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First there was machine language. Then assembler. Then the population boom of third generation languages: COBOL, FORTRAN, BASIC, Pascal, C, and others. Now powerful fourth generation languages (4GLs)—with less familiar names like FOCUS, QBE, and SQL—are revolutionizing what can be done on computers.

Imagine programming without having to learn elaborate chains of commands or syntax structures. With 4GLs even computer-phobic executives can, with minimal training, get direct access to immense databases of information—and create just the customized reports they want. One person can now do what used to require a team of programmers.

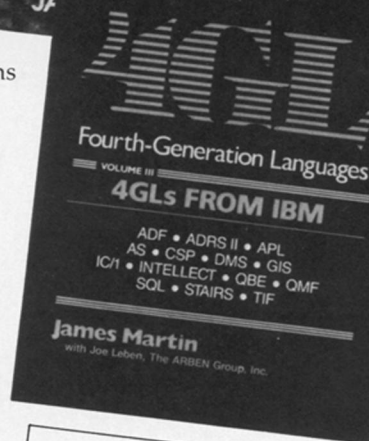
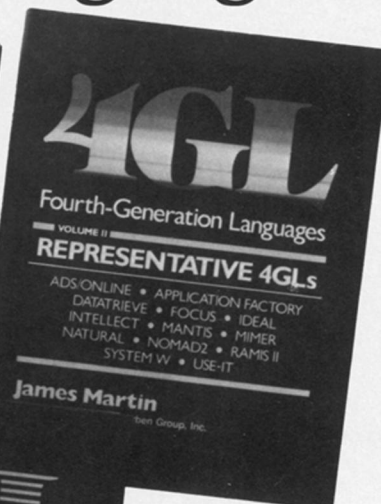
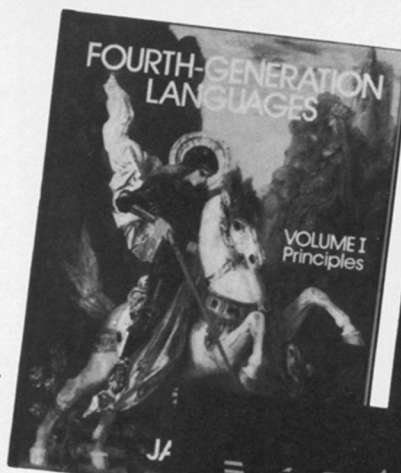
For more than two decades, the most sought-after guide to the frontiers of computing has been James Martin, the world's best-selling computer author. In these three landmark volumes, Martin brings the brave new world of 4GLs down to earth. He explains everything from how they are designed to the controversial questions about who should control databases and system development. Best of all, in Volumes 2 and 3, he offers a cogent, detailed analysis—complete with case studies—of the claims and achievements made by each of the many languages currently competing for dominance.

Volume I: Principles

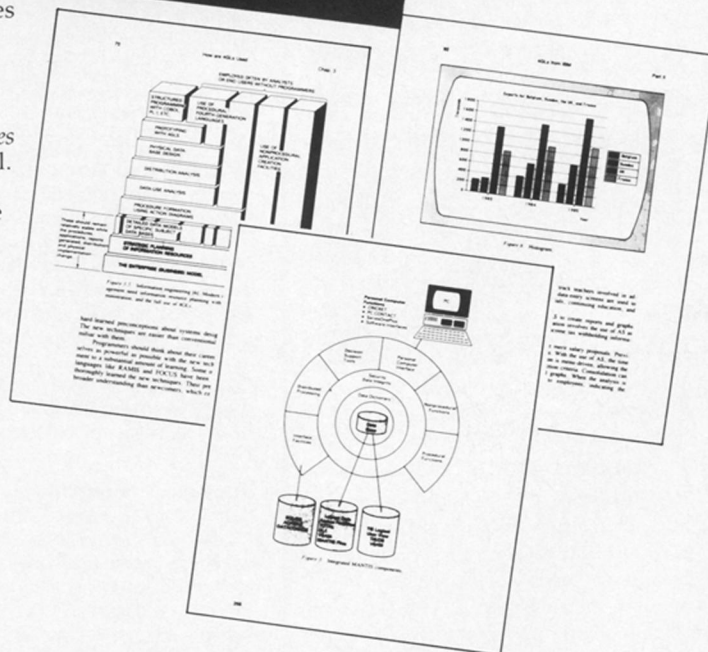
Volume II: Representative 4GLs

Volume III: 4GLs From IBM

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