Those who read it for pleasure may find that six hundred pages on book-trade history is at times grim going.—*D. W. Davies, Lloyd Corporation Ltd., Claremont, California.*

Thompson, Donald E. *Indiana Authors and Their Books, 1917–1966.* Crawfordsville, Ind.: Wabash College, 1974. 688p.

In a superficial sense this volume represents an exercise in vanity. Funded by Hoosiers, sponsored by Hoosiers, prepared, published, and distributed by Hoosiers, it is a biographical directory of Hoosier authors of the half century from 1917 to 1966. We take care of our own. . . .

But the motivation for the present volume has some nobler aspects as well. Indiana *has* produced substantially more and better authors than one would normally expect. When the ten best-selling American novels for each year from 1895 to 1965 are assigned points (ten for first place, nine for second place, etc.), and their authors' native states are determined, the total points amassed by Indiana authors are second only to those of New York State. Indiana is also second only to New York State when fiction and nonfiction are taken together. Yet the population of Indiana has never attained one-fifth that of New York State.

No one knows why authorship has so flourished in Indiana, and although the present volume does not attempt to explain it, it does lay out the data necessary for future analysis. Here are biographical sketches of the 2,751 authors who made it happen. Every author included either was "born in the state, or [if] born elsewhere, chose to spend the majority of his or her maturity within Indiana bounds." Authors solely of pamphlets, periodical articles, textbooks, genealogies, and similar publications are not included. A wide net has still been cast, however, and as a result the volume contains biographical sketches of authors as different as Kenneth Rexroth is from Vance Hartke, and as Ernie Pyle is from Alfred C. Kinsey. Much of the information presented on the lesser figures is virtually unobtainable through any other source.

The present biographical directory is a continuation of a similar work compiled by R. E. Banta and published in 1949 entitled *Indiana Authors and Their Books, 1816–*

1916. The two works together, therefore, now provide coverage for Indiana's first century-and-a-half of statehood. The new work matches the Banta volume both in quality of contents and in format and design. Yet it also suffers the same basic weakness. Since the coverage attempted is so broad, it is unlikely ever fully to be attained. It is ironic, for example, that this reviewer, although gratified to find his own name in the new volume, must point out that his father, who also meets the criteria for inclusion, is unaccountably omitted. Other and more important omissions will be turning up for years. Such oversights, however, do not mean that this book will not serve a useful reference function in large libraries or in smaller ones with special interest either in authorship or in the Hoosier state.—*David Kaser, Graduate Library School, Indiana University, Bloomington.*

Palmer, Richard Phillips. *Case Studies in Library Computer Systems.* New York: Bowker, 1973. 214p.

This book consists of twenty case studies of computerization of classical library procedures and comments; there are no cases of network computerization. Six cases deal with circulation systems, eight with serials systems and six with acquisition systems. Graduate students in the School of Library Science at Simmons College did "much of the initial gathering of information." The author made additional on-site visits and wrote up the cases. He also introduces the book and summarizes it.

The purpose of the book "is to describe and document a number of operational library computer systems, including their cost, so that librarians and library school students may better determine whether computers should be stamped out or whether they are appropriate for library use." (The phrase "stamped out" comes with Ellsworth Mason.) The author concludes that although there have been failures in library computerization, there also have been successes, and some of these successes are cases that appear in the book. He anticipates that there will be an increasing number of successful library computer applications in the decade that lies ahead.

By and large, the objectives of the cases