

the question of cutbacks at the Government Printing Office that impacts on access to census data. The number of issues is growing.

The question of access is especially pronounced since the arrival of the Reagan administration in Washington in 1981. It appears that those people directing the "Second American Revolution" have their own ideas of what a national information policy should be. The zealous implementation of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-511) is at the heart of the de facto Reagan administration information policy. The act directed the OMB to develop federal information policies and standards and to reduce information collection, among other things. There is also the move to increase the amount of information that is classified (Executive Order 12356). Polemics aside, there are individuals, some librarians in particular, who do not share the Reagan administration's view on the access to information. The reduced access is especially true for government documents. Peter Hernon and Charles McClure are perhaps the most vocal among those harboring reservations about recent government changes. In their recent article in the *Drexel Library Quarterly* (75, no. 3 [Summer 1984]), "Impact from U.S. Government Printing on Public Access to Information," they spell out what changes at GPO have meant to library users. The American Library Association's *ALA Washington Newsletter* also has been monitoring events in Washington vis-a-vis access to information. So far they have issued five reports that chronicle the events of the last few years. The first four of these chronologies have been published as a book, *Less Access to Less Information by and about the U.S. Government, a 1981-1984 Chronology: April, 1981-December 1984*.

*The Right to Information* enhances the reader's appreciation of issues regarding access to information, especially from a historical perspective. It is brief, cogent and easy to read. The discussions at the end of the four chapters adequately embellish the speakers' comments. Although some of the specific issues brought up at the conference may have been resolved since 1982, the broader questions have

not. Reading this book was in many ways the next best thing to attending the conference.—Tom Smith, *Paul Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, D.C.*

**Middleton, Bernard C.** *The Restoration of Leather Bindings*. rev. ed. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1984. 266p. \$25. LC 83-15371. ISBN 0-8389-0391-6.

**Ritzenthaler, Mary Lynn.** *Archives and Manuscripts, Conservation: A Manual on Physical Care and Management*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1983. 144p. \$10 LC 83-50878. ISBN 0-931828-58-9.

The premise of *The Restoration of Leather Bindings* (first edition, 1972) is that restoration of old and worn bookbindings is more than a technical skill: rather, it is a specialized craft that calls for an understanding of historical methods, specific technical terms, and aesthetic styles in order to be developed fully. The second edition is a commendable follow-up to the first, continuing from this premise.

Additions to the book are intended primarily to update the binder's technical terminology and resource listings, with the only new section being a detailed description of the rebinding of antiquarian books. *The Restoration of Leather Bindings* is thus an extensive instruction manual and reference guide for those who practice or wish to practice leather bookbinding restoration.

In the section concerned with terminology, bookbinding styles, tools, techniques, and materials are defined and explained in such a way as to provide historical and procedural background to their usage. The new edition differs from the first in that stylistic adjustments and typographic corrections have been made as well as a few new subjects added.

The section on tools, equipment and materials follows that on terms by providing advice on supplies and their usage. For example, "Gold," in the section on terms is described in its three forms used in bookbinding; in the workshop section, gold leaf is recommended as a necessary supply item in contrast to foil. The 1984 edition contains a part devoted to "recent

developments in leather" as well as updated addresses for resource suppliers.

The text proceeds in this manner, step-by-step instructions about binding supplied with stylistic revisions and contemporary developments. Pliantex and its use in leather treatment receives discussion in the second edition, with particular mention of R. Muma's techniques.

"The Rebinding of Antiquarian Books" is introduced in this text with reference to the controversy about (a) whether such re-binding is to be done at all; (b) if so, whether new, "improved" binding methods should be used or earlier practices should be replicated; and (c) if earlier practices are employed whether they should be imitations of the specific style of the original or merely "evocative" of an earlier approach. The author's solution: to re-bind, in period styles resembling the originals but, where possible, utilizing recently developed structural techniques.

Finally, the bibliography for additional reading has been expanded in this text. This, of course, will be very useful for binders and conservators.

The new version is a logical and thorough continuation of the earlier. If the quality of paper, binding, and graphic contrast of the original edition could have been retained in the revision, it would have been helpful. However, *The Restoration of Leather Bindings* preserves its value as an important resource and is to be recommended.

*Archives and Manuscripts, Conservation: A Manual on Physical Care and Management*, which caps the SAA basic manual series, incorporates principles refined in the Society's series of regional conservation workshops. These two very successful ventures have culminated in a comprehensive, clearly written and well-organized book. I would recommend it as a "must read" for any archivist or librarian with preservation responsibilities, particularly if he or she is involved in establishing an in-house conservation program.

The manual's scope is commendably broad. It contains chapters not only on such things as the nature of archival materials, causes of deterioration, and environment and storage, but also on conservation philosophy, integrating conservation

into archival administration, budgets, and personnel. These last sections are important because an effective conservation program requires the support and cooperation of an institution's entire staff. This support can never be won if conservation operates, or is perceived to operate, at cross purposes to the archive's other functions.

