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Book Review of Microcomputer Software Selection for the Law Library -- Part I: General Business Software

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software selection for library applications, and because this work focuses on software selection for law libraries, this book is recommended only for law libraries. Librarians in other types of libraries would be better advised to spend their money on two or three other works with more general application. James S. Heller

519. Pennington, Catherine A. **Microcomputer Software Selection for the Law Library. Part One: General Business Software.** Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., Glanville, 1987. 135p. illus. index. (Law Library Information Reports, Vol. 9). \$100.00 pa. ISBN 0-87802-087-X.

General Business Software is published as part of Glanville's Law Library Information Reports series. Each of the series' nine distinct titles addresses matters of law library administration. Although Pennington's work has a particular bent toward law library automation, it could also prove valuable to administrators of other types of libraries.

The chapters cover the following topics: word processing; spreadsheets, database management, and graphics; communications; educational software; project management and outline processing software; utilities; and future planning. Each chapter begins with a brief questionnaire designed to help readers identify their library's current needs. The readers are then referred to the specific part of the chapter that addresses the level of software sophistication of their institution. Illustrations are plentiful and generally very legible. A bibliography with brief annotations concludes each chapter.

Pennington offers practical advice based on her own extensive experience as a former law firm librarian and currently as Associate Law Librarian at St. John's University Law Library. She provides a framework for assessing a library's needs and identifies the features of software that meet those needs. Her straightforward recommendations suggest particular software that she has found effective. The casual, nonthreatening tone of the work does not obscure the fact that Pennington is very knowledgeable about library software. Even acknowledging the book's many merits, however, the \$100.00 price tag is excessive, placing this work out of reach for most libraries. In view of the wealth of other literature available on