

Recent Publications

<i>Book Theft and Library Security Systems, 1981-82</i> , reviewed by Jean Walter Far- rington	355
<i>University Librarianship</i> , reviewed by David C. Weber	356
<i>Issues in Personnel Management in Academic Libraries</i> , reviewed by Frederick Duda ..	357
<i>Personnel Administration in Libraries</i> , reviewed by Carolyn J. Henderson	360
<i>Telecommunications and Libraries: A Primer for Librarians and Information Man- agers</i> , reviewed by William L. Basinski	361
<i>Video Discs - Their Application to Information Storage and Retrieval</i> , reviewed by John R. Schroeder	363
<i>Developments in Optical Disc Technology and the Implications for Information Storage and Retrieval</i> , reviewed by John R. Schroeder	363
<i>User Fees: A Practical Perspective</i> , reviewed by Sara D. Knapp	364
<i>Mainstreaming Outsiders: The Production of Black Professionals</i> , reviewed by John Farley	365

BOOK REVIEWS

Bahr, Alice Harrison. *Book Theft and Library Security Systems, 1981-82*. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, 1981. 157p. \$24.50 softcover. LC 80-26643. ISBN 0-914236-71-7.

In typical Knowledge Industry style, this guide to library security systems aims to present the totality of the universe.

As one would expect, the electronic security systems currently on the market are described in detail: for each, there is a discussion of how it works, what equipment is required, whether it is bypass or fully circulating, what the physical dimensions of each turnstile or gate are, what the detection strips or targets look like, and any special features that particular system has.

One of the real pluses of the book is the number of photographs of installations included. Cost information and number of installations are also cited for each system. The factual descriptions of the available systems are followed by comments from owner libraries regarding reductions in loss rate since

installation, frequency of false alarms, and ease of using the detection strips.

If this book only described security systems it would be a useful tool; in addition, however, it covers at some length the whole problem of book theft and how to determine a library's annual loss rate. There are chapters dealing with the general increase in library theft, the three methods of measuring book loss (book census, inventory, and sample), the use of electronic security systems in bookstores, and alternatives to security systems such as door guards, restricted access, and duplicate-copy policies.

The special problems presented by journals, nonprint media, and manuscript and rare book collections are addressed in a later chapter that is especially relevant given the recent activities of book thief par excellence James Shinn.

For anyone consulting the book for quick information, it is well organized and easy to use. There is an index to the text and a list of libraries owning the individual security systems that is broken down by type of library. Footnotes appear at the end of chapters and

there is a selected bibliography as well.

An earlier edition for 1978-79 was published, but this reviewer was unable to obtain a copy; it was missing from the shelf. Recommended.—*Jean Walter Farrington, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.*

University Librarianship. Ed. by John F. Stirling. Handbooks on Library Practice. London: The Library Association, 1981; dist. in the U.S. by Oryx Press. 229p. \$32.50. ISBN 0-85365-621-5.

This manual is well done and will certainly provide American readers with a basic understanding of principal philosophies of academic library management that are as applicable in this country as in Great Britain.

The university libraries whose head or senior librarian wrote these chapters include: Exeter, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Stirling, Lancaster, Leeds, Surrey, Sheffield, London, Loughborough, and Nottingham.

Each of nine chapters begins with a general treatment of a subject such as acquisitions and relegation, rare books and special collections, reader services, or automation. Following that concise theoretical treatment is a case study of that topic as treated in the author's own library. A tenth chapter covers library building planning "in an era of financial constraint."

The several chapters range in quality from very good to superb; and the first one by J. F. Stirling of Exeter, which treats "The Library within the University," is the latter. Stirling provides an excellent section on relations with the university at large, finance, and staff structure. For example, he writes about a change gradually taking place in British academic libraries that affects staffing structures: "The decreased mobility of senior library staff over the past decade has meant that the proportion of older to younger members of the academic-related grades has grown steadily. Consequently, there is now a large body of experienced men and women in academic libraries who see no prospects of promotion, either in their own institution or elsewhere, but who wish to contribute in a greater measure than has been possible in the past to the running of their library. This mirrors the situation in academic departments and has led to a demand for a more general staff-representation on library committees,

and for involvement in library management."

Stirling adds somewhat later: "While it is important that there be good communication at all levels within the library and that 'there be appropriate consultation and participation of interested and competent staff members on important decisions affecting them,' it is equally important to remember that 'the library's critical strategy decisions involve a world outside the library and must usually be made by the director and his chief associates. Staff committees can give good advice on such matters, but they simply do not have the information, the knowledge, or the perspective required to make those decisions—and they cannot take responsibility for the results.'" (The interior quotations were from Richard DeGennaro.)

The authors provide political as well as administrative factors. There are a good amount of useful statistical data, some exemplary tables, and a good set of references that include American as well as British publications of recent date.

The authors intended that the case-study approach serve as a general textbook of university librarianship, replacing the *Manual of University and College Library Practice* issued forty years ago by the Library Association and edited by Woledge and Page. The present volume is identical in size and may well be intended as a manual to supplement the ten-year-old *Introduction to University Library Administration* by James Thompson of Reading. Thus, the volume is intended for two purposes—"Firstly, it will bring home to the student that there is seldom one definitive answer to a given set of problems and that theory must be adapted to a particular local circumstance. Secondly, at a time when there is less opportunity for librarians to move between institutions to climb the promotional ladder and enrich their experience, a glimpse into the workings of other libraries could be especially useful." The volume has succeeded well in these purposes.

Some of the flavor of the treatment may be of interest. Speaking of automation, A. J. Evans states that at Loughborough, "many mistakes have been made and blind alleys ventured into, although this is not atypical of any research and development program. Whether such errors ever appear in the liter-