*brary School, Indiana University, Bloomington.*

Kenney, Brigitte L., and Esteves, Roberto. ***Video and Cable Communications: Guidelines for Librarians.*** Based on a Report of the ALA Video/Cable Study Committee. Chicago: Information Science and Automation Division, Video and Cable Communications Section, American Library Assn., 1975. 84p. $3.50.

This publication, a revision of a formal report submitted to ALA, provides a useful compendium of general information on the present status and future prospects of video and cable technology in libraries. The first two of the six chapters deal with the involvement of some 400 libraries. Chapter 3 covers video hardware and software in fairly general terms. Chapter 4 touches on cable regulations and franchising, and Chapter 5 deals with community education, organization, and resources. The last chapter is a checklist for librarians. The most useful section is Appendix A, providing perhaps the most complete annotated bibliography yet assembled in one publication.

For the untutored, this publication will provide an excellent generalized overview of what is involved when libraries make use of the new technology. Unfortunately, it is so generalized that it might be misleading to some. For instance, the statement is made that the new low cost of video equipment (a portable black-and-white camera-recorder combination available for about $2,000) makes this equipment attractive to many libraries. One looks in vain, however, for any real data on staff time and training that must be expended to make the camera-recorder operational and effective. The items listed in the bibliography probably bring out the needed data; without such data in this publication, the impression is left that the use of video and cable technology in libraries is easy, inexpensive, and effective. We do not believe the editors intended such an impression.

The more than a year delay in publication of the guidelines has had a serious impact on its usefulness. It is considerably out of date in a very rapidly developing area. Librarians will do well to check the fine bibliography for those items that will provide updated information in crucial areas, such as equipment specifications and costs, changes in FCC regulations, and technological developments.

This is an admirable first effort in a very new area. We can only hope that the guidelines will be updated regularly. Such effort would be most helpful to the profession.—*Gordon P. Martin, University Librarian, California State University, Sacramento.*

Chen, Ching-chih. ***Applications of Operations Research Models to Libraries: A Case Study of the Use of Monographs in the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard University.*** Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1976. 212p. $17.50. (LC 75-28210) (ISBN 0-262-03056-X)

This work seems to confirm a widespread belief that excellent doctoral dissertations seldom translate into readable professional literature for the practitioner. Chen's work is admirable, the methodology and conclusions are sound, but the narrow scope of the subject and the unavoidable reliance upon jargon to discuss it will severely limit her audience.

The first of the book's three sections is basically a restatement and extension of the probabilistic models of circulation proposed by Morse. The theory is that while it is impossible to predict whether individual titles will or will not circulate, it is possible to predict the circulation behavior of subject classes of books on the basis of historical data. The average librarian will probably have to accept this proposition as an article of faith. One who has not read and understood Morse's *Library Effectiveness*, or who lacks a solid background in quantitative methods, will never make it through p.35. The models rest upon the assumption that book circulation is a random process, but this by no means commands universal agreement among the profession.

Section two reports in detail the author's successful attempt to apply the models, originally developed from a small data base at the MIT Science Library, to the Countway Library of Medicine. Sampling techniques were used to obtain historical circulation data for selected subject classes in

the Countway collection, the data were used to formulate predictions about future circulation behavior in those subjects, and the predictions were confirmed by subsequent analysis of actual circulation. Given the fact that the data base at Countway was significantly larger and different in type from that of Morse's original study, the models appear to have a general validity.

Chen reports some rather interesting information, not directly related to the testing of the models, on retention of materials, user identification and use patterns, etc. Again there are some problems with jargon, but a careful study of the text and the seven appendices is worthwhile.

Section three will be of most immediate interest to practicing librarians. Chen is absolutely correct in her assertion that "in order to provide maximum services to users of a library and to develop an optimum collection with the least cost, librarians must have a thorough understanding of its operations as well as an awareness of the current and future user needs and requirements." She uses the results of the Countway study to illustrate the implications of this kind of operational knowledge for decision making in such areas as library budgets, selection and duplication policies, weeding, and so forth.

Few would deny that many librarians, including those whose positions carry specific responsibility for the task, know less than they should about library operations. And clearly knowledge about library operations can only be developed through research about those operations. Chen argues convincingly about the need for increased operational research, but is less compelling about the need for increased application of those specialized mathematical techniques we call "operations research."

In her introduction, Chen repeats some familiar claims about the value of operations research techniques, i.e., that they contributed mightily to Allied successes in World War II, and that "an increasing number of experts have become persuaded that the procedures of operations research would be effective in solving some of the problems of the public sector." O.R. also has its critics who claim that we won the war despite operations research rather than because of it and that operations researchers have been forced to direct their attention to the public sector because the welcome mat is no longer out at private industry.—*Robert L. Burr, Circulation Librarian, The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.*

Jovanović, Slobodan; and Rojnić, Matkos, comps. ***A Guide to Yugoslav Libraries and Archives.*** American Council of Learned Societies and Social Science Research Council. Joint Committee on Eastern Europe. Publication Series, no.2. Columbus, Ohio: American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, 1975. 113p. $4.00.

On the basis of this *Guide* and the nation's library literature, one may judge that librarianship in the Yugoslav republics has made significant advances in the last three decades. The librarians of Yugoslavia have created a corps of exceptionally competent professionals without the benefits of formal graduate education for librarianship. Very few went abroad to study, while others have attained advanced education at home. The library specialization came to many through systematic study and on-the-job training. As for their libraries, it would appear that they are better managed than they are supported.

This work is an abridged version, edited by Paul L. Horecky and translated by Elizabeth Beyerly. Horecky correctly observes that it is "a mere introduction to the subject."

The libraries of Yugoslavia are organized and governed by the individual republics or provinces. Each republic has its own library association. The umbrella organization is the Federation of Library Associations of Yugoslavia. The table of contents of this *Guide* reflects this pattern of organization, alphabetically by republics: Bosnia and Hercegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia (with autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina), and Slovenia. Within each unit the arrangement is alphabetical by cities and then by selected libraries, followed by principal archives. Each section has a brief historical introductory sketch of library and archival development with bibliography. Individual li-