book are, alas, nearly unreadable. The decade was indeed an exciting one, which saw very dramatic developments and changes in the fields of information and library science, but that drama is largely lost in the volume, perhaps because of the unevenness of the writing.

The most readable and downright sensible section is Markuson's on library networks; I found Orne on standards and Jackson and Wyllys on professional education useful and succinct. The most irritating reading is Kraft and McDonald on library operations research, which I am not entirely convinced even belongs in the book. The other sections are workmanlike and mostly cover the ground adequately, if not with flair.

The single most valuable section may well be Stephen Salmon's contribution, an intelligent summary of problems and failures which are generally not available in a form which puts them into perspective. Salmon does this very well, and he makes a sober and dignified case for reporting on negative results in an honest and timely fashion as part of professional responsibility.

I was prepared to like *The Information Age* better than I did. No doubt some of the dullness I find in the books is caused in part by the standard Scarecrow format, but essentially the book is disappointing because it is uneven and diffuse and fails to capture the real feeling of the decade.—*Fay Zipkowitz, University Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.*

Designing a National Scientific and Technological Communication System: The SCATT Report. By Russell L. Ackoff, Thomas A. Cowan, Peter Davis, Martin C. J. Elton, James C. Emery, Marybeth L. Meditz, and Wladimer M. Sachs. Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Pr., 1976. 173p. $12.00. LC 76-20150. ISBN 0-8122-7716-3.

This idealized design of a national system for scientific and technical communication transfer is intended, in the words of its au-

thors, "to mobilize the large number of relatively autonomous subsystems of the current system into a collaborative effort directed at redesigning their system and implementing their design." Supported by a grant from the Office of Science Information of the National Science Foundation, Russell Ackoff and his associates at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania have developed a comprehensive system that combines existing technology with a substantial number of innovative programs.

Among the major features of the SCATT (National Scientific Communication and Technology Transfer) System proposed are the provision for prepublication entry of documents; a mechanism for redundancy checking of all manuscripts; a structured fee system wherein invited papers would have no charges, uninvited but refereed and accepted papers would get partial recovery of processing costs, and uninvited, unrefereed, or rejected papers would be charged the total processing cost; establishment of national, regional, and local centers with separate but interlocking functions; user feedback on document relevancy and quality; and the potentiality for international extension of the system.

In addition to describing the idealized system in great detail, the authors have included an excellent summary of the existing system for the dissemination of scientific and technical information. This volume raises a number of monumental issues that affect the publishing community, academic and public libraries, the role of the federal government in information transfer, the nature and extent of user subsidies, and the whole question of quality control in scientific and technical communication.

Although the group producing this volume has received NSF support to proceed to a second phase that aims at moving from idealized design to practical planning, it is clear that possible implementation of such a system is dependent in large part upon a substantial number of cooperative agreements among various parts of the system, including publishers, scientists, scientific and technical societies, libraries, governmental agencies, and research laboratories. In a foreword, Lee Burchinal, head of the Office of Science Information Service at NSF, invites "researchers and users . . . [and] information processors" to contribute to the design of the system and to critique the proposed system. Academic librarians, especially those involved in scientific and technical information, ought to read this volume—and respond.—*Jay K. Lucker, Director of Libraries, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.*

Pollard, Alfred William. ***Alfred William Pollard: A Selection of His Essays.*** Compiled by Fred W. Roper. The Great Bibliographers Series, no. 2. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1976. 244p. $10.00. LC 76-25547. ISBN 0-8108-0958-3.

A stammer made Alfred William Pollard a librarian, then a bibliographer and a scholar of international reputation; otherwise, we may never have benefited so greatly from his talents. Keeper of printed books at the British Museum, he planned its catalog of fifteenth-century books and the Bibliographic Society's short title catalog, which mark an epoch in the history of bibliography. He was the outstanding incunabulist of the day, and many of his insights have been built upon.

Roper has chosen items which represent Pollard's theory and philosophy in bibliography and librarianship: (1) personal impress, (2) work historically important but largely superseded, and (3) work that remains both useful and relevant today.

Nine of his essays are included. Those on regulation of the English book trade and history of copyright are especially interesting, but others are dull and unreadable. It appears that Pollard was more for getting things done, however, than in general theories about the nature and purpose of bibliography.

Three arrangements for bibliographies are put forth, and he evidently favors the chronological one, under subject, but never gets around to saying so, failing to discuss, for me, the scope, length, or planned use of a bibliography.

He replies to criticism that English bibliographers should give more than physical description of the book with this statement: "Brown has sinned against one of the soundest of maxims, never to try to pull another man off his hobby." This seems a shallow