

some of which may appear on hundreds of cards, is not a happy one either to those who would do the work or those responsible for cost-effective library management.

Interfiling different forms of the same name is tolerable here and there but causes confusion in users and dizziness in filers if it is extensive. Nor is the thought of a maze of *see also* references, linking incompatible forms, much more appealing. As a result, many libraries are planning to close their current catalogs and to start others with the adoption of AACR 2.

The impact of the new rules is not confined to catalog records. Serial control records are usually based on entry forms. The book numbers added to the classification numbers are derived from main entry forms. The cataloging and classification of library materials are important investments accounting for perhaps 25 percent of library revenue and staff time, and the prospect of instant obsolescence, proposed for January 2, 1981, is unnerving.

With this prospect before us, asking how the new rules advance the art of cataloging may seem to be an exceedingly curious question. With what object in view is it proposed that libraries break with an indexing system and classification system that have been maintained inviolate (more or less) for many decades? That is, in fact, quite clear.

The progression is: (1) agreed-on international cataloging standards; (2) standard and compatible computer tape records produced by each country for its publications and exchanged. AACR 2 is a step in this direction, though not an entirely firm one. Recommendations of the IFLA Working Group on Corporate Headings (*Cataloging Service Bulletin* 2:30-44 [Fall 1978]) propose vernacular forms of names (Venezia, Deutschland [Bundesrepublik], Ecclesia Catholica) and a return to entering a government agency under the name for the government if it has an administrative function. However, the goal is worthy, the technology exists, and such variations can be handled as they arise.

The following progression offers another and parallel prospect:

1. Libraries close down labor-intensive in-house catalogs, which repeat the work

done in other libraries for essentially the same material.

2. Libraries join networks using and contributing to large data bases of MARC records. The records are tied to an authority control system, supplying authenticated forms of names and the appropriate cross-references. These authority files allow forms on records to be changed easily when this is necessary or desirable.

3. Local and regional records can be derived from the main data base as desired. Any record base can be searched by name, title, subject, classification, and keyword combinations and for holdings in particular libraries.

4. Some libraries agree to collect material intensively in limited and specified subject areas and to analyze and annotate this material fully. Records for this material are added to the data base.

This progression, with various modifications in detail, has been suggested for several years. It is now technically possible and may become economically feasible. Many academic libraries are involved in its early stages. Assessing the effect of the adoption of AACR 2 on the library user must, we think, take into consideration these possibilities rather than limiting it to the merits of particular usages or types of references proposed. If AACR 2 provides the impetus for this, it will have rendered a great service.

AACR 2, as we have suggested, can well be the catalyst for bringing about far-reaching, indeed revolutionary, change in accepted patterns and procedures of bibliographic control. That there are problems in implementation, some presently identified and others yet to be defined, is clear. Far from the least of these is the matter of costs—costs on national and international levels and the costs of change in our own libraries. The rules have been published. Now the critical factor is their implementation.—*Lois Hacker and J. R. Moore, Graduate School and University Center, The City University of New York.*

Heaps, H. S. *Information Retrieval: Computational and Theoretical Aspects*. Library and Information Science. New York: Academic Press, 1978. 344p.

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The author has two stated purposes: first, to introduce the student of computer science to the basic concepts of the retrieval of alphabetic information and to describe techniques for developing suitable computer programs for retrieval and, second, to describe the general structure of data bases and computer programs so that librarians, information scientists, and others without a computer science background can understand and appreciate basic design considerations of information retrieval systems.

The volume is organized as a self-contained textbook rather than as a comprehensive examination of the state of the art of information retrieval. The book is rich with diagrams and examples illustrating the concepts developed in each chapter; problems are provided in each chapter to test the student's understanding of the concepts introduced so far. There is no general bibliography, but footnote references guide the reader to more extensive discussions of topics covered in each chapter. Many chapters survey several techniques briefly, requiring classroom discussion and/or additional read-

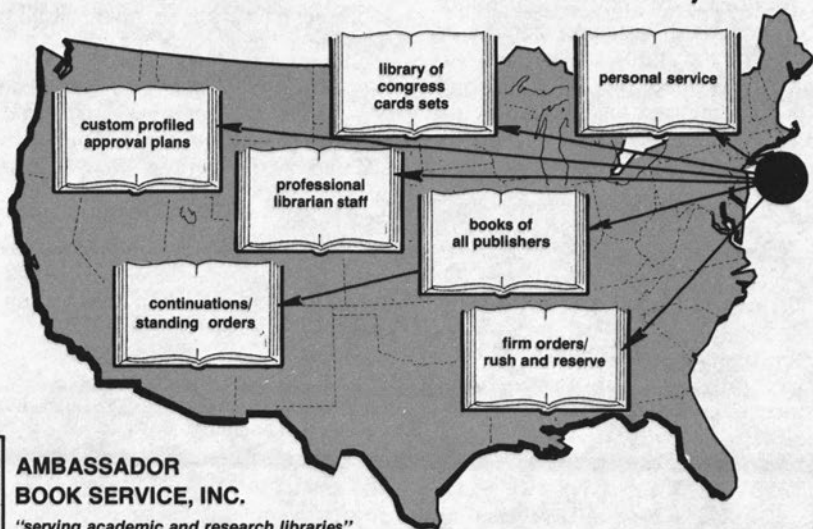
ing to fully appreciate the details and applications.

