not really new; yet, the recommendations set in historical perspective make for provocative reading.

What will prove most interesting is the implementation of these recommendations. One obvious result of the study was the opening of an office of planning and development. This office has been given the task of establishing mechanisms for implementing the recommendations approved by the Librarian. Some of them can be accomplished in this way. Other concerns, such as the question of LC's national role, remain unanswered.

This book is an excellent contemporary view of the Library of Congress. It offers descriptions of the multitude of programs and services and provides insights into what can be expected in the next few years. The most encouraging aspect of reading the work is learning that the Library of Congress is approaching the future with logic and purpose.

The price of the book seems exorbitant, but librarians will be pleased to have the information about the Library of Congress' plans for the future. Both for historical purposes and a current view this book will prove useful.—*Deanna B. Marcum, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, D.C.*

Butler, Brett; Aveney, Brian; and Scholz, William. **"The Conversion of Manual Catalogs to Collection Data Bases,"** *Library Technology Reports* 14:109–206 (March–April 1978). $40 for single issue. (Available from: American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.)

Hewitt, Joe A. *OCLC: Impact and Use—A Study of The Charter Members of the Ohio College Library Center.* Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State University Libraries, Office of Educational Services, 1977. 188p. $8.95. LC 77-620000. ISBN 0-88215-043-1. (Available from: O.S.U. Libraries Publications Committee, Room 001, Main Library, 1858 Neil Ave. Mall, Columbus OH 43210. Prepaid orders sent postpaid.)

During the past few years a number of libraries have departed from the traditional card catalog to provide access to their collections by means of an automated system. In the future a great many more libraries will make this change. To do so, the libraries involved will require information on the techniques available for data base conversion and understanding of the impact of automated systems on libraries. These two reports provide much of the information needed by a library contemplating the development of an automated access system.

The intent of the Butler/Aveney/Scholz report is to provide a "summary of resources available to local libraries, and a guide through the cumulative experience of a number of libraries which have converted their catalogs." This report is not so ambitious an undertaking that the reader is overwhelmed. Neither is it so cursory that planning information needed to make a useful judgment is lacking. The authors have strived to develop a timely handbook for those beginning the process of converting from manual to machine data bases. They have structured the report into four parts that deal respectively with: (1) the nature and meaning of the concept of machine-readable data bases; (2) the evaluation criteria required to examine data bases, vendor products, and conversion approaches; (3) the various conversion approaches available; and (4) the capabilities and limitations of the major vendors and their data base systems.

As the authors point out, the most likely way to convert a catalog is to make use of a "resource data base" such as OCLC. They provide a concise definition of the concept involved and a description of the criteria and tools required to handle a conversion. Their thrust has been to concentrate on providing evaluation criteria and conversion approaches. However, they have also provided a section on vendor capabilities that contains a summary table of the various services available from eight vendors, including OCLC.

Although the Hewitt report is intended to provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of OCLC on library operations, it also provides some insights into the kinds of changes that will occur as libraries convert their data bases. OCLC will probably provide the major resource data base for conversion projects, if it doesn't already. Many

libraries have utilized archive tapes from OCLC to form the foundation of data bases which they manipulate into printed or COM catalogs.

Hewitt reports on a survey he conducted to measure the use of OCLC in the forty-seven charter member libraries. Since the data were collected in 1974, it would seem to make the report out of date. However, as Hewitt points out, "a lag has developed between network technology and the capabilities of libraries to effectively exploit the possibilities offered by that technology." Therefore, the timeliness of the report is acceptable to libraries considering the implementation of a link with OCLC.

While this report is not crucial reading for a library interested in linking up with OCLC, it is useful. For someone very much concerned with the long-range impact of OCLC on operations, it is nearly the only place to go; it serves as a benchmark. In addition, it makes up for a lack to some extent in the Butler report regarding the considerations involved with maintaining a data base once the conversion is completed. There are many changes in operating procedures that accrue from the conversion from a manual to an automated data base. A feeling for the scope and direction of these changes can be gained from Hewitt's analysis.

For someone beginning the process of converting from a manual to an automated data base, the Butler report is a valuable tool and the Hewitt report useful. Neither, however, completes the information-gathering process. For instance, there is a great deal of difference in the level of sophistication of software from vendor to vendor. No general written report can provide an exhaustive study of either the range of services available nor the capabilities of these services. Perhaps after starting with these reports, one might enlist the aid of a consultant?—*Richard W. Meyer, Indiana State University, Terre Haute.*

Gore, Daniel. *To Know a Library: Essays and Annual Reports, 1970–1976.* New Directions in Librarianship, number 1. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1978. 379p. $18.95. LC 77-84769. ISBN 0-8371-9881-X.

Daniel Gore has acquired a host of critics as well as admirers over the years, and this alone should guarantee a wide readership for this collection of his writings. A careful reading of the book may well change some opinions about Gore and his theories.

The early 1970s were extremely difficult years for private higher education in the United States. It seems clear that the true severity of the situation facing many private academic libraries during those years was seldom fully appreciated, except by those who experienced at first hand the effects of what was popularly known as "retrenchment." Conditions at Gore's Macalester College, described in the introduction to his book, were little worse than those confronting many similar institutions. Between 1970 and 1975, the total library budget declined by 33 percent, the materials budget was reduced by 25 percent, and library staffing was cut by more than 50 percent.

Gore's response to these grim statistics is described at the beginning of the book in a series of ten essays. His strategies range from the use of compact shelving for actively used collections, to delaying the cataloging of new acquisitions for as much as a year after receipt, to the development of the no-growth library. Although nearly all of these essays have been published previously, their availability in a single volume where they can be read as a systematic statement of theory strengthens their impact considerably.

Unlike many librarians who love to theorize but hesitate to act, Gore practices what he preaches. More than two-thirds of the text is devoted to the publication of the annual reports of the Macalester College Library. Despite the limitations of form, which even a writer of Gore's enviable talents cannot entirely overcome, the reports are well worth a careful reading. They explain, in detail, how Gore's theories have been applied to the operation of his library and how those innovations have affected library use and library users.

Gore's attitude toward the sweeping changes made at Macalester under his direction can be easily summarized. "Sweet are the uses of adversity. When 'lean-looked prophets whisper fearful change,' that is the time to turn bleak adversity into bright op-