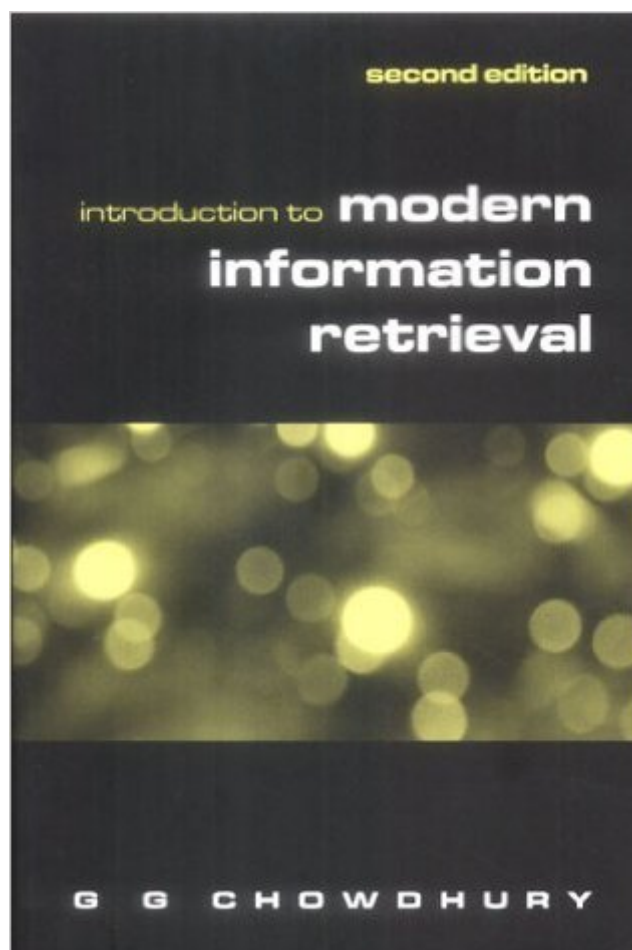


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# Introduction To Modern Information Retrieval



## Synopsis

An information retrieval system is designed to analyse, process and store sources of information and retrieve those that match a particular user's requirements. A bewildering range of techniques is now available to the information professional attempting to successfully retrieve information. It is recognized that today's information professionals need to concentrate their efforts on learning the techniques of computerized information retrieval. However, it is this book's contention that it also benefits them to learn the theory, techniques and tools that constitute the traditional approaches to the organization and processing of information. In fact much of this knowledge may still be applicable in the storage and retrieval of electronic information in digital library environments. This fully revised second edition has been thoroughly updated to incorporate major changes in this rapidly expanding field since the first edition in 1999, including user-centred models, web information retrieval, user interfaces, digital libraries and metadata. Illustrated with many examples and comprehensively referenced for an international audience, this is an indispensable textbook for students of library and information studies undertaking courses in information retrieval, information organization, information use and knowledge-based systems at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. It is also an invaluable aid for information practitioners wishing to brush up on their skills and keep up to date with the latest techniques.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This textbook is really awful. It is the required text for one of my library & information science

courses. In my class evaluation at the end of the semester, I plan on strongly recommending that they look into a different text for the course. It is poorly written, poorly edited, and difficult to understand. Concepts are discussed with little to no explanation. The author relies heavily on "bullet point"-type lists, which seem more like space filler than useful information. The abstracts and abstracting chapter, while easier to understand than some of the other chapters, is lacking any illustrative examples. The section on automatic abstracting, in particular, should have been supplemented by some examples of automatic abstracts, so readers have a clear idea of what automatic abstracting has to offer and what its deficiencies are. Listing 5-6 definitions of abstracting is not nearly as helpful as some solid, concrete examples would be. For an introductory text, the author uses language that is too technical and doesn't even try to explain it. Much of the text is very repetitive. It is a bad combination of being too basic in parts and too advanced in other parts; it never finds the right balance. Overall, reading this book is painful, not only because it isn't engaging or well-written but because I don't feel like I actually learned anything after reading a chapter. If anything, I sometimes feel more confused.

The book provides an exhaustive survey of the theory and practice of information retrieval (IR) from its beginnings to the latest developments, with a focus on metadata, indexing and retrieval, users and evaluation. The author diligently summarizes the research literature and presents alternative theories and approaches, but sometimes fails to synthesize the different viewpoints into a single coherent picture. The book can serve as a good source of reference for information professionals or advanced students of library and information science who need an up-to-date overview of the field and its developments. It is less suitable for computer scientists who need more detail on algorithms, or for practitioners who look for practical guidance. The title of the book is somewhat misleading since it presupposes too much prior knowledge to serve as a first introduction for newcomers to IR and misses some important "modern" topics such as faceted search or the Semantic Web. It is therefore advisable to consult additional sources of reference to get a complete picture of the rapid developments in the field of IR.

This one is a bit more on the info science side of things, but is quite good. It is an intro to IR which, like IO, can be a tricky subject to talk about. I thought the author did quite well and the use of diagrams when talking about IR algorithms was a big plus. There are some chapters that are not as relevant as others, but overall, a great text.

if you need an old book for historical purpose of this topic, maybe - but too much has happened since it was published for this edition to be acceptable for today's student...

So far, it seems to be helpful for the class it was required for. \$90.00 for a paperback book is really sad, though.

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