

Communication Science and Technology, 6. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1976. 246p. \$24.50. LC 75-32390. ISBN 0-8247-6376-9.

Simulation is a research technique that has been used for many years by physical and biological scientists; their laboratory experiments simulate environments and provide the setting for a number of different types of studies. Until recently the technique was not used extensively by other disciplines, and it was not generally known to the public, but the much-publicized activities of the U.S. space program have directed a good deal of attention to simulations. In the last five years or so, the social sciences have begun to use simulations as a teaching technique. The present volume is concerned with the use of simulation by library and information science education.

The first part of the book describes simulation as a teaching technique, pointing out that, in essence, a simulation is a controlled representation of a real situation. Although there are a number of different types of simulation activities, only two types are presented in this work: simulation games and simulation exercises. Statistical simulations, one of the more familiar types of simulations, are not included.

The authors define the assumptions underlying the use of simulations as a teaching technique. Chief among them are that what is learned in a simulation can be transferred to other situations and that active participation of the learner creates the best learning situation. In discussing the strengths and weaknesses of simulations, the authors acknowledge a bias in favor of the technique's strengths, but they also point out weaknesses that need to be noted.

The chapter on the analysis and design of a simulation game or exercise is particularly valuable. All the steps involved in constructing a simulation, administering it, and evaluating it are described in detail. The design of a simulation activity, the authors note, is valuable, not only for the background it provides, but also in affording an excellent learning situation.

The major part of the book consists of examples of simulation games and exercises in five library-oriented areas: communications, information science, library administration, technical services, and reference

work. For each category, a number of complete simulations are given. The simulations are well chosen for their relevance to meaningful real life situations. The instructions accompanying each simulation are clear and easy to follow.

In summary, the completeness of the background discussion about simulation activities and their use as a teaching technique plus the collection of simulation games and exercises make this work a valuable addition to the literature of simulation as a teaching technique in library science education.—*Barbara Slanker, Director, Office for Research, American Library Association.*

The ALA Yearbook: A Review of Library Events, 1975. 1976 Centennial Edition. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1976. 494p. \$25.00. ISBN 0-8389-0223-5.

One of the significant and lasting events the American Library Association scheduled for its centennial year's celebration was the publication of *The ALA Yearbook*. It is projected as the first of a series to be published annually, with the second volume scheduled to go to press in the spring of 1977. The first volume is dedicated to the memory of Allie Beth Martin and highlights her look at "ALA—Its Future."

Librarians are both critics of the craftsman's art and the information which should be expected from each reference book. In implementing and executing this volume, the library world through ALA has produced a successful product when measured against its ideals for making a reference book.

Much already has been said in advertising presentations about the 143 articles—alphabetically arranged from "academic libraries" to "young adult library services"; its 230 contributors and editors, including three correspondents from London and Canada; its 400,000 words with 336 illustrations—including halftones, line drawings, and cartoons; and its sixteen pages of index. The three feature articles for this first volume—"ALA at 100," by Edward G. Holley; "Independent Learning and the Future Role of Public Libraries," by Samuel Gould; and "Micrographics: An Eventful

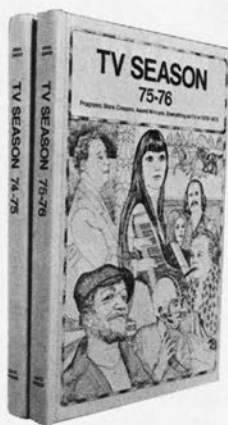
Forty Years—What Next?" by Allen Veaner—establish the standard of reputation and knowledgeable expertise required of each person asked to contribute an article. Equally outstanding is the list of ALA advisers selected for the first edition. If the same level of quality can be maintained without due repetition for subsequent volumes, this accomplishment will be a tribute to the scholarship and literary ability within the profession of librarianship.

Illustrations are up-to-date and of good graphic quality. The volume can serve as a way of visually identifying most of the notable greats in the history of the association and many of the currently prominent individuals in the profession. While other persons could have been included in the biography section (p.101-13), no question of eligibility can arise for those included in the centennial edition.

Information about the activities of the

state library associations is uneven in coverage and depth, but for the first time data have been recorded together about the association work of the fifty states and the District of Columbia. It is here, especially in the selection of photographs, that the subjective, selective judgment of the reporter has made a noticeable imprint on the yearbook. Annual updating can provide a different perspective and comprehensive coverage within a decade.

The ALA Yearbook is extensive in scope of coverage and attractive in design, provides information in easily accessible format, is authoritative in its verification of sources, and is readable in its essay presentation. Any librarian who wishes to be knowledgeable about the profession, past and present, will make it must reading. It measures well either read continuously or for ready reference.—*Johnnie E. Givens, Executive Director, Southeastern Library Association.*



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