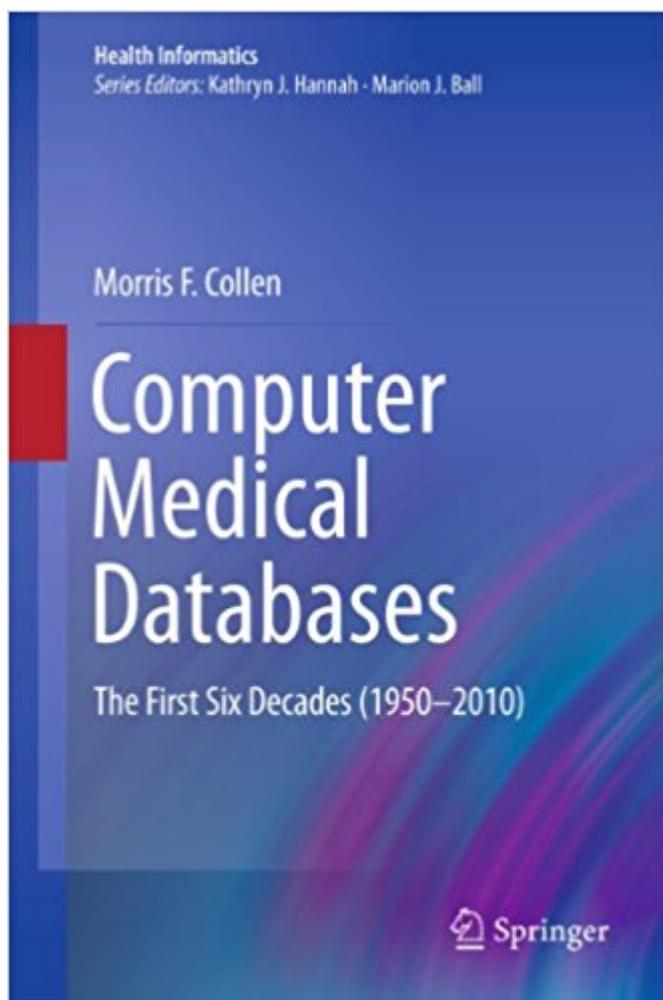


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Computer Medical Databases: The First Six Decades (1950–2010) (Health Informatics)



Synopsis

Chapter 1 offers an overview of the basic computer technology. Each succeeding chapter, describes the problems in medicine, followed by a review in chronological sequence of why and how computers were applied to try to meet these problems. Only the technical aspects of computer hardware, software, and communications are discussed as they are necessary to explain how the technology was applied. This approach generally led to defining the objectives for applications of medical informatics. At the end of each chapter, the author summarizes his personal views and interpretations of the chapter contents. Although the concurrent evolution of medical informatics in Canada, Europe, and Japan certainly influenced workers in the United States, the scope of this historical review is limited to the development of medical informatics within the United States. Furthermore, this review is limited to electronic digital computers; it excludes mechanical, analog, and hybrid computers.

Book Information

File Size: 1452 KB

Print Length: 310 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1447127048

Publisher: Springer; 2012 edition (October 20, 2011)

Publication Date: October 20, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007EM6J1Q

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #430,898 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #102 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Medical eBooks > Specialties > Family & General Practice #116 in Books > Medical Books > Medical Informatics #612 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Family Practice

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