For those who can, the brevity of the book and the papers is offset by the related or expanded materials for which addresses are supplied.

The changing organization of libraries and information distribution shows up in various ways and places—Claudia Lux's study of changes affecting former East German libraries after reintegration of the country with former West Germany is almost entirely concerned with wider organizational, political, and financial issues, yet illuminates very well how libraries exist within larger contexts we may not always see clearly. Some papers offer specific solutions, especially Alfred Kagan's summary of several reports from the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group concerning "the growing gap between the information rich … and poor … within and between countries." Others, by presenting case studies, suggest solutions and/or report unexpected complications.

As befits an entity as broad as IFLA, the libraries discussed are of all sorts: academic, national, public, school, and special. Although that means that not all the particulars are central issues for readers of this journal, the overarching questions usually are. And even the public library focus may be useful insofar as it tends to illuminate national perspectives on the general concept of libraries, their funding, and access to them in the various countries and regions at hand.

There are twenty-two papers by twenty-five authors, two of whom are also the editors. Six authors are from the United Kingdom; five from the United States; two each from Russia, China, Denmark, and India; and one each from Australia, Germany, South Korea, Namibia, Mexico, and Canada. Four papers are global in scope, and two are abstract without reference to specific places. Four papers chiefly discuss libraries in the U.K., three the U.S., with others covering Africa in general, South Asia in general, India in particular, and Germany, Denmark, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and China. Kagan's summary draws on reports by others in South Africa, India,

Norway, and the United States. Feria's paper, "ICT and Marketing Challenges in Latin America" covers that region but draws heavily on interesting projects at his own university in Mexico. The papers are mostly short, though this is somewhat offset by the very small type size used, which this aging reader found added effort to reading.

Among the wide range of topics, the half-life of technology reports, and the brevity of most papers, this is not an essential book for academic libraries. However, it does do an excellent job of introducing the reader to an array of related topics whose usually brief treatments gain in pithiness what they lose in detail. It would be a nice review for students facing comprehensive exams in library school. Most of all, it brings to North American readers examples and perspectives not often seen. The editors' own paper, "Migrating from the Library of Today to the Library of Tomorrow," is an especially well-done overview of Big Questions we all face.—*Gregory A. Finnegan, Harvard University.*

Lowenstein, Joseph. *The Author's Due: Printing and the Prehistory of Copyright.* Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Pr., 2002. 349p. alk. paper, $45 (ISBN 0226490408). LC 2002-552.

The digital revolution has radically undermined the principles of copyright, intellectual property, and fair use endorsed by the international Berne Convention of 1886 and elaborated throughout the twentieth century. As Joseph Lowenstein reminds us, "property is a social institution" whose meanings derive from a complex web of social, political, economic, legal, and ideological factors. His book is not a history of the development of the modern concept of authorial rights but, rather, a series of historical "investigations" of the "imagery of literary property" in law, rhetoric, and practice in Early Modern England. It is a subtle scholarly work written primarily for specialists in English literature and history. Its aim is not to simplify but, rather, to question overly

simplistic readings of the history of printing and publishing.

The chapters of this book do not proceed chronologically. "The Reformation of the Press: Patent, Copyright, Piracy" investigates the case of the publisher John Wolfe in the late seventeenth century. "Monopolies Commercial and Doctrinal" moves back and forth in time, treating the introduction of printing technology to England, the first systematic licensing of printed materials in the 1530s, tensions between the rival monopolies of printers guilds and royal licensees, and the Statute of Ann of 1710. Later chapters explore Ben Jonson and "possessive authorship" (the subject of an earlier book by Loewenstein), two case studies illuminating the idea of invention, John Milton's *Aereopagitica* and the twentieth-century British school of "New Bibliography." I found the organization of the book confusing. It is difficult to know where any argument is going, like being lost in a maze. The prose lacks emphasis. Qualifications and paradoxes abound. Lowenstein muses that "I wonder if it's not the case that the longer the book, the more unfinished it feels. It becomes a report on continuing meditations and, best, ongoing conversations."

But conversations with whom? Although acknowledging the author's deep knowledge of English history, law, and literature, I am troubled by his lack of concern for the nonspecialist reader. Latin quotations are not translated into English, even in notes. There is no bibliography. To be fair, the book does include extensive notes and a good index. These criticisms are meant to warn the librarian audience that Loewenstein's book is not an easy read; they are not meant to deny the validity of the author's arguments.

In referring to the "prehistory" of copyright, Lowenstein means the various strands that came together eventually in the concept of authorial copyright. These strands go all the way back to the medieval period: to common law, to practices associated with manuscript culture, and to traditional monopolies held by trade guilds such as the stationers. As printed books became more numerous and profitable, these older understandings came under increasing pressure. Tudor monarchs sought to extend royal power and, at the same time, protect the realm from heresy and treason, support a fledgling industry, raise money, and grant privileges to political supporters. A long struggle ensued between the stationers and the crown, involving many skirmishes and retreats.

In the context of these essentially economic and political contests, ideas such as invention, censorship, free speech, plagiarism, authorship, and intellectual property were debated. During the seventeenth century, a liberal antimonopoly position struggled to come to terms with the fact that copyright is a kind of monopoly. The concept of property rights, at least in English law, is strongly associated with real estate, so that for centuries the idea of treating texts as property was not easily assimilated. Equally difficult was the mental transformation needed to recognize writings as something original, new, invented, and deserving of "patent" protection. Previously, originality had not been a chief concern of the reading public, so the concept of plagiarism had little importance. Changes in the way that people viewed the world left traces in legal and literary texts.

Lowenstein is conscious of writing this book from the perspective of an age that is seeking answers to problems brought about by technological change. As he says, "the 'birth of the modern' is reenacted at the occasion of any important struggle for control of a powerful new information technology." Nothing was clear or simple in the Early Modern Age; nothing will be so today. It may actually be comforting to realize that history is always a mixture of struggles for power and for profit, for human aspirations and ideals. Such an understanding makes it easier to tolerate the uncertainties that libraries and scholars face, knowing that solutions will come in due time through a confluence of forces, just as they did in the past.—*Jean Alexander, Carnegie-Mellon University.*