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ABSTRACT
        This guide to materials on microcomputers that are
available in the Library of Congress is designed to assist
individuals in the process of determining the need for a
microcomputer, selecting the most appropriate one, understanding its
use, and developing the ability to exploit its full potential. Buying
guides, evaluations, and books on individual systems are listed to
assist persons considering the purchase of a microcomputer with
information on what these machines can do and the software that is
available. References to books on maintenance and repair are also
included. A brief explanation of the scope of the topic introduces
the references, which are listed in the following categories: (1)
introductions to the microcomputer (2) subject headings; (3) selected
buying guides; (4) basic texts; (5) additional texts; (6) related
texts; (7) handbooks, manuals, encyclopedias, and dictionaries; (8)
catalogs; (9) maintenance and repair; (10) bibliographies; (11)
state-of-the-art reviews and conference proceedings; (12) government
publications; (13) abstracting and indexing services; (14) online
databases; (15) journals; (16) representative journal articles; (17)
indexes to reports; (18) selected technical reports; (19) selected
vertical file materials; and (2) associations that can provide
additional information. (CGD)

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MICROCOMPUTERS
Compiled by Kay Rodgers

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SCOPE: Microcomputers, often referred to as personal computers (PCs), are small, stand-alone computers whose basic characteristics include moderate cost, immediate use right out of the carton, expansion and enhancement capabilities, and the availability of third-party software. As they evolve, they become capable of doing more and more of what larger computers can do. Microcomputers are used in both home and office by one person only or by a small group to perform such activities as word processing, data management and analysis, graphics, planning, and communication with peripherals and other computers.
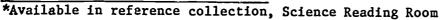
Microcomputers are not essential for everyone. Many have been purchased only to sit idle after their owners find that they have too little use for them. The aim of this guide is to assist in the process of determining the need for a microcomputer, selecting the most appropriate one, understanding its use, and developing the ability to exploit its full potential. Buying guides, evaluations, and books on individual systems are listed in an attempt to provide those considering the purchase of a microcomputer with information on what these machines can do and what software is available. References to books on maintenance and repair are also included. Not meant to be a comprehensive bibliography, this Tracer Bullet, an update of TB 81-12, is designed--as the name of the series implies--to put the reader "on target."

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*Available in reference collection, Science Reading Room

SUBJECT HEADINGS used by the Library of Congress, under which books on micro-
computers can be located in most card, book, and online catalogs, include the
following:

> MICROCOMPUTERS (Highly relevant)
> MINICOMPUTERS (Highly relevant)
> PORTABLE COMPUTERS (Highly relevant)
> See also under the names of individual computers, e.g., Apple IIe,
>   IBM Personal Computer, Macintosh. It is usually best to use
>   the browse command when trying to locate information about a
>   particular computer using the online system.
> COMPUTER SOFTWARE (Related)
> MICROPROCESSORS (Related)
> COMPUTERS (More general)
> ELECTRONIC DIGITAL COMPUTERS (More general)

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<u>Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology</u>. H.R. 3750,
the Computer Literacy Act, and H.R. 4628, the National Educational
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Representatives, Ninety-eighth Congress, second session, June 5,
1984. Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1984. 350 p.

KF27.S399 1984g

<u>ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING SERVICES</u> that index relevant journal articles and
literature are listed below. Some suggested terms are given as aids in
searching.

<u>Applied Science & Technology Index</u> (1913-) Z7913.I7*
    See: Computers, Portable
        Microcomputers
        Personal Computers
        Telephone--Computer Combination

<u>Business Periodicals Index</u> (1958-) Z7164.C81B983
    See: Microcomputers
        Portable Computers
          For specific applications see subheading Data Processing
        under various subjects.
          See also under names of individual products.

<u>Computer Abstracts</u> (1957-) Z6654.C17C64*
    See: Microcomputers
        Personal Computing
          See also under names of individual products.

<u>Computer & Control Abstracts</u> (1969-) QA76.C548*
    See: Hobby Computing
        Home Computing
        Microcomputers
        Personal Computing
          For applications see Microcomputer Applications and under
        relevant application heading.

<u>Computer Literature Index</u> (1980-) QA76.Q3*
      See: Microcomputers
          Minicomputers
          Personal Computing
          Videotex

Note: Consult reference librarian for location of abstracting and indexing
     services in the Science Reading Room.

Magazine Index (1983-) Available on film/ROM reader
  See: Laptop Computers
        Microcomputers
        Minicomputers
        Portable Computers
          See also under names of individual products.

Microcomputer Index (1980-) QA75.5.M5*
  This publication has an author index, company name index, product
name index, and an index to microcomputers.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (1900-) AI3.R45
  See under headings beginning COMPUTERS.

ONLINE DATABASES available through commercial electronic database vendors include:

Business Software Database (Data Courier, Inc.)

The Computer Database--The Database for Computing, Electronics, and Tele-
  communications (Management Contents)

The International Software Database (International Software Database Corp.)

