

of *Library and Information Science, State University of New York at Albany*.

Advances in Librarianship. Volume 6. Edited by Melvin J. Voigt and Michael H. Harris. New York: Academic Press, 1976. 291p. \$16.00. LC 79-88675. ISBN 0-12-785006-6.

Advances in Librarianship is a major work in the field of librarianship, for collected in one volume is a presentation of current trends, issues, and problems on topics that are not only timely, but of invaluable interest and concern to practitioners and scholars. The first five volumes of *Advances* were edited by that meticulous scholar, Melvin J. Voigt. In assembling the sixth volume, he has been joined by an erudite library educator, Michael H. Harris.

This welcome new volume to the review literature is significant, for the major thrust of the work speaks to the vexing questions of accountability, productivity, and performance. It is the goal of the editors that this emphasis "will prove of use to librarians struggling with the problem of meaningfully assessing the value of the library's services to the community." In this period of mandated budgetary cuts and fiscal crisis, which have made for financially strapped libraries, librarians who must fight for and justify every morsel of funding will find these observations and conclusions very beneficial.

The four papers that illuminate the problems are "Performance Measures for School Librarians; Complexities and Potential," by Evelyn H. Daniel, "Productivity Measurement in Academic Libraries," by Thomas J. Waldhart and Thomas P. Marcum, "Relevance: A Review of the Literature and a Framework for Thinking on the Notion in Information Science," by Tefko Saracevic, and "The Impact of Reading on Human Behavior: The Implications of Communications Research," by Roger Haney, Michael H. Harris, and Leonard Tipton.

Apart from their intrinsic merit, if these four essays indicate anything, it is the imperative need for librarians to have the skills to make an interdisciplinary analysis of the performance of their libraries in meeting the needs of their user communities.

The remaining two papers in this volume

also represent important contributions to the field. Donald Davinson has done for library education in Europe what Lester Asheim did for library education in North America in volume 5 of this series. In painting a broad picture of library education on the European continent, Davinson exhibits an encyclopedic familiarity with the literature of several disciplines and the trends in European library education. American library and information science educators as well as others will find this essay an immensely stimulating study that may very well serve as a good background paper for a seminar on comparative librarianship.

Beverly Lynch, former Executive Secretary of the Association of College and Research Libraries, focuses on a topic of considerable interest to the profession, "The Role of Middle Managers in Libraries." Her essay is a hard-headed, fruitful examination of the current role of that hybrid, "the middle manager," including elements in the library environment that make for cooperative or competitive relationships. This comprehensive analysis of such a timely topic not only sheds much needed light on the subject, but the sources of material for the essay also constitute one of its major strengths.

Turning to the organization of the volume, the editors have followed the approach of previous volumes. Each essay is so structured that the reader is fortunate in that there is an outline of the major subjects under consideration. In addition there are copious references, and each essay is well written and documented. The inclusion of the table of contents of previous volumes and the excellent author and subject indexes enhance the reference value of the volume.

Each succeeding year this tome clearly demonstrates its uniqueness as an indispensable research tool.—*E. J. Josey, Chief, Bureau of Specialist Library Services, New York State Education Department.*

Shera, Jesse H. *Introduction to Library Science: Basic Elements of Library Science*. Library Science Text Series. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1976. 208p. \$10.00. LC 76-21332. ISBN 0-87287-173-8.

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