

the references to actual research studies on the online catalog, the inclusion of more data would have been useful. In some controversial areas, Peters makes rather opinionated statements without providing balancing arguments, as in his condemnation (or is it the source's?) of the use of icons. In short, to make substantive use of the literature review, it would be necessary to return to the sources listed to understand their arguments and intentions.

One point, in particular, that is not well documented and that needs more discussion is Peters's statement, repeated in one way or another several times, that "... online catalogs do not fulfill specific needs and ends. They are systems that were designed without specific needs and uses in mind." Part of his argument, and a theme throughout the book, is that designers of catalogs do not know from the outset all of the uses to which the catalog will be put and that the notion of the catalog is changing. It does not, however, necessarily follow that librarians did not have any "specific needs and uses in mind" as they developed the catalog.

Peters's discussion of remote access is well done. Certainly, this area deserves significant attention as librarians move into the future of network information use. Remote access use of libraries and library catalogs will have a significant impact on libraries and their traditional role. These potential effects are well identified. Because much of Peters's book builds to this discussion, and because the research effort explored relates to this topic as well, it might have been more explicitly identified in the title, purpose, and focus of the earlier parts of the book. Another useful part of this study is the summary of methods for examining public use of catalogs. Peters identifies the advantages and disadvantages of these methods, transaction logs in particular, for getting at the use that actually is made of the catalog. He emphasizes the importance of considering the search session rather than individual search statements as the study element.

With the tools available, then, Peters's

study of remote access search sessions is limited to dial access in order to be able to identify a session with a discrete beginning and end. Unfortunately, as Peters notes, this probably skews the results because of the nature of the population making use of the catalog by dial access. Peters looks at search type, zero-hit rates, likely causes of problems, and temporal patterns of dial access use and relates these to findings of previous studies not limited to dial access. He also undertakes a description of the broader contents of those search sessions that include subject searches. Our knowledge of catalog use will be enhanced by the accumulation of more studies of this type, particularly those that examine all remote use, including that over local, campus- or universitywide, and national networks—presumably each used by quite different populations.

In the final two chapters of the book, Peters helpfully summarizes his arguments and addresses the future of libraries and library catalogs as they are affected by technological and environmental developments. Librarians with some familiarity with the literature on online catalogs and their public use will want to focus on these latter sections and the dial access transaction log study. Those librarians seeking more background on the literature might delve into the items listed in the bibliography.—*Flo Wilson, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.*

**Lillet, Rémy.** *Pour une Europe du livre, rapport a secrétaire d'Etat aux Relations culturelles internationales.* Paris: La Documentation Française, 1990. 158p. FF75.00. (ISBN 2-11-002319-8).

It is refreshing these days to read a book about business that concludes that the United States is more of a threat than Japan. The growing importance of English-language publishing in Europe and U.S. dominance in electronic information causes French publisher Rémy Lillet to reach just this conclusion. The French foreign ministry commissioned his book as part of its planning for the European single market, which, by the end of 1992, will remove all trade barriers between

the twelve nations of the European Community (EC). That will make the Community the world's largest producer and consumer of books; the concentration of capital will allow European publishing and information companies to invest even more heavily in North America; and Western Europe will likely continue, for some time, to be the largest foreign supplier of books and journals to North American academic and research libraries.

Lillet interviewed more than 300 people connected with the book trade in the European Community and had access to several unpublished studies. His chapters describing publishing and bookselling in each of the twelve countries cover such topics as the structure of the publishing industry, foreign investment, edition size, distribution patterns, specialized publishing, and profiles of individual publishers. They provide a useful update and supplement to the descriptions in Peter Curwen's *The World Book Industry* (1986).

From the individual country accounts, Lillet puts together a picture of an industry increasingly driven by economic factors, but, as of yet, taking little advantage of the opportunities the single market offers. Although some publishers, mostly in Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany, have become part of the international information industry, most of European publishing is fragmented by language and national tradition. The gap is widening between the very large publishing houses, which can attract capital from outside the book world, and the middle-sized and small publishers. With outside capital comes still more growth through economies of scale and investment in publicity and technology.

This development is true all over the world, of course, but in Europe a significant gap exists between the north and the south, with the north having larger reader populations, more large publishers, and better book distribution systems. The situation is improving in some southern countries, notably Italy and Spain, and there are some signs of stagnation in the north, but the gap has not narrowed appreciably. Publishing throughout Western

Europe is threatened by the spread of English and by the new electronic media for information (computers and machine-readable databases) and leisure (the Walkman and the new importance in Europe of television, as cable and satellite systems become more common).

