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Part of the scientific community still maintains a traditionalist attitude towards new information storage and retrieval systems; the shelves of printed books and catalogues are deemed irreplaceable, and there may be some doubt involved as to the quality and completeness of material offered via terminal. This is a timely volume therefore, dealing as it does with the proceedings of the 64th Colloquium of the International Astronomical Union, organised to cover most aspects of work with machine readable data. Among other topics, the book deals with existing data centres, data networks, new hardware, recent software developments, data in astronomy, and data in space astronomy.



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