Magazine Index (Information Access Company, IAC)

Microcomputer Index (Database Services)

Microcomputers (GML Corp.)

JOURNALS that often contain articles relevant to microcomputers are

Byte QA76.5.B9
Communications of the ACM QA76.A772
Compute QA75.5.C587
Computerworld QA76.C5816
Datamation T175.M26
Infoworld uncataloged
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  1987: 182-184.   QA76.8.I2594P3

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  1987. 192 p. (Datamation, v. 33, Sept. 15, 1987)   T175.M26
    Reports statistics on industry growth and changes as well as
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                                                                  TA1.A52322

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LePage, Rick. The road to MS-DOS: exploring the paths to connectivity. Macworld, v. 4, Aug. 1987: 108-113.   uncataloged

Miller, Stephan. Black Enterprise guide to home entertainment. Black enterprise, v. 18, Sept. 1987: 81-88.   E185.8.B5

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Murphy, Brian J. Long live the home market (whatever it is). High-tech marketing, v. 4, June 1987: 20-26.   uncataloged

Reich, Caroline. Rules may change in software selection. Purchasing world, v. 31, Aug. 1987: 74-75.   HF5437.A2P83

Sharpe, Richard. Why portability cannot compete. Management today, Mar. 1987: 100.   HD70.G7M32

Vitalari, Nicholas P., and Alladi Venkatesh. In-home computing and information services: a twenty-year analysis of the technology and its impacts. Telecommunications policy, v. 11, Mar. 1987: 65-81.
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Waldrop, Heidi. Planners and their computers: love at first byte? Successful meetings, v. 36, Aug. 1987: 42-45.   HF5438.A317

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Williamson, Mickey. Will AI fit onto a PC? Computerworld, v. 21, Aug. 17, 1987: 55-57.   QA76.C5816

Wright, Richard B. How one executive makes the most of his PC. Industrial distribution, v. 76, May 1987: 169-174.   TJ1.M65

Yaramko, James. Augmenting the power of personal computers. Office, v. 106, Aug. 1987: 38-41.   HF5001.02

REPORTS and other types of literature are indexed in the following guides:

Government Reports Announcements & Index (1946-) Z7916.G78*

Scientific & Technical Aerospace Reports (1963-) TL500.S35*

SELECTED TECHNICAL REPORTS

The Application of microcomputers to aerospace and defence scientific
and technical information work. (AGARD lecture series, no. 149)
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1987. 196 p.   PB87-157 368**

Highfill, Keith G. A decision model for selection of microcomputers
and operating systems. Monterey, Calif., Naval Postgraduate School,
June 1984. 75 p.   AD-A149 065**

Mauersberger, Gary S. The design and hardware evaluation of an ad-
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digital signal processing. Manhattan, Kan., Dept. of Electrical
and Computer Engineering, Kansas State University, 1985. 108 p.
    Master's thesis.   AD-A158 130**

Schiller, Mark W. TOTAL-EASE: a personal computer based expert system
for control system engineering. Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Air
Force Institute of Technology, Dec. 1986. 280 p.   AD-A177 751**

Schinelli, Bruce G. A decision support system for space technology
tradeoffs: a microcomputer application. Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio,
Air Force Institute of Technology, Dec. 1985. 170 p. AD-A172 379**

Whitacre, C. Glenvil, and others. Personal computer program for chem-
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                                                          AD-A177 622**

SELECTED MATERIALS available in the Science Reading Room pamphlet boxes include:

All about microcomputer expansion cards. Datapro reports on microcompu-
ters, v. 1, Sept. 1987: CM17-005-101--CM17-005-145.
    Includes a list of vendors, organized information, and speci-
fications for video display adapters, accelerator cards, memory
cards, port cards, controller cards, and multifunction cards.
    For latest update, see Datapro notebook in Science Reading Room.

**Available in the microform collection, Science Reading Room.

All about microcomputers. Datapro directory of microcomputer hardware, v. 1, Dec. 1986: SC20-600-101--SC20-600-144.
>Includes a list of microcomputer vendors, organized information, and specifications for microcomputer models.
>For latest update, see Datapro notebook in Science Reading Room.

Ditlea, Steve. Souping up your PC. Science digest, v. 94, June 1986: 66-67, 69.

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Rogers, Michael. The PC printing press. Newsweek, v. 108, July 14, 1986: 50-51.

User ratings of personal computers. Datapro reports on microcomputers, v. 1, Jan. 1986: CM09-002-101--CM09-002-128.
>For latest update, see Datapro notebook in Science Reading Room.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Association for Computing Machinery, Inc.
11 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10036
Telephone: (212) 869-7440

Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology
U.S. National Bureau of Standards
Building 225, Room B154
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899
Telephone: (301) 921-3151

International Communications Industries Association
3150 Spring Street
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
Telephone: (703) 273-7200

See Encyclopedia of Associations, v. 1, pt. 3 (in Science Reading Room) under Computer Users for identification and location of users groups.