

asks, how long will host institutions be willing to pay the price for these voluntary efforts? Many speakers mentioned that for volunteerism to be successful, different models of rewarding and promoting scholars will have to become institutionally acceptable.

Quite a few papers offered overviews of how the economics of information work. Paul Evans Peters spoke about "the value chain" and changing the way scholarly information is handled. Varian presented the concept of "information objects." An *information object* is an encrypted copy of a journal that automatically sends e-cash to publishers when accessed. Other speakers raised concerns that the pay-as-you-go model could have negative effects on academic openness and information-sharing.

I wonder what the attitude of the attendees was after this conference. Readers of these papers are likely to come away discouraged. As Richard West said, our current model of providing access to scholarly information is not sustainable. The pilot projects discussed in these papers have limited expandability, the costs of collaboration and cooperation are all too clear, inter-library loan can only do so much, and volunteerism is currently not rewarded in academia.

There are no easy answers. We need to reinvent the scholarly communication process, including rules for faculty advancement, publisher/library relations, and the entire culture of the scholarly world. No small task.—*Valerie J. Horton, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces.*

Navigating among the Disciplines: The Library and Interdisciplinary Inquiry. Ed. Carole L. Palmer, *Library Trends* 42 (fall 1996): 129–366. Also available as an individual volume from the University of Illinois, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1996.

238p. \$18.50. ISSN 0024-2594. LC 54-62638.

Many crosscurrents complicate the work of a librarian seeking to provide accurate, timely, and comprehensive-for-the-purpose information on behalf of others, or for devising information systems that facilitate an information seeker's individual inquiry. This has ever been so, and the current environment of changing information technology has made it, in some ways, even more so.

When interdisciplinary inquiry is added to the mix, the complications increase. In keeping with *Library Trends'* long-established policy of exploring currently relevant themes in depth, Carole L. Palmer has brought together an impressive group of eleven scholars and practicing academic librarians to consider the nature of interdisciplinary scholarship and its impact on the daily work of people seeking to support the scholarly efforts of others. The essays reflect a variety of points of view and levels of analysis. Space limitations of this review do not permit a detailed examination of each of the essays, and to single out a few individuals' work would do a disservice to the other contributors' equally valuable presentations.

Although there is a good bit of overlap among the following categories, a rough classification can be made for the subject emphases of the book. The first five essays deal with the background and current context of the nature of inquiry in the overlapping subject areas between and among "classic" boundaries of disciplines; the dynamic interplay of integration and specialization; the "hybrid vigor" of investigations that cross over these boundaries; and the problems resulting from the more slowly changing classification systems, controlled vocabularies, and indexing approaches that have been devised to describe the "aboutness" of millions of "works."

Three essays deal with particular problems or approaches. The first treats the special problems involved with the emerging disciplinary structures of information available on the Internet. The second describes in replicatable detail how Dialog's RANK command can be used to reveal the interdisciplinarity of a current field of study. The final paper in this section provides a view of the development of meta-analysis as a technique making its way from the social sciences, where it was developed, into medicine, where it currently is achieving a degree of acceptance as a valid alternative to traditional approaches. Given the inherent reliance upon "the literature," the role of a bibliographically capable member of a research team is stressed.

The final section includes four papers that focus more directly on interdisciplinary studies' impact on research libraries and the information services they provide their communities. The limitations of traditional bibliographic approaches are highlighted by the use of a pair of interdisciplinary searches on the same subject—the first, done during the period 1975–1982, and the second, covering the same initial period of interest but done in 1990–1991, after a wider set of databases and search approaches had become available. Though anecdotal, the comparisons have value in describing the relative benefits of newer techniques and technologies. The remaining papers return to an examination of the nature of research across interdisciplinary boundaries and the implications of such scholarship for research libraries, their organization, and the needs for changing the mind-sets and skill sets of reference librarians.

Palmer's introduction provides a good overview of the book, but the more valuable contribution is bringing together the wide-ranging experiences and points of view on a phenomenon that will continue to perplex conven-

tional modes of handling the ever-changing landscape of knowledge.—*Charles William Conaway, Florida State University, Tallahassee.*

The Printed Catalogues of the Harvard College Library 1723–1790. Eds. W. H. Bond and Hugh Amory. Boston: Colonial Society of Massachusetts. Distributed by Oak Knoll Press, 1996. 710p. \$75. ISBN 0-9620737-3-3. LC 96-14236.

In the past fifteen years, the scholarly community has become more interested in the "history of the book"—the social, intellectual, cultural, and economic history of the way books and other printed materials are written, published, and read. William H. Bond, librarian emeritus of the Houghton Library, and Hugh Amory, retired principal rare book cataloger at Harvard College Library, have produced a valuable addition to the study of the history of the book. Bond and Amory have reprinted Harvard College Library's first three printed library catalogues from the eighteenth century. They include supporting material explaining the creation of the catalogs as well as providing important tools for their effective use.

The book is divided into three sections: an introduction with two appendixes; facsimile reprints of the catalogs from 1723, 1773, and 1790; and an index. The introduction is divided into three parts. In the first part, Bond describes the history of the library, its physical arrangement, and the January 14, 1764, fire that destroyed the library. The second part is a brief description of the catalogs and their organization. In the third part, Amory describes the printing and publication history of the three catalogs, as well as how and to whom they were distributed.

The catalogs were digitized in color from the originals and reduced to black-and-white images. Missing or illegible letters due to faint inking or print-