CHILDES/BIB: an annotated bibliography of child language and language disorders
Roy Higginson and Brian MacWhinney
Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 1991. viii + 1162.

This is the published version of a database which has been being compiled since the mid-1980s. It consists of nearly 7500 records of publications within this joint field, of articles as well as books – the vast majority being on normal child language acquisition. Each record consists of the usual bibliographical information, and most are followed by an annotation – a summary of the contents in just a few lines. There are 100 pages of index, divided into authors and (of especial value) subjects. The coverage is particularly thorough after 1970 (over 5400 entries), and there are 237 entries from before 1900. The contents of several earlier bibliographies have been incorporated, along with relevant items from *Child Development* and *Language* since 1974. Cut-off date for publication was the end of 1989.

This is one of the increasingly valuable range of materials being made available under the CHILDES initiative (see the article by MacWhinney and Snow in *Journal of Child Language*, 1990). Some further attention to indexing procedure would have been helpful: index numbers are to pages, not bibliographic items, so you are forced to read several entries before you find the one you want. Desktop electronic versions of the database are also available, as are archival corpora of child language and language disorders, information on coding schemes and software, and a bulletin board (info-childes-request@andrew.bitnet). For anyone seriously interested in child language research, and who cannot access the electronic version, this volume is essential.