minimize or eliminate human intervention in the indexing process. Donna Harman's paper is a concise and lucid survey of automatic indexing strategies, covering topics like stop words, stemming, term weighting, relevance feedback, and phrase indexing. Amy J. Warner has written an equally laudable overview of the use of linguistic information in the retrieval of full-text documents. For nonspecialists interested in quickly understanding these inherently complex topics, these papers are real gems.

Overall, *Challenges in Indexing Electronic Text and Images* is a commendable work that includes contributions by noted experts. It is more oriented toward information scientists than library practitioners; however, it has a good selection of papers that academic librarians may find of interest, and it is recommended for readers with a serious interest in indexing topics.—*Charles W. Bailey, Jr., University of Houston, Houston, Texas.*

Les Bibliothèques dans l'université. Ed. Daniel Renoult. Paris: Editions du Cercle de la Librairie, 1994. 358p. (ISBN 2-7654-0548-4).

France is the birthplace of networked information for the general public. That country's Minitel, launched in 1982, was the first working system to purvey digitized information to the uninterested user—the user who neither knows nor cares how the system itself works. This general public orientation of the Minitel was a harbinger of things to come. These now are arriving with a vengeance for the U.S. Internet. Libraries in France, as elsewhere, have been heavily involved in networked information: in Minitel, in the Internet, in BITNET and JANET, and other "nets." And yet university libraries, which have been in the forefront of networked information in the United States and the United Kingdom, have been badly behind in France. This has been not so much from conscious design or difference of approach. It has been more the result of historical circumstances: political, social, financial. These have been in some respects uniquely French; but in other respects they have been distressingly evocative of problems now faced, increasingly, by university libraries in the United States and elsewhere. So Daniel Renoult's book—a tightly drawn compilation of essays by leading thinkers from France and other European countries—can provide background indispensable for understanding both the current general travails of French university libraries and a few of the problems now dawning for university libraries in the United States and elsewhere, in networking and other areas.

The book offers six sections: (1) a superb recent history of French university libraries by the able current inspector-general of French libraries, Denis Pallier; (2) a description of the modern context of the French university and of its information service, both library and nonlibrary by Pierre Carbone; (3) an analysis of the user community, both university and general public, by Renoult himself (he directs planning for the Bibliothèque Nationale de France) and Maggy Péyeril of Montpellier's library; (4) a description of French library infrastructure—organization, buildings, administration, classification, personnel—in essays by several authors, with descriptions of library service approaches which to foreigners can sound both familiar ("Computerization Is under Way") and endearingly French ("La Fonction Patrimoniale"); (5) a section on networking giving the French approach to dealing with what every librarian elsewhere knows, that computers and the information that they offer are here to stay, and that they must and may be dealt with effectively and even happily; and, finally, (6) a foreign, comparative perspective, including (a) an introspective essay on Germany by Gernot Gable of Cologne, (b) a wistful, "grass is always greener" report on a tour of modern German library buildings by the French librarian Marie-France Bisbrouck, (c) a startlingly bleak current assessment of university libraries in the United Kingdom, by Derek Law (King's College, London), and (d) an optimistic and encouraging account of a Dutch approach so successful that it

is being adopted beyond Dutch frontiers by PICA's Look Costers.

At a time when universities themselves are expanding, Renoult argues, one must ask what parallel future their libraries will pursue. (An American remembers the 1992 ARL study, *University Library and Scholarly Communication*, which highlighted the relative decline in libraries' presence on U.S. campuses.) Renoult resists the technological panacea often embraced by financially strapped libraries: "messianic technology," he says, is no substitute for the collective action represented by library service and indeed by a university as a whole. Library missions must change to keep up with changes in the universities that they serve. In France, Renoult believes, this will result in three principal models going forward: (1) the "main" academic library, containing vast multidisciplinary collections serving humanities and social sciences in large and ancient universities; (2) the "center with satellites," a model evolved since the 1960s to keep up with fragmentation in the traditional university's structure—a model that finds it difficult to cope with independent user-organized libraries, Renoult says; and (3) "dispersed documentation," in which each independent research center collects its own materials and provides its own information services, a model used in higher research that most closely follows the "balkanization of specialties and diplomas" on campus. The most general model, Renoult suggests interestingly, is coming to be that of a "network" as opposed to a "hierarchy"; perhaps, one is tempted to add, "like everything else."

An outstanding characteristic of the current changes, Renoult says, is "direct service to the users." OPACs, document delivery, multimedia databases, desktop computer dial-in access, the Internet: these—and the involvement in them already of libraries, of networks like RLIN and OCLC, and of vendors like Blackwell and EBSCO—are among the most significant recent developments. Renoult warns that although universal bibliography might be alive, with the complexity and complementarity that can be achieved with the new techniques, universal access is still far out of reach: our continuing inability to obtain and assimilate information still calls for organization, international cooperation, and, as always—he evokes the names of historians H-J. Martin and Lucien Febvre—for libraries.

The excellent bibliography is limited to printed resources: sad, considering the large and rapidly increasing body of online resources on the subject available to both foreign and French readers. There also is an index of acronyms, indispensable for any non-European reader ("How can one govern a community composed of a dozen nations, without acronyms?"). The book is easily read: its language is nontechnical and is unlikely to tax anyone's French seriously. There are interesting maps by Nancy Dupont, depicting various recent statistics. The book provides a general, comparative, and thoughtful understanding of the current situation of university libraries in France, and, more generally, of academic libraries everywhere, as they encounter problems of political, financial, demographic, and computer origin. It is highly recommended.—*Jack Kessler, kessler@well.sf.ca.us.*

Crews, Kenneth D. *Copyright, Fair Use, and the Challenge for Universities: Promoting the Progress of Higher Education.* Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Pr., 1993. 256p. $22.50 (ISBN 0-226-12055-4).

Ten years, or even five years ago, the topic of copyright was a giant yawn. At learned and professional society meetings, the word assured a sparsely populated session attended only by those who had some connection to managing publishing rights and permissions or by lawyers specializing in copyright. Not so now. Copyright on a program electrifies the conference, and the meeting room is likely to host an overflow crowd.

In the world of big business, communications carriers bid sums higher than any princely ransom for companies that own content, that is, that hold a full hand of copyright cards. The 1993 dogfight