

BOOK REVIEW

Mary Ann Williams,* M.S.L.S.

Review of Abortion & Reproductive Rights: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicine, Ethics & the Law

REFERENCE: Butler JD, Abortion and Reproductive Rights: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicine, Ethics & the Law, (CD-ROM). Oryx Press, \$295.00.

System Requirements:

IBM-Compatible—MPC-II compliant
486/20 MHZ or greater
8 MB RAM
MSCDEX, version 2.2 or greater
MS Windows 3.1 with multimedia extensions or Windows 95
CD-ROM drive
SVGA Display (640×480, 256 colors)
Sound Blaster, Pro or other 100% compatible card
Mouse

Researchers will find this multimedia CD-ROM a useful tool for investigating the medical, ethical & legal issues of abortion and reproductive rights. The CD-ROM offers text, hyperlinks graphics, video, and slides from a variety of sources.

The system is easy to install & use. There are two main ways of accessing the information: by menu, or by a direct search of the contents. With the menu approach, users can choose from one of three main categories: Medicine, Ethics, and Law. Users are then presented with a list of contents from which to choose. For example, some choices under Medicine include the Centers for Disease Control, Population Council, or Ultrasound Video. Once

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a general topic is selected, a box appears which lists the title and author of articles within that topic. To view, simply click on the desired item.

For more precise browsing, users can directly search the contents of the CD-ROM by clicking on the Search button. This option allows users to search all the topic groups, or just those selected by the user, for a single word, phrase or name. Be sure to read the "hints" for tips on better retrieval.

At any time users can change the direction of their search by either selecting from the pulldown menu bar or by simply clicking on the Contents button.

This CD-ROM brings together a good sampling of the complex issues related to abortion and reproductive rights. Serious researchers and scholars will want to supplement the information included on the CD-ROM by searching some of the bibliographic online databases available such as MEDLINE or BIOETHICSLINE.

Overall this CD-ROM product is easy to use. The multimedia format adds a new dimension not previously available in Butler's printed editions of *Abortion, Medicine, and the Law*. One feature in his books that unfortunately is not found in the CD-ROM is an introduction that explains the significance of the materials selected. This feature would make the CD-ROM more attractive to a novice researcher. While the multimedia format and links to full text documents provides easy access to primary resources, the cost may make the purchase of this specialty CD-ROM attractive only to those with a serious interest in abortion and reproductive rights.

For more details about the CD-ROM check the following web-sites: <http://www.oryxpress.com/arr.htm> or <http://www.qis.net/~butler/sources.html>