

Current Index to Statistics/ Extended Database

Year 2000 Compliance

30 April 1998

The *Current Index to Statistics/Extended Database (CISED)* is an indexed set of records, each of which contains bibliographic information on a publication in the statistics literature. The most recently issued edition of the CISED is the 1997 Edition (containing bibliographic information through 1996), which is distributed on CD-ROM by the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. The 1998 Edition is scheduled to be available in late autumn of 1998.

Each year's edition of the CISED completely supercedes and replaces all previous editions. All records contained in earlier editions are included in each new year's edition.

Year 2000 issues affect two aspects of the CISED, the data contained in the records themselves, and Y2K compatibility of search software systems that access those records. Search software is provided by a number of vendors. Three complete software systems (two for Unix and one for Macintosh or Windows) are available as freeware (that is, are licensed without fee). The search software for Macintosh and Windows systems (CIScd) is supplied on the CD-ROM with the CISED itself; the Unix software packages are available by downloading from the CIS website [<http://www.stat.uchicago.edu/~cis/>].

A. CISED Y2K compliance status.

Dates appear in the CISED in only one user-accessible location, namely, Field 1 of each bibliographic record. The date is currently represented as a fixed two-character subfield of Field 1 representing the year of publication. There are no entries in the CISED prior to 1901, and at present, there are no entries later than 1997. The first edition of the CISED which could contain any records dated after 1999 is the year 2000 Edition of the CISED, expected to be available in late autumn of 2000. At present, Field 1 is 28 bytes in length

Purchasers of the 1997 (or 1998) Edition CD-ROM can continue to use that edition of the CISED in conjunction with the software supplied on the same CD-ROM, and the advent of the year 2000 will introduce no problems. (The database on those CD-ROMs will be a few years out of date by then, however.)

Beginning with the 1999 edition of the CISED, Field 1 will be expanded to 30 bytes, and the year subfield will be expanded from two to four bytes in length. All existing records will be updated to reflect the correct four-digit date. In addition, all future enhancements of the database structure and/or its contents which involve dates for calculation will unambiguously specify the century for any year.

Consequently, the CISED will be fully Year 2000 compliant by Autumn of 1999, and no current or future database will fail as a consequence of the date advancing past 1999.

B. Search software compliance status.

Although the search software products are offered by different vendors and not by the Current Index to Statistics, the CIS works closely with and encourages development of search software. Software that is distributed without license fee is eligible to be distributed on the CD-ROM, but other software and software components are available.

Beginning with the 1999 Edition, all contributors of software for inclusion on the CD-ROM must certify that their products are Year 2000 compliant. In addition, beginning with software intended for the 1999 Edition, the CIS website will point only to downloadable software products that are certified by their vendors to be Year 2000 compliant.

Users of software distributed on the 1997 (or 1998) Edition CD-ROM with the databases supplied on those CD-ROMS will not be affected by the advent of the year 2000. The 1997 (1998) software used with 1997 (1998) data will continue to operate properly after 1999 and will produce results identical to those currently produced.

C. Information for vendors of search software.

The specifications for the 1997 and 1998 Editions of the CISED database are specified in the current version of the Technical Reference Guide, available for download in PDF format from the CIS website.

The specifications for the 1999 Edition of the CISED database will be published in Autumn of 1998, and will also be available for downloading in PDF format from the CIS website.

D. For further information.

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