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Fenichel, Carol, ed. *Changing Patterns in Information Retrieval. Tenth Annual National Information Retrieval Colloquium, May 3-4, 1973, Philadelphia Pennsylvania.* Washington: American Society for Information Science, 1974. 175p. \$15.00. (LC 66-29616) (ISBN 0-87715-106-7)

This collection of twenty presentations from a May 1973 conference has lost some of its potential value because of the aging of its material during the time it took to get out in printed form. It also suffers an unevenness in quality of the papers, as if there had been no formal technical refereeing and screening of the written papers for publication. Some of the papers are very good, and some should be an embarrassment to the corporate sponsors of the written proceedings. It is too bad the editor could not instead produce a collection of selected papers from the conference. There is no doubt that it was a good conference and that the participants had an information transfer experience that was effective for them, but this positive value does not come through in the printed proceedings, and it seems a waste to create a permanent archive record of some of the presentations made at this meeting. This is, of course, a problem with many other conference proceedings. The editor of these particular proceedings must have felt some of the same concerns, because the preface notes that "most who have attended the Colloquia agree that these meetings have something unique to offer—something that comes from the spontaneous interaction of the variety of people who attend. Previous editors have noted the difficulty of transmitting this atmosphere in the proceedings. I share their frustration."

There are many good papers in this collection, starting with Bob Taylor's keynote statement that provides a good transition from the 1960 to 1973 work, noting what is still important to consider. Don King and Vernon Palmour, researchers who have been personally involved in much of the more significant user study work done to date, provide an excellent commentary and

review of user behavior, primarily in the context of sci-tech information. They also suggest areas where more work needs to be done and are particularly concerned with the mechanisms for transmitting formal messages from authors to users. Some helpful followup points are provided in a brief note by Francis Wolek. Brown and Agrawala provide a brief but very useful report with empirical data on MEDLINE use. Based on a fifteen-day computer log of 4,300 sessions of MEDLINE system activity, data are reported on such points as use by time of day, distribution of user response time (i.e., user "think time"), distribution of system response time, and distribution of number of commands per session.

Deahl describes and contrasts user behavior, both in traditional referral process and in a modern urban setting using on-line reference tools, to work with low income residents. Katzer provides a good review of some of the remaining problems of retrieval systems.

Mary Stevens, as usual, does an excellent job of reviewing and summarizing the important points from the prior literature—in this case dealing with strategies for organizing and searching files of information. This is one of the best parts of this book and should be required reading for all information science students.

Louise Schultz provides a good review of data base production and use, primarily from the point of view of the abstracting and indexing services. Some practical comments are given regarding the use of support tools to aid query formulation process.

Bob Landau gives some helpful estimates of the extent of availability and use of on-line file searching and some estimates of operating costs for such services.

Lee Burchinal provides a good tutorial progress report of U.S. science information services, including the major computer-based search centers, alternatives to primary publication, data retrieval, and suggested new directions for NSF.

John Murdock presents a helpful state-of-the-art review of economic aspects of information. This includes price perception and sensitivity for individual and organizational purchasers; ten-year trends and projections; and changes in the nature and

form of products, services, and delivery mechanisms. This is an excellent background paper for any reader concerned with the operation, marketing, or use of information services.

The papers noted above provide the main substance of this publication, and on balance, the book is recommended for reading and reference work.—*Charles P. Bourne, Director, Institute of Library Research, University of California, Berkeley.*

Pflug, Warner W., comp. and ed. ***A Guide to the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University.*** Detroit: Wayne State Univ. Pr., 1974. 195p. \$8.95. (LC 73-6004) (ISBN 0-8143-1501-1)

The publication of this guide is an important event for scholars interested in the study of American labor history, urban history, or twentieth-century Michigan history. With the generous assistance of the United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers Union, and particularly of its late president, Walter Reuther, the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs has grown into a nationally significant cultural institution. Its holdings, as of January 1974, total over 230 accessions of personal papers including those of Herman Benson, Selma Borchardt, Katherine Pollak Ellickson, U.S. Senator Patrick Vincent McNamara, Nemma Sparks, Mark and Helen Starr, and Mary Heaton Vorse.

Major archival accessions include the records of four national or international labor organizations: the Air Line Pilots Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the Newspaper Guild, the United Automobile Workers, and the United Farm Workers. Wayne holds the papers of over forty other organizations as well, among the most prominent of which are the Congress of Industrial Organizations (Department of Education and Research and the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer), the California Migrant Ministry, the Citizens Crusade Against Poverty, the Miners for Democracy, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (Detroit Branch). Also among the documentary materials at Wayne are 133 oral history interviews on unionization in the automobile in-

dustry and 32 interviews on the role of blacks in organized labor.

Although it must be welcomed by those interested in Wayne State's holdings, this publication unfortunately lacks the depth and consistency that could have made it an outstanding archival finding aid.

Brief paragraph-long descriptions, which do give us adequate information about the individuals whose papers are being described, are occasionally uneven in their treatment of the subject matter represented in the collections. The sixty-five linear feet of the papers of George Addes, secretary-treasurer of the UAW from 1936-1947, for example, are described in three sentences; the same amount of space is given to an analysis of the three items known as the John Anderson Papers. Similarly, the eight linear feet of records of Henry Krause receive more space in the text than the 427½ feet of materials and 500 volumes contributed to Wayne by Senator McNamara. If the lack of balance between the size of the collection and the description can be explained by restrictions on the use of the more sparsely described collections or by the availability of detailed guides to such collections, no indication of such extenuating circumstances appears in these descriptions or others like them.

Researchers will also find occasional generalizations in the collection descriptions annoying. Phrases such as correspondents include ". . . most well-known union leaders" (Richard T. Gosser Papers) or correspondents include ". . . many other prominent persons in labor, literary, and political fields" (Mary Heaton Vorse Papers) merely tantalize rather than inform.

Archivists must also query the curious practice of separating the official correspondence generated by union officers from the rest of the records of the United Automobile Workers and the designation of such records as "private papers." The records of over seventy union officers including Walter Reuther himself are termed private papers in the guide. The confusion that can result from this practice is exemplified by the appearance of Victor Reuther's records both under his name in the Personal Papers section of the publication and under the United Auto Workers records as "UAW