BOOK REVIEWS

Proceedings of the 1968 Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing, edited by Dewey E. Carroll. Urbana: University of Illinois, 1969. 235 pp. $3.00.

For all except inveterate institute participants, it must be difficult to decide to spend yet another week listening to a widely mixed series of papers and discussions on data processing in libraries, in the hope of finding something new or useful. To attract a wide audience, the offerings tend to range from simple introductions to technical discussions of specific programs or projects. The value of gathering the papers of such institutes into volumes of proceedings is questionable. Material from the introductory papers would certainly find greater use in a comprehensive monograph, while the papers which report new developments or technical problems would have a better chance of reaching their proper audiences if published in journals. The repetitive "how-we-did-it" reports might best be left unpublished.

The *Proceedings of the 1968 Illinois Clinic* does have a number of articles which deserve wide readership. Frederick G. Kilgour's paper on initial system design for the Ohio College Library Center is excellent, not so much for solutions, but because he raises the questions on the purpose of college libraries and the nature of regional systems which need to be raised before embarking on design. Those who have had experience with automated operations will appreciate Lawrence Auld's listing of ten categories of library automation failure. (He omits one of the most common—lack of computer stability.) A technical article of considerable interest is Alan R. Benenfeld's paper on generation and encoding of the data base for INTREX.

Those looking for reports of successful computer applications may find useful information in the papers by Robert Hamilton, of the Illinois State Library, on circulation; by James W. Thomson and Robert H. Muller, of the University of Michigan, on the U. of M. order system; by Michael M. Reynolds, of Indiana University, on centralized technical processing for the university's regional campus libraries; by John P. Kennedy, of Georgia Tech, on production of catalog cards; and by Robert K. Kozlow, of the University of Illinois, on a computer-produced serials list.

Melvin J. Voigt

Planning Library Services. Proceedings of a Research Seminar held at the University of Lancaster, 9-11 July, 1969. Edited by A. Graham Mackenzie and Ian M. Stuart. Lancaster, England: University of Lancaster Library, 1969. 30 shillings.

This volume offers fifteen papers presented in six sessions; each session had one or more papers and some discussion. The papers range from very general mathematical models to local problems of British legal codes and re-organization of local governments.

The first session introduces the problems and some theoretical notions of how to deal with them. The next three sessions deal with analysis techniques. Morely introduces some simple techniques of maximizing benefits for given resources. Brookes presents a good quick introduction to statistics and distributions which occur frequently in information science. Leimkuhler develops cost models for storage policies and Woodburn analyzes the costs in heirarchical library systems. The mathematics in these latter papers, although not difficult, will probably put off a good many librarians and administrators. Both are practitioners and impressed by results, not complex models; the equations developed by Leimkuhler or Woodburn are probably too complex to be successfully used by most librarians. This might reflect the state of the librarian and not of the art, however, to quote Cloote (from the paper by Duchesne): "With only a very few notable exceptions, successful models have been so simple that an operational research specialist would disown them."

The fifth session covers data collection and evaluation. Duchesne comments on management information systems and operations research for librarians. Conventional techniques of data collection are reviewed by Ford, including sample forms and a note of warning about too many surveys.

In the final session Leimkuhler presents an overview which includes several choice comments on progress (or lack of it) in libraries. During the discussion period, Mackenzie suggests that libraries should use up to five percent of their budgets for research. This reviewer feels that unless this suggestion is taken more seriously, most of the theory will never find an application.

These proceedings would make an excellent companion to Burkhalter's *Case Studies in Library Systems Analysis* as more theoretically oriented readings for a course operations research or administration in librarianship. Some of the techniques presented could be adapted for immediate application in analyzing present systems. Thus this collection of papers can be useful to both student and practitioner interested in research and development of library systems.

Arvo Tars

Libraries at Large, edited by Douglas M. Knight and E. Shepley Nourse. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1969. 664 p. $14.95.

Libraries at Large is based on the materials which the National Advisory Commission on Libraries employed in its deliberations. The Commission appraised the adequacy of libraries and made recommendations designed "to ensure an effective, efficient library system for the nation." These materials are also useful to those engaged in the enrichment of present library programs and to those developing new library projects.

The materials consist of papers and reports written for the Commission and include essays, original investigations, and literature reviews, as well as reprints of material that has appeared elsewhere. Some papers are of top quality; some are poor. Nevertheless, the appearance of these materials in one volume adds a convenient source of information that will be useful to librarians for years to come.

