computer science areas.—*Audrey N. Grosch, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.*

Current Research on Scientific and Technical Information Transfer. Abstracts and Full Text of Papers Delivered at Three 1976 Seminars Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, Division of Science Information. A Micropapers Edition. New York, Jeffrey Norton Publishers, 1977. 24p. + 7 microfiche in pocket. $12.95. LC 77-9216. ISBN 0-88432-007-3.

This publication contains the proceedings of three seminars organized toward the end of 1976 by the Division of Science Information of the National Science Foundation. The seminars were intended to make known the results of twenty-one research projects on scientific and technical information and to provide a forum for an exchange of ideas between the original investigators and the seminars' participants.

The first one, "Alternatives to Traditional Information Transfer Mechanisms," reported results from nine projects that "investigated ways of improving electronic storage, publication formats, and dissemination methods." Included are reports relating to SCATT, IEEE publishing experiments, the northern California public library DIALOG use project, and various other studies of modes of information dissemination.

The second seminar, "The Use of Scientific and Technical Information among Scientists and Engineers," included seven presentations on formal and informal communication patterns among scientists and engineers.

The third seminar, "Planning Data for STI Managers," provided findings from five projects and analyzed the impacts of selected trends in U.S. scientific and technical communication activities, including a forecast of the scientific journal in the year 2000. While a number of the studies have important implications for academic librarians, not least because scientific and technical acquisitions are swallowing an increasing portion of the materials budget, the emphasis is on improved productivity and efficiency of industrial information systems.

The format is also worthy of comment; a "Micropapers Edition," it consists of ten pages of introduction and contents, fourteen pages of abstracts, and seven microfiche (in a back pocket and of good quality) containing the full text of twenty of the reports (one being unavailable for inclusion). Of the abstracts, seven are reasonably informative of the results, while thirteen are descriptive only; perhaps predictably, there is unevenness in content and length of these author-produced abstracts. The presswork is uneven; the hard binding is sturdy and attractive. The running title on the fiche headers omits the first word of the actual title, which may cause some cataloging and public service furor should the fiche get separated from the book. Each fiche header gives the titles of its respective papers and the row on the fiche where each begins; but browsing among the papers takes a bit of doing, since no identifying headings appeared on the typed manuscript pages.

And the price: Is $12.95 right for twenty-four pages plus seven fiche where the content is a gift of and paid for by a government agency? Perhaps allocation toward publishing costs of a small part of the original twenty-one-project research investment would have really borne out NSF's announced "policy to facilitate timely and broad dissemination of research results."—*Irma Y. Johnson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.*

Houghton, Bernard, and Convey, John. *On-Line Information Retrieval Systems: An Introductory Manual to Principles and Practice.* London: Clive Bingley; Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1977. 160p. $10. LC 77-21858. ISBN 0-208-01660-0.

As in North America, library schools in Britain are now developing courses in on-line bibliographic searching, and also as in North America, some of the first generation of pedagogical material is finding its way rapidly into print. The present work is derived from courses taught by the authors at the Liverpool Polytechnic library school and is essentially aimed at the British market.

Part I (about forty pages) has four chapters sketching in the background and development of on-line systems, the fundamental techniques of automated searching,