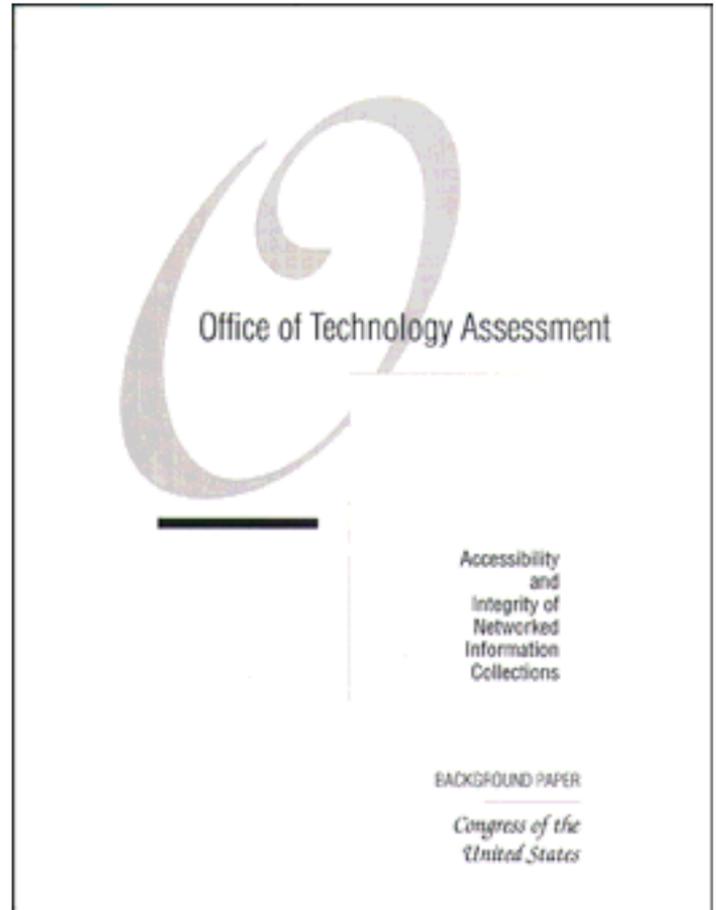


*Accessibility and Integrity of Networked
Information Collections*

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Foreword

Technological advances in networking--ranging from widespread use of Internet to development of the National Research and Education Network and National Information Infrastructure--are ushering in a new era of information systems and online information resources. Networked information collections, or "digital libraries, " allowing online access to books, journals, music, images, databases, and multimedia works will be an important part of this new infrastructure. The extent to which these resources' potential is realized will depend, in part, on their accessibility and "user-friendliness." But measures to increase user friendliness have an equally important counterpart in measures to ensure the integrity and proper use of network information resources. Otherwise, potential problems like plagiarism, corruption of databases, and improper use of copyrighted materials could impede development of networked information collections or limit their public accessibility.

Clifford Lynch's contractor report was prepared as part of an Office of Technology Assessment planning activity on the accessibility and integrity of digital libraries, in partial fulfillment of Section 2385 of the Rural Economic Development Act of 1990 (Public Law 101 -624).

In this contractor report, Lynch takes the perspective of the library community and its users and patrons in examining issues and potential problems facing digital libraries, with emphasis on accessibility, integrity, and the interrelationships between them. Lynch discusses the technological and institutional measures that can be used to address access and integrity issues, identifies problems that cannot be appropriately resolved by current technologies and/or institutions, and offers his views concerning actions by Government and others that will be needed to address them.



Roger C. Herdman, Director

REVIEWERS

Robert J. Aiken
U.S. Department of Energy

Pat Battin
Commission on Preservation
and Access

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Jean Pony
NYSERNet

Maria Zemankova
National Science Foundation

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ACCESSIBILITY AND INTEGRITY
OF
NETWORKED INFORMATION COLLECTIONS

by
CLIFFORD A. LYNCH

**Contractor Report prepared for the
Office of Technology Assessment
Telecommunication and Computing Technologies Program
Joan D. Winston, Contract Coordinator**

**The views expressed in this contractor report are those
of the author and do not necessarily reflect the analytical
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