Approximately half the book is devoted to problems related to the use of libraries and to the users of libraries. The second half contains discussions of government relationships of libraries and a series of useful appendixes.

Perhaps the most novel section of the book is William J. Baumol's "The Cost of Library and Informational Services." This study investigates the economics of libraries in depth and the results are of great interest. This chapter on economics contains new material and brings together that which existed heretofore, so that it constitutes the major resource on library economics. This chapter alone is so valuable as to justify the recommendation that all libraries and most librarians should acquire *Libraries at Large.*

The section on copyright is equally important, for it brings together data on a topic possessing cataclysmic potentials for librarianship. Verner Clapp's "Copyright: A Librarian's View" is the best statement that has appeared on the subject, and it is hoped that Clapp's dissertation will awaken librarians to the peril that confronts them.

On the other hand, the chapter entitled "Some Problems and Potentials of Technology as Applied to Library Informational Services" is somewhat less than satisfying. The section starts off with Mathews and Brown's "Research Libraries and the New Technology," which originally appeared in *On Research Libraries.* It is still an inadequate exposition. There follows a reprint of "The Impact of Technology on the Library Building," which Educational Facilities Laboratories published in 1967. The statement is adequate, but more useful information exists. The last section of the chapter is a study, "Technology in Libraries," which the System Development Corporation produced. This paper is a useful review of technologies employed by libraries and recommends five important network and systems projects to be undertaken.

The chapters on government relationships include discussions of those

with the federal government and those at local, state and regional levels. Germaine Krettek and Eileen D. Cooke have provided a worthwhile appendix listing and abstracting library-related legislation at the national level.

Libraries at Large is indeed a resource book, and those papers containing original investigations and literature reviews are of such high quality as to insure usefulness of this work to all thoughtful librarians.

Frederick G. Kilgour

Computers and Their Potential Applications in Museums. A Conference Sponsored by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. New York: Arno Press, 1968. 402 pp. $12.50.

Computers and Their Potential Applications in Museums contains the published proceedings of a conference which was held in New York, 1968. Sponsored by The Metropolitan Museum of Art and supported by IBM, the conference was another attempt to involve art and related fields in computer technology. This book covers a broad range of issues and problems from information retrieval to creativity. Experts from museums, educators, librarians and computer specialists discussed the possible uses and the implications of computers for the museum field. The diversity of the participants seems to represent the components of an exceedingly complex problem which is as monumental as the museum field itself. As an overall document it gives evidence of concern and insight into the many technical problems which some researchers have encountered. In many instances the non-technical experts were too global in their thinking, while the technologists were too local in their area of concern to communicate to anyone but technologists. This disparity between approaches, with the obvious difficulties presented, is a typical one whenever non-technical groups attempt to make use of computer technology.

An ambitious conference in scope, there were excellent participants and several of the papers were stimulating and provocative. The interaction among the people who attended the conference may have been useful and it may have generated important ideas. For a reader of the published proceedings one wishes there had been a final chapter which could have provided some guidelines for research and education in this field. There was an opportunity for the organizers of the conference or a small group of the participants to summarize the problems and to give some direction to solutions. Several years and many conferences later we in the humanities have made little progress in use of the computer. It seems that we are still better at rhetoric than at problem solving.

Charles Csuri

Books for Junior College Libraries. Pirie, James W., comp. Chicago: American Library Assoc., 1969. 452 pp. $35.00.

During the recent period of rapid growth and development of junior and community colleges, a bibliographic guideline has been long awaited. James W. Pirie's *Books for Junior College Libraries,* with its healthy potential for developing many basic collections and extending and updating others, fills that void.

Though it does not boast to be the single ideal bibliographic tool, it is a welcome addition to, (and perhaps replacement for some of) its predecessors—Frank Bertalan's *Books For Junior College Libraries;* Charles L. Trinkner's *Basic Books For Junior College Libraries;* Hester Hoffman's *Readers Adviser;* Helen Wheeler's *A Basic Book Collection for the Community College Library;* Bro Dart Foundation's *The Junior College Library Collection,* edited by Dr. Bertalan; and the ever-present *Subject Guide to Books in Print* and *Books in Print,* from Bowker.

Books for Junior College Libraries represents the cooperative efforts of some 300 expert consultants—subject specialists, faculty members and librarians—charged with the responsibility of producing a publication to serve as a book selection guide for new or established junior and community college libraries.