Takeovers and mergers are frequent occurrences in European publishing today, both between houses in the same country and across national lines. Spain, with its growing economy and access to the overseas Spanish-language market, has been a particular target for French and Italian firms, and Britain, with its access to the worldwide English-language market, has attracted investors from the other EC countries and from the United States. Capital-rich companies in other areas of industry have bought into the information business and the leisure business, acquiring publishers as sources of data and of plots that can be used in other media. Publishers themselves have attempted to diversify by acquiring other media companies and by acquiring control of part of the distribution process. Bookstore chains, some owned by publishers, are becoming increasingly common all over Europe.

Despite the activity of some publishers, Lillet fears that the competition from other media, the lack of capital in many parts of the book trade, and the reluctance of many publishers and booksellers to accept the new technology and the changed economic circumstances will cause stagnation or a downturn in the European book trade. His solution for this is greater cooperation among the publishers of the European Community. He proposes a more forceful European publishers' association (which has since come about), a booksellers' association, regular conferences of major figures in the industry, a clearinghouse for international projects, and a program of international education for those planning careers in the book trade.

Lillet also hopes the Community will adopt an interventionist policy to help the book trade by establishing retail price maintenance throughout the Community, sharply reducing or eliminating

value-added taxes on books, subsidizing postal rates, establishing policies on copyright and photocopying, and improving the level of support for libraries. Unfortunately, Lillet presents these last proposals with enthusiasm, but without debate. For example, most bookstore chains, some publishers, and many consumers oppose retail price maintenance.

Both the strengths and the weaknesses of this book lie in the characterization of the individual countries and the use of data from interviews. The information is current and informed. Lillet has a knack for choosing facts and anecdotes that enliven and clarify his account, but in relying on interviews and pointing out the peculiarities of each country, he loses comparability. We are given one type of information about Italy and quite another about Denmark. The introductory and concluding sections bring out the economic factors that are now the most important forces shaping the Community's book trade, but ignore other interesting themes that are raised in the chapters on specific countries. Why, for example, is the rate of readership rising in Italy, but stable or declining in most other countries? Still, readers wanting an overview of the book trade in any of the twelve EC countries, those wanting information on the economic state of the European book trade as it moves toward 1992, and historians of the book will all find much to admire in *Pour une Europe du livre*.—James Campbell, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

***Bibliographic Access in Europe: First International Conference. The Proceedings of a Conference Organized by the Centre for Bibliographic Management and Held at the University of Bath 14-17 September 1989.*** Ed. by Lorcan Dempsey. Aldershot, Hants., England: Gower, 1990. 315p. \$69.95 (ISBN 0-566-03644-4).

The First International Conference on Bibliographic Access in Europe was a successor to three conferences on online public access to library files held at Bath from 1984 through 1987. Delegates were present from twenty-eight countries,

and speakers came from throughout Europe and beyond.

This volume is a collection of thirty papers from the 1989 conference, at which the OPAC theme was expanded to include a much wider variety of issues concerning access to bibliographic materials. The papers describe both achievements and future plans and prospects, ranging from individual innovative cataloging projects to attempts at international cooperation. They are grouped into the categories "Interactive Local Systems," "Networks and Networking," "Central Databases," "Central Databases—CD-ROM," "Bibliographic Records: Innovations," and "Bibliographic Standards."

In his keynote address, "Towards a Golden Age?" Michael Smethurst, president of the Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche, juxtaposes the ideals of a common European metacatalog (all records from all libraries converted into machine-readable form) with the realities of meeting the needs of individual users in countries lacking a common language and in diverse libraries decentralized politically, administratively, and financially. The emphasis, he says, should be on "providing access to machine-readable catalogs in whatever formats and with whatever standards exist."

Some of the most interesting contributions are those describing cooperative projects that reach across borders. Existing cooperative efforts are introduced in such chapters as "The European Cooperative CD-ROM Project" by Barbara Buckley (National Bibliographic Service, the British Library), and the OCLC contribution, "Issues and Considerations in Creating an International Database," by Janet Mitchell (OCLC International). Articles presenting guidelines or frameworks for cooperation developed by European bodies include "The Plan of Action for Libraries in the European Community: New Partnerships," by Ariane Iljon (Commission of the European Communities) and Pat Manson (Infotap, Luxembourg), "EUROLIB—Towards a European Library?" by Harold Dierickx (Library Liaison Division, European Parliament, Luxembourg), and "Retro-