

between *and* and *or*, and is generally a muddle. The discussions of the philosophers are sometimes anachronistic and hyperbolic (this may reflect the influence of Heidegger), the style definitely that of a pop philosopher. (Leibniz's God is described as the Central System Operator or sysop: "Without a sysop, no one could get on line to reality.") All in all, this is not an impressive contribution to our understanding of the new electronic world.

The book is an editorial disaster. The essays in this collection (four previously published in print, one published electronically) overlap and duplicate each other extensively. The discussion of Leibniz in Chapter 3 is repeated almost verbatim in Chapter 7; the same text is used to support views on hypertext and on virtual reality. The same discussion of Heidegger occurs twice, in Chapters 1 and 5, and one five-line quotation is repeated three times. There is a glossary, "Useful vocabulary for the metaphysics of virtual reality," that includes a description of what the metaphysics of virtual reality is about; but the last five chapters of this book do not fit the description. The Preface says that the "central philosopher" of Chapter 2 will be Blaise Pascal; but Pascal is not mentioned there. Oxford's reputation is not enhanced by this book. The designer has not helped matters. Rectos (odd pages) have two page numbers (page 15 carries the numbers 14/15) and versos lack pagination. A copy of page 14 would be unidentifiable as page 14. This is not an improvement over conventional practice.—Patrick Wilson, *University of California, Berkeley*.

Leidenschaft und Bildung: Zur Geschichte der Frauenarbeit in Bibliotheken. Ed. by Helga Ludtke. Berlin: Orlanda Frauenverlag, 1992. 304 p. 39.80 DM (ISBN 3-922166-79-2).

With this volume Helga Ludtke adds a substantial chapter to the underdocumented history of women librarians. The study focuses on women's roles in the development of libraries and the feminization of librarianship, looking primarily

at the experience in Germany. *Leidenschaft und Bildung* is a compilation of contemporary essays, older articles (dating from 1901-47), biographical sketches, interviews, and photographs. It covers the period between 1895 and 1945 in Germany, focusing specifically on public librarians; however, comparisons to academic libraries appear throughout the volume. Of special note is an eleven-page annotated bibliography on the topic of women librarians in German public libraries, which includes publications dating from 1897 through 1991.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the book is the essays written by librarians between 1895 and 1945, because the texts of the period best illustrate the issues then under discussion and clarify the views held by female librarians and their male colleagues. One of the most enlightening of these primary documents was written by Lotte Bergtel-Schleif, a communist librarian imprisoned in 1943 because of her work with a resistance group. In her 1947 article she addresses the sensitive issue of librarians' complicity with Nazi censorship. She outlines the extent to which librarians contributed to the Nazi regime, describing how they removed "degenerate" material from library shelves, well aware that much of the literature and works of modern thought condemned to bonfires formed the core of their collections.

The third section of the book profiles individual women librarians, including pioneers in German librarianship as well as more representative figures. The biographies of library directors Bona Peiser, Bennata Otten, and Marie Norenberg illustrate the important contributions women played in the development of libraries and library programs in Germany before 1933. The article "Lebensläufe" presents the lives and careers of eight "typical" librarians. Interviewing librarians born between 1907 and 1923, the authors explore a variety of issues, including working conditions, job satisfaction, career advancement, and the effects of political changes on librarianship. Though documenting these "foremothers" of librarianship is crucial and

provides another dimension to the field's history, women must be integrated into mainstream studies of library history, as described in the final section.

In an attempt to place the German experience and German scholarship in a broader context, *Leidenschaft und Bildung* concludes with two essays about women's role in American librarianship—a confusing way to end this German-oriented collection. Dee Garrison's seminal 1972 article, "The Tender Technicians: The Feminization of Public Librarianship, 1876-1905," appears in German translation along with an essay by Suzanne Hilden-

brand, in which she warns against documenting women's roles in librarianship exclusively by focusing on individuals. Rather than creating a separate, parallel documentation of women's contributions, she argues that future historians must consider the relationship between the roles of women and men librarians. *Leidenschaft und Bildung*, with its diverse collection of primary sources and analytical essays, supplies groundwork needed for such an integrated study of librarianship.—*Marje Schuetze-Coburn, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.*

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