Approximately 20,000 titles are arranged by subject, broadly interpreted; with entries consisting of author, title, subtitle, edition; if other than the first, publisher, and place of publication, date, pagination, price and L.C. number. Easy access is provided by the inclusion of an author and subject index. A comparative "Table of Subject Coverage" appearing in the preface, tabulating the percentage of subject distribution to total volume for the Lamount, Michigan, and the more recent *Books For College Libraries* lists, indicates that *Books For Junior College Libraries* maintains a comparable subject percentage distribution to total volume. Only book titles have been included; foreign entries have been limited to a few major works, and out-of-print titles, in favor of titles readily available. Paperbacks were listed, in the absence of card copy.

Though limited in its coverage of terminal and vocational courses, with emphasis toward the transfer or liberal arts program, *Books For Junior College Libraries* does embrace all fields of knowledge that tend to be challenging and useful for the general education programs. It has been endorsed by the Joint Committee on Junior Colleges of AAJC, ALA, and the Junior College Section of ACRL, and moves toward the recommendations of the ALA Standards For Junior College Libraries. This bibliographic guideline for junior college libraries should be welcomed by public schools as well as junior and community colleges for its assistance in developing new collections, as well as expanding and updating old collections, with quantity, quality, and economy working together.

James I. Richey

Agricultural Sciences Information Network Development Plan.
EDUCOM Research Report, August 1969. 74 pp.

The National Agricultural Library wants to implement its old plan of an Agricultural Science Information Network "based on the assumption that the land-grant libraries in the States are the natural nodes to this network." EDUCOM undertook a study which was submitted to and discussed by a symposium held in Washington, D. C., on February 10-12, 1970, with the participation of all agricultural libraries interested in "new and improved ways of exchanging information in support of agricultural research and education."

The goal is "to develop a long-range plan for strengthening information, communication, and exchange among the libraries of land-grant institutions and the NAL." According to the report, the network concept would constitute a "network of networks" and three basic components are envisioned: 1) land-grant libraries, 2) information analysis centers, and 3) telecommunications.

All these components have their own aims and objectives described in this report. "NAL's first course of action in the establishment of a system of information analysis centers is to develop a directory of existing analysis centers of interest to the agricultural community. The directory should be supported with a catalog detailing the services and products offered by these centers. NAL should then establish cooperative agreements with these centers which would make them responsive to the needs of the users of the Agricultural Sciences Information Network. This should be supported with the installation of communications equipment to encourage and facilitate the use of a center."

No doubt, the participants of the symposium will have thoroughly investigated and discussed this plan with serious consideration to its practical implementation. A new approach and improvement of information exchange is not only a necessity, but also long overdue, for those in agriculture. This information development plan would provide service for research workers at the experiment stations, scientists and teachers at the colleges, agricultural extension people at the land-grant institutions, and, last but not least, for the farmers who provide us with food and fibers in order to bring a fuller and better life on the farm and in rural and city homes.

A detailed analysis of the performance, an evaluation and revision of this gigantic scientific information system, can only be made after it has been in operation for a few years. It is very promising that the National Agricultural Library—among its many objectives—has again taken the initiative.

John de Gara

Cornell University Libraries. *Manual of Cataloging Procedures.* 2d ed. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Libraries, 1969. $18.00.

Editor Robert B. Slocum and his associates have produced a valuable manual useful to catalogers and persons involved in the administration of policies and procedures in technical services. As stated in the preface the manual is a supplement, not a substitute, for the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* and its predecessors, LC List of Subject Headings and the LC Classification Schedules. The following directive is basic: "The revisers are always open for consultation on particularly difficult problems, but it must be assumed that a professional cataloger will have a thorough knowledge of the basic tools of his profession. . . . If this knowledge is in any way lacking, the cataloger has the obvious responsibility of acquiring it through diligent study and experience. He should not come to the reviser with questions whose answers are available in the aforementioned tools and in this Manual."

The format is loose-leaf, so that additions and revisions may be made easily to reflect new developments and techniques. The sections include Pre-Cataloging Procedures; General Cataloging and Classification Procedures; Recataloging and Reclassification; Cornell University College and Department Libraries—Special Collections and Special Catalogs; . . . Serials and Binding Department; Files and Filing; Typing, Card Production, Book Preparation; Statistics; Appendix (including abbreviations, romanization tables, etc.); and Index.

The procedures and practices described are those adopted by a research library "conscious of the need for both quality and quantity in the work of its staff." This publication, weighing five pounds, is a great achievement and with its full index an indispensable contribution to the collection of worthwhile cataloging manuals. Descriptions of local procedures may seem detailed but basic principles and policies are well covered. The final touch is the inclusion of a catalog card for the manual!

Margaret Oldfather