access files stored on the computers of another host . Sometimes used to refer to the gateway operator which provides such a facility.
Historical database	A database which is not updated with such frequency as to constitute a real-time database .
Historical on-line database service	A database service which provides users with on-line access to historical databases , not necessarily those containing business and financial information (including newspapers) which constitute the reference services .
Host	An organization which makes available to users a number of databases through its computer system(s).
Information broker	A person or organization who obtains information from established sources on a commercial basis for those who seek it.
Information provider	A publisher/organization that creates the information which is stored in a database , eg a newspaper publisher. Also known as a data provider .
MDC	Mead Data Central Inc. A large US host whose computers store the databases used to provide the Lexis/Nexis on-line database service .
MDCI	Mead Data Central International Inc. The subsidiary of MDC which provides the Lexis/Nexis service internationally, including in the UK.
Off-line	Access to a database locally without the use of telecommunication links, eg by using a copy on CD-ROM or magnetic disc.
On-line	Access to a database by means of telecommunication links.
On-line database	A collection of information in electronic form which is accessible through an on-line service .
On-line services	All types of on-line database service , ie including those which do not fall within the terms of reference.
Pure distributor	A company which is not a host , but which offers gateways enabling users to access database services . A pure distributor will often be a communications company.
Real-time database	A database which is updated as events take place, eg current share prices on a stock exchange.
Real-time service	A service which provides remote users with on-line access to one or more real-time databases .

Reference market
Reference services

The market for the **reference services**.

The services which are defined by the MMC's terms of reference for this inquiry, ie 'the supply in the United Kingdom of text retrieval services consisting in the provision of access to historical on-line databases containing archival business and financial information'. For this purpose 'historical on-line database' means 'a collection of works:

- (a) which includes works reproduced or summarized from daily and Sunday newspapers circulating generally in the UK; and
- (b) which is arranged and indexed electronically, stored in a remote computer and retrieved by the user by means of one or more telecommunication links'.

Specialist host

A **host** specializing in a particular subject area.

Supermarket host

A **host** which has a large number and variety of **databases** covering different subjects.