DE NOVIS LIBRIS IUDICIA

GIOVANNA ALVONI: *Altertumswissenschaften digital. Datenbanken, Internet und e-Ressourcen in der altertumswissenschaftlichen Forschung*. Mit Beiträgen von ULRICH RAUSCH. Olms Studienbücher Antike, Band 5. Georg Olms Verlag, Hildesheim 2001. ISBN 3-487-11248-5. 191 S. EUR 15,80.

The aim of Giovanna Alvoni's convenient handbook is to remove the lack of an up-to-date manual in German on the use of electronic resources. The book is addressed to scholars and students alike. Here, I must point out that the overall title of the book is slightly misleading: in my opinion, instead of *Altertumswissenschaft*, the authors might have used the term *Klassische Philologie* because very little information about electronic resources in classical archaeology or ancient history is included.

That such a manual has appeared in printed form is very admirable because publications of this kind hardly advance the careers of the authors, not being "scientific" in the strict sense. The printed form has, however, one unfortunate aspect: the delay between the finishing of the book (the *Redaktionsschluß* was 31st March 2000), and its appearance in printed form in 2001. In the field of electronic resources such a delay certainly means that all the information cannot be up-to-date. However, as the "Lesehinweise" inform us (p. 10), an updated list of the internet links can be found at the web page of the publisher (*www.olms.de/buchtips/alvoni/www-adressen.html*), which is extremely useful. (But at the time of the writing of this review, in November 2001, the most recent update was from 15th October 2000.) In any case, some stability seems to have been reached even in the world of URL addresses, as great majority of the links given in the book were still functioning when this review was written.

The first chapter of the book is a concise introduction to the principles of computers. The main chapters are 2, 3, and 4, entitled "Bibliographische Forschungen", "Textdatenbanken", and "Wissenschaftliche Diskussion", respectively. Chapter 5 contains a glossary of the terms, a bibliography, addresses of data banks, and an index. Parts of chapters 2, 3, and 5 have been written by Ulrich Rausch.

In the first part of Chapter 2, Alvoni presents some bibliographic resources on CD-ROM: *The Database of Classical Bibliography*, *Gnomon Bibliographische Datenbank*, and *Dyabola*. Basic information, such as system requirements, and users' instructions are given. What follows is a general discussion of the various aspects of the Internet as a global data bank (p. 44-70), written by U. Rausch. The content is informative, even for a reader who is to some extent familiar with the internet. The section also contains information about some of the most important search engines. As the information is from the year 2000, one could now add, e. g., the efficient search engine *www.google.com* (for a collection of search engines, see also *www.researchville.com*). In addition, Rausch lucidly discusses some security questions and explains significant terms in internet jargon, such as *cookies*. As far as the most important problem with the internet

is concerned, i. e., how to distinguish between correct and false information, he delivers some words of caution, and concludes: "Das Internet hat die Antwort auf viele – vielleicht sogar auf alle Fragen. Die Kunst besteht aber darin, die richtige Frage zu formulieren, damit man die Antwort auch findet" (p. 44). This is partly true, but on the net, even with the right questions, one can certainly receive wrong information because of the facility of spreading information through internet. At the moment, this is a universal problem, and no solution is discernible. In my view, it is possible that in the future, webmasters of important classics link sites will increasingly be responsible for the reliability of information as they choose whether to include a link on their list or not.

Bibliographical resources, library catalogues, periodicals, and institutes are presented in the final parts of Chapter 2. Unlike the other sections, the library section concentrates on the German-language areas of Europe. However, some of the links extend the opportunities of research to other libraries, such as the apparently very useful *Karlsruher Virtuelle Katalog* (but the URL address given in the book has changed; in November 2001, the site was accessible at *www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk.html*). One could naturally add other libraries, such as the catalogue of the *Unione Romana delle Biblioteche Scientifiche* (URBS, *www-urbs.vatlib.it*).

Chapter 3 presents the most important data bases of ancient texts. Even if the publishing of printed books certainly does not seem to be diminishing, the amount of ancient text material available in electronic form is slowly becoming more and more complete. Like the previous chapters, this one is a very useful introduction to the resources. The approach is PC oriented; it seems, indeed, that few of these resources are available for Macintosh users. In my view, both PC and Macintosh users interested in Greek texts will miss a discussion of Greek fonts in the chapter. Some advice should have been given on how to acquire various Greek fonts, how to type them easily, and if the conversion problems can be solved at all. Chapter 4, by Alvoni, begins with an explanation of the principles of e-mail; in the following part, the reader is introduced to some mailing lists in the field of classical antiquity. Surprisingly, the Papyrus research discussion list (PAPY) is missing here. In Chapter 5, the glossary is very precise. The bibliography contains many useful items, even if some of them, from the early 1990's, may be more relevant to the cultural history of Classics and electronic resources. In all, the volume works very well as an introduction to the subject. Furthermore, it is a good aide-mémoire when, e. g., a bookmark file has been lost and the search engine produces hundreds of useless results.

Kalle Korhonen

HEINZ BELLEN: *Politik – Recht – Gesellschaft. Studien zur Alten Geschichte.* Hrsg. von LEONHARD SCHUMACHER. Historia Einzelschriften 115. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 1997. ISBN 3-515-07150-4. 323 S. mit 24 Tafeln. DEM 138.

Der weitumfassende Titel des vorliegenden Bandes spannt einen globalen Rahmen und vereint, wie man sogleich bemerkt, unter einem Einband eine Sammlung von Aufsätzen und Studien. Der Band ist für Heinz Bellen zu seinem 70. Geburtstag zusammengestellt