

the research function of libraries and librarians, and centralization vs. decentralization arguments. Separate chapters deal with auxiliary technical processes, reproduction problems, conservation of library materials, building efficiency, personnel, organizational structure and legislation. Each topic is treated systematically, with a careful analysis of the problem involved, a discussion of national and foreign trends, and a list of specific recommendations with suggestions for implementation. In a final chapter the committee lists priority recommendations for the period until 1972 with regard to legislation and organization, library education and the status of library personnel, together with a recapitulation of the most important topics for further study.

With regard to legislation the committee recommends the establishment of a legal depository in the Royal Library in The Hague and a subsequent change of the current trade bibliography into a national bibliography. Other proposals include clear legal status for libraries in the academic structure, changes in copyright laws, and the establishment of a national executive body to coordinate and guide future library developments. Of special interest is the request for government support for the acquisition of significant manuscripts and early printed materials. Better guidelines are needed for library education, the status of academic librarians, professional and supporting staff. There are recommendations for the special training of restorers, translators and information specialists.

As major fields of further study the committee mentions: a national plan for collection development, a depository for little-used materials, mechanization and automation, standards for library buildings and equipment, and a national plan for research in the fields of manuscript study and historical bibliography.

Much of what the committee discusses and most of its recommendations are of wider relevance than the Dutch scene only. An English translation of the full text of the report would make a most stimulating document available to a world audience.—*Hendrik Edelman, Joint University Libraries.*

The Government and Control of Libraries. By Kenneth Alan Stockham. London: Andre Deutsch, 1968. 110p. 18s. (68-107466 GB).

Characterized as a textbook for non-graduate British library science students preparing for their General Professional Examination, this slim volume might be better described as a syllabus. The first chapter on government of libraries presents an excellent summary of the role played by the central government in financing and controlling national, academic, and public libraries in the United Kingdom. The composition of major governing boards is delineated with excellent internal references to government documents containing additional information. Major elements of *The Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964* are contrasted with earlier legislation, indicating the probable impact of the 1964 act.

Chapter three details the sources of national and local revenues and methods of allocation to library functions. An adequate summary with examples of a revenue and a capital budget identifies the elements which comprise the annual and long-range needs of the library. Only one item in the bibliography deals with finance, and it is restricted to public library finance.

The remaining chapters are of considerably less value. Chapters on "management" and "staffing" are a series of broad, general truisms on the qualities of a head librarian and the need for clear-cut lines of authority. It is noteworthy that no mention is made of staff involvement in the decision-making processes, goal identification, or basic personnel management practices such as staff evaluation conferences. Basic concepts such as scientific management and systems analysis receive no recognition. The chapter on "stock control" seems more appropriate for a book on technical services, since it deals with operational techniques rather than managerial skills or administrative options; even so, the paragraph on the role of the computer seems an inadequate recognition of its potential.

Library schools offering courses in comparative library systems will find the chapters on "government" and "finance" of

value as well as the appendix which gives the examination questions from previous years. Some pertinent monographs are contained in the bibliography of suggested readings, but a heavy emphasis on public library titles is evident. Despite the lucid style and a few informative chapters, the general paucity of descriptive or interpretive information makes this volume inappropriate for general library purchase.—James Foyle, *University of Denver*.

Computerized Library Catalogs: Their Growth, Cost, and Utility. By J. L. Dolby; V. J. Forsyth; and H. L. Resnikoff. Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

The principal value of this book is as a catalog of considerations relevant to the design of mechanized catalog production systems. Some research results and some suggestions on specific design features are presented. The book is particularly recommended to library administrators and library systems analysts. Computer jargon is used only when necessary, and, when used, is defined for the nontechnical reader.

The "growth" in the title is dealt with in terms of the fact that libraries tend to grow at an exponential rate. Estimating the growth rate for individual libraries can be difficult because of the unavailability of reliable statistical data. A method of using imprint dates as a basis for such estimates is suggested. In addition, an original method of predicting the language breakdown of future acquisitions is presented. Using this method, the authors predict that foreign-language materials will constitute a constantly increasing percentage of future acquisitions of research libraries—a prediction that will be of interest to all library administrators.

A chapter entitled "An Analysis of Cost Factors" concentrates on hardware-related costs. It includes a particularly lucid section on the problems of choosing a programming language, and a useful comparison of input devices. The claimed potential for cost savings should be viewed warily, since it is not clear what costs are included in those presented. A brief appendix to this chapter, surveying some linguistic data manipulation languages, will probably not interest the nontechnical reader. Another chapter, on typography

and format, discusses the important problem of achieving maximum information density on the printed page while maintaining legibility.

Among other values of the book are a stimulating discussion of publication schedules for book catalogs and supplements, and a chapter on automatic error detection. It is regrettable (but easily explained by the paucity of work on the problem) that the latter does not concern itself with the more general question of automatic editing, since a hefty portion of the cost of most mechanized cataloging systems is attributable to the necessity of human editing. In backfile conversion projects especially, it appears that automatic editing routines could be devised that would profitably make use of the large amount of organization already present in catalog card data.

On-line catalogs are not discussed, probably because, for most libraries, it now is, or shortly will be, feasible to use computers to produce human-readable catalogs (perhaps in microform), while placing the catalog on line is a possibility only for the more distant future. A more serious shortcoming is the failure to discuss the use of machine-readable catalog records acquired from extramural sources. There are serious problems to be solved before local systems can make effective use of such records, but their availability will radically affect the costs of mechanizing catalog production. Nothing in the present book is invalidated when externally produced catalog records are considered, but to the extent that they are available, they must be taken into account in system design.—Kelley L. Cartwright, *University of California, Berkeley*.

Directory of Library Consultants. Ed. by John Berry III. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1969. 141p. \$10.75.

It seems to me that this volume will, because it is enumerative and not evaluative, serve a very limited purpose. Librarians of large libraries usually know who the real experts are for the projects for which consultation help is needed. Representatives of small libraries probably do not know this and they cannot find out