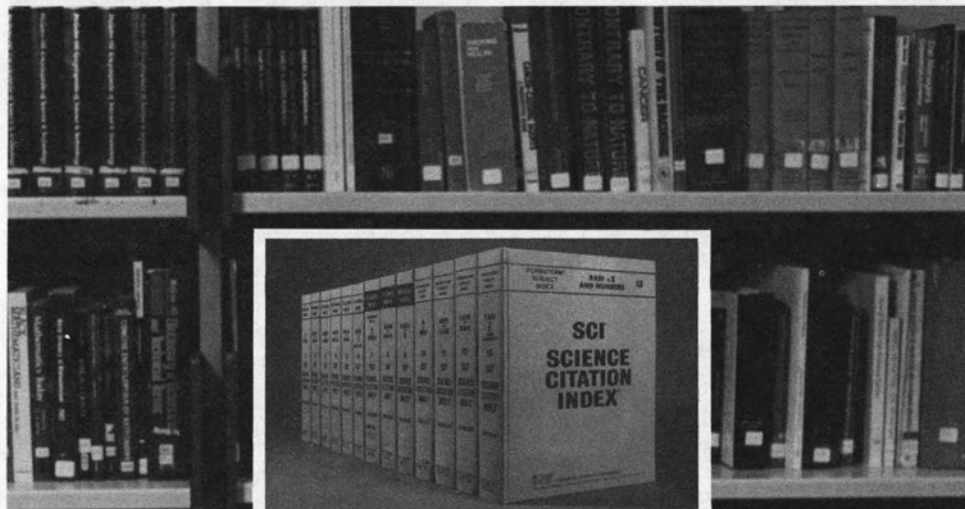
I would like to voice a few words of caution about the section, "Basic Conservation Procedures." While there is nothing incorrect about the information presented, experience has shown that spot testing, pH testing, dry cleaning, humidification, mending, and leather dressing are difficult to learn from written instruction alone. The primary problem is that it is impossible to represent adequately the varied reactions of materials to these procedures. Therefore, this reviewer would have preferred that the segment would have been treated in a different manner, or not at all.

In her discussion of document boxes on page 55, the author leaves the impression that such cases may be safely stored flat on shelves. Flat storage does eliminate curling of records found in underfilled upright boxes. However, standard five-inch flip-top document boxes were not designed for horizontal storage: they do not stack well and use shelf space inefficiently when stored on their sides and, since file folders are usually shorter than these boxes, records are likely to slide around during retrieval. If flat storage is required, as where oversized material is of concern, boxes designed for horizontal use should be employed. As the author describes, it is much preferable to prevent curling by using spacers in upright boxes.

The problem here is that the author discusses the use of laminated museum board spacers, which are both heavy and expensive. Equally effective ones can be constructed of alkaline card stock folded into an accordian-like spring or folded and glued to make a hollow box shape.

These minor points merely underscore the importance of using ingenuity to address the unique conservation challenges of each collection. They do not detract from the value of the manual to the field of library and archival administration.

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A final note: it is fortunate that this manual is punched for a three-ring binder; the adhesive binding is so tight that in order to lay the book flat, its spine must be practically broken.—*Don Etherington, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin.*

**Kantor, Paul B.** *Objective Performance Measures for Academic and Research Libraries.* Washington, D.C.: Association of Research Libraries, 1984. 76 p. \$25. ISBN 0-918006-09-0.

Dr. Paul Kantor, president of Tantalus, a library management consulting firm, has developed a set of library effectiveness measures which have been used in a number of ARL libraries and which ARL has asked him to present in this small volume for use in other libraries. Three measures are described in detail.

One measure is an estimate of the chances that a user coming to the library to obtain a particular title will be able to lay hands on the desired item (approximately 48 percent chance in ARL libraries). By doing this analysis, a library may learn how much of its performance failure is associated with (1) acquisitions, (2) user interaction with the catalog, and (3) circulation. Those patrons who are searching for specific items in the catalog are asked by survey workers if they will record on a form titles being sought. Before leaving the library, the patron then notes on the form whether the desired items were found and deposits the form in a collection box. Staff then follow through to determine causes of failure.

Other effectiveness measures described are (1) estimate of the time required to complete a particular process, such as obtaining and checking out a particular book; and (2) identification of bottlenecks in library processes by use of delay analysis.

These analyses are useful because they measure the performance of the library as a whole in a way that permits comparison with peer libraries. Some normative data for these measures are said to be available from Kantor.

This book is intended to serve as a guide to enable other libraries to carry out these

procedures. However, as Kantor notes, in order to do this successfully, a library must be committed to self-evaluation and must also have available persons to serve as coordinators who have some research experience, some background in statistics, and considerable diplomatic skills.

Data carefully collected by use of these methods should be of benefit to a library in improving its public services.—*Marjorie E. Murfin, William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library, Ohio State University, Columbus.*

**Kronick, David A.** *The Literature of the Life Sciences: Reading, Writing, Research.* Philadelphia: ISI Press, 1985. 219p. \$35. LC 85-4283. ISBN 0-89495-045-2.

David A. Kronick's extensive and varied experience as a medical librarian is evident in this highly personal introduction to the literature of the life sciences. Intended for the user of the literature, the book emphasizes useful information rather than reference or bibliographic sources. Consequently, Kronick's book complements standard sources such as *Smith's Guide to the Literature of the Life Sciences* (Burgess, 1980).

This work includes chapters on a wide variety of topics such as the historical development of the literature, the primary and secondary literature, characteristics of the literature, writing and publishing, indexing languages, citation indexing, searching, and personal information files. Kronick's interest in the history of science is evident in the abundance of information he provides on the development of scientific communication. In fact, his knowledge and fascination with the literature of science are present throughout the book. In a sense the book could as easily be entitled *The Literature of the Sciences*. While Kronick uses examples from the biomedical literature (predominantly medical), the subject matter of the book has equal applicability to other sciences as Kronick's extensive examples from physics and psychology confirm.

The book includes a list of 484 literature references. Both the references and examples in the text include works published as recently as 1983. Therefore, the contents