

though the hearings include some testimony in support.

A momentary glance backward to Melvil Dewey's nineteenth century justification of unequal pay for equal work indicates how the concept of protection has been used to women's disadvantage. Referring to librarians, Dewey claimed that since man, in contrast to woman,

can in an emergency lift a heavy case, or climb a ladder . . . or can act as fireman or do police duty, he adds direct value. . . . Woman . . . almost always receives, whether she exacts it or not, much more waiting on and minor assistance than a man in the same place and therefore, with sentiment aside, hard business judgment cannot award her quite as much salary.

Although this argument is rarely used today, in practice its consequences endure, and its philosophical underpinnings remain tenacious. (If anyone doubts this, just read some of the testimony in this volume, or turn to page 527 where a senator quotes Kipling on motherhood.) The ERA would undoubtedly help to shake loose this Victorian holdover.

Throughout the May 1970 hearings there were lively and dramatic interchanges, and sections of the testimony bear out the editor's introductory suggestion that the congressional committee room is "an authentic source of American theater." Some of the scenes are as revealing as the official documents.

The preface states: "Our purpose in publishing this volume is to make accessible to the public in a hardcover edition the record of influential government operations, to make obtainable what might otherwise be ignored." A commendable idea! But priced at nearly four times the \$3.25 original, this edition may be ignored, too.

Edited by a Barnard English professor in conjunction with Congressional Information Service, the book is, essentially, a somewhat shortened reproduction of the 800-page hearings with a reorganized plan of arrangement, and a few additions. It preserves most of the original text, including the occasional typographical errors. Unlike its model, in this edition the complete oral testimony is brought together in one, smooth-running flow, and most of the documentary material is reassembled in a sep-

arate section organized in pro and con sequences. Deleted are those documents and statements the editor deemed repetitive, along with almost all of the prepared testimony (about 200 or so pages, all told). The result is a much more readable volume, whose essential content has, with a few exceptions, been maintained.

The revised and added indexes however, lack the important identifying information about witnesses and documents provided in the original; and because of the rearranged textual sequence, more link-up between documents and documents and testimony is required than these indexes supply.

First introduced in 1923, shortly after the 19th amendment extended the vote to women, an equal rights amendment was introduced again in nearly every subsequent session of Congress. The hearings reprinted in this book contain the first legislative testimony on the amendment since 1956; but it is unfortunate that the otherwise informative introduction does not mention later relevant hearings which took place before this book was completed. Hearings were held by a Senate committee in September 1970, and by a House subcommittee in March and April 1971. However, the editor does include some colorful excerpts from the *Congressional Record* not in the GPO edition, which neatly convey the character of the longer range ERA controversy. Approved by Congress forty-nine years after it was first introduced, the constitutional amendment now awaits ratification by the states.—Anita R. Schiller, *University of California, San Diego*.

Hyman, Richard Joseph. **Access to Library Collections**. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1972. 452 p., index, bibliography. ISBN 0-8108-0434-4. LC 77-169134.

Of the three parts to Hyman's *Access to Library Collections*—a "documentary analysis," a definition of browsing and browsability and a "questionnaire analysis"—only the definitions are of sufficient substance to bear study. The documentary analysis merely rehashes at intolerable length the century-old arguments of librarianship, especially classification theory. Hyman's intentions were to bring together a great deal of literature on the various questions of librarianship rel-

evant to direct access, and presumably, through the insights of past writers, to bring a focus upon our problems today. Unfortunately, although a thorough and annotated literature search is provided, the lack of restraint or selectivity in assembling the material serves only to smother and diffuse the issues. (There are ninety bibliographical footnotes for the chapter "Sociology of Direct Access," Bliss is quoted or cited thirty-two times in the book, and a single quote from Matthews appears in three separate discussions.) Hyman perceptively notes:

. . . the problems related to direct access are peculiarly obdurate, and . . . one might through *any* representative sampling of past studies, reconfirm their pervasive and still largely unresolved nature.

It is in the definitions of browsing and browsability that we encounter Hyman's own contribution to the book: "Browsing is that activity, subsumed in the direct shelf approach, whereby materials arranged for use in a library are examined in the reasonable expectation that desired or valuable items or information might be found among those materials as arranged on the shelves," and "browsability" is "that characteristic of an open-shelf collection resulting from the arrangement of a library's materials" that permits browsing.

The first problem with Hyman's definitions is that they are neither based on nor lead to a solid theoretical discussion of browsing. Such characteristics of browsing as the type of collection involved and the motives and habits of the user, not specified in the definitions, are incompletely discussed in the text and are perfunctorily run through in the questionnaire. The failure to discuss what can be affirmed about the relationship between a user and an open-shelf collection, what could be supposed about such a relationship and what must be left, perhaps forever, unanswered is a fatal flaw in the book. For indeed this relationship varies with each user and collection; to discuss it in only the most generalized way is to forsake the question of browsing for the problems of library management.

For Hyman the key to browsing is the arrangement of the collection. Although he

states in the introduction that the direct shelf approach involves "every major concern, theoretical and practical, of librarianship," his emphasis is on such questions as "printed or card catalogs; broad or close classification; relative or fixed location; regional or union catalogs; classified or dictionary catalogs." Indeed, much of the book seems less an attempt to show that browsing involves all aspects of librarianship than to show that cataloging and classification do. This leads to the second main problem with Hyman's definitions: he has failed to challenge his own basic assumption that order is essential to browsing. Polling other librarians (via the questionnaire) on whether or not arrangement is essential to browsing does not provide that challenge, as most librarians operate on that same basic assumption. Since the hypotheses that Hyman is "testing" in the questionnaire are some of the very tenets of librarianship for most librarians, the general agreement with them does not show that these statements are accurate; it merely shows that they are generally accepted. Hyman offers no evidence to dispute an opposing theory (e.g., that arrangement serves no purpose in browsing), and therefore the verdict on whether or not arrangement (and therefore classification) is essential to browsing would have to be: Not Proven. Since the contention that arrangement is essential to browsing is both Hyman's greatest concern and the book's only substantive assertion, one could not recommend this book as a thoughtful or thought-provoking work on browsing.—*William Chase, Librarian, East Lyme High School, Connecticut.*

Zimmerman, Irene. *Current National Bibliographies of Latin America: A State of the Art Study*. Gainesville, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, 1971. 139 p.

Perhaps the most striking thing about this book is that the subject of current national bibliographies of the countries of the entire continent of South America, Central America, Mexico, and the islands of the Caribbean can be competently presented in 139 pages.

Another very interesting feature of this work and one which is characteristic of