For those trained in computer science, early chapters describe characteristics and requirements of alphabetic data bases and retrieval systems, using examples from many current data bases. While a knowledge of computer processing fundamentals would be helpful to the information specialist, the volume develops enough background information so that most readers will be able to understand the concepts involved. A few chapters require a mathematical facility to fully understand; however, the reader not well versed in mathematics should be able to understand the concepts described, as well as their significance for effective information retrieval.

This is not a book on how to program retrieval systems. The emphasis is instead on the identification, storage, organization, and searching of alphabetic information in an efficient and effective manner. The text is divided into fourteen chapters.

Chapters 1 to 4 develop general concepts of information storage and retrieval, including brief discussions of Boolean operators,

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indexing schemes, recall, precision, the interface between the user and the computer, inverted files, bit codes for data storage, and blocks/records/files. Various data base formats are described in terms of current data bases such as MARC, ERIC, CAIN, and others.

Chapter 5 discusses how to process data stored in internal memory, with consideration for efficiency in memory space and processing. Chapter 6 covers the structure of search programs, and chapter 7 investigates the vocabulary characteristics of document data bases and the relationship of those characteristics to search and storage considerations. Chapters 8 and 9 look at the information content of textual data and messages and at coding and compression techniques.

In an excellent chapter 10, the author poses requirements for a hypothetical document retrieval system, and with basic assumptions, guides the reader through design considerations. In chapter 11, a data base is described in which search terms are assigned to describe documents in the data base, rather than indexing attributes of information from the documents. Chapters 12 and 13 take up the question of the optimization of retrieval effectiveness and automatic document classification techniques. Chapter 14 contains brief concluding remarks.

In summary, this text does a very nice job of outlining design and efficiency considerations for information data bases and retrieval systems.—*Eleanor Montague, University of California, Riverside.*

Tebbel, John. *A History of Book Publishing in the United States*. Volume III: The Golden Age Between Two Wars, 1920–1940. New York: Bowker, 1978. 774p. \$32.50. LC 71-163903. ISBN 0-8352-0498-7.

Like the two previous volumes, the third of Tebbel's promised four-volume *History* offers both overview and detail, here of what he justly characterizes as the golden age of book publishing. A brief "General View, 1919–1940" precedes two longer chapters, "1919: The Year of Transition" and "General Trends of the Twenties." This introductory section is followed by a series of résumés of the histories of the older houses

during this decade; and these, in turn, are followed by accounts of the emergence of the "New Publishers of the Twenties."

The succeeding chapters in the twenties section deal with a broad range of specific aspects of publishing and marketing: e.g., paperbacks, educational books, reference works, the religious publishing houses, university presses, book clubs, advertising, manufacturing, and censorship.

Essentially the same pattern is repeated when Tebbel moves on to publishing in the thirties, the book then concluding with three appendixes—the most useful a statistical "Economic Review of Book Publishing, 1915–1945"—and a voluminous if somewhat haphazard index.

From its beginning in 1972, Tebbel's *History* was regarded an endeavor as valuable as it was ambitious. To chronicle in almost awesome detail the growth of an industry that has been so involved with the direction and quality of our cultural life is a contribution that we cannot but acknowledge with appreciation.

It is not, however, a work without some flaws. The principal problem with the book is its structure: its failure to organize specific facts, anecdotes, and data so as, on one hand, to support closely many of the historical generalizations or, on the other, to serve as a workable, easily accessible resource for the researcher.

The reader's difficulty in making out the forest amid all the trees is not lessened by the frequent inclusion of material that may be fairly regarded as of marginal significance. It is slightly annoying, for example, to find oneself reading that Alfred Harcourt's secretary married him "after his first wife, Susan, beset by ill health and depression, committed suicide in 1923 only a few hours before she was to be sent to a private sanitarium in New Rochelle."

One may, of course, criticize Tebbel's craftsmanship as a historiographer and at the same time recognize the historical riches to be found in his book. The index, as was noted, is not an adequate guide to the contents of the volume. The patient reader, however, will be rewarded with fact piled on fact, minor revelations, useful and suggestive statistics, unexpected relationships, and, finally, a broad and specific