

While there is little new in Harvey's *Specialised Information Centres* for readers in the U.S., the author does give sound directions for the selection, organization, and dissemination of specialized data which transcend national boundaries. She emphasizes over and over again the reliance which must be placed on various specialists for the selection and evaluation of material. The omission of any reference to the part a librarian with a command of a subject can play seems to be an oversight to this reviewer. The lack of communication between British centers and those in the U.S. seems strange in this age of cooperation among scientists.

The author has tried to remedy this lack in a small way by describing some of the more important centers in the United Kingdom and the U.S. Since many of these British centers are not well known in the U.S., this is probably the most useful part of this book for readers in this country.

The Campbell book gives many sound principles as to the organization, staffing, and operation of business libraries. In addition, the authors supply much information on British business libraries and sources of information.

The initial chapter describes a number of British business libraries and compares them to some of their U.S. counterparts. One point that is brought out is that British business libraries stock directories very heavily. This is occasioned by the many overseas connections of British firms. With the rise of so many multinational companies in the U.S., there should be a similar demand for the information available in directories in this country.

The three chapters by Frank Cochrane on statistics and market research sources are especially useful. Cochrane has supplied a complete listing of British government bureaus with their publications dealing with marketing. In addition, he lists pertinent European publications.

This book is obviously aimed at the library school student or a junior librarian starting his career in a business library. The principles and methods put forth are sound and could apply to a business anywhere.

U.S. librarians should find this a useful reference work for the location of British

government publications and selected European statistical reports. It is a pleasure to use a book with such an excellent index.—*Edwin T. Coman, Jr., Retired University Librarian, University of California, Riverside.*

Information Revolution: Proceedings of the 38th ASIS Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, October 26-30, 1975. Volume 12. Washington, D.C.: American Society for Information Science, 1975. 170p. + microfiche in pocket. \$17.50. (LC 64-8303) (ISBN 0-87715-412-0)

Information Roundup: Proceedings of the 4th ASIS Mid-Year Meeting, Portland, Oregon, May 15-17, 1975. Washington, D.C.: American Society for Information Science, 1975. 179p. \$14.00. (LC 75-29520) (ISBN 0-87715-112-1)

These two sets of proceedings present, as one might expect, a panoramic view of developments in information science. In a brief review it is impossible to analyze such publications in a detailed way, but the impression they give is that the information science community is maturing. There is evidence of a greater sense of realism about what can be accomplished within the immediate context of economic constraints. In other words, the papers manifest a more pragmatic approach to information utilization and a clearer matching of potential to possibility than seemed to be present in earlier conferences.

A reading of the *Information Revolution* still remains an exercise in serendipity, an opportunity for intellectually tasting the familiar as well as the obscure. The effort, however, is tantalizing. The papers whet the appetite but are too short to satisfy the curiosity. To further their knowledge, readers must depend upon the citations at the end of each article which vary rather considerably in number per article, and consequently in their usefulness to the reader. But perhaps that's the function of proceedings: to encourage further exploration.

The papers are organized into twelve sections whose subjects range from information transfer mechanisms and library networks to library management and applications in biology and chemistry. The format of each paper is well organized, complete

with index terms, brief conclusions, and references. The table of contents is extensive, and there are author and subject indexes. All of these make the volume very easy to use. Abstracts of selected keynote, general, special, and special interest group (SIG) presentations appear on a microfiche which is enclosed in a pocket.

The *Information Roundup* has a narrow focus. It is billed as "a continuing education session on microforms and data processing in the library and information center: costs/benefits/history/trends." In most respects it lives up to its billing, although it is largely concerned with libraries. One cannot expect a fully balanced presentation from a set of conference proceedings, but some of the papers do seem to be somewhat particular to the author's own application. Nevertheless, even this can be valuable. The index, while not as detailed as that of its sister publication, provides the reader with easy access to subjects of special interest. The papers by themselves are somewhat longer, more self-contained, and

therefore, to me, more satisfying, though not necessarily more valuable, than those in *Information Revolution*. Some of the data and the citations on which the papers are based are a little dated, but it is useful to have a review of this subject in one volume.

One troubling note is Ralph Shoffner's introductory article on comparative cost analysis. This is well written and really rather cleverly done, but it is pitched at a rather low level of statistical expertise. If Shoffner's implied assessment of the ability of librarians to cope with figures is accurate, the profession has a lot of catching up to do. As Fairthorne says, the librarian of the present and future must be numerate as well as literate. Almost every page of *Information Roundup* emphasizes the need for at least a modest level of mathematical skill. If these proceedings imbue only a few librarians with the zeal to acquire these techniques, they will have served a useful purpose.—Richard J. Talbot, Director, University of Massachusetts Library, Amherst.

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