budgeting, operations research, participatory management, management information, or unions. The material on cooperation—Reynolds' own report on intralibrary cooperation at Indiana University—seems especially inappropriate, automation and its impact on library administration and service to users are weak.

Academic library administration today is, if nothing else, in a state of rapid change and development. To capture that in a reader and to present a picture of the real problems that are now facing academic library administrators would be an extremely difficult task. Perhaps Mr. Reynolds manages to do that in his teaching but this reader falls short of doing so.—*Norman D. Stevens, University of Connecticut.*

American and British Genealogy and Heraldry: A Selected List of Books. By P. William Filby. Chicago, Ill.: American Library Association, 1970. 208p. $10.00.

Mr. Filby's compilation attempts to cover genealogical sources in the United States generally and by individual state, with the exception of Alaska. Other countries included are Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. A general coverage of heraldry is also presented.

The book is extremely general in most cases and therefore is not much help to the advanced researcher. Too much area is covered to enable more than a very basic listing of references; nor is it particularly conclusive for any particular area or state. As ancestors tend to hide in specific local records, i.e. church records, land records, court records, and so forth, this book could not possibly attempt to list all of these sources.

The compilation could be used as a basic reference item for libraries and as far as the references listed are concerned, the following are notable:

1. There is an excellent index, both by author and title, making it easy to locate any given book.
2. There are three or four lines of description for each book and the publisher is listed, which makes it helpful to identify and purchase any entry if one so desires.
3. Many of the books are "how to" books

which would help the amateur or beginner in the field of genealogy.

In the preface the author states that he is not a professional genealogist and that his book is an outgrowth of some years of working with genealogists and the books they frequently request. In this light, his book has merit as a beginning source listing those general records that are available. Since the Peabody Institute Library, where he conducted most of his research, was endowed with books about genealogy particularly of English origin, his present list leans more heavily in this geographic direction. The book achieves no more and no less than the title indicates.—*Ted F. Powell, Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.*

Computer-Based Library and Information Systems. By J. P. Henley. New York: American Elsevier, 84p. $5.75.

A book of well under one hundred pages covering the subject of computer-based library and information systems cannot be expected to be more than a superficial treatment of the subject. The book is essentially a survey of the field drawn almost entirely from the cited literature. It may prove valuable as a basic introduction to the field, but will provide little for those already working with automated library or information systems.

The book begins with an introduction to computers for those unfamiliar with them. In eight pages the author does a creditable job of indicating the basic functions of a computer, and describing different types of storage media, input/output devices and some recent advances in computer technology. The objectives of an automated library system are discussed. The author advocates a "total system" approach rather than a step-by-step conversion of existing tasks. He then goes on to describe specific tasks suitable for conversion to an automated system, e.g., serial records control. In a discussion of computer requirements, programming languages are considered. The deficiences of FORTRAN, ALGOL, and COBOL as character manipulating languages are mentioned. LISP and COMIT are cited as two examples of languages pos-

sibly suited for information retrieval (with reservation). Conspicuously lacking in the discussion is any mention of SNOBOL or PL-1. This discussion is followed by mention of the primary types of computer file structures, e.g., sequential, list, and tree files.

A chapter is devoted to information retrieval systems. The chapter covers most of the important work done in the field: co-ordinate indexing, thesauri, SDI systems, KWIC indexing, automatic classification experiments, clustering, and so forth. Each topic is mentioned and briefly discussed.

The last third of the book is devoted to examples of IBM 1620 computer programs written for a library system. The data input program, the sort program, and the search program are presented in great detail, including sample output and ten pages of flow chart. These programs essentially consist of the author's efforts at an experimental searching program to retrieve author names by variant spellings. Although the search program is of some interest, such long and detailed examples appear out of place in such a short book. It is material better suited for a journal article.

My major objection to the book is not that it is superficial (since this can be turned into an asset in a general introduction to a subject), but rather that the book is fundamentally misleading for the uninformed reader (the only type of reader for which the book is appropriate). It gives the impression that to develop an automated library system all one need do is buy a computer and hire a programmer. Even in the final chapter, a discussion of the "philosophy of a machine-based system," the only difficulty mentioned is that of automating fact retrieval. Although we all seek simple and straightforward solutions to problems of library automation and information retrieval, it seems a disservice to those entering the field to give the impression of simplicity.—*Victor Rosenberg, University of California, Berkeley.*

***Systems Analysis of a University Library;
Final Report on a Research Project.*** By Michael Buckland, et al. (University of Lancaster Library Occasional Papers, no.

4). Bailrigg, Lancaster, University of Lancaster Library, 1970. 57p.

The application of operations-research techniques to libraries is a recent phenomenon, and most library administrators probably shudder at the sight of equations purporting to represent the behavior of some part of their library system. Some people shudder at the sight of *any* equation, but many are also concerned about what seems to them the simple-minded nature of the idea that a library process can be represented by equations at all. The present report presents two kinds of answers to concerns such as the latter class of readers express. On the one hand, the authors candidly admit that their work is fragmentary and exploratory, and can hardly be anything more, given our ignorance of our users' behavior. (What on earth do faculty members *do* with those books that they keep for six months?) But they also point out that it is studies such as the present one that help to point out just what it is we need to know before more advanced work can be undertaken.

The second answer that the authors can make to persons skeptical about the value of operations research is to point to practical results. Their studies of the effect of various loan policies upon the availability of books gave them sufficient evidence to induce the University of Lancaster to accept important changes in loan policies— the evidence being that the new loan policy would, by all indications, appreciably improve some aspects of the library's service to its users. Another study showed that at a small increase in annual cost, the library could establish a bindery (it had been using commercial binders) and thereby effect other improvements in service.

This report then reflects both the shortcomings and some of the potential values of operations research as applied to libraries. Its title may be misleading for it by no means reports the results of a systematic analysis of a complete library system. It is rather a report on several studies of various facets of a library system. There is, for example, a section on the frequently discussed and analyzed problem of acquisition and retention policies, with particular attention