vice versa. However, the communication between the POP-11's backtracking and the Prolog's one would increase the power of the ensire system. For example, the POP-11 function

```
func·ion collect(X,G) => Result;
  nil ->Result;
  if ( ?- call(G). ) then
    append(X,Result) ->Result;
/*add X to the list Result */
    fail
/* ... would fail the goal G */
```

```
endif
end;
```

would return the list Result of all the objects X so that the Prolog goal G would be satisfied (i.e. it is an analogy to findall(X,G,Result)). This extension seems to be promising, and no new procedure or predicate will have to be added to the McPOPLOG system.

The McPOPLOG runs currently on VAX systems and on systems based on the Motorola 68000 processor. Detailed information on the system can be obtained from the author.

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Book Review

CD-ROMS in Print: an International Guide to CD-ROM, CD-I, CDTV & Electronic Book Products
Meckler, London 1992. ISBN 0891-8198, ISSN 0-88736-780-1. Print edition, £40; CD-ROM edition, £59; joint price, £79.

We are all now familiar with the music CD, and there can be few in the computing profession who are not also familiar with the CD-ROM (compact disc read only memory) as a means of storage for large quantities of data. Over the past decade the rapid appearance of one standard reference book after another in CD-ROM format is having a significant impact on the librarian's approach both to collection development and exploitation. CD-ROMs allow not only the storage of large amounts of data within a very small space (e.g. the 3-volume set of *Kompass UK* reduced to one 4.72″ disc), but also allow multiple access to that data through the sophisticated search software available on many CDs. The type and range of CD-ROMs is now huge – dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories, catalogues, abstracting publications, financial records, statistical data, works of literature, children's books...many of which will allow you to search the entire database, to sort, download and even analyse the data presented. They can make commercially produced databases, normally

available on-line, readily accessible to a public readership without the need for complex dial-up telecommunications links. Unfortunately CD-ROMs do not offer a cheap option. Prices do not appear to have come down with greater use, as initially expected. Inevitably a CD-ROM will cost several times the price of an equivalent printed copy, and in addition a workstation is needed in order to 'read' the 'automated